



Win Awenen Nisitotung

August 21, 2024
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Bahweting Bidajimowin • Official newspaper of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians

USDA holds first-ever trade mission focused on Indigenous and First Nations products

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

Sault Tribe member owned business Herbal Lodge, from Petoskey, Mich., was one of 14 tribal agribusinesses and 13 Native Nations agricultural leaders that participated in a historic agribusiness trade mission to Canada recently.

For the first time, the U.S. Department of Agriculture conducted an agribusiness trade

mission in June that was focused on Indian Country and Native Hawaiian businesses, products and priorities, as well as amplifying collaboration and knowledge sharing with First Nations in Canada. The USDA Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs Alexis M. Taylor led the trade mission to Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, June 17-20.

Nathan Wright, CEO of Herbal Lodge, said, “I embarked on this historic trade mission to foster relationships, explore business opportunities and share knowledge about our unique products and practices. The aim was to introduce our offerings, specifically our sustainably harvested bark teas and spices, to a new market and learn from other industry leaders.”

According to a press release, total U.S. exports of agricultural and related products to Canada totaled \$28.2 billion in 2023. Data from the USDA Census of Agriculture suggests that American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian agricultural production contributes \$8 billion annually to the U.S. domestic food economy.

“USDA and the Intertribal Agriculture Council share a commitment to promoting the authenticity and enriched nature of growing, harvesting and consuming Indigenous foods and agricultural products. Other markets around the world also recognize this uniqueness in American agriculture and are interested in importing these high-quality products,” Taylor said.

In addition to the business-to-business meetings, trade mission delegates took part in policy discussions on issues facing indigenous producers and agricultural communities in both the United States and Canada.

Wright said he met with Minnesota Lieutenant Governor Peggy Flanagan and Under Secretary Taylor to discuss reestablishing trade routes with Canadian First Nations under the 1794 Jay Treaty, which is currently recognized for Native Americans living in Canada who come into the U.S., but not vice versa.

Wright said, “Our treaty rights allowed us access to trade with-



Herbal Lodge CEO Nathan Wright with USDA Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs Alexis M. Taylor.

out the red tape and regulations that currently exist. When dealing directly with another First Nations tribe we should be able to bypass those requirements (import fees etc.)”

Wright says his business is thriving and continually evolving. “We have existed for over 15 years. Our dedication to quality and sustainability remains at the core of our operations and we are excited about future prospects. We aim to create a sustainable business model that honors our commitment to the Mother Earth and the next seven generations.”

In addition to owning Herbal Lodge, Wright travels and gives presentations about sustainable practices. “We aim to educate and empower communities in several key areas: herbalism, permaculture, Land Back initiatives, sustainability, mycology, decolonization, food forest development and Indigenous teachings,” he said.

Organized by Wright, next year will be the fourth annual Northwoods Nature Fest in Wolverine, Mich., which com-

binates herbalism and permaculture and food forests into one event. Tentative dates for next year’s event are May 30 to June 1. To view updates do a search on Facebook for *MackinawOde*. Wright is also helping to organize Michigan State University’s first food sovereignty conference being planned for the near future.

Since 2009, Herbal Lodge has been a leader in promoting Indigenous traditional medicinal herbs and plants, merging ancient knowledge with modern agricultural practices. Herbal Lodge specializes in natural pain and nerve relief and is renowned for its high-quality, ethically-sourced products while supporting sustainability and local economies.

For more information about Herbal Lodge and its participation in the trade mission, visit their website at www.herballodge.com.

For more information about this and other USDA trade missions, visit: <https://fas.usda.gov/topics/trade-missions>.

Happy birthday Mason!



Lil’ slugger - Happy 4th birthday Mason! Love you, Nona and Papa.

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Low Income Energy Assistance Program is available for review

Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians members, you have a voice!

The Sault Tribe’s Anishnaabek Community and Family Services (ACFS) 2024-2025 Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is available for your review.

The LIHEAP program provides assistance to lower the burden of high energy bills and to increase energy efficiency of eligible Sault Tribe households

in the Sault Tribe’s seven-county service area.

How we administer this program is partly determined by your input.

The plan is available for review and comment at www.saulttribe.com and the following ACFS locations:

Sault Ste. Marie, 2218 Shunk Rd.

Manistique, 5698 W Highway US-2

Kincheloe, 60 Kincheloe

Munising, 622 W. Superior Street

St. Ignace, 1140 N. State Street

Please forward any comments to Megan Miller, Direct Service Program Director at mmiller1@saulttribe.net or Juanita Bye, ACFS Division Director at jbye@saulttribe.net or call (800) 726-0093.

Please respond with comments by Monday, Aug. 26, 2024.

Tribe holds team-building day and picnic



DRONE CAPTURE — A first for the tribe, Video Producer Joseph Street used a drone to capture tribal employees who were gathered at Sherman Park in Sault Ste. Marie for the annual team-building day and picnic.

Awww-dorable! This shot was taken by Sault Tribe News writer/photographer Scott Brand on his way to Escanaba for the grand opening of the community center there.



Welcome to our new subscribers!

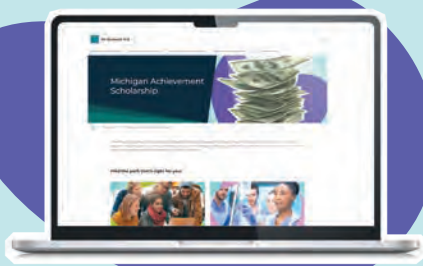
Welcome to all our new tribal member subscribers! You are welcome to send in your news, such as obituaries, births, graduations and other accomplishments. There is no cost. Send submissions to

jdale-burton@saulttribe.net. If you have any questions, feel free to email or call (906) 632-6398. We also have an official Facebook Page at <https://www.facebook.com/saulttribe> and an official website at www.saulttribe.com.

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MICHIGAN ACHIEVEMENT SCHOLARSHIP



Committee vacancies — volunteers needed!

The following Sault Tribe Committees have vacant seats. Sault Tribe members interested in filling these vacancies should submit one letter of intent and three letters of recommendation (forms available online, or contact Lona or Ashlee) from other members to Lona Stewart at 523 Ashmun Street, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783, or call (906) 635-6050 with any questions.

Anishinaabe Cultural Committee - Nine vacancies -

five males (4-year term), four females (4-year term)

Child Welfare Committee - Two vacancies (4-year term), one vacancy term expires November 2026, one vacancy term expires January 2027

Health Advisory Board - Two vacancies (4-year term), one vacancy term expires April 2027

Housing Commission/Utility Authority - Two vacancies, one for Unit 3 and one for Unit 1 (4-year term)

Special Needs/Enrollment Committee - (2-year term)

Unit I - One vacancy
Unit II - Two vacancies
Unit III - Two vacancies
Unit IV - One vacancy

Elder Advisory Committee
Unit I - Sault - One alternate vacancy (4-year term)

Unit II - Newberry - One regular vacancy, one alternate vacancy (4-year term)

Unit II - Naubinway - One regular vacancy (4-year term)

Unit III - St. Ignace - One regular vacancy, two alternate vacancies (4-year term)

Unit V - Marquette - One alternate vacancy (4-year term)

Elder Subcommittees
Unit I - Sault - One alternate vacancy (4-year term)

Unit IV - Escanaba - Two regular vacancies, one alternate vacancy (4-year term)

Unit V - Munising - Two alternate vacancies (4-year term)

Unit V - Marquette - One regular vacancy, one alternate vacancy (4-year term)

Food Sovereignty Committee - Two vacancies, one expiring February 2025, one expiring February 2027

Wequayoc Cemetery Committee - Two vacancies. Only Sault Tribe members who have a family member buried in this cemetery are eligible for membership on this committee (4-year term)

Tribal gas and cigarette discount locations

The following gas stations are offering the discount to Sault Tribe members.

Tribal owned gas stations offering gas and cigarette discounts:

- MidJim Convenience Store, 2205 Shunk Road, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

- MidJim Convenience Store, 3045 Mackinac Trail, St. Ignace, MI 49781

- White Pine Lodge and Convenience Store, 7889 E. W. M-28, Christmas, MI 49862

Tribal owned gas station offering gas discount only:

- University BP, 301 W. Fair

Ave., Marquette, MI 49855

Not tribal owned stations that are offering gas discounts only:

- Kinross BP, 4440 Tone Road, Kincheloe, MI 49788

- Cedar Pantry, 159 W M-134, Cedarville, MI 49719

- Sunoco, 13975 M-28,

Newberry, MI 49868

- Manistique Oil Company, 216 Deer Street, Manistique, MI 49854

- Carnes Eco Fuels, 2300 Ludington Street, Escanaba, MI 49837

Up to date addresses sought

Sault Tribe members whose addresses are not up to date have “bad addresses” with the tribe’s Enrollment Department.

Check the names on the list and if you see a friend or relative on the list let them know.

Go to saulttribe.com and scroll down Membership Services to Tribal Enrollment. Then go to the Information column on the left side of the Enrollment page and select “Up to date addresses sought.”

Call (800) 251-6597 or email Stacey Synett at ssynett@saulttribe.net.

Membership liaisons help answer your questions

Three membership liaisons work with the chairperson’s office on membership issues and concerns across the service area. The liaisons respond to membership issues and follow up to ensure they are resolved.

Sault Tribe members are encouraged to contact the liaisons when they need help with tribal issues by emailing them at membersconcerns@saulttribe.net or contacting them individually at:

Clarence Hudak, Lambert Center, St. Ignace, Mich., (906) 643-2124, chudak@saulttribe.net.

Mary Jenerou, Manistique Tribal Center, (906) 341-8469; Munising Centers, (906) 450-7011 or (906) 450-7011, mjenerou@saulttribe.net.

Michelle Moore at (906) 635-6050, mmoore@saulttribe.net.

WIOA funding is available

The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act (WIOA) Program has funding available for on-the-job training and short-term occupational training opportunities.

The program may be able to provide tuition assistance for skills training if it leads to an industry-recognized certification or under OJT, it may reimburse an employer 50 percent of your wage for a specified period.

Candidates must meet eligibility requirements and reside in the seven-county service area.

Apply at WIOA at Big Bear in Sault Ste. Marie, or call Brenda Cadreau at (906) 635-4767.

Work Experience Program open

The Sault Tribe WIOA Department is currently accepting applications for the Work Experience Program.

Must be Native American between the ages of 16 to 21 and reside within the seven-county service area (Marquette, Alger, Chippewa, Luce, Mackinaw, Delta and Schoolcraft counties).

Applications may be picked up at the WIOA office or by contacting WIOA Program Manager Brenda Cadreau at (906) 635-4767 or BCadreau@saulttribe.net.

Deadline to apply is Sept. 26, 2024.

Advocacy Resource Center is seeking information about Missing and Murdered Sault Tribe Members:

In an effort to maintain the Sault Tribe MMIP database for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons (MMIP), the Advocacy Resource Center is seeking information regarding missing and murdered individuals who are members of the **Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians**. Please message or call the ARC at 906-632-1808 with information that can be entered into the database. The information provided does not have to be current information. The ARC is seeking information for ALL missing or murdered tribal members including the seven county service areas and tribal members across the world. Please ask for Community Educator Jess Gillotte-King (extension 73104) when calling the ARC. If messaging the ARC Facebook page, please leave the following information:



First/Middle/Last Name
Date of Birth
Date of Death
Murdered/When/Where
Perpetrator Name if known:

If Missing:
Nickname/Alias
Date Last Seen/Went Missing
Physical Description
Distinctive Physical Features
Vehicle Information



Any information would be appreciated.

Thank you for your participation in this matter. Please feel free to share this information. Miigwech!

Sault Tribe Member Newspaper Subscription Form

To receive a FREE tribal newspaper subscription in the mail, tribal members under 60 are asked to complete the form below and send it to: Win Awenen Nisitotung, 531 Ashmun St., Sault Ste. Marie MI 49783, or email it to slucas@saulttribe.net. Those 60 and over do not have to fill out this form. Those who prefer to get their newspaper online do not have to complete this form.

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 change of address

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City: _____

State and Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Win Awenen Nisitotung

The official newspaper of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

August 21, 2024
Grain Moon
Manomin Giizis

Jennifer Dale-Burton.....Editor
Sherrie Lucas.....Secretary
Brenda Austin.....Staff Writer
Scott Brand.....Staff Writer

Win Awenen Nisitotung welcomes submissions of news articles, feature stories, photographs, columns and announcements of American Indian or non-profit events. All submissions are printed at the discretion of the editor, subject to editing and are not to exceed 400 words. Unsigned submissions are not accepted.

Please note the distribution date when submitting event information for our community calendar. Submissions can be mailed, faxed or e-mailed. The distribution date is the earliest the newspaper can arrive in the seven-county service area.

Win Awenen Nisitotung is funded by the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of

Chippewa Indians and is published 12 times a year. Its mission is to inform tribal members and the public about the activities of the tribal government, membership programs and services and cultural, social and spiritual activities of Sault Tribe members.

Win Awenen Nisitotung, in Anishinaabemowin, means, “One who understands,” and is pronounced “Win Oh-weh-nin Nis-toe-tuhng.”

See our full, online edition at www.saulttribe.com.

Subscriptions: \$18 per year, \$11 for senior citizens and \$30 to Canada. Call for other foreign countries.

Subscribe by sending your name and mailing address to the address below with your check or money order made out to the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. Or, call (906) 632-6398 to pay by credit card.

Advertising: \$8.50/column inch. (Paid advertising with editorial content will be treated as editorial content.)

Submission and Subscriptions:
Win Awenen Nisitotung
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LeeAnn Sprecker earns River of History's 2024 Susan Schacher Memorial Award

BY SCOTT BRAND

LeeAnn Sprecker, 12, took first place in the History Day Project for Social Studies as a seventh-grader, attending J.K.L. Bahweting propelling her into the regional competition at Lake Superior State University. With a third-place finish at that event, Sprecker moved on to the State Championship held at Central Michigan University in Mt. Pleasant, Mich.

"I am an enrolled member of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians and since I was little, I have learned about the impacts of Native American Boarding Schools on tribal members both in school and from my family," wrote Sprecker in her process

paper adding that a family member, her great-grandmother, had attended one of the schools, the Ursuline Academy in St. Ignace, Mich. "I conducted my research in several different ways. I read many online stories, news articles, and research papers. I spent time speaking with Sault Tribe members and family who have been directly impacted by these schools."

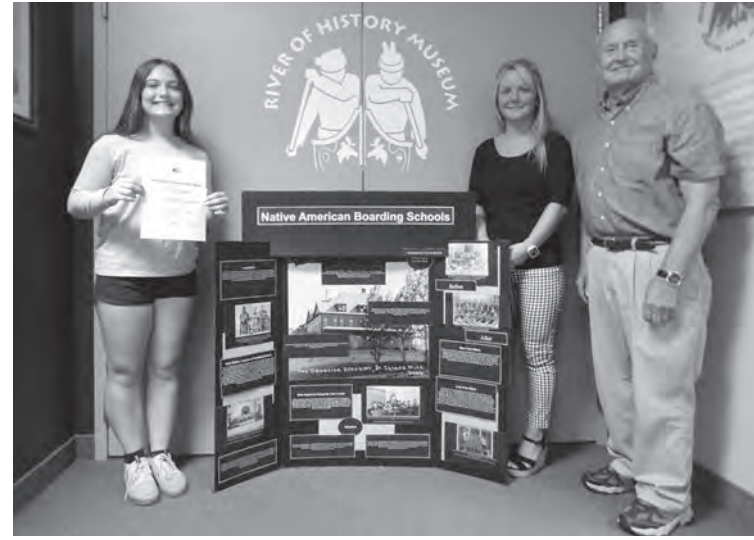
Sprecker's exhibit board will be displayed at the River of History Museum, located at 531 Ashmun, in Sault Ste. Marie after that organization determined it was the winner of the prestigious 2024 Susan Schacher Memorial Award. Schacher was the driving force behind the

establishment and growth of the museum from 1990 until her passing in 2007.

Sprecker's name will appear on the Susan Schacher Memorial Award and she also received a \$100 check from River of History Museum Chairman Tom Robinson.

To see Sprecker's award-winning exhibit and the other displays associated with the history of the St. Mary's River visit the River of History Museum from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Saturday from mid-May to early October.

"My topic is significant in history because these schools left a legacy of trauma across generations," concluded Sprecker.



LeeAnn Sprecker with her exhibit accompanied by Susan Schacher's daughter, Svetlana Belleau, and River of History Museum Chairman Tom Robinson.

Anishnaabek Community and Family Services welcomes Emily Pavia as their new secretary

A 2016 Sault High graduate has been hired for the secretary position at Anishnaabek Community and Family Services (ACFS).

Emily Pavia identified July 24, as her first day on the job and had already settled in to her new post by the time of her early-August interview.

"I've worked a lot," she said of the experience she brings to the table. "I have been trained and drilled in customer service, and I really like people."

Emily grew up in St. Ignace before moving to Sault Ste. Marie in 2014. Her father, Thomas Pavia still lives in St. Ignace, while her mother, Sonda Vaughn, passed away in 2020. Her grandmother, Robin LaVallee resides in Marquette.

Pavia is a proud member of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

She currently lives in Sault Ste. Marie and is planning a wedding with her fiancé, Shaun Cryderman, in 2025.



Emily Pavia

August birthdays

The Sault Tribe Elder Program celebrates elder birthdays each month for elders who attend their meal program. Nancy Lowes (left) and Joann Nault both had birthdays in August.



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Sault Ste. Marie | October 18-20
Up to \$15,000 CASH/Bonus Points

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Hessel

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ACFS attends tribal gathering in San Diego

BY ASHLEY MORROW, PROJECT SPECIALIST, ANISHNAABEK COMMUNITY & FAMILY SERVICES

Anishnaabek Community and Family Services Child Welfare Program was honored to attend the Summer Tribal Gathering in San Diego, CA, from July 16-19.

Their participation was in recognition of their involvement in a tailored project with the Capacity Building Center for Tribes during

its recent five-year grant cycle.

Over the course of 18 months, the child welfare program took part in a breakthrough series collaborative aimed at improving recruitment and retention within the child welfare workforce, and to cultivate cultures deeply rooted in justice, equity, diversity, and belonging.

This collaborative brought together five tribal and nine public multi-level teams, united in

their mission to develop anti-racist, anticolonial child welfare programs that prioritize workforce well-being and support the families and communities they serve.

Teams utilized the Plan-Do-Study-Act (PDSA) cycle to design and test change strategies, all within a Collaborative Change Framework inspired by the Surgeon General's Framework for Workplace Mental Health

& Well-Being. Throughout this process, team members worked collaboratively to implement meaningful changes from their respective positions.

At the Summer Tribal Gathering, ACFS joined other tribal child welfare programs from across the country to celebrate accomplishments and share insights. Discussions covered topics such as braiding and blending funding, child welfare

worker life cycles, uplifting our relatives, the "My Two Aunties" approach to social work, and Healing-Centered Practice and Well-Being.

The gathering not only highlighted the progress made but also reaffirmed our shared commitment to building resilient, culturally grounded child welfare systems that honor the well-being of our communities for generations to come.

The link between animal abuse and domestic violence

For many of us, our pets are like our children. We cherish them, we love them, and we protect them with our lives. For those in a domestic violence relationship, often their pets suffer abuse, too. Many victims of domestic violence choose to remain in the abusive relationship out of fear of further abuse their beloved pet may suffer if they had to leave them behind. Victims have reported that their abuser has threatened or physically abused their pet as a form of control, often causing emotional violence towards their partner.

What exactly is animal cruelty? Animal cruelty deprives animals of food, water, shelter, or veterinary care. Animal cruelty also includes physically inflicting pain, torturing, maiming, or killing animals. Animal cruelty is a felony crime in all 50 states. Some states allow pets to be included in personal protection orders to protect animals and victims better. Michigan is one of them. A national database was created in 2016 that tracks crimes against animals, called the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS). However, we as a society need to be more consistent about reporting animal abuse and ensuring



that law enforcement follows up with investigating, prosecuting, and punishing abusers to the fullest extent of the law.

Research has found a direct "link" between cruelty to animals and violence towards humans. It is inevitably called "The Link." It is proven that "The Link" connects acts of cruelty toward animals to acts of violence toward humans. Research has shown that those abusing animals are most likely to harm children, intimate partners, and elders and enact violent behaviors. This link is why law enforcement must take cruelty towards animals seriously.

For information on "The Link," you can visit The National Link Coalition (www.nationallinkcoalition.org) is the only international educational and advocacy organization working to prevent animal cruelty, domestic violence, child maltreatment, and elder abuse by showing how they intersect. To report any animal

abuse in Michigan, use this link to find the animal control office near you. (<https://nationallinkcoalition.org/how-do-i-report-suspected-abuse/michigan>)

Animals need to be protected, someone to advocate for them, and law enforcement and the judicial system to punish abusers who are cruel to helpless animals.

Abused and neglected children are also at risk of inflicting violence on animals. Children who witness animal abuse are at risk of becoming abusers themselves. Children who harm animals need immediate help and should be referred to a specialist who can assess their emotional health and their mental well-being.

Some key points to understand the connection between domestic abuse and animal abuse: Power and Control: Perpetrators of domestic violence may harm animals by controlling and intimidating their victims. Hurting or threatening to harm pets can be used as a way to instill fear and ensure compliance from the victim.

Indicator of Domestic Abuse: The presence of animal abuse in a household can indicate the severity of domestic abuse. If animals in the home are being mistreated, there is a higher likelihood that

the human family members are also experiencing abuse.

Emotional Manipulation: Abusers may use pets to manipulate their victims emotionally. They might threaten to harm or kill the animals if the victim tries to leave or seek help, trapping them in an abusive relationship.

Emotional Bond: Many victims of domestic violence form strong emotional bonds with their pets, often considering them part of their family. Abusers may exploit this attachment to exert control and inflict emotional pain on the victim.

Isolation: Abusers may isolate their victims by limiting their access to resources and support networks, including their pets. This can make it harder for the victim to seek help or leave the abusive situation.

Learned Behavior: In some cases, individuals who witnessed animal abuse during childhood may be more likely to perpetrate domestic violence as adults. The normalization of violence in their upbringing can influence their behavior later in life.

Protective Factors: Recognizing the link between domestic and animal abuse can help organizations and support systems create better interven-

tions and protective measures for human and animal victims.

What can you do to help? Report animal abuse. If you know or suspect someone is abusing an animal, report it to your local law enforcement agency and the nearest animal control office. Be sure to share details of the abuse the animal is suffering.

Report the names, addresses, locations, cross streets, phone numbers, descriptions of property, and other pertinent information that may help save the animal. Also, let your lawmakers know that you wish to see more animal protection laws enacted and more vital punishments for abusers.

Overall, understanding the link between domestic abuse and animal abuse is essential in creating a comprehensive support system and addressing the needs of all victims involved in such situations.

The Advocacy Resource Center's "Lodge of Bravery" is a haven for victims of domestic violence. It also has an on-site, climate-controlled kennel for pets to reside safely while staying with their beloved owner at the shelter. If you seek advocacy, please contact the Advocacy Resource Center at (906) 632-1808. You are not alone. We can help.

Social Security in plain understandable language

BY HILLARY HATCH, SOCIAL SECURITY PUBLIC AFFAIRS SPECIALIST

The terms and acronyms people use when they talk about Social Security can be a little confusing.

If there's a technical term or acronym that you don't know or understand, you can easily find

the meaning in our online glossary at www.ssa.gov/agency/glossary.

If you're nearing retirement, you may want to know the meaning of PIA (primary insurance amount), FRA (full retirement age), and DRCs (delayed retirement credits). These terms all relate to your benefit amount

— based on when you decide to take your Social Security. If you start receiving your retirement benefit at FRA, you'll receive the full PIA (amount payable for a retired worker who starts benefits at full retirement age).

What about DRCs? Delayed retirement credits are the incremental increases added to

your PIA if you delay taking retirement benefits beyond your FRA. If you wait to begin benefits beyond FRA — say, at age 68 — your benefit increases for each month you delay up until

you reach age 70.

Once you receive benefits, you typically get an annual COLA (Cost-of-Living Adjustment) that increases your monthly benefit most years.

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Anishinaabemowin 2024

“There’s no elevator to success. You have to take the stairs.” But how strong and fit you are when you ‘do’! True in learning your/our language, also. Welcome home!



Mskominike Giizis Raspberry-Picking Moon

by Susan Askwith

Waya dgoshin. Someone is coming.

Aaniin! Biindigen!
N’gchi-nendam waabminaan.
Aapiji gwa g’minaagwas.
Aaniish naa?
Aaniish ezhi-webziiyin?
Mii na wi?
Shtaa-ta-haa!
Namadabin. Giigido-daa.

Hey there! Come in!
I’m happy to see you.
You’re looking really good.
How are you doing?
What’s up with you?
Is that right?!
Holy smokes!
Sit down. Let’s talk.

G’daa ginoondimi jina. We can talk with each other for a while.

G’wii minikwe na gegoo.
Bekaa.
N’ga wewiip-shkaa.
Mii gwa genii.
Aaniish gaa kidyin?
Nishaa g’da kid!
Enh, n’gii kenmaa.
Kaa. Gaawiin n’gii kenmaasii.
N’gii dewendaan wi.
Gii aagwaadzimagad wi.
G’sinaa giisaach.
Manjiidik.
N’daa ndakendaan wi.
Kaasii gonaa maanda.
Gaa go gegoo.
Kina nishin.

Do you want something to drink?
Wait a second. (hold on)
I’ll be right back.
Me too.
What did you say?
You’re *kidding!*
Yes, I know him/her.
No, I don’t know him/her.
I was worried about that.
That was foolish.
That’s too bad.
I don’t know.
I could check that out.
No problem.
Don’t worry about it.
It’s all good.

Maajaa. He/she is leaving.

Miigwech gaa bi-zhaayin.
Weweni naagidowendizan.
Minendaagozin.
Wiiba bi-zhaan miinwaa.
Baamaa-pii ka waabmin.

Thanks for coming.
Take care of yourself.
Have a good time.
Come again soon.
I’ll see you later.

Use the shapes of the pieces and these comments to solve the puzzle below. Write the message right on the chart. Then translate into English. Congratulations! **Ziindaaso miiknot g’da aaw!** (You’re a smarty pants!)

English:

Pronunciation?? You’ll find the Anishinaabemowin words used here as well as those in the calendar, pronounced at our FaceBook link:
www.facebook.com/SaultTribeLanguageAndCulture.
You can also use the guide shown below!

Making our Sounds Most letters sound like they do in English. Here are the exceptions.

aa sounds like the a in <i>awesome</i>	a sounds like the a in <i>about</i>
ii sounds like the e in <i>be</i>	i sounds like the i in <i>dip</i>
oo sounds like the o in <i>go</i>	o sounds like the oo’s in <i>book</i>
e sounds like the e in <i>Ed</i>	g sounds only like it does in <i>go</i>

We underlined the syllables that get the emphasis.
Pronounce all the letters. Big deal: ‘nh’ in a word has no sound! It’s only a sign to say the previous vowel nasally - as if you have a stuffed-up nose!



Aambe, baapin! (Come on, laugh!)
My spouse hates it that we never have visitors.
I never would have guest.
Our kitchen is like a restaurant. My wife is the chef; she makes the food. I’m the waiter;
I sit around waiting for dinner.
What did the reporter say to the ice cream?
What’s the scoop?
What do you call a French guy in sandals?
Phillip Phloppe
Why don’t mummies go to powwows?
They’re afraid to relax and unwind.
Hospitality: Making your guest feel like they’re at home, even if you wish they were.

Fasting: Native teachings are about a way of life

Fasting is one of the many ceremonies that have been practiced in First Nations and tribal communities for thousands of years. In the past, the Elders of a community would take the young people out to fast in order to help them find their direction in life. Today, as our cultural traditions and ways of healing are being revived in our communities, more Native people are seeking answers through the ceremony of fasting.

Reasons for going on a fast

When you choose to go on a fast, it is with a purpose in mind. You may go out to seek direction in your life or you may go out to learn more about our ways and about Creation. You may fast for your spirit name and colors. Healers may fast in order to find and gain permission to use a certain plant medicine. You may fast for many other reasons. Whatever the reason for your fast, you prepare yourself beforehand through prayer and tobacco.

It is said that when you fast you are sacrificing yourself for all, for your family and for your community, by denying yourself the basic comforts of shelter, water, nourishment and companionship.

Different places and ways fasts are conducted

Fasts are conducted in many different ways and in many different places. You may be put out to fast deep in the woods, in a field, on an island or a mountain.

Fasters may stay in a fasting lodge that they themselves have constructed of saplings and tarps, they may sit on a platform in a tree with a tarpaulin to keep them dry if it rains, or they may stay in a fasting hut. Wherever they spend their one, two, three or more days of fasting, they will bring with them the medicines — tobacco, cedar, sage, sweetgrass or other plant medicines that may

be used in their region and their sacred items such as a drum, pipe, smudge bowl, feathers and ribbons of their colors.

Spring and fall are generally the times for fasting. Some teachings say that you fast in the fall to take away negative energy and you fast in the spring to replenish yourself with new energy. Healers and Elders say that fasting has a cleansing and healing effect. Fasting has also been described as a healing way where the first person we face when we fast is ourselves.

People may fast either in the spring or fall each year.

Offerings are made before the fast. This may be food offerings as well as tobacco. Very often, fasters will go into the sweat lodge before they are taken out to their fasting spot and later, when they are brought in from their fast. The fasting conductor lets the fasters know the duration of their fast through the connection he or she has with the spirit world.

Firekeepers tend the sacred fire at the base camp for the duration of your fast. The person who has put you out on your fast looks after you while you are out.

Your fasting site might be encircled with cedar and with tobacco ties. You might build a sacred fire at your site where you offer your tobacco. However your fasting site is set up, you are in the care of Mother Earth and our First Family.

Fasting experiences

Everything you see on a fast is important, even the little bugs around your fasting area. You may find yourself feeling closer to the sky world than you have ever felt before when the sacred light from the moon and stars brightens the night sky. You may gain an increased awareness of the beauty of the natural world, our First Family.

Your dreams and visions are all part of the journey. It is said that fasting brings you closer to the spirit world and that your spirit wakes up when you are on a fast. You may feel that the questions you were asking have been answered.

When you are on your fast, you have your sacred items with you — your drum so that you can sing the traditional songs you have learned and the sacred medicines to help you in your prayers. It is said that when you call on the spirits with a song, they will hear it and come to help you.

Ending a fast

At the end of a fast, when the person who has taken you out to fast comes to get you, you may be taken into a sweat lodge where you have the opportunity to talk about your fasting experience. Your fast may be ended by drinking spring water or cedar water and berries.

A traditional feast is prepared for the fasters in celebration of the spiritual journey the fasters have experienced.

Fasting conductors

The conductor of fasts has been trained and has earned the right to take people out on a fast. The conductor does this in a certain way, in the way that he or she has been taught. The conductor of a fast is able to tell you the traditional teachings of the fast they are taking people out on.

The fasting conductor should be informed of any health condition you have before you go out on a fast.

The conductor of a fast watches over the physical and spiritual well-being of the fasters whom he or she takes out to fast. The conductor of a fast should be able to interpret the dreams, visions and gifts that have come to you and to offer guidance about your fasting experience.

Referrals to Healers, Elders

and Medicine People

As our awareness and knowledge of our traditions and culture increases, so does our honor and respect for these ways. This has not always been the case in our communities.

There are always those who present themselves as Healers, Elders or Medicine People who have not earned that title and may use the teachings and medicines in the wrong way. It is important for everyone, especially young people, to be aware of this and to exercise caution when they seek healing, teachings or advice. It is advisable to consult with people whom you trust to get referrals to respected and recognized Traditional Healers, Elders and Medicine People.

To obtain a referral to a

Healer, Elder or Medicine Person in your area, or to make an appointment in the seven-county service area, call Sault Tribe Traditional Medicine at (906) 632-5200, option 9.

Special acknowledgement is given to the following Healers and Elders who contributed their knowledge and understanding of the traditions and culture in the preparation of the brochures from which this article was taken: Jake Aguonia, Garnett Councillor, Harlan Downwind, Roger Jones, Rose Logan, Mary Louie, Dorothy Sam, Nelson (SugarBear) Shognosh, Geraldine Standup and Ella Waukey.

(Reprinted with permission from **Anishnawbe Health Toronto**, aht.com.)

SAULT TRIBE TRADITIONAL MEDICINE PROGRAM

GERARD SAGASSIGE

2024 SEPTEMBER CLINIC HOURS

September 3, 9, 10, 16, 17, 23 Sault Ste. Marie Health Center (906) 632-0236

Wednesday, September 4th St. Ignace Health Center (906) 643-8689 or (877) 256-0135

Wednesday, September 11th Manistique Health Center (906) 341-8469 or (866) 401-0043

Wednesday, September 18th Munising Health Center (906) 387-4721 or (800) 236-4705

Any Questions, or to Book an Appointment Please Call Traditional Medicine Program at 906-632-0236 or 906-632-5268

Sault Tribe Traditional Medicine Program

Fall

FASTING CAMP 2024

Wednesday, October 2nd - Sunday, October 6th

@MARY MURRAY CULTURE CAMP, 266 HOMESTEAD RD. SUGAR ISLAND, MI

- MUST BE 18 YEARS OR OLDER, ANYONE UNDER 18 MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT.
- PLEASE REMEMBER MOONTIME TEACHINGS.

TO REGISTER OR FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL 906-632-0236, 906-632-0220, OR 906-632-5268

Sault Tribe Traditional Medicine Program

WOMEN'S FAST FOR MOTHER EARTH

FASTING BEGINS AT SUNRISE AND ENDS AT SUNSET, FOLLOWED BY A SWEAT LODGE AND FEAST.

OCTOBER 5TH, 2024

@ MARY MURRAY CULTURE CAMP, 266 HOMESTEAD RD. SUGAR ISLAND, MI

- MUST BE 18 YEARS OR OLDER, ANYONE UNDER 18 MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT.
- PLEASE REMEMBER MOONTIME TEACHINGS.

TO REGISTER OR FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL 906-632-0236, 906-632-0220, OR 906-632-5268

Tribal Nations cheated of Section 106 consultation

SAN FRANCISCO—On Monday, July 29, 2024, the National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (NATHPO) filed an amicus brief in support of the lawsuit filed by the Tohono O’odham Nation and the San Carlos Apache Tribe against the U.S. Department of Interior (DOI) for failing to follow the Section 106 consultation process outlined in the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA).

The Act requires federal agencies to consult with Tribal Nations about the potential effects of projects they permit on places of traditional religious and cultural importance, and to develop and consider alternatives that

avoid adverse effects.

The Tribal Nations allege that the federal government failed to do that in issuing a right-of-way for a transmission line proposed by SunZia Transmission, LLC. NATHPO weighed in with a “friend of the court” brief as the lawsuit is now before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit and the Tribal Nations seek to hold DOI accountable for its failure to consult with them.

“Section 106 of the NHPA requires federal agencies to engage in meaningful consultation with Tribal Nations early in the planning process so that measures to avoid adverse effects to culturally important places can be fully developed and considered. The federal government cannot

wait until after it approves construction to start consulting with Tribal Nations,” said NARF Staff Attorney Wesley James Furlong.

The DOI’s Bureau of Land Management did not follow the Section 106 process to consult with the Tribal Nations and fully take into account the project’s adverse effects on their places of cultural importance.

Before starting the consultation process with the two impacted Nations, the BLM authorized construction of a massive new electrical transmission line directly through the Valley for the financial benefit of SunZia Transmission, LLC.

The birds, animals, plants, waters, and lands of the San Pedro Valley, which runs between

the two Tribal Nations, has sustained the culture, religions, lifeways, and survival of the two communities since time immemorial.

These resources would be irreparably impacted by the proposed transmission line.

The amicus brief explains: “Historic properties of traditional religious and cultural significance

and [traditional cultural places] are essential to the continuation of [Tribal Nations]’ cultural identities, religions, and ways of life. It is therefore paramount that federal agencies meaningfully consider undertakings’ potential adverse effects to them in the Section 106 process and not discount, dismiss, or ignore [Tribal Nations]’ concerns about them.”

Letter to the editor:

As a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, my wife, Marcia, receives and then passes along for me to read each issue of the newspaper, Win Awenen Nisitotung. The most recent issue (July 24, 2024) was of particular interest to me.

I was taken by the article on page one about the tribe’s release of walleye and then the article on page 14 about whitefish. The tribe has to be and should be enormously proud of these programs and efforts. We all could learn much from the environmental stewardship attitude of tribe members. I say congratulations and thank you.

As an aside, I was a newspaper exec for two decades at the Kokomo Tribune with several as

its publisher, so I also appreciate your dedication to the publication of Win Awenen Nisitotung. I enjoy getting to read it regularly.

FYI...in my varied life path, I was involved in extensive biological research with fish at Purdue some years ago that culminated in a Ph.D. in genetics. My two primary research fish were catfish and sturgeon, but I also was involved with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources and its hatchery operations and fingerling releases.

Again, I offer my deepest congratulations and appreciation to all who are involved in the fish efforts...and with Win Awenen Nisitotung.

Blessings,
Kent H. Blackledge Ph.D.

Cushman promoted to senior officer in U.S. Public Health Service

We are honored to announce the promotion of Commander (CDR) Nicholas Cushman (Sault Tribe member) to the distinguished rank of Senior Officer (O-5), effective July 1, 2024.

This highly competitive promotion, awarded “below-the-zone,” reflects CDR Cushman’s exemplary leadership, unwavering dedication, and outstanding contributions to the U.S. Public Health Service.

CDR Cushman currently serves as a Senior Area Clinical Program Coordinator for the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board, where he is recognized as an expert in enhancing clinical services. In this role, he plays a pivotal part in advancing the integration of pharmacists into healthcare and leading initiatives to address health disparities within Indigenous communities.



CDR Cushman delivers a compelling keynote presentation at the 2023 Joint Federal Pharmacy Seminar in Dallas, TX, focusing on “Innovative Approaches to Addressing Substance Use.”

TRIBAL MEMBER REGISTRATION IN THE TAX AGREEMENT AREA

TRIBAL MEMBERS’ RESPONSIBILITIES

(Including the Issuance of Certificates of Exemptions)

INITIAL REGISTRATION AND OR CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Under the Tax Agreement between the Tribe and the State, tribal members who live within the “Agreement Area” are able to claim exemption from certain state taxes. In order to take advantage of these benefits, the member must be registered with the Tribal Tax Office and must prove that they do live in the “Agreement Area.”

The registration process begins with the member filling out an “Address Verification Card” and providing their name, address, and other personal information. The member must also provide a copy of their MI driver’s license, MI State ID card, or voter’s registration card. All of these forms of State identification MUST have the member’s current address and that address must be located in the Tax Agreement Area. Members must also include a utility bill in their name and their current address as an additional proof of residency in the Tax Agreement Area.

The Tribal Tax Office cannot register a member with the MI Department of Treasury unless these documents are included with the “Address Verification Card.”

CERTIFICATE OF EXEMPTIONS

Tribal Code 43.1103 states that Resident Tribal Members shall notify the Tribal Tax Office in writing prior to moving their principal place of residence.

If the Tribal Tax Office receives a request for a Certificate of Exemption and the address for the member on the request is not the same as the address that the Tribal Tax Office and MI Department of Treasury have on record, then no Certificate of Exemption can be issued.

We will usually attempt to contact the member to ask them to update their address by filling out the “Address Verification Card” and providing the required documents, but it is the member’s responsibility to provide this information. A Certificate of Exemption cannot be issued unless the member has filed the correct information proving that they live within the Agreement Area.



Local Decisions, Quickly

You could try getting a loan out of town... and deal with all the red tape. Or just come to us where we make quick decisions locally.

Why not do your borrowing right here at home where people know you? We’re the one place to go for all your financial needs.

FIRST NATIONAL BANK

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ST IGNACE, NORTH BAY, MORAN TOWNSHIP, CEDARVILLE, MACKINAC ISLAND, NAUBINWAY, NEWBERRY



www.fnbsi.com



Grand Opening of the Escanaba Community Center

BY SCOTT BRAND

The Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians celebrated the Grand Opening of Escanaba Community Center, located at 3721 Jingob Street, with an Open House on July 29.

“It is awesome to see everyone here today,” said Tribal Chairman Austin Lowes after making the long drive for the event. “It’s a six-hour round trip for me, but I wouldn’t have missed this for the world.”

The new structure, boasting more than 9,400 square feet, including a full kitchen, bathrooms and even showers, will serve as community gathering spot for cultural teachings, traditional medicine, and private events — such as baby showers and even the occasional wedding reception — however alcohol is not allowed on the premises.

The structure will also provide office space for Sault Tribal court proceedings, the Housing Department, Elder Services, Anishnabek Community and Family Services (ACFS) and offices for Unit IV directors, Kim Hampton and Larry Barbeau, to meet with constituents.

“This building will be in good hands with Kim and Larry,” concluded Lowes during his remarks.

“This means a lot, everybody being here today,” said Hampton. “This is Escanaba’s building, this is everybody’s building.”

The first order of business,



The ribbon-cutting ceremony celebrating the official opening of the Escanaba Community Center was held on July 29.



Chairman Austin Lowes, Kim Hampton and Larry Barbeau.

Hampton explained, will be to hire a receptionist for the Escanaba Community Center. The facility, will be open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, once it is fully staffed. Until then, Hampton and Barbeau

will attempt to keep the Escanaba Community Center staffed as much as their personal schedules allow.

Weekend and evening use of the main room will vary depending on planned events.



The Frog Singers performed a protection song during the center's grand opening.



FREE LSSU Hockey Ticket Application FOR SAULT TRIBE MEMBERS

APPLICATION DEADLINE: September 6, 2024

NAME _____ PHONE _____
 ADDRESS _____
 CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
 EMAIL _____ # IN HOUSEHOLD _____ FILE # _____

Indicate the number of tickets requested for each game, this cannot exceed number in household. Tickets will be mailed to applicants prior to first scheduled game.

Please note, tickets are limited and are not guaranteed for all games requested. Incomplete applications may not be processed.

# Tickets	Date	Opponent
_____	10/05/24	Michigan State
_____	10/06/24	Michigan State
_____	10/18/24	Stonehill
_____	10/19/24	Stonehill
_____	11/15/24	Ferris State University
_____	12/06/24	Bemidji State
_____	12/07/24	Bemidji State
_____	01/03/25	Bowling Green
_____	01/04/25	Bowling Green
_____	01/17/25	St. Thomas (Minn.)
_____	01/18/25	St. Thomas (Minn.)
_____	02/07/25	Northern Michigan
_____	02/08/25	Northern Michigan
_____	02/21/25	Minnesota State
_____	02/22/25	Minnesota State



Attach or Insert Copy of Tribal Card

Email or mail copy of Sault Tribe membership card AND application to:
 Email: bookthebear@saulttribe.net



Big Bear Arena
 ATTN: Laker Tickets
 2 Ice Circle Drive
 Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783



Applications available online at: www.bigbeararena.com

OFFICE USE ONLY:

Date Received: _____ Membership Verified: _____ Staff: _____ Tickets Distributed: _____

FREE LSSU Volleyball Ticket Application FOR SAULT TRIBE MEMBERS

APPLICATION DEADLINE: September 6, 2024



NAME _____ PHONE _____
 ADDRESS _____
 CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
 EMAIL _____ # IN HOUSEHOLD _____ FILE # _____

Indicate the number of tickets requested for each game, this cannot exceed number in household. Tickets will be mailed to applicants prior to first scheduled game.

Please note, tickets are limited and are not guaranteed for all games requested. Incomplete applications may not be processed.

# Tickets	Date	Opponent
_____	09/19/24	Saginaw Valley State
_____	09/20/24	Roosevelt
_____	09/27/24	Grand Valley State
_____	09/28/24	Wayne State
_____	10/25/24	Wisconsin-Parkside
_____	10/26/24	Purdue Northwest
_____	11/15/24	Northern Michigan
_____	11/16/24	Michigan Tech

Attach or Insert Copy of Tribal Card

Email or mail copy of Sault Tribe membership card AND application to:
 Email: bookthebear@saulttribe.net



Big Bear Arena
 ATTN: Laker Tickets
 2 Ice Circle Drive
 Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783



Applications available online at: www.bigbeararena.com

OFFICE USE ONLY:

Date Received: _____ Membership Verified: _____ Staff: _____ Tickets Distributed: _____

19th Annual Youth Empowerment Powwow (YEA) held July 27 on Hessel reservation



Head Veteran Bret Blackwood was a last-minute replacement marking his first time leading the Grand Entry. He was accompanied by Jace Trombley, 10, of Munising. The YEA Powwow is designed to teach the youth to perform these duties in the future learning from those who have carried out these traditional roles.



Young flag-bearers representing the various entities celebrated at the powwow.



Waiting their turn to dance.



Head Female Dancer Julie Perry with Head Male Dancer Jessy Farley.



Above, Mukkwa Giizhik was the host drum for the 2024 Youth Empowerment Powwow in Hessel, while below, The Ice Circle Singers shared the duties throughout the day.



Making memories...



...And keeping traditions alive.



Above and below, dancers pausing for a solemn tribute.



Photos by Scott Brand

At left, Jace Trombley was presented with a ribbon-shirt made by Jackie Minton for his willingness to volunteer. Center, 2-year-old Levi Paquin of Cedarville clutches the cash he won in the day's first Spot Dance while carried in the arms of his mother, Kelley Paquin. Right, Sophia Ygeal, 13, of Hessel took home \$20 as she was the last one to guess all the coin-flips in the heads-or-tails game correctly. YEA groups from Sault Ste. Marie, Hessel, St. Ignace, Kinross, Rudyard, Manistique and Munising, among others attended this year's powwow.

Sugar Island annual powwow held July 20-21



Flagbearers led by elder Henry Bouley Jr. lead the grand entry.



Julie Perry in her marvelous regalia made by Rita Bouley.



Flagbearers get ready to post their colors.



Head dancers Melissa Causley and Michael Hatch.



JKL school bus driver Jane Palermo (L) greets one of her bus kids at the ARC booth.



Elders Rita Bouley and Cindy Thomas (L-R) in the front.



Traditional dancers make their way in the circle.



Young hoop dancer.



Traditional dancers, Tan-A Hoffman at front.



Fancy dancer Chelsea Freele.



Jingle dress dancers, Nichole Causley at left.



Dancers during grand entry, including a hoop dancer.



George Solomon glances at the camera.



Shawl dancers make their way around the circle.

Photos by Jennifer Dale-Burton

Walking on...

JEAN MARIE COLLINS-COOPER

Jean Marie Collins-Cooper (Little Grandma & Granny) the daughter of Charles Collins and Loretta Peterson, 61, of Battle Creek, Mich., passed away at 12:11p.m. on July 2, 2024 at home with her family. Cremation arrangements were provided by Baxter Funeral Home.

Jean was born April 3, 1963 in Japan.

She loved camping, kayaking, riding on the motorcycle and spending time with her grandkids. She worked as a Cashier for 30 years in the Battle Creek area.

She was preceded in death by her Dad (Chuck), Sister (Patty) and Stepdad (Bob).

She is survived by her partner Brian Dillard, son James (Kayla), daughter Angel (Jeffery), mother Loretta, brother Bill, twin sister Joan (Bryan), brother-in-law Taylor, Trevor (Darryl), Brian (Delanie), Kayla (Alec).

She has 10 grandchildren, Madison, Katrina, Destiny, Richard, Alayah, Olivia, Ayden, Brayden, Braxlynn and Bryson.

Jean was a member of Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, the granddaughter of Earl and Adeline McKerchie.

A Celebration of life was held at American Legion Post 257, in Battle Creek, on July 13, 2024.

Jean will be missed.

DELORES MARIE SMITH

Longtime Newberry, Mich. resident, Delores Marie Smith, 88, died Tuesday morning July 23, 2024 at her residence in the presence of her loving family and the care of Schoolcraft Memorial Homecare and Hospice.

Born April 27, 1936 in Boyne

City, Mich., daughter of the late Leslie and Pauline (Keltz) Eddy, Marie was a 1954 graduate of Newberry High School and, on May 17, 1958, Marie married Tommy R. Smith in St. Charles, Miss.

Marie was formerly employed at Helen Newberry Joy Hospital as a ward clerk and a respiratory therapist. She would later continue employment as a life skills instructor for Pathways in Newberry and Alpha Life Skills in Sault Ste. Marie until her retirement.

Marie was a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and former EMT for the Luce County Ambulance Corp. Marie enjoyed camping and spending time with her family.

In addition to her parents, Marie is preceded in death by her husband Tommy on Nov. 12, 2013; siblings Kimball Eddy, Robert Eddy, Joan Carlson, Barbara Simmons and Sally Burke.

Survivors include her loving daughters Barbara Taylor of Newberry, Alisa Smith of Newberry and Regina Vix of Perronville; grandchildren Jill (Vince) Randazzo, Brandon Lipponen, Andrew Schultz, Carly (Brian) Dubay, Christopher Taylor and Matthew Taylor; great-grandchildren Carter, Emma, Aubree, Malena, McKenzie, Avery, Landon, Jordy, Ivy, Hadley with one to be expected; sister Judy Stucke of Lomira, Wisc.; several nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews.

Per request, cremation services were accorded with no public services scheduled.

Condolences may be expressed



at www.beaulieufuneralhome.com Beaulieu Funeral Home in Newberry is assisting the family.

PHYLLIS JOSEPHINE GREGG

Phyllis Josephine (Mastaw) Gregg, 84, of Dafter, Mich., died at MyMichigan Medical Center in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., on June 29, 2024.



She was born on July 24, 1939, in Sault Ste. Marie to John and Clara (Shaw) Mastaw.

Phyllis was a member of the St. Mary's Catholic Church in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.

Phyllis enjoyed sewing and cooking. She was a devout Catholic and would print out the Catholic news and pass it out to everyone she met.

Phyllis is survived by her daughters, Sandra (Wendall) Drown of Dalzell, S.C., Pamela Maki of Puyallup, Wash., and Janice (Bill) Frye of Dafter; sons, James Gregg Jr. of Dafter, and Eugene (Sharon) Gregg of Sault Ste. Marie; and many beloved grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Phyllis was preceded in death by her loving husband, James Gregg; parents, John and Clara; and many beloved siblings.

A graveside service will be held at a later date.

Final resting place will be Riverside Cemetery in Sault Ste. Marie.

Family Life Funeral Homes assisted the family with arrangements. Condolences may be left at www.familylifefh.com.

JOHN WAYNE "JIGS" LACOY

John Wayne "Jigs" LaCoy of North Bend, Ore., passed away on July 7, 2024. He was born on Dec. 13, 1945 in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. to Antoine "Chappy" LaCoy and Rosena LaCoy. He was a member of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

He was a Vietnam Veteran, serving in the U.S. Army. He was an avid hockey player and played for LSSU on the 1965-1966 team. He was also an avid gardener.

He retired from Pepsi Cola in December of 2008 after 42 years of employment.

He is survived by his wife Ruth, stepson Christopher Parker of Texas, sisters Diane Moore, Barb (Ron) Bertram, and Joyce (John) Odell of Sault Ste. Marie, and several nieces and nephews. Also, several long-time friends, especially Rick Daley.

He is predeceased by his parents, brother Frank (Molly) LaCoy, nieces Cindy Black and Tracey LaCoy.

A Memorial Mass was held at St. Joseph Church in Sault Ste. Marie on Aug. 1.

Memorial contributions may be made in memory of John to Hospice of the EUP, 308 W. 12 Ave. Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783.

GAY "GAIL" CHRISTINE MATTSON

Gay "Gail" Christine Mattson, 84, of Germfask, Mich., died Sunday evening Aug. 11, 2024, at Berry AFC Home.

Born Nov. 13, 1939 in Levering, Mich., she was the daughter of the late Alfred and Frances (Hatfield) Kerridge.

Gail was a 1958 graduate of

Engadine High School. On May 28, 1958, she married Robert Mattson in Newberry and made Germfask their home. Gail was employed as an elderly care giver at numerous AFC Homes for several years until her retirement in 2015.

Gail was a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and The Reorganized Church of Latter-Day Saints in Gulliver. She enjoyed playing cards with anyone, puzzles, babysitting her grandchildren and great-grandchildren and was affectionately referred to as "Road Runner" as she was always driving somewhere.

In addition to her parents, Gail is preceded in death by her husband Robert, daughter Christine Heckaman, four siblings at infancy, brother Lee Kerridge and sister and brother-in-law, Lillian (Walter) Hoerz.

Survivors include her children Dale (Becky) Mattson of Germfask, Robert (Lynn) Mattson of Manistique, Mich., and Duane (Kristy) Mattson of Germfask; 11 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren; son-in-law Denis Heckaman of Norvel and sister-in-law Lenora Kerridge of Rexton, Mich.

A gathering of family and friends took place Aug. 16, 2024, at the Beaulieu Funeral Home in Newberry. Funeral services followed at the funeral home with Pastor J.D. Livermore officiating. Interment will take place at a later date at Riverside Cemetery in Germfask.

Memorials may be directed to the family in her loving memory. Beaulieu Funeral Home in Newberry is assisting the family.



Electrical vehicle fires becomming more prevalent

BY SAGE EVERETT

Electric vehicles are becoming more prevalent on our roads every day. With growing concerns about climate change and rising fuel prices, electric vehicles are a convenient solution.

Like any new technology, electric vehicles have some flaws. One problem that threatens consumers is the lithium-ion battery that comes in most standard EV models. These batteries can become dangerous if they malfunction, and it's not something many drivers are equipped to handle. With the amount of EV's on the market, it's important that people know the dangers of lithium-ion batteries and how to deal

with them.

So what causes electric vehicle batteries to malfunction?

Lithium-ion batteries can fail for a number of reasons, and the results can be deadly. The main issue with lithium-ion batteries is that they store a large amount of power in a very small compact space. This makes it difficult to regulate the temperature of the batteries which leads to overheating. Once the batteries overheat they can start fires that spread throughout the vehicle.

The most common causes of fires are stationary EV burns, charging fires, severe battery damage (car accidents), and external fires. Stationary burns

can result from intense weather causing high/low temperatures and humidity. Overuse of the battery can encourage stationary burns as well. Fires from EV charging are most commonly caused by malfunctions at charging stations and overcharging of the battery. Car accidents and external fires can also cause lithium-ion batteries to ignite and present a real danger to drivers and pedestrians.

Small fires in electric vehicles can be made worse by thermal runaway. Energy stored within the batteries cells can be released when damaged and combust making the fires much more dangerous. This also impacts how emer-

gency response teams put out the fire.

Firefighters have to be vigilant about reignition of a lithium-ion battery fire because it is much more common than in a diesel-powered car. Emergency response teams should also use dry extinguishers to avoid exacerbating the fire with water.

Although electric vehicle batteries can be dangerous, with the right knowledge on how to prevent fires we can make our roads safer. One way to combat EV fires is with an electrical fire extinguisher or an EV fire blanket. These are both effective ways to put out an EV fire and mitigate

damage.

Another simple solution is regular vehicle maintenance. This one seems obvious, but the chances of a fire are significantly reduced when the vehicle is serviced to the manufacturer's recommendations. EV drivers should also avoid overcharging, physical damage, and extreme weather conditions to ensure that a lithium-ion battery fire does not start.

Work Cited: Kumar, G K Naveen, and Akanksha Thakur. Fire in Electric Vehicles: A Review | Request PDF, www.researchgate.net/publication/371018099_Fire_In_Electric_Vehicles_A_Review. Accessed 7 Aug. 2024.

Chemical spills: Build a simple spill kit at home

BY BINDU BHAKTA, MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

Being prepared before a spill occurs protects you, your family and helps safeguard Michigan's water resources.

Do you store hazardous chemicals (e.g. pesticides, fertilizers, etc.) somewhere in your home or outbuildings? If you do, it is

important to be ready in case of a spill. A spill kit is a must-have around the home so you are ready to act quickly to control, contain and clean up a chemical leak or spill.

Here are the key components of a spill kit:

Plastic storage tote

Conveniently holds and stores spill kit materials in one spot.

Safety goggles

Protects eyes, one of the most sensitive areas of the human body, from chemical exposure.

Unlined, chemical-resistant gloves

Be sure these gloves are made out of nitrile to ensure maximum protection against chemicals. Gloves should not be lined to prevent chemicals getting trapped

inside the lining, potentially allowing the substance to be in direct contact with skin causing serious injury.

Broom and dustpan

Can be used to easily sweep up dry spills.

Garbage bags

To easily handle leaky or spilled material.

Absorbent material

Such as cat litter, oil absorbent, activated charcoal or sawdust.

These materials help soak up liquid spills so they can be swept up and disposed of properly.

Emergency phone numbers

Have emergency numbers readily available if needed.

For more information, visit <https://extension.msu.edu>.

Sault Tribe elders' bad address needed updated!

Sault Tribe elders — The Enrollment Building is located on the Sault Ste. Marie Reservation, in front of the Kewadin Casino and Hotel at 2076 Shunk Rd. in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. Phone: (800) 251-6597, (906) 632-8552, or (906) 635-3396.

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|------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Adams, Craig P | Caron, Darryl R | Gouine, Gerald H | LaLonde, Dennis G | Nesbitt, Rebecca L | Seymour, Michael S |
| Adams, Mark W | Cary, Peter M | Grai, Elizabeth A | LaLonde, Rene A | Nichols, Bobbie J | Shields, Edwin R |
| Adams Jr, Donald H | Cervera, Claudia E | Green, Richard G | LaPine, Michael T | Osogwin, Laurie A | Simonds, Deborah S |
| Agy, Gary M | Clark, Robin L | Green, Sheri A | LaPlaunt, Charles F | Paciocco, Stephen J | Skupin, Lalona I |
| Alexander, Laurie J | Cook, Norman H | Greggs, Jason J | Laughton, Jerry D | Page, Lisa A | Smith, Alfred L |
| Alexander Jr, Fred M | Coughlin, Francis R | Groh, Vicki J | Leask, Daniel J | Paquin, Carolyn J | Smith, Karan A |
| Alleyne, Doralee M | Cox, Tina M | Grondin, Charles J | Lee, Rodney J | Paquin, Kathleen M | Smithson, Vicky L |
| Andrews, Tammy | Crowder-Simmons, Laura J | Hadley, Catherine A | Lewis, Anna M | Paquin, Michelle | Sosnowski, Paul M |
| Anthony Jr, Daniel R | Cruz, Rhonda B | Hallesy, James F | Lewis, Robin J | Parrish, Glenn R | St. Louis, Robert F |
| Anzalone, Randall C | Darnell, Mickie J | Hansen, Marianne | Lewis, Steven M | Paschall, Karen L | St. Louis, Wayne A |
| Arntz, Debra E | David, Trudy K | Hanson, Peter J | Lichtenberger, Rebecca M | Paulsen, Camie A | Starkweather, Michelle L |
| Arseneau, Lawrence R | Delpriore, Cheryl L | Harned, Todd | Lockwood, Jeffrey F | Payment, Stephen M | Stephens, Terry M |
| Aultman, Inez A | Derouin, Darryl P | Harris, Bruce K | Lucas, David L | Perry, Raymond A | Stewart, Cherrie J |
| Baker, Randell J | Dewar, Debra L | Harris, Patricia A | Malloy, James B | Perry, Robert F | Sturm, Christian A |
| Baker, Vince W | Dietz, Mark O | Hartrick, Tim M | Mantooth, Troy L | Pilcher, David J | Summers Jr, Wilfred G |
| Bard, Wilda A | Dilworth, Lawrence M | Hatch, Mark H | Martineau, Allen R | Poole, Lisa R | Therrien, Francis F |
| Barr, Brian J | Doll-Bodine, Teresa A | Hatch, Susan | Mastaw, Kevin | Powell, Patricia S | Thibodeau, Marilyn R |
| Beckman, Kristin A | Doyle, Vickie S | Hennessey, Marianne E | Mattson, Melanie A | Pratt, Katherine A | Thomas, Robert R |
| Beigel, Leon J | Eaton, Gregory A | Henry, Susan | McCarthy, Kenneth P | Pratt, William J | Trudell, Candice R |
| Belanger, Jerome F | Edmonds, James B | Hershey, Joni | McCarthy, Richard J | Pressley, Kimberly A | Truitt, Susan M |
| Belanger, Lyndon B | Elegeert, Thomas J | Heximer, Larry G | McCondra, Raymond P | Price, Keith D | Tudman, Collette A |
| Belisle, Danny L | Erickson, James S | Hill, David J | McCondra, Ronald K | Quinn, Suzanne M | Vanier, Tina M |
| Belonga, Francis J | Erskine, Verna J | Hillman, Judy G | McDermott, Edward J | Radford, Sharon D | Vanzile, Sherri L |
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| Berkland, Karen M | Ettawageshik, John L | Holmberg, Patti A | McDonald, Tom | Rittenhouse, Bonnie K | Vincamp, Lisa A |
| Bernard Jr, Lawrence G | Falbe, Brian D | Holmes, Donald J | McDonald Jr, John | Rivard, Loretta J | Wagner, Sherrie R |
| Best, Pamela | Faragher, Elaine R | Hylo, Dana W | McLeod, Bobby J | Rivers, John N | Weatherly, Mary H |
| Bicknell, Gerald L | Fay, Linda M | Hylo, Lee A | Metivier, Lynette S | Robbins, Merlin S | Weber, Daniel B |
| Bobee, Joseph F | Filer, Dale A | Jackson, Charles D | Meyers, Cathy J | Robbins, Richard L | Welch, Michael L |
| Bohrer, Michael G | Fischer, Dawn A | Jackson, Jennie M | Meyers Combs, Audrey A | Roberts, Mary J | Weston, Charmaine T |
| Bonno, Clyde A | Fischer Jr, David A | Jennings, Angela J | Michaels, Violet L | Ruperd, James K | Westveld, Holly J |
| Boston, Julie A | Ford, Deborah M | Johnson, Kevin J | Moffatt, April M | Ryckman, Barbara | Wheeler, Henry A |
| Bourasaw, Peter J | Fox, David R | Keyandwy, Ronald D | Monck, Steven J | Samuel, Debra E | Whisenant, Albert T |
| Braley, Sharon L | Fraser, Donald L | Kilstofte, Tammy K | Montague, Lark L | Sari, Jeffery M | White, Randy P |
| Brasseur, Bernie D | Frazier, William J | King, Timothy G | Montgomery, Debra S | Schell, Debra L | White Jr, Gerald R |
| Brauer, Edward A | Gaede, Danna K | Kivisto, Douglas J | Moore, Bonnie A | Scheuring III, James W | Wicketts, Betty M |
| Brenchley, Frederick K | Gagnon, Lynne M | Konkel, Cynthia E | Moore, Janice O | Schmid, Raymond L | Willson, Susan M |
| Brewer, Karen | Gale, Danny M | Kopacki, Marcia L | Morris, John P | Scobey, Peggy M | Wiseley, Patricia L |
| Brigman, Rod R | Gokey, Todd S | Kravis, Valerie K | Mullendore, Carolyn M | Scott, Jack T | Woodworth, Tami L |
| Brothers, Keith A | Gomez Jr, Jose A | Kroupa, Darla R | Murray, Charles E | Sepienza, Anne M | Yancy, Pamela J |
| Burke, Kevin L | Gorny, Thomas E | LaCross, Donald K | Neal, Cathy L | Sepienza, Joseph | Young, Laurie A |
| Cadreau, Paul M | Goudreau, Richard C | LaDrig, William T | Neal, Linda A | Sepienza, Steven | |

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Visit <https://www.saulttribe.com/membership-services/education> or email education@saulttribe.net for application

DEADLINE TO APPLY: 8/30/24 AT 11:59PM

\$1,000 SCHOLARSHIP

MAT Clinic treats 287 in first month of operation



AUSTIN LOWES
TRIBAL CHAIRMAN

Aaniin,
I will begin my unit report with good news. In the last edition of the tribal newspaper, I announced that the state of

Michigan was appropriating \$750,000 towards the operating cost of our homeless shelter, the Lodge of Hope. After submitting this report, our legislative director (Mike McCoy) informed me that this number was no longer correct, as the state decided to contribute an additional \$500,000 towards the shelter, bringing the total appropriation to \$1.25 million. This funding will help so many tribal members struggling with homelessness. Securing an appropriation of this size is no easy task. I appreciate everyone who advocated for this project alongside me. Miigwech!

The next topic I'd like to discuss is our medication assisted treatment program, the healing place. This program provides

harm reduction medication to individuals diagnosed with opioid and alcohol use disorders. These medications prevent individuals from relapsing with substances that could contain fentanyl, which ultimately saves lives. Last July was the clinic's first full month of operation. In that month, the clinic conducted 287 visits, bringing their daily average to 18. This is the most meaningful substance abuse service our tribe has provided since I was sworn into office. If anyone needs this service, an appointment can be scheduled by calling (906) 635-8877.

I'd now like to discuss this year's golf scholarship classic. The tribe has a golf fundraiser every year known as the golf

scholarship classic, which raises scholarship money for college students. This year's classic raised \$113,000. Thanks to generous donors, this event has raised over \$1 million since it began. If you've donated to this event, chi miigwech! Your generosity is much appreciated!

I will now discuss efforts to strengthen our Elder Meal Program. Indian Energy donated \$15,000 to the tribe last year to purchase bison for our elders. Last month, the tribe used these funds to purchase three bison from a farm in Wisconsin, totaling over 1,000 pounds of meat. The tribe will continue supplementing our meal program with Indigenous food sources. Our long-term goal is to have a food

sovereignty program that will allow us to grow and raise food for our membership. As a sovereign nation, we need to take steps to begin feeding ourselves.

I will end my unit report by calling on the board of directors to make good on its campaign promises to create a separation of powers. This involves identifying authority that can be reassigned from the board of directors to executive and judicial branches through constitutional amendments. Only this will create a true separation of powers. Anything else is lip service.

As always, it's an honor serving as your chairman.
Austin Lowes,
Sault Tribe Chairman
(906) 635-6050

Time to address the issues plaguing Kewadin team



ISAAC MCKECHNIE
DIRECTOR, UNIT I

Dear Citizens,
I am writing to you not just as a Sault Tribe Member, a former employee, but also as a board member. I am expressing my disappointment in the way the resolution regarding the Kewadin/Governmental IT team members was handled at the Aug. 6 board meeting. The Sault Tribe Board of Directors voted to extend the benefit package for government Information Technology employees transferring to the Kewadin IT team. I was shocked that the board choose to increase the divide and create animosity between our employees with no plan to correct this disparity.

In their efforts, your board representatives choose to appease the six IT staff, and isolated nearly 750 other Kewadin team members. Your representative basically told our Kewadin team members that they are valued at the same value as other tribal employees but don't deserve to have a comparable benefits package. The imbalance of wages and benefits is not something new; it has been brought to the board's attention on numerous occasions with no action. For years, the team members of Kewadin have had to endure setbacks and deal with issues that were beyond our control.

Kewadin staff have been forced to be complacent with stagnant wages, no updates in benefits, and different methods of treatment. How many compensation studies have been brought to the board blatantly stating that our Kewadin staff are egregiously underpaid and lack-

ing an equal benefit's package. Across the country, this is one of the largest contributing factors when it comes to employee retention. Yet knowing this, time after time the board choose to not correct this disparity.

When I was employed with the tribe, I worked with many team members at all locations on a regular basis and truly understand their frustrations. The unfortunate part of this is that when these team members come to me and ask me why they weren't considered and were blatantly left out, I have no other answer for them except this:

This was a clearly political decision to appease a certain group of employees. This could have been avoided, but due to the board and governmental interference during these transition processes, the restructuring to create separation of our businesses has been difficult. I, along with management, was steadfast in our stance that you cannot approve it for some and not all as it's not fair, but the board did it, anyway. The only board representatives who voted "no" was myself and Tyler LaPlaunt because we hon-

estly cared about our Kewadin team as a whole not just a select few employees. The board members who voted "yes" should consider supporting my resolution to correct this injustice.

Kewadin profits are a large portion of governmental support funds that are used to fund membership services. The Kewadin team is always working short-staffed and in some not-so-appealing conditions. Team members work for wages that the other entities wouldn't even consider, conditions that others would turn their noses up in disgust, and complete the work of many by themselves, yet still do so with smiles on their faces. Kewadin team members are unique, but they are never given the spotlight to highlight all their achievements.

In the instance of poor weather conditions (as noted from a recent Facebook post), they close other tribal entities out of concern for their employees' safety. Kewadin is not afforded that luxury. It still must run, as it's a 24/7-365-day operation. I am hoping the board of representatives understand the frustration

that Kewadin team members feel when they are all here working while other offices and employees that are in the same building are permitted to have the day off with pay just because of the allotted extra sick, vacation and weather days. Casino employees drive 60-plus miles round trip to ensure that they get to work. Some of these team members live in the same neighborhoods as those employed by the other entities. So, their neighbors get to stay home, a luxury not afforded to our Kewadin employees. This also creates issues for Kewadin as a business, since some of those entities' services are utilized by Kewadin (Purchasing, MIS, Shipping, etc.).

If just a single department within Kewadin doesn't show up, we would have to shut down. That shows the importance of every single one of our team members. They all work as a cohesive unit. Where one may lack, another excels — someone drops the ball, another person picks it up and ensures it gets to the goal. They help each other when in need. It is

not uncommon in any way to see a Kewadin team member from one department working in another, or offering their assistance to departments that need help. Kewadin team members have also been known to cover local community events for the other tribal entities so their function can proceed without hiccups.

The board must recognize the value and dedication of every employee, not just a select few. In conclusion, I urge you to reach out to your board representative and ask them to support my resolution and prioritize equitable treatment for all Kewadin team members. The disparity in wages and benefits between the IT staff and the rest of the Kewadin staff is not justifiable, in my opinion. It is time to address the longstanding issues that have plagued the Kewadin team and to create a fair and inclusive work environment that acknowledges and rewards the hard work of all team members. Only through such actions can we ensure the continued success and morale of Kewadin Casinos and its invaluable staff.

COMPARISON BETWEEN CASINO BENEFITS AND GOVERNMENTAL TIME OFF

Policy Benefits/Eligibility Sheet - Casino			
Benefits	Employee Status	Time Allowed	Eligibility
Vacation	Exempt/ Salaried Non-Exempt	Initial: 15 Days After five years: 20 Days After ten years: 25 Days After fifteen years: 30 Day	Completion of Introductory period
	Non-Exempt	Initial: 10 Days After five years: 15 Days After ten years: 20 Days After fifteen years: 25 Days	
	Non-Exempt Supervisors	Initial: 12 Days After five years: 17 Days After ten years: 22 Days After fifteen years: 28 Days	
Sick	Exempt and Non-Exempt	4 days per year	Upon Hire
Holidays		Easter Memorial Day Independence Day Labor Day Indigenous Peoples Day Thanksgiving Christmas Eve Christmas Day	
Personal Days		Full Time: 2 days Part Time: 1 day	One Year One Year
Premium Pay		Double time for Non Exempt/Hourly Team Members who work the following holidays: New Years Eve (5pm to 11:59pm) New Years Day (all day)	
ELIGIBILITY NOTES: Full Time, Regular Team Members – 30 hours or more per week, eligible for all benefits once eligibility requirements have been met. Part Time, Regular Team Members – less than 30 hours per week, eligible for vacation and sick, if applicable, on reduced accrual rate, holiday and premium pay. On Call Team Members – ineligible for benefits except premium pay where applicable. Temporary Team Members – hired for pre-established period (less than 6 months), may be full or part time, ineligible for benefits except premium pay where applicable. Season Team Members – hired for seasonal positions, may be full or part time, holiday and premium pay where applicable.			
Legislative History: Resolution No. 2022-12, September 20, 2022, Resolution No. 278, November 22, 2016			

Policy Benefits/Eligibility Sheet - Governmental			
Benefits	Employee Status	Time Allowed	Eligibility
Vacation	Exempt/ Salaried Non-Exempt	15 days per year, with one additional day per year thereafter, not to exceed 30 days.	Completion of Introductory Period
	Non-Exempt	10 days per year, with one additional day per year thereafter, not to exceed 30 days.	
Sick	Exempt/Non-Exempt	12 days per year	Upon Hire
Holidays		New Years Day Good Friday American Indian Day Memorial Day Independence Day Labor Day National American Indian Day Indigenous Peoples Day Joseph K. Lumsden Day Thanksgiving (Thurs. and Fri.) Christmas Eve Christmas Day	
Premium Pay		Double time for Non Exempt/Hourly Team Members who work Easter Sunday.	
ELIGIBILITY NOTES: Full Time, Regular Team Members – 30 hours or more per week, eligible for all benefits once eligibility requirements have been met. Part Time, Regular Team Members – less than 30 hours per week, eligible for vacation and sick, if applicable, on reduced accrual rate, holiday and premium pay. On Call Team Members – ineligible for benefits except premium pay where applicable. Temporary Team Members – hired for pre-established period (less than 6 months), may be full or part time, ineligible for benefits except premium pay where applicable. Season Team Members – hired for seasonal positions, may be full or part time, holiday and premium pay where applicable.			

Director Sorenson discusses issues of the day



**BRIDGETT SORENSON,
DIRECTOR, UNIT III**

The board held its first board meeting in Novi on July 16. I believe there were about 3,600 postcards sent to members within a 70-mile radius about the meeting and the community meeting on July 17. There were about 30 members in attendance for the board meeting, with some being family and friends of the board. I went home on the morning of July 17. It was my personal opinion that we should have only had a community meeting there so that it was an open dialog instead of giving 5-minute periods to receive no answers like the members who attend meetings in the U.P.

I am not saying it wasn't nice to get out and meet and see members but I think it was a big expense, probably \$10,000 for hotel rooms for board and staff, meeting space and mailings that could have been much less if it was a one-day community meeting that had the same effect as the 2-day meetings and 3-night hotel expenses. I hope I do not offend anyone because I do like the outreach and meeting people but we should make it better for

future meetings downstate.

While in Novi, there was a Zoom meeting with the JKL School Board for the storage building resolution. I am not blaming staff because they get direction from the board and chair but that meeting should have been during a Soo meeting when the community and all JKL board members should have been present. The resolution was tabled and was again put on the Aug. 6 meeting agenda. I also placed one on the same meeting to carry out the priority list instead of the storage building. After much discussion, the storage building was not passed and the priority list resolution was tabled to meet with the JKL Fiduciary Committee, which is really just the board. Some of us not currently on the committee were vilified for not being on the committee and bringing the resolution, but they wanted us to vote on the storage building so that means we get a vote on it. Some items they purchased were not brought to us for a vote but others are. I will start attending the meetings to avoid other complaints but had previously left it to those in Unit 1.

Aaron needs to quit scaring people that we will have to pay the money back if not spent by the end of the year, since it just needs to be obligated and there are ways to get it extended, which we will soon see from Baker Tilly who has been hired to review the ARPA guidelines. He now supports going with the priority list so I guess the timeline wasn't the real issue then.

At the Aug. 6 meeting, the majority of the board voted to grant government benefits to six IT team members who now work under the Kewadin Casinos. I

did not support the resolution because that creates all kinds of issues with division. They should have never split MIS and HR in my opinion. Correct the issues and this also affects the money we get for indirect as well. Now some want to give Kewadin more money or benefits that will not be best for business. Kewadin has already been giving us about \$6 million, that used to be \$17 million, for government operations. Its time rash decision-making stops and the full impact be evaluated by all parties involved prior to jumping the gun.

There was a resolution on the agenda to rescind Kewadin team members from requiring them to opt in for long term disability and life insurance. This was done many years ago to make it affordable. Long term disability is based on a team member's wage, so that varies, but both may cost \$4-12 or so. It was stated that the rates will not increase for the next three years, which is great, but I believe after the contract expires, prices will skyrocket. I know that team members should have a choice but I do think many enjoyed the safeguards of this insurance as otherwise many would not have taken it. I hope in three years someone says I told you so and they don't increase but I think its unlikely with today's insurance rates.

On Aug. 7-8, I attended a Tribal Nations Housing Development Assistance Program with some Housing staff members. There were attendees from almost all Michigan tribes, MSHDA, ONAP, Freddie Mac, Fannie Mae, etc. There were many discussions on supportive housing and voucher programs. This was the second toolbox session with one more planned in

October.

These discussions made me see many things through a different lens. I look forward to using these discussions to help alleviate member obstacles and bringing attention to law makers at the state and federal level.

On Sunday, Aug. 4, I had the pleasure of driving our new elder van with some of our elders to a Pictured Rock outing. The Unit 3 elders used their fundraising funds to cover the 2-hour boat tour and lunch. The casino also had a van with elders as well. It was a fun day. Our elder picnic will also be moved to Friday, Sept. 6 at noon at the elder complex. Shawn and I will be purchasing and cooking on the grill.

On July 27, the hotel property that we had purchased in St. Ignace was once again used for fireman training with surrounding agencies and a final burn took place that day. The tribe was accepting bids for the cleanup and the walk through was on Aug. 6. The bids will be opened on Aug. 15. Hopefully, we can get this taken care of soon. At this time, there is not a specific plan for the property but it was purchased for housing economic development.

We have had a few conversations with the Election Committee and plan to continue those discussions to try and make things better. First of all, we should be rescinding the code change that allowed those to vote that did not declare a unit for the chairman. Sometimes people don't want to vote, maybe because they aren't involved in the tribe or don't feel they know the candidates. We mailed out over 18,000 ballots for these undeclared members and received about 1,000 back. If

we did rescind, these members would still have the opportunity to register to vote and select a unit. This also increases the likelihood that referendums going forward will not meet the 30% threshold to be valid, which could have been done on purpose. Based on my calculations this vote for undeclared members cost about \$50,000.

A reminder that the tribe does have a program that can help our youth with sports, camps, driver's ed, senior pictures, etc. It can pay up to \$250 a year for qualified members in the service area. Please call the Education Department at (906) 635-RINK and ask to speak to the Education Department or download the application under Education on saultribe.com.

The tribal government offices will be closed on Friday, Sept. 27, in observance of National American Indian Day.

I was not able to attend our local government team member team building picnic but wanted to express my appreciation for all you do. I hope you all had an enjoyable day!

As I write this report, the Kewadin Shores Casino parking lot is being torn up and will be reconstructed, which is scheduled to take a few weeks. This was badly needed and will be nice when it is completed.

I would like to thank Jessica Dumback and the tribe's Scholarship Committee for all their hard work with the annual golf outing. This was a record year which I believe we raised over \$100,000.

If you have any comments or concerns please contact me at bsorenson@saultribe.net, bridgett91@yahoo.com or (906) 430-0536.

Seek federal candidates who support Indian country issues



**AARON PAYMENT
DIRECTOR, UNIT I**

I share this report to emphasize that as elected tribal leaders, it is our job to represent you in the halls of Congress (House and Senate) and with the President no matter who he or she may be and no matter their partisanship. The work we need to do has to be non-partisan, as you never know who will control the White House or the House and Senate. We have many friends on both sides of the aisle. I'll stay above the fray on who represents a better opportunity for Indian Country, upholding the treaty and trust obligation and honoring our tribal funding for which we pre-paid (as the late Cathy Abramson used to say) with the nearly 1 billion acres of land. It is not

charity nor reparations but a legal exchange that we expect to be honored forever.

In the year of the 100th Anniversary of the Snyder Act that granted citizenship to our continent's first Americans, we have and still face challenges in elections including barriers to participation, gerrymandering to reduce our impact, voter suppression and intimidation, and not recognizing our tribal ID cards at the polls. Still, we can be the change if we register, vote, and vote for candidates who support Indian Country issues.

An op-ed I authored in 2021 recognized the then-effort to push for a jobs and infrastructure bill in Congress to address aging roads, bridges, water systems, schools, clean energy transformation, public transit, high-speed rail, and broadband upgrades. The planned legislation at that time for \$1.2 trillion in the American Jobs and Infrastructure Act was slated to bring a record \$12 billion to Indian Country. This is not charity or reparations for the wrongs perpetrated on our people, but represents only partial remuneration for the treaty and trust obligation that ceded nearly 1 billion acres of Indian lands were taken by the United States in exchange for provisions of health, education and social welfare into perpetuity.

The recently announced cost of Indian boarding schools enumerate the cost of forced assimilation at \$23.3 billion (reported in the Federal Indian Boarding School Report, Vol. II) resulting in the worst of the worst statistical outcomes, as evidenced in the 2018 U.S. Commission on Civil Rights Broken Promises Report.

As an educator and federal Indian policy-wonk, I like to summarize administrative and legislative efforts in terms of "glows" and "grows." The glows we have seen during the current administration includes:

- 2021 extension of EO 13175 on Tribal Consultation with a 90-day deadline issued by Presidential Memo in the first five days of the current administration.

- The historical nomination and appointment of the nation's first American Indian Cabinet Member in Secretary Deb Haaland (Laguna Pueblo).

- \$2.5 billion proposed in the 2021 IHS Budget submitted to Congress.

- \$31 billion in Rescue Act Funds and extension of Cares Act deadline. The Rescue Act reached 2% of the total appropriated while the Cares Act was under one-half of 1% for Indian Country.

- \$1 billion for broadband ushered through by Vice

President Harris, which I helped formulate.

- 2023 Omnibus including of advance appropriations for Indian Health Service Funding.

- A Presidential budget formulation commitment to support mandatory funding for IHS.

- More than \$12 billion proposed for tribal infrastructure (\$6 billion for water, sewer, and sanitation; \$4 billion for BIA roads and bridges; and over \$2 billion more for broadband); These accomplishments are significant but there is so much more on an Indian Country tick sheet for federal candidates up and down the ballot to support our issues. Indian Country voters are not monolithic. But, as the 2020 election demonstrated, we are willing to put partisan preferences aside to support federal candidates who have informed and specific tribal sovereignty platforms. Outstanding issues ("grows") which remain include:

- Permanent reauthorization of Tribal VAWA provisions and tribal data collection requirements for MMIP.

- A Clean Carcieri fix.

- IHS Portability and ACA Medicaid expansion for tribal nations under a 51st state provision and no means test as our health care is already paid in full;

- Indian education reform including self-determination and

self-governance funding to fundamentally change public education for American Indians and Alaskan Natives as we persist in having the worst graduation rates. Let us educate our children ourselves in honoring treaty provisions.

- Permanently authorize the White House Council and codify an accountability measure for tribal consultation, tribal advisories, and budget formulation for cogent continuity in federal Indian policy that transcends administrations and legislative sessions.

- Establish a federal tribal action plan to coordinate and ameliorate the impacts of forced assimilation and to confront and eradicate the impacts of the opiate epidemic.

- Appoint yet another AI/AN cabinet Member and quadrupling AI/AN political appointees.e

- Candidates who articulate a willingness to establish specific benchmarks for measurable successes are likely to capture the attention of individual AI/ANs and their respective Tribal Nations and just maybe win their respective federal elections.

Finally, honor your ancestors by registering and voting. Prepare for future generations by supporting candidates who

See "Payment Report," pg. 17

Directors Hampton & Barbeau report to members



**KIMBERLY HAMPTON,
DIRECTOR, UNIT IV**

Aaniin, boozhoo, kina waya. As your Unit 4 board representatives we want to say chi miigwech for everyone who attended or helped out for the Escanaba Community Center Open House that was held on July 29. There was a great turnout with prayers, drumming, food and community. Congrats to those who won the raffle and giveaway prizes. Chi miigwech to those who donated items for the raffle and giveaways. We appreciate you all. Also, congrats to the two youth who won the children's bicycles that were donated by directors (see photos at right).

Since our last update, we have attended the board meeting that was held in Novi. We were able to participate in a member input session and want to say miigwech to all who attended as we received some very valuable input.

By the time this is published in the Sault Tribe newspaper, the U.P. State Fair wristband distribution will have already occurred. At the time of writing this, there have been 200 children reserved for wristbands. We want to say chi miigwech for everyone involved in taking reservations for the wristbands, in arranging the pick up of wristbands and distributing the wristbands. We couldn't do it without you all. Team work certainly does make the dream work.

A new development regarding the U.P. State Fair is that the Unit 4 Directors will be bidding on steer or pigs at the U.P. State Fair to help support local youth involved in the 4H program, and to also provide our elders with additional food. By the time this report is published, this will have already been completed. A huge congrats to all youth who have spent their time raising animals and learning valuable lessons along the way.

Reminders:



**LARRY BARBEAU,
DIRECTOR, UNIT IV**

Niiwin Noodin Pow Wow
SAVE THE DATE for the 2025 Niiwin Noodin Pow Wow scheduled for June 7, 2025. We encourage everyone to "like" the Niiwin Noodin Pow Wow Facebook page to keep updated on events.

Unit 4 Elder Meetings

We encourage our Tribal elders to attend elder meetings to become involved as well as stay updated on what our Elder Committees are working on.

The next meeting in Manistique will be held Sept. 11 at 12 p.m. EST at the Manistique Tribal Center.

The next meeting in Escanaba will be held Sept. 11 at 4:30 p.m. at the Escanaba Community Center, 3721 Jingob St., Escanaba, Mich.

The Escanaba Elder Picnic occurred on Aug. 10 and had a great turnout. It is such an amazing feeling to drive up to the center, go inside and have our people there celebrating and laughing. Miigwech to all who helped put

on another successful picnic.

UPDATES

Manistique Fitness Center:

There have been a lot of members asking when the Manistique Fitness Center will be opening. We were aiming for the middle of August for the opening of the Fitness Center; however, due to a manufacturer issue regarding pumps, the delivery of said items is backed up to sometime in October. Please be patient as we are now at the mercy of the manufacturer and their suppliers.

Sault Tribe is currently actively seeking candidates for open positions at both the Fitness Center and the Escanaba Community Center, so please visit the Sault Tribe website, employment section.

Looking Forward: We both look forward to working together, with the membership, to bring improvements in all areas including, but not limited to, community input sessions, office hours for board of directors within Unit 4, increasing fishing and hunting accessibility, and more.

We, Directors Hampton and Barbeau, will be scheduling regular office hours for both Manistique and Escanaba and will publish days and times, publicly, once they have been set. The days and times will be posted on social media, in the Sault Tribe newspaper, the Manistique Tribal Health Center, and the Escanaba Community Center. We will also be scheduling monthly community input sessions, which will also be made public. Initially we will hold meetings on a first-come, first-served basis and will then transition into scheduled meeting times for members.

The schedule for September is as follows:

Office Hours to Meet with Board Members in Manistique:

Wednesday, Sept. 4, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., 1 -3 p.m., in the meeting room by the dining area.

Wednesday, Sept. 25 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., 1 -3 p.m., in the meeting room by the dining area.

Office Hours to Meet with Board Members in Escanaba at the Community Center at 3721 Jingob Street, Escanaba:

Thursday, Sept. 5, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 26, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Katchup with Kim:

Monday, Sept. 9, 6-7p.m., Meeting ID: 906 440 8138;

Passcode: KimHampton

We both want to give our sincerest thanks for trusting us to represent Unit 4 members and Sault Tribe. We are always available for questions, comments, and ideas for growth. We encourage members to participate in Maamawi Craft Nights, office hours, community input sessions, Katchup with Kim, and all other activities and events occurring throughout Indian country.

Our contact information is below:

Kimberly Hampton, Unit 4 Representative. Phone (906) 440-8138. Email is khampton@sault-tribe.net.

Larry Barbeau, Unit 4 Representative. Phone (906) 259-3040. Email is lbarbeau@sault-tribe.net.



Congrats to the two youth who won the bicycles donated by directors.



Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians

Escanaba Community Center

AVAILABLE FOR EVENTS



Escanaba Community Center, located at 3721 Jingob St., Escanaba, is AVAILABLE TO RENT to tribal members for events such as a birthday party, baby shower, cultural event, etc. There is NO FEE to rent. Non-tribal employees included.

To rent the Escanaba community center, contact Sault Tribe Facilities Management at facilities@saulttribe.net.

Moving ?



When you move, let us know where you are headed! That way you won't miss one issue of your tribal paper. Call (906) 632-6398 or email slucas@saulttribe.net.

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From "Payment Report," p. 16 support Indian Country issues. I urge Tribal leaders and fellow AI/AN people to look to our ancestors for guidance and mobilize to make your expectations known. Vote for those federal candidates who support Indian Country. In most battleground states, we represent from 1% to 3.5% of the total voters where the polls suggest margins of victory at much less. This means, federal candidates cannot afford to take our vote for granted and we can determine the outcome.

Take care and love yourself, your family and your tribe!
Chi Miigwech,
— Aaron
aapayment@saulttribe.net

Director LaPlaut reports on tribal, unit news



TYLER LAPLAUNT
DIRECTOR, UNIT V

15 members this week. To date, they have enrolled 1,402 members since Feb. 1, including children, and 84 applications have been denied. This is a tenuous process for our enrollment department, and they will continue to do their due diligence to ensure that only those applicants who can properly trace lineage are enrolled. Chi miigwech to our entire Enrollment Department for all of their hard work.

There will be a screening of the Bad River film at Thomas Theater in Marquette. The screening will be held on Sunday, Sept. 29 at 4 p.m. Admission is free and will include popcorn and a drink for everyone in attendance. If you are interested in attending, please email Stacie Mattson at smattson1@saulttribe.net so we can begin to get a headcount and make sure we have enough space for everyone interested. This is a Unit 5 activity, but open to ALL Sault Tribe households who are able to attend. There will also be a special guest in attendance.

The recent presentation in Munising, "Gifts from the Past," by James Paquette was a huge success. I want to say chi miigwech to James for agreeing to present to us again and allowing us to broadcast it to the tribe. It was a full house in Munising and so far his recording has received over 6,000 views on the Sault Tribe's Facebook page.

I'd love to continue to support these types of initiatives and cultural events and sharing with the tribe through social media when and where we can. If you are interested in helping out, have an idea, or a contact, please reach out to me and we can try organizing another event.

We continue to host a bi-weekly culture night every second and forth Thursday from 5:30-8 p.m. at the Marquette Community Center on 204 Cherry Creek Road. Everyone is welcome, whether you are an Elder knowledge keeper or someone new to our culture and taking your first steps. This is a safe space to ask questions, participate, learn, and make great friends. Dinner is always provided for everyone in attendance. People are welcome to bring a dish to pass or story to share, but absolutely nothing is expected out of those in attendance other than kindness and consideration of others.

Community Picnics

In the month of September, the Elders will be hosting com-

munity picnics open to all tribal households in both Munising and Marquette. They are both being hosted on the same day at different times and you are more than welcome to attend one or both. I look forward to seeing everyone these events.

Munising will be hosting its community picnic on Thursday, Sept. 12 at 11 a.m. The event will be hosted at the Sault Tribe Health Center and will be both indoor and outdoor depending on the weather. The Munising Elders would like everyone to pre-register if they plan on attending so we can ensure there is enough food for everyone. To pre-register, please contact Jenna (906) 259-3244 by Sept. 3, 2024. Everyone is also welcome to bring a dish to pass. Please contact us if you have any questions.

Marquette will be hosting its community picnic on Thursday, Sept. 12 at 5 p.m. This picnic is also open to all tribal members and households. It is being held in conjunction with Culture Night, so there will already be a large group in attendance. There will be bison burgers available, courtesy of the work and partnerships of Chairman Lowes. However, the Elders are requesting a potluck-style event. There is plenty of food available to grill, so please bring dishes to pass. No registration required, but if you'd like to help or have questions, please reach out to Kevin Tillison at (906) 235-0959.

The next Unit 5 Elder Meeting and Meal in Munising will be held on Thursday, Sept. 5, 2024, at the Munising Tribal Health Center from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. All you need to do to participate is be a Unit 5 Elder aged 60-plus.

The next Unit 5 Elder Meeting and Meal in Marquette will be held on Thursday, Sept. 5, 2024, at the Holiday Inn of Marquette from 6 to 8 p.m. All you need to do to participate is be a Unit 5 or surrounding Unit 4 Elder aged 60-plus.

If you have any questions, comments, or would just like to discuss something with me, please use my contact information below. You can also reach out to Unit 4 and 5 Liaison Mary Jenerou at mjenerou@saulttribe.net or (906) 450-7011 or (906) 341-8469.

Chi Miigwech,
Tyler Migizii Migwan
LaPlaut

Unit 5 Director/Vice-Chairman
tlaplaut@saulttribe.net
(906) 440-8294

Munising Elder Picnic

OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY

09/12/24

11 A.M.

Please call Jenna at 906-259-3244 to pre-register by 4 p.m. Sept. 3.

BAD RIVER MOVIE NIGHT!!!

Sault Saint Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians
Sponsored by UNIT 5

Sunday, 9/29/24 4:00 P.M.

Thomas Theater
1525 Commerce Drive
Marquette, MI

Please join us for a FREE showing of BAD RIVER, a new documentary film which chronicles the Wisconsin based Bad River Band and it's on going fight for sovereignty! Naomi Tillison, Director of Bad River Mashkiizibii Natural Resources, will be present!

BAD RIVER

Unit 5 ELDERS PICNIC

Sept. 12 starting at 5 p.m.
at the New Tribal Building,
204 Cherry Creek Rd.,
Harvey, Mich.



Bring a dish to pass!

Burgers, hotdogs,
brats, beverages will be provided.

Open to all Marquette area
SSM tribal citizens!



For more information, contact Kevin Tillison, 906-235-0959.

Representative Borowicz discusses unit issues



SHAWN BOROWICZ,
DIRECTOR, UNIT III

Boozhoo,
Hope all is going well in your part of the world and you are enjoying life to the fullest. Aug. 29 at 3 p.m. is the open house for our new tribal health center in St. Ignace, so if you're in the area stop by and check out the facility. A big shout out to the Mackinac Straits Hospital, and its board of directors including Christine McPherson, for seeing this through and using the grant they received to build us a new facility. The hospital will be taking over our current location to use for an expanded surgery center and other medical procedures. With our new

location, which is behind our current facility, you can still access it through the front or you can drive around to the new parking lot with a new grand entrance. This will be a state-of-the-art facility with new upgraded equipment.

The old Harbor Light Motel in Evergreen Shores was burned down last weekend after firefighters trained in it for several weeks prior. Not only was I involved in this as a board member, I was also involved as one of the firefighters, being a member of the St. Ignace Fire Department. Bridgett was also on hand and took many pictures to show the progress of the

tribe and the Housing Department for future development.

Several recent employee appeal hearings have been on my mind. The first involved two employees in the same department who were terminated for the same offense on the same day, both good employees. Their appeals were a day apart with different board members sitting in; one got reinstated and the other the termination was upheld. Come on — same offense with two totally different outcomes! The second and unrelated to the above involved an employee who was hired to protect the assets of

the tribe and our customers on a daily basis, for which he always did an outstanding job. I've never seen an employee be so railroaded by some of our management team ever, more to come on this one.

Our Unit III housing project is moving forward, slower than I would like but hopefully by spring and next summer it will be in full swing. Proposed is a mix of tiny homes, midsize homes and some talk of maybe some units for single people.

Until next time, I can be reached at (906) 379-8511 or sborowicz@saulttribe.net.



Save the Date

RIBBON CUTTING OF THE MEDICAL OFFICE BUILDING

AUGUST 29, 2024
4:00PM - 6:00PM

MACKINAC STRAITS HEALTH SYSTEM
1140 NORTH STATE STREET
SAINT IGNACE, MI 49781

Please confirm your attendance by contacting Christine Rutledge at crutledge@mshosp.org or (906) 328 - 0006

Medical Office Building





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Stephen Pearcy OF **RATT**



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TOMMY DECARLO
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LEAD SINGER
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