



# Win Awenen Nisitotung

October 21, 2020 • Vol. 41 No. 10  
Falling Leaves Moon  
Bnakwe Giizis



Official newspaper of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians

## COVID-19 cases spike in tribe's service area

BY WILL SCOTT

The number of diagnosed COVID-19 cases in the Sault Tribe's seven-county service area has risen sharply since late September, according to data from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.

By far the most severe spike was in Delta County, where the number of cases more than tripled in three weeks, from 244 cases on Sept. 21 to 730 cases on Oct. 12. Cases in Mackinac County more than doubled in the same period, from 38 cases Sept. 21 to 84 cases Oct. 12.

Although Mackinac County's case numbers are well below those of Delta County, tribal members account for 25.2 percent of Mackinac County's population, based on U.S. Census figures from July 2019. In Delta County, tribal members account for 3.9 percent of the total population.

Dr. Leo Chugunov, health director for Sault Tribe, said the spike in cases underscores the need for everyone to follow established guidelines: Wear masks while in public, maintain social distancing and wash hands frequently.

Chugunov said a detailed breakdown of COVID-19 cases among tribal members in the service area is not available, but "we know it's a problem."

He said colleagues who travel in the area reported "a low degree of compliance with the mask

requirement. "We have reason to believe that these are connected."

Michael Snyder, health officer and administrator of Delta County's health department, said there were several sources of that county's sharp increase in COVID cases.

The largest outbreak, Snyder said, was a nursing home, where 32 residents and 28 staffers tested positive. The staffers then transmitted the virus to family members.

There has also been what Snyder called a general community spread, including among the schools.

Some residents aren't aware that they've been exposed, he said.

Escanaba Junior-Senior High School was closed for 14 days.

Snyder said there has been an increase in testing.

"I am hopeful that we've seen the spike and we're on the downward trend," he said. "But one thing with COVID is you never know what's going to happen."

Below are the increases in cases in the seven service-area counties in the three weeks from Sept. 21 to Oct. 12.

County	Sept. 21	Oct. 12
Chippewa	49	57
Mackinac	38	84
Luce	11	21
Alger	16	38
Schoolcraft	19	40
Delta	244	730
Marquette	279	442

## Court program participants make and donate blankets to elders



Photo by Brenda Austin

Tribal Court's Domestic Violence Court program participants make blankets as part of their community service requirements. The program focuses on victim safety, healthy families and offender accountability. While COVID-19 put a damper on participants' ability to give back to the community and complete their community service hours, one participant came up with the idea of making blankets while quarantining. The Domestic Violence Court team and participants decided to donate the blankets made to the elders for the coming winter season. Above, Angelique Dishaw, on the left, Specialty Court coordinator with the Sault Ste. Marie Chippewa Tribal Court, presented the blankets to Elder Services Secretary, Heidi Aikens, and Elder Services Transportation Coordinator, Jodi Thompson.

## Tribal Health seeks to keep up with changes during pandemic

BY WILL SCOTT

How do you set up a drive-through Covid-19 testing system? It's not easy. Sault Ste. Marie Tribal Health officials have had to work out ways to keep everyone safe. That means going over every detail – not just wearing personal protective equipment, also called PPE, but following protocols for wiping down clipboards and pens after every interview and directing traffic.

Now, the staff also is planning the logistics of setting up tents with portable heaters to keep staffers warm as cooler weather moves in as another round of testing is set to begin in November.

Assistant health director Joel Lumsden said the staff has met daily to go over details in conducting drive-through testing in Sault Sainte Marie, Manistique, Christmas, St. Ignace and Hessel. "We're spending days going through every single thing," Lumsden said. That means establishing protocols as detailed as making sure clipboards are sanitized after every interview.

Adding to the complication is that Sault Tribe Health is coordinating the events but is working with War Memorial Hospital and other local and

**Dealing with this new virus calls for lots of attention to details, planning, coordination, cooperation, determination, patience and keeping abreast of new developments in testing and measures to protect people and counteract the virus for everyone.**

county agencies to get test results quickly. That all requires planning so that all entities are working together, and that testing kits are transported properly to War Memorial.

Sault Tribe Health Director Dr. Leo Chugunov, said the goal is to complete the tests quickly enough that anyone whose sample tests positive is notified on the same day.

Tribal health has conducted four mass-testing events totaling 401 tests, with six people testing positive for the coronavirus. Here is the breakdown: Sault Sainte Marie: 198 tests, 2 positive; Manistique: 59 tests, 1 positive;

Christmas: 49 tests, 1 positive; St. Ignace: 95 tests, 2 positive.

The next testing event is Oct. 22 at the Kewadin Casino in Hessel. As with the other events, it will be open to the public and there will be no charge. "There aren't many places where you can get tested for no charge," Chugunov said. He said he hopes for a large turnout. "We certainly would like to increase turnout," he said. "More tests mean more positive cases and more quarantines to help stop the spread of the disease."

Tribal Health officials are planning for another round of mass testing starting next month. One is planned in Sault Ste. Marie in the first part of November, the date and place have not yet been announced.

Chugunov said the tribe recently received 10 "point-of-care analyzers" called Sofia II. The analyzers are designed to allow employees to test patients right in the exam room, rather than take samples to be tested elsewhere. The analyzers are to be distributed in Hessel, St. Ignace, Manistique, Escanaba and Newberry. Tribal health has enough materials for roughly 600 tests, and "we will try to divide them equally," Chugunov said.

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# Michigan musician Dettloff releases new single, Citronella

Northern Michigan songwriter Tyler Dettloff released a new single, titled Citronella, from his forthcoming album, Dynamite Honey: Northern Folk and Blues. The country rockin' blues song celebrates love in troubled times and places. Citronella follows love from flowerbed to Lake Superior shores and northern Michigan swamps, dutifully landing on a "bug spray kiss" that "turns the biting black flies into lightning bugs, light[s] up the night." The swinging song is punctuated by brassy slide guitar and Dettloff's forlorn vocal delivery.



Upper Peninsula musician Tyler Dettloff successfully completed a crowd-funded Kickstarter campaign in December, 2019, and is delivering his first taste of the promised Dynamite Honey: Northern Folk and Blues. The

album, released through Lost Dog Records of Marquette, Mich., is available on all stream-

ing platforms, and promises to help us all "jump on in" to Dettloff's music the "gichi gami



[Lake Superior] way." The song was performed and recorded by Tyler Dettloff, released by Lost Dog Records, audio engineered by Ryan Staples, and features artwork from Haley Rose Design Studio.

Dettloff is a regional professor, musician, poet and activist who has been playing music in Michigan's Upper Peninsula for the past decade. His debut full LP, The Way The Hook Bends, was released in 2015. His debut chapbook of poems, Belly-

up Rosehip: A Tongue Blue with Mud Songs, launched in August of 2019. Dettloff released the single, Thunder Burnt (available on all streaming services) in December 2019 as a preview of his coming album.

Dettloff released an encore single later in August and his sophomore LP Dynamite Honey: Northern Folk and Blues in September 2020.

For more information about Dettloff's music, please visit the website [www.lostdogrecords.org](http://www.lostdogrecords.org).

## Eitrem takes part in live-fire qualification exercise



SANTA RITA, GUAM (Sept. 26, 2020) Builder Constructionman Cody Eitren, from Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. and assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 133, shoots an M16 rifle during a live-fire qualification exercise on Naval Base Guam. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Nick Bauer)

## COVID-19 still in Chippewa County, cases continue to rise

CHIPPEWA COUNTY, Mich. – As the Upper Peninsula continues to see a dramatic increase in positive COVID-19 cases, Chippewa County has had an increase of more than 30 confirmed and probable cases since Sept. 2, 2020, with 14,000+ tests having been administered.

Chippewa County Health Department (CCHD) cannot stress enough the importance of residents and visitors taking precautions to protect their loved ones when in public settings or attending gatherings.

Limiting the time spent with non-household members, wearing a face covering when six-foot distancing cannot be maintained and practicing good hygiene are highly encouraged to control the spread.

If you are sick stay home. If you have been told you are positive with the virus which causes COVID-19 or a close contact

Limit the time spent with non-household members, wear a face covering when six-foot distancing cannot be maintained, and practice good hygiene. There practices are all highly encouraged to control the spread.

of someone who has the virus, please abide by the isolation and quarantine instructions given by the health department.

There is still much unknown about this novel (new) coronavirus. We do know that while most people have mild or no symptoms, others become very sick and even after recovery (30 days after symptom onset or positive test), have long-term, negative health impacts which include lung, cardiovascular and neurological system damage.

CCHD wants to encourage everyone to take care of not only themselves but others.

## SLAM THE SCAM Phone Scam Awareness

### What is Slam the Scam?

The Inspector General of Social Security, Gail S. Ennis, is warning Americans about widespread phone scams where callers impersonate government officials, most often Social Security, to gain your trust and steal your money.



### What to Watch For

Social Security phone scammers may

- threaten arrest or legal action against you unless you pay a fine
- promise to increase your benefits or resolve identity theft if you pay a fee
- demand payment with retail gift cards, wire transfers, internet currency, or by mailing cash
- try to convince you by using spoofed caller ID numbers or officials' real names, or by emailing fake documents

#### DO NOT BELIEVE THEM!

If you owe money to Social Security, the agency will mail you a letter with payment options and appeal rights. Social Security does not suspend Social Security numbers or demand secrecy from you, ever.

### What to Do

If you receive a suspicious call:

- ✓ **HANG UP!**
- ✓ **DO NOT GIVE THEM MONEY OR PERSONAL INFORMATION!**
- ✓ **REPORT THE SCAM AT [OIG.SSA.GOV](http://OIG.SSA.GOV)**



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- ▶ Business Loans for Native Farmers and Ranchers!

# Tribe needs updated addresses for the following members

The Sault Tribe Enrollment Department is looking for the following individuals.

Please have them contact the Enrollment office at (906) 632-8552 or (800) 251-6597.

- Steve M Abear
- Donald H Adams Jr.
- Mark W Adams
- Laurie J Alexander
- Doralee M Alleyne
- Rickie M Amenowicz
- Tammy Andrews
- Debra E Arntz
- Ellen K Bach
- Wilda A Bard
- Kathleen E Barnett
- Jeffery L Belonga
- John A Benedict
- Gregory L Bennett
- Nanette G Biang
- Gerald L Bicknell
- Vickie L Billings
- Joseph F Bobee
- Michael G Bohrer
- Karen Brewer
- Stephanie D Cafek
- Claudia E Cervera
- Francis R Coughlin
- Joseph H Cvangros
- Mickie J Darnell
- Debra L Dewar
- Mark O Dietz
- Lawrence M Dilworth
- Vickie S Doyle
- James S Erickson
- Joel Q Ettawageshik
- John L Ettawageshik
- Robert L Fischer
- Deborah M Ford
- Steve J Fox
- Donald L Fraser
- Mary E Furness
- Lynne M Gagnon
- Danny M Gale
- Deborah L Gereau

- Todd S Gokey
- Richard C Goudreau
- Vicki L Green
- Jason J Greggs
- Timothy G Grimmer
- Jay W Grondin
- Daniel J Guillard
- James F Hallesy
- Marianne Hansen
- Lawrence J Harper
- Tim M Hartrick
- Mark H Hatch
- Susan Hatch
- Michael F Henschel
- Donald J Holmes
- Jennie M Jackson
- Angela J Jennings
- Kevin J Johnson
- Jeffery W Johnston
- Carl R Keyser II
- Timothy G King

- Douglas J Kivisto
- Cynthia E Konkel
- Dennis G LaLonde
- Douglas T LaLonde
- Rene A LaLonde
- Dale A Lansky
- Charles F LaPlaunt
- Jerry D Laughton
- Rene`e Leask
- Rodney J Lee
- Ronald F Lee Jr.
- Jeffrey A Lewis
- Robin J Lewis
- Steven M Lewis
- Rebecca M Lichtenberger
- Jeffrey B Lindsay
- Rita D Masta-Adams
- John McDonald Jr.
- Lynette S Metivier
- Audrey A Meyers Combs
- Lark L Montague

- Debra S Montgomery
- Christopher C Morley
- William D Munro
- Cathy L Neal
- Julie A Norden
- Lloyd J Olson
- Stephen J Paciocco
- Carolyn J Paquin
- Kathleen M Paquin
- Glenn R Parrish
- Patricia S Powell
- Katherine A Pratt
- Cynthia L Puzio
- Suzanne M Quinn
- Loretta J Rivard
- John N Rivers
- Leanne M Ruggero
- Linda M Runshe
- Joseph P Saykly

- James W Scheuring III
- Peggy M Scobey
- Sandra A Scott
- Joseph Sepienza
- Kathleen M Sheehan
- Edwin R Shields
- Alfred L Smith
- Vicky L Smithson
- Paul M Sosnowski
- Wayne A St. Louis
- Anna M Stockley
- Robert R Thomas
- Candice R Trudell
- Kimberly J Walker
- Michael L Welch
- Albert T Whisenant
- Gerald R White Jr.
- Patricia M Winters
- Patricia L Wiseley

## Elders sought for Sault job opening

The Sault Tribe's Senior Employment Program is accepting applications for a part-time Purchase Referred Care Program clerk in Sault Ste. Marie. Applicants must be Sault Tribe members aged 60 or over and reside in the seven-county service area. Must undergo a criminal background investigation and pre-employment drug testing.

Please contact Brenda Cadreau at (906) 635-4767 for an application and job details.

Open until filled

## Elders sought for Escanaba job opening

The Sault Tribe's Senior Employment Program is accepting applications for a part-time Community Health Program clerk in Escanaba. Applicants must be Sault Tribe members aged 60 or over and reside in the seven-county service area. Must undergo a criminal background investigation and pre-employment drug testing.

Please contact Brenda Cadreau at (906) 635-4767 or Mary Jenerou at (906) 341-8469 for an application and job details.

Open until filled

## LIVE Art and Word Contest open to U.P. high school students

High school students from across the Upper Peninsula of Michigan are invited to submit any form of original artwork for cash prizes on a theme of mental health awareness from Sept. 22 to Nov. 17, 2020. Submissions may be paintings, sculptures, poetry, photography, comics, jewelry, graphic designs, songs, collages, quilting or any other form.

Submissions will be judged by West End Suicide Prevention (WESP) members and a panel of experts. Voting will take place on social media, as a way to share the art creations and bring awareness to mental health issues.

First place winner receives \$500, second place takes \$300

and third wins \$100.

Official rules and entry forms are available online at [glrc.org/live](http://glrc.org/live).

The LIVE Art and Word Contest was suggested by a high school student who wanted to encourage positive mental health and help to break the stigma surrounding mental health issues by giving other students the opportunity to showcase their talents.

The contest is sponsored by WESP, West End Health Foundation, Great Lakes Recovery Centers, U.P. Home Health and Hospice, PHFoundation, Gogebic Range Health Foundation and Superior Health Foundation.

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](http://www.saulttribe.com).

**Subscriptions:** The regular rate is \$18 per year, \$11 for senior citizens and \$30 to Canada. Please

## Applied Suicide Interventions Skills Training (ASIST)

ASIST classes offered Monday, Nov. 2, and Tuesday, Nov. 3, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Kewadin Casino Hotel and Convention Center, 2186 Shunk Road, Birch and Cedar rooms, in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.

ASIST Applied is a two-day interactive workshop in suicide first aid. Skills learned in one environment are transferable to others, creating a life-saving impact across the community. Help is possible when skills,

opportunity and safety are present. When these are available throughout the different facets of someone's life, they're more likely to receive help.

How to register: Registration fee of \$25 is non-refundable. Scholarships available upon request. Seating limit of 30. Online registration available at <https://p2p.onecause.com/saultasist>. Blocked rooms call: (800) 539-2346 ID#20008.

Questions? (989) 78-5260 or email [info@srrn.net](mailto:info@srrn.net).

## Training opportunities available for eligible applicants

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, the program may

reimburse an employer 50 percent of your wage for a specified training period.

Candidates must meet certain eligibility requirements and be a resident of the seven-county service area.

Apply at the WIOA office at the Big Bear Community Recreation Center in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., or call Brenda Cadreau at 635-4767 for more information.

## Tribal members: need assistance?

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 [membersconcerns@saulttribe.net](mailto:membersconcerns@saulttribe.net) or contacting them individually at:

Unit I — Sheila Berger, Office of the Chairperson, Sault

Ste. Marie, (906) 635-6050, (800) 793-0660, [sberger@saulttribe.net](mailto:sberger@saulttribe.net)

Units II and III — Clarence Hudak, Lambert Center, St. Ignace, (906) 643-2124, [chudak@saulttribe.net](mailto:chudak@saulttribe.net)

Units IV and V — Mary Jenerou, Manistique Tribal Center, (906) 341-8469; Munising Centers, (906) 450-7011 or (906) 450-7011, [mjenerou@saulttribe.net](mailto:mjenerou@saulttribe.net).

## Youngsters sought for Work Experience Program

The Sault Tribe WIOA Department is currently accepting applications for the Work Experience Program. Eligibility requirements: Must be Native American between the ages of 16 to 21, reside in the seven-county service area (Marquette, Alger, Chippewa, Luce, Mackinaw, Delta and Schoolcraft counties), and either unemployed or low income.

If interested in applying for after school employment, please contact Brenda Cadreau at (906) 635-4767 or [bcadreau@saulttribe.net](mailto:bcadreau@saulttribe.net) for an application.

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

October 21, 2020  
Bnakwe Giizis  
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Jennifer Dale-Burton.....Editor  
Brenda Austin.....Staff Writer  
Rick Smith.....Staff Writer  
Sherrie Lucas.....Secretary

*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

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[jdale-burton@saulttribe.net](mailto:jdale-burton@saulttribe.net).

# Resolutions passed at recent board meetings

The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians convened on Sept. 15 with all present and passed the following resolutions:

**Resolution 2020-219 – Child Advocacy Center Establishment of FY 2021 Budget** – Approved for Department of Justice funding of \$329,039.75.

**220 – DeMawating Development, Chippewa Storage and Enterprise Capital Expenditures FY 2020 Modification** – Approved for a modification to DeMawating Development to increase expenses for a \$10,000 transfer out to Chippewa Storage, modification to Chippewa Storage for the transfer in of \$10,000 and Enterprise Capital Expenditures to increase expenses for Chippewa Storage \$10,000.

**221 – Enterprise Recipient Establishment of FY 2020 Budget** – Approved for other revenue funds of \$4864,500 with no effect on tribal support.

**222 – Manistique Medical Nursing and Third Party Revenue FY 2020 Budget Modification** – Approved to change the personnel sheet, decrease expenses and decrease other-third party revenue of \$10,368.25 and modification to third party revenue for a decrease of transfer funds of \$10,368.25.

**223 – Family Spirit Grant and Third Party Revenue FY 2020 Budget Modifications** – Approved to increase other-third party revenue for an increase of transfer funds of \$10,000.

**224 – SAMHSA STOPR FY 2020 Budget Modification** – Approved to change the personnel sheet and reallocate expenses with no effect on tribal support.

**225 – SAMHSA Establishment of FY 2021 Budget** – Approved for U.S. Health and Human Services funding of \$350,000 with no effect on tribal support.

**226 – Emergency Preparedness FY 2020 Budget Modification** – Approved to change the personnel sheet, decrease expenses and decrease State of Michigan funds of \$3,560 with no effect on tribal support.

**227 – Health Sault Housekeeping Maintenance FY 2020 Budget Modification** –

Approved to change the personnel sheet.

**228 – Sanitation BE-17-KO3 Establishment of FY 2021 Budget** – Approved for Indian Health Service funds of \$44,813 with no effect on tribal support.

**229 – Continuing Funding Authority For Fiscal Year 2021 October to September Health Division** – Approved for certain cost centers at 2020 spending levels for a period not to exceed 45 days.

**230 – Adult Health Survey** – Authorized Health Division Community Health Program to conduct a survey by mail to randomly selected tribal households in the service area using labels generated from tribal Enrollment or by electronic database shared by tribal Enrollment with Michigan Public Health Institute. Directed MIS and Enrollment departments to cooperate with the Health Division in generating database, lists and labels for the project. Resolved appropriate action to protect the rights and welfare of members participating in the survey and study.

**231 – Acceptance – 2021 Indian Housing Plan** – Approved as presented and requests funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Agrees to follow HUD approved Indian Housing Plan in order to provide housing opportunities.

**232 – Lease Modification** – Approved to remove an individual from the lease and requests Bureau of Indian Affairs to modify subject lease.

**233 – Lease Cancellation** – Authorized cancellation of lease to an individual and requests Bureau of Indian Affairs to reflect the leave cancellation.

**234 – Authorization To Apply For A Funding From Native American Business Development Institute** – Authorized a grant application for up to \$75,000 for developing an opportunity fund for identified zones throughout the tribe's service area.

**235 – Authorization to Accept Funding From the Bureau of Indian Affairs For the Purpose of Promoting Economic Development Activities**

– Authorized Sault Tribe EDC to accept funding up to \$30,000 from the BIA for economic development throughout the tribe's service area and establish a budget for received funds.

**236 – Hartford Life Insurance Company Life and Disability Benefits** – Authorized renewal of benefits for two years.

**237 – Rescind Resolution 2004-121 Federal Acknowledgment Or Recognition of Mackinac Band of Chippewa Indians and Ottawa Indians, Inc.** – Rescinded declaration of neutrality of the board toward the federal acknowledgment or recognition of the Mackinac Band of Chippewa and Ottawa Indians, Inc. effective immediately.

**238 – Resolution to Ban Non-Member William Cross, Jr. From the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Lands** – Authorized to protect the peace, health, safety, morals and general welfare of the tribe and its members.

**239 – Purchase of Property** – Authorized the purchase of an undisclosed property with pre-agreed funds.

The board convened again on Sept. 29 with all present except Director Massaway. They passed the following resolutions:

**240 – Trust Land Lease – Parcel 02 Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.** – Approved to lease an acre of land in Soo Township to an individual.

**241 – Authorization To Enter Into A Loan To Finance Construction of A Childcare Center For ACFS** – Approved a modification to the tribe's ongoing loan arrangement with Huntington National Bank to add an additional loan amount at a fixed rate of 2.15 to be repaid from internal governmental funds and any proceeds received by the tribe from the occupancy space of the childcare center.

Reconvening on Oct. 6 with all present, the board passed the following resolutions.

**242 – Sault Tribe Construction FY 2020 Budget Modifications** – Approved to change the personnel sheets and reduce other revenue \$81,245.29.

**243 – Employment FY 2021 Budget Modifications** – Approved for WIOA Work Experience for an increase in federal funding of \$37,533.52 with no effect on tribal support; on the job training for a reallocation of expenses with no effect on tribal support; and WIOA administration for an increase in federal funding of \$5,771.84 with no effect on tribal support.

**244 – Michigan Tribal Food Access Collaborative Establishment of FY 2021 Budget** – Approved for Inter-Tribal Council funding of \$22,000 with no effect on tribal support.

**245 – FY 2021 Budget Document 002 Health Division** – Approved for a total of \$40,825,626.

**246 – Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Document 004 Enterprises** – Approved for revenue of \$16,607,863 and expenses of \$15,406,758.

**247 – Fiscal Year 2021 Enterprises Capital Purchases Budget** – Approved for a total of \$933,887.

**248 – Contract Approval Meritain Health (An Aetna Company) and Delta Dental** – Authorized the tribe's executive director to execute contracts effective Jan. 1, 2021 for a period of one year, and to further take such actions as may be required to extend the current contracts.

**249 – Approving Flexible Benefits Spending Plan Document** – Approved the flexible benefits spending plan document and summary plan description as set forth by the Sault Tribe Insurance Department for the administration of the tribe's flexible benefits plan effective immediately. Also approved the distribution and communication plans as set forth by the Insurance Department.

**250 – Approving Lease For the Marquette Tribal Community Health Center** – Approved for 600-square-feet of the Midtown Office Center's office building at 1229 W. Washington Street in Marquette, Mich. Tribal services to be offered at the property include Community Health programs, health education and confidential meeting spaces. Yearly

rent is \$11,280 for the one year and the annual CPI-U increase will be waived to the end of the term of the agreement. Cost is budgeted and approved. Lease shall expire on Oct. 31, 2021, at which time it will be relocated to tribal property.

**251 – Bureau of Indian Affairs Row (Right-Of-Way)** – Easements granted for 15 tribal land parcels for road improvements and construction.

**252 – Tribal Transportation Award and Approve Transit Agreement With Chippewa Luce Mackinac Community Action Agency** – Authorized the use of Federal Transportation Administration funds for a transit contract between the tribe and the CLMCAA to promote access to opportunities in employment, education, culture, recreation, health and social services.

**253 – Newberry Sidewalk Agreement Luce County Road Commission** – Approved tribal funding for costs to provide perpetual maintenance of sidewalks and paths on a section of Zeez-Ba-Tik Drive.

**254 – Approving (Wish List) Grants Management Software Purchase** – Approved expenditure of \$68,550 for grants management software for year one and obligates the tribe to \$54,825 for 2021 and \$55,921.50 for 2022.

**255 – Authorization For Signature Bureau of Indian Affairs Self-Governance Annual Funding Agreements** – Authorized entering into an agreement with the BIA for the Self-Governance and Tribal Transportation programs.

**256 – National Congress of American Indians 2020 Annual Convention Delegates and 2021 Dues** – Assigned Board Chairperson Aaron Payment as delegate with remaining board members and Gaming Commission Director Kenneth Ermatinger as alternates. Also authorized expenditure of \$12,000 for annual dues.

Resolutions and voting records can be seen in their entirety on the web site at [www.saulttribe.com](http://www.saulttribe.com), follow government/board of directors menu options.

## Voters Not Politicians, All Voting Is Local launch drop box locator, [www.michigandropbox.com](http://www.michigandropbox.com)

LANSING—Voters Not Politicians and All Voting Is Local recently launched [www.MichiganDropbox.com](http://www.MichiganDropbox.com), a free, easy-to-use online tool for Michigan voters to locate a secure drop box location or their local clerk's office to cast their absentee ballots in the general election.

“Our citizen-led organization is committed to protecting our state and Michigan voters from partisan misinformation intended to disenfranchise and suppress voters,” said Nancy Wang, executive director of Voters Not Politicians (VNP). “Voting by absentee ballot is safe, secure and convenient. The fact that Michigan has already seen historic levels of absentee ballot requests shows that voters in our state are seeing through the partisan rhetoric.”

“One option for voters is to

drop off their absentee ballot in person rather than mailing it back. We created the drop box locator to make it easy for voters to locate a secure drop box in their city or township, knowing that more Michiganders will vote absentee if they find it convenient and are confident their vote will be counted,” Wang continued.

The drop box locator tool was created to support those choosing to vote with an absentee ballot this year, especially first-time absentee voters, young voters and historically disenfranchised voters in Detroit and other cities, who instead might choose to vote in-person despite COVID-19 risks or choose to not vote at all. The VNP Volunteer Advisory Council led the effort to ensure this tool would be available to voters across the state.

**Easy to use, online tool helps voters safely, securely cast absentee ballots during the approaching general election.**

“We're thrilled to partner with Voters Not Politicians in this effort to help voters quickly and easily find a secure absentee ballot drop box in their local communities,” said Aghogho Edevbie, Michigan state director of All Voting Is Local. “With millions of Michigan voters receiving absentee ballots for this election, this collaborative tool is crucial for getting voters information about the safe and secure options voters have to cast their ballots early.”

So far, clerks have installed over 1,000 drop boxes across the state, and more are being added

every day, which will be updated on [MichiganDropBox.com](http://MichiganDropBox.com) leading up to the election. Voters Not Politicians is also investing advertising dollars to communicate directly with voters about drop box locations in their area.

*Voters Not Politicians is a grassroots, nonpartisan organization dedicated to engaging citizens to proactively change our government to make it accountable to the people. After successfully ending partisan gerrymandering in Michigan, Voters Not Politicians and its thousands of supporters across the state have shifted focus to improving*

*our democracy through effective citizen engagement. Learn more at [www.votersnotpoliticians.com](http://www.votersnotpoliticians.com) or follow us on Twitter @NotPoliticians.*

*All Voting is Local fights to eliminate needless and discriminatory barriers to voting before they happen, to build a democracy that works for us all.*

*It is a collaborative campaign housed at The Leadership Conference Education Fund, in conjunction with the American Civil Liberties Union Foundation, the American Constitution Society, the Campaign Legal Center and the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law.*

*For more information about All Voting is Local, visit <https://allvotingislocal.org> and follow us on Twitter@votingislocal.*

# Indian veteran bills would ban VHA co-pays for health care, support tribal nursing homes

BY RICK SMITH

The U.S. House of Representatives recently passed a bill introduced a year ago that would prohibit the Secretary of Veterans Affairs (VA) from collecting health care co-payments from veterans who are American Indians or Alaska Natives. The bill is H.R. 4908, the *Native American Veteran Parity in Access to Care Today (PACT) Act*, also called the *Native American PACT Act* for short.

The *Native American PACT Act* would amend United States Code title 38, section 1730A, which eliminates co-pays from catastrophically disabled veterans,

to also apply to American Indian and Alaska Native veterans. A covered veteran is now defined as a catastrophically disabled veteran or “an Indian or urban Indian as defined in section 4 of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (Public Law 94-437; 256 USC 1603).”

House Representative Ruben Gallego (D-Ariz.), chairman of the House Subcommittee for Indigenous Peoples of the U.S., said the measure would align the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) with the federal government’s trust and treaty obligations to tribal nations for veterans receiving care at VHA facilities.

One of the guarantees of United States trust and treaty obligations is access to free health care for American Indians; hence, no charge for them at Indian Health Service facilities. Currently, however, American Indian veterans receiving care at VHA facilities are subject to out-of-pocket costs.

“As chairman of the Subcommittee for Indigenous Peoples and a veteran myself,” Gallego said in an announcement, “I am proud to work with my colleagues, Indian Country and the VA to pass this critically important bill to uphold our trust and treaty obligations and ensure Native veterans can access the

care they have earned. I urge the Senate to move quickly to send this bill to the president’s desk.”

In the Senate, meanwhile, a year-old bill in that chamber recently passed from the Veterans Affairs Committee to the Senate floor. The *Nursing Home Care for Native Americans Act* would provide grants to build nursing homes on reservations for American Indian veterans. The bipartisan measure calls for the VA to make grants available in support of building the homes. Currently, according to a Senate announcement, no veterans’ nursing homes exist on tribal lands. Further, building veterans’

nursing homes on reservations is excluded from a law permitting 65 percent of construction costs to be reimbursed by the federal government.

“By eliminating a loophole preventing VA funds from going toward the construction of nursing homes on tribal lands, our bill will help Native American veterans obtain the infrastructure and resources they need,” said Senator Kevin Cramer (R-N.D.).

The measure received endorsements from the Navajo Nation, the National Indian Health Board and the National Congress of American Indians, according to an announcement.

## Additional tribal veterans service officer aids tribe’s veterans

BY RICK SMITH

Sault Tribe members who are veterans of the U.S. armed forces and their immediate families living in the tribe’s service area recently received reinforcement for getting help in navigating through bureaucratic channels to activate Veterans Affairs (VA) benefits. Marine Corps veteran Dylan Moiles recently completed Tribal Veterans Service Officer (TVSO) training through the VA and stepped up to help veterans of the eastern region of the tribe’s service area. He joins fellow TVSO Stacy King, an Air Force veteran who now focuses on covering the western reaches of the tribe’s service area.

A couple of years ago, Sault Tribe and the American Legion initiated a TVSO program back in 2018. After training for the job in Detroit and earning her accreditation, King took on the task as the first TVSO in March of 2018. She met with veterans or their family members at the tribe’s health centers. “I have learned so much since starting this and continue to learn as time goes on,” said King.

King described her work as

very rewarding. She celebrates successes and forges on to turn unsuccessful claims into successes. “I have had the pleasure of getting to know many different tribal members over the seven-county service area in my time in this position,” she said.

King said she is glad to have Moiles on the team and expressed confidence in his abilities to do well. “Adding this additional position will enable us to better serve our veterans as we will not have such a large territory to cover,” King said.

Moiles was born and raised in Sault Ste. Marie. He attended JKL Bahweting Public School Academy before graduating from Sault Area High School. While attending Sault High, he was a member of the Bahweting Anishinabek Tribal Youth Council. Afterwards, he joined the Marine Corps, serving tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. Following his honorable discharge, he and his wife, Christina, moved back to the Sault area. “It brings me great pleasure to take on the role of tribal veterans service officer,” Moiles said, “where I will be able to support my fellow brothers



**Tribal veterans service officer Stacy King**

and sisters who have made the commitment and served this country. I am here to assist in any way I can, whether it be furnishing information, filing a claim for compensation and pension or providing assistance with veteran death benefits through the VA. I look forward to working with the veterans of this area and being able to assist them in securing all the resources the VA has to offer.”

Moiles sees clients in Hessel on Mondays, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Sault Ste. Marie tribal health



**Tribal veterans service officer Dylan Moiles.**

clinic on Tuesdays, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and St. Ignace tribal health clinic on Fridays, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. He can be reached at [dmoiles@michiganlegion.org](mailto:dmoiles@michiganlegion.org) or (517) 281-2708.

King was born and raised in Manistique, Mich., and graduated from Manistique High School. She served honorably in the Air Force and, afterwards, returned to the Manistique area where she worked for Hiawatha Behavioral Health as an administrative assistant for eight years before moving

to Duluth, Minn., to pursue work as a claims adjuster for United Healthcare. She returned to Manistique and worked for Schoolcraft Memorial Hospital and Goodwill Industries before accepting a position with Sault Tribe in 2012. She worked with Anishinabek Community and Family Services and the Advocacy Resource Center until accepting the TVSO position for the American Legion.

King can be contacted Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., at (906) 202-4238 or [s.king@michiganlegion.org](mailto:s.king@michiganlegion.org).

“I would like veterans to know that there are people here to help them through the very complicated process of veteran’s benefits,” King said. “It is also important for veterans to understand that every claim and every veteran’s situation is different. Claims are adjudicated based on evidence that we can provide and sometimes require a lot of work to see through to completion. My best advice would be to not give up and to work with your VSO to help produce the best possible outcome. The process can be very frustrating but is often worthwhile in the end.”

## Tribal Court changes venue due to pandemic

On Thursday, Sept. 17, Tribal Court held the first jury trial since the pandemic began, using the Big Bear Community Recreation Center as the venue. Tribal Court Administrator/Magistrate Traci Swan and the Big Bear’s Event Manager, Logan Fletcher, created a plan for a courtroom set-up in the Big Bear’s basketball court, working with Tribal Health Director Leo Chugunov to ensure all public health safety measures were in place.

The summoned jurors who showed up were seated in chairs at least six feet apart, counsel tables were distanced, as were the judge’s and clerk’s bench. Selected jurors were seated in a “jury box” with chairs spaciouly separated. All court attendees wore face masks, had temperature checks and answered health screening questions upon entering the facility.

“Court hearings look a bit different lately,” said Chief Judge Jocelyn Fabry. “We now hold court hearings online by Zoom, in the courtroom with plexiglass dividers and limited capacity, and now even in a basketball court. Access to tribal justice has to continue and litigants’ rights need to be protected, even in the midst of a pandemic. But at the same time, it’s our highest priority to keep all attendees safe. Huge thanks to Tammy Graham, Logan Fletcher and the rest of the Big Bear staff as well as Sault Tribe Law Enforcement for serving as bailiffs so that we could hold a jury trial in a site that no one was used to, but that everyone made work. Holding ‘court on the court’ will be one of our many new ways of doing business at the Tribal Court over the next few months due to the pandemic and public health-related renovations to the courthouse,” Fabry said.

## Frank Mraz named MSC security and emergency management director

LANSING, Mich., – The Michigan Supreme Court announced on Sept. 21 that John Ort, who served the court for 15 years, has retired and the court has appointed Frank Mraz to become the new security and emergency management director.

A member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, Mraz is the first American Indian in the post.

Mraz has been with the court since 2018, serving as the lead security officer and bailiff.

Prior to coming to the court, Mraz was a command officer with the Michigan State Police and a member of the department for 31 years.

“Frank’s familiarity with the Supreme Court and his long and successful background in criminal justice with the State Police made this transition seamless,” said Chief Justice Bridget M. McCormack. “Frank

will continue our tradition of making the Hall of Justice both welcoming and safe.”

John Ort began with the Court in 2005 as the trial court security specialist.

In 2007, he became security and emergency management director where he was credited with modernizing emergency management practices, enhancing employee safety and providing trial judges statewide with critical safety-related advice.

“John is a public servant with tremendous integrity and character,” said Chief Justice Bridget M. McCormack. “John’s technical expertise improved the safety and security of employees and visitors at the Hall of Justice and in courts statewide.”

A resident of Holt, Mraz is a graduate of the University of South Florida with a B.A. in social and behavioral science.



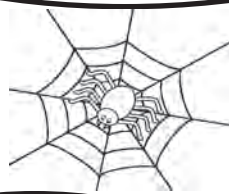
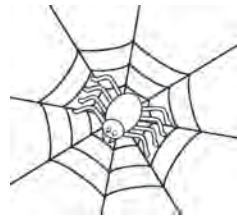
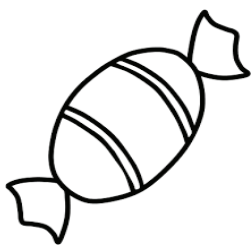
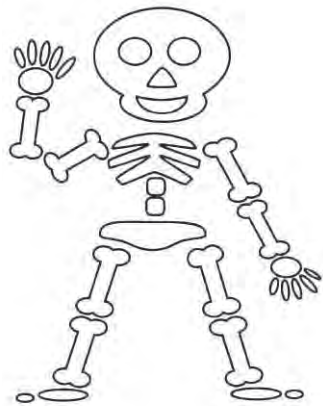
**New Michigan Supreme Court Security and Emergency Management Director Frank Mraz was cited for his years of service with the Michigan State Police and familiarity with the Supreme Court as reasons for his appointment. He replaces outgoing director John Ort, who has held the position for 15 years. Mraz is a resident of Holt, Mich.**

# Anishinaabemowin 2020

The most beautiful experience we can have is the mysterious - the fundamental emotion which stands at the cradle of true art and true science. *Albert Einstein*

No matter what understanding we hold about the mystery of all that is, that "something" is so deeply a part of Anishinaabe culture and tradition, it is impossible to ignore. Someone once said we do not come *to* the earth but *from* her - our mother.

**Shkakimikwe** - Mother Earth. Like our brother, Nanaboozhoo, we learn how to be a competent and responsible person by the teachings and experiences we've had. Then we put them into action for our families and community. What have you been taught about all this?



*Bnakwe Giizis*

*Falling Leaves Moon*

*Mshka'odin Giizis*

*Frozen Moon*

by Susan Askwith

*Gzhe*- likely comes from the word **zhewenjige**: He or she is kind-hearted, blesses, is merciful and has pity. So we say Gzhemanido.

*Gchi*- a prefix meaning immense, surpassing all others, very distinguished. So we say Gchi-manido.

**Gzhemanido**  
Great Mystery  
**Gchimanido**: Great Spirit  
**Dbendjiged**: The one who owns everything beyond human grasp, beyond words, beyond gender and time. Gzhemanido had a vision that led to creating everything, and is only known through what was and is created.

**Manidoo** (plural: Manidook) Europeans thought we meant little spirit beings, living in rocks, trees, places and animals. In our language and culture it meant that and a lot more: property, muse, patron, mystical an essence and transcendent - depending on context. Inspiration.

**Pahiinhsag** Little people who travel and live near rivers and lakes, and make their homes in rocks and caves. Stories tell of them being mischievous, tricky and good at hiding.  
**Memengwaanhsak**: (Butterflies = little feathers) Beloved for their special care and regard for children. Full of play, laughter and mischief.

**Nanaboozhoo**  
His mother was a human and his father a powerful manidoo. Like us he has good intentions but often falls short of success because of fear, curiosity, forgetfulness, envy, lust and impatience. The many stories of Nanaboozhoo teach us the folly of those shortcomings, and thus learn wisdom.

Of all the things we find mysterious and sometimes fearful and worrisome and hopeful, it's death. So, like people everywhere, we might participate in events that take away some of the sting of that unknown. Halloween - the eve of the Christian All Souls Day - is one such festival, from Medieval times in Europe.

**Doodemag**  
Personal Manidook A creature that has attributes a person would like to have so they can learn from and imitate that doodem. Sometimes whole families dedicated themselves to the ideals and duties of a doodem. Thus clans were formed.

<b>Tasewan</b>	Ta-se-wan	Halloween
<b>Jiibay</b>	Jii-bay	Ghost
<b>Jiibay kanan</b>	Jii-bay kan-an	Skeleton
<b>Kosmaan</b>	Kos-maan	Pumpkin
<b>Esbikenh</b>	Es-bi-kenh	Spider
<b>Pashkwaanaajinh</b>	Pash-kwaa-naa-jii	Bat
<b>Dbik giizis</b>	Di-bik gii-zis	Moon
<b>Nbwaakaawkwe</b>	Ni-bwaa-kaa-o-kwe	Witch
<b>N'zegiz!</b>	n-zeg-iz	I'm afraid!
<b>Ziisbaakdoonhs mshkimod</b>	ziis-baak-a-doo-s mish-ki-mod	Candy bag

Use our language to name all the halloween pictures on this page and around the community!

**Pronunciation guide; How to sound really good:**  
Let's just stick with these basics: Letters sound like they do in reading English, except for these ones.

a sounds like u in cup	i sounds like i in pin
aa sounds like a in all	ii sounds like e in be
o sounds like oo in book	e sounds like e in bed
oo sounds like o in go	g sounds only like g in go

**nh has no sound at all; it is only a SIGN that the vowel in front of it is said in a nasal way.**

English has a lot of strange spellings. Our system of writing is easier. We pronounce all the letters shown, even if we say some of them pretty fast and some are pretty quiet.



- \*What do witches put on to go trick-or-treating?  
*Mask-scare-a*
- \*What makes trick-or-treat with twin witches hard?  
*You never know which witch is which.*
- \*Why are ghosts such terrible liars?  
*You can see right through them.*
- \*Why don't skeletons ever go trick-or-treating?  
*They have no-body to go with.*
- \*What do you call wood when it's scared?  
*Petrified.*

# Whitmer announces \$500 million investment to rebuild Michigan's water infrastructure

LANSING, Mich. - Governor Gretchen Whitmer, along with bipartisan and bicameral partners, recently announced MI Clean Water, a \$500 million comprehensive water infrastructure investment in Michigan's water systems from source to tap. The MI Clean Water plan marks a significant investment after decades of underinvestment in Michigan's infrastructure.

"Since the first day I took office, I have made an unwavering commitment to ensuring that Michiganders have access to clean and affordable water. The MI Clean Water Plan marks a significant step toward that goal," said Whitmer. "The MI Clean Water investment will help us rebuild Michigan's water infrastructure and will prioritize and invest directly into protecting our public health, environment, and economy. The MI Clean Water Plan is a critical part of the solution, but the work cannot stop here. I look forward to working with the legislature to find creative solutions to address our water infrastructure backlog. Everyone must remain committed to ensuring that every Michigander has access to clean water."

The MI Clean Water investment is a unified approach to cleaner, more affordable water. This provides direct investments for communities, helps provide safe, clean water to residents, and will support over 7,500 Michigan jobs, according to the Environmental Protection Agency.

"Access to clean drinking water is a cornerstone of our

work at Michigan Environment, Great Lakes and Energy [EGLE], and this exciting package of water protections pulls together a wealth of resources to help ensure clean water for all Michiganders," said EGLE Director Liesl Clark. "Now is the perfect time to invest state and federal dollars in a coordinated way to encourage job growth in water infrastructure jobs. This work will ripple throughout both the economy and the systems that protect public health, strengthening both."

MI Clean Water confronts the large infrastructure issues that Michigan faces, such as lead-laden water service lines, toxic contamination like Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS), undersized sewers, failing septic systems, unaffordable water rates and constrained local budgets. MI Clean Water will reduce barriers for communities and allow them to access needed funds for necessary and timely infrastructure upgrades.

This historic investment includes a proposal combining federal dollars for lead service line replacement in low-income communities (\$102.1 million) with bonding authority for water quality protection (\$290 million), one-time General Fund appropriation for drinking water infrastructure and innovation (\$105 million), and asset management grants (\$2.9 million) to help communities develop, update, and improve their plans for wastewater and storm water systems resulting in a comprehensive water infrastructure investment of \$500 million in Michigan's water systems. The MI Clean Water investment will be done without

**MI Clean Water will provide clean, affordable water to Michiganders, direct investments into communities, and support over 7,500 clean water-based jobs; Governor Whitmer calls on the legislature to work together to improve water quality in Michigan.**

raising the taxes of Michiganders.

A \$207.1 million investment in drinking water quality, including:

- Lead Service Line Replacement in Disadvantaged Communities Program - \$102 million
  - Lead and Copper - Drinking Water Asset Management Grants - \$37.5 million
  - PFAS and Emerging Contaminants - Contamination and Consolidation Grants - \$25 million
  - Non-Lead Drinking Water Infrastructure Grants - \$35 million
  - Affordability and Planning Grants - \$7.5 million
- A \$293 million investment in wastewater protection, including:
- Clean Water Infrastructure Grants (eliminating sanitary sewer overflows; correcting combined sewer overflows; increasing green infrastructure) - \$235 million
  - Substantial Public Health Risk Grants (removing direct and continuous discharges of raw sewage from surface or ground water) - \$20 million
  - Failing Septic System Elimination Program - \$35 million
  - Stormwater, Asset Management, and Wastewater Grants - \$3 million
- "It's time for the legislature

to take bold actions to invest in Michigan's infrastructure and protect our water from toxic contamination. I'm calling on the legislature to authorize EGLE to use the remainder of the voter-approved 2002 Great Lakes Water Quality bond during this legislative session," said Governor Whitmer. "Michiganders are tired of waiting for action, the time is now. We must all work together to improve the quality of the waters of our State."

"I fully support Gov.

Whitmer's aggressive plan to invest in our state's water infrastructure and appreciate her leadership on this issue," said Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan." In Detroit, where we have the oldest infrastructure in the state, it would give us the ability to greatly expand our water main replacement program and replace an additional 2,000 lead service lines beyond our current program. As we do with all of our capital projects, we will hire Detroiters to do this work. We also plan to dedicate a portion of these funds to expand our affordability programs to help our most impoverished residents, who cannot take advantage of our other assistance programs."

"At a time when the federal government has retreated from science and public health protections, Michigan is once again leading the nation to rebuild the critical infrastructure necessary to keep Michiganders healthy and safe. It is proactive investments like this that will prevent future public health crises, reduce inequities, and ensure the promise of generations of Michiganders to come," said Dr. Mona Hanna-

Attisha, MSU College of Human Medicine pediatrician and professor.

"Michigan's infrastructure has seen systematic disinvestment for years, and my constituents in the 18th House District and residents across the state are experiencing the results. Sewage overflows in Southeast Michigan impacting Lake St. Clair, PFAS and dioxane found in multiple drinking water sources, and, of course, the lasting impact of the Flint Water Crisis are just some of the impacts we're already facing, and we need to act now to prevent further harm," said Representative Kevin Hertel, D-St. Clair Shores. "This plan will allow us to address these issues while creating thousands of good-paying jobs. I am excited to put Michiganders to work to clean up our state."

"As Benjamin Franklin said, 'when the well is dry, we know the worth of water.' I don't think we should wait and find out what that cost would be," said Senator Rick Outman (R-Six Lakes). "Health and safety of our residents is a top priority. The Legislature has invested millions of dollars on improving the quality of Michigan's drinking water and these essential water infrastructure investments would allow us to use both federal and existing state funds to further improve our water infrastructure. Having access to quality water is a fundamental, basic need that every Michigan family should have the right to. There are several solid solutions in this proposal that I look forward to seeing further fleshed out. "

## Nation's largest racial justice conference moves online

NEW YORK, N.Y. - Leading racial justice organization Race Forward announced on Oct. 1 that civil rights leader, the Reverend Doctor William Barber II, will be delivering a keynote address at Facing Race: A National Conference, which will be held online for the first time in its history from Nov. 10-12, 2020.

As the largest conference for multiracial justice movement-making in the country, Facing Race continues to serve as a unique, collaborative and essential space for alliance building, issue-framing, and advancing solutions during this historic turning point in our nation's history.

The Reverend Doctor William Barber II has been a leading voice for racial justice. As the architect of the Moral Mondays protests in North Carolina beginning in 2013, he inspired actions across the country for a principled public policy agenda centering on the needs of poor people and people of color.

"History shows us the way forward," says Rev. Dr. Barber, who is the president and senior lecturer of

Repairers of the Breach and the co-chair of the Poor People's Campaign. "When people have come together and taken care of one another as we travel along the way, we have been able to move this country in a moral direction.

"We are profoundly honored to host the Rev. Dr. Barber. He has been the voice of hope for our surging national movement for racial justice," said Race Forward President Glenn Harris. "His vision of a Third Reconstruction rooted in peace through justice has laid the groundwork for the movement we see now. We couldn't imagine anyone better to hear from on how to navigate through these troubled times."

In its online form, Facing Race will present inspiring speakers, workshops, film screenings and networking opportunities. Panels and breakout sessions led by community leaders from across the country will focus on four key tracks:

- Arts, media and culture
- Organizing and advocacy
- Inclusive democracy
- Racial identities and innovation

Since Facing Race was created in 2004, Race Forward has held the national conference in cities around the country, working together with local racial justice leaders to lift up regional history and current challenges faced by communities of color.

Previous speakers have included Tarana Burke, Alicia Garza, Roxane Gay, Hari Kondabolu, Maria Teresa Kumar, Van Jones, and W. Kamau Bell.

Highlights from previous conferences can be found via reporting from Colorlines, the country's leading news site for racial justice, published by Race Forward.

For the latest updates on Facing Race 2020, follow @RaceForward on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter using the hashtag #FacingRace.

To register and find more information, visit <https://facingrace.raceforward.org/>.

Founded in 1981, Race Forward imagines a just, multi-racial, democratic society, free from oppression and exploitation, in which people of color thrive with power and purpose. Race Forward catalyzes move-

ment building for racial justice. In partnership with communities, organizations, and sectors, we build strategies to advance racial justice in our policies, institutions, and culture.

Race Forward is home to the Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE), a

national network of government working to achieve racial equity and advance opportunities for all. Race Forward publishes the leading racial justice daily news site, Colorlines, and presents Facing Race, the country's largest multiracial conference on racial justice.

## UPEC opens photo contest

Every year, the Upper Peninsula Environmental Coalition — the U.P.'s oldest grassroots environmental organization — invites people to help us recognize and share the beauty of our landscape and its inhabitants by entering our photo contest. Send us your best shots representing the beautiful U.P., including photos you may have on file from any season of the year.

There are five categories: Nature panoramas, wildlife, landscapes, humans engaged with the natural world; close-ups of hidden or overlooked beauty, wonderful fluid water and, new this year, "cabin fever cure" — images of you, family and friends enjoying the U.P. outdoors in a COVID-responsible way (mask-wearing

is a definite plus). Each category has latitude open to the photographer's interpretation.

You can be from anywhere, but your photos must be of the Upper Peninsula. You may submit one photo in each of the five categories. To be considered, photos must be high-resolution (one megabyte minimum; six megabytes maximum) photo in .jpg format. Winners will be announced in each category in January, and winning photos will be published in UPEC's newsletter and also may be part of an on-line photo gallery and on display at our next Celebrate the U.P. event.

The deadline for entries is Nov. 1, 2020. To enter, go to [upenvironment.org/photo-contest](http://upenvironment.org/photo-contest).

# Member is first director of new federal agency

BY RICK SMITH

The U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) through the Bureau of Indian Affairs recently announced the appointment of Sault Tribe member Jerry Gidner as the first director of the newly established Bureau of Trust Funds Administration (BTFA).

According to the announcement, effective Oct. 1, the BTFA assumes responsibility for financial operations and functions previously performed by the Office of Special Trustee for American Indians. The new BTFA maintains the Office of Special Trustee functions and the DOI declares it as an example of its efforts to reform and modernize accountability and management of Indian funds held in trust.

Gidner has extensive experience working in the federal government starting in 1991 when he worked as an advisor for the Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Enforcement and Compliance Monitoring. He also has experiences from briefly working in the Department of Veterans Affairs as the acting

director in the Office of Tribal Government Relations. His first assignment with the Department of the Interior came in 1998 as an environmental compliance specialist with the Bureau of Indian Affairs before filling over a dozen other positions with the bureau through the years before his current appointment.

An alumnus of three universities, Gidner received a bachelor's in zoology from Michigan State University, a master's in natural resources management as well as a doctorate in law from the University of Michigan, and master's in business administration from the American University Kogod School of Business in Washington, D.C.

In addition to his citizenship in the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, Gidner is a member of the American Society for Training and Development, Society of American Indian Government Employees, District of Columbia Bar. He is also a member of the Encore Stage and Studio Children's Theater in Arlington, Va., an organiza-



**Bureau of Trust Funds Administration Director Jerold Gidner**

tion he joined originally in 2009 and became chairman of its Development Committee in 2010 and was president from 2012 to 2015.

Along with professional works, Gidner wrote a children's book, *If You Were an Aardvark, An ABC Book Starring Mammals*, in 2007. He also operates Aardvarks Are

Wee, LLC, which is described as a family owned business dedicated to writing and publishing creative and educational books for children.

In 2001, Gidner wrote *Flute for The En'owkin Journal of First North American Peoples*. In 2004, Gidner wrote *Old Lady Dancing for Stories From the End of Life* by The Chest Foundation.

Gidner said he was born in Xenia, Ohio, while his father was stationed at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base and from about 5 years of age lived in West Chester, Pa., while his father worked for the Boeing Company.

"We moved to Michigan before my senior year of high school," said Gidner. "Both my parents had been raised in Michigan – my Dad in Pottersville, southwest of Lansing, and my mom, a Sault Tribe citizen near Petoskey, I think. So it was a homecoming for them, but my first time living in Michigan. By that time, my mom's parents – Marguerite (Sault Tribe citizen) and Lewis Goerke lived in Topinabee, where we visited frequently while I was

growing up. So I spent a lot of time in the northern part of the lower peninsula, but not so much in the Upper Peninsula. I usually described my grandparents as 'living as far north in the lower peninsula as you can go and still be in the lower peninsula.' I guess they were about 30 miles south of the bridge."

Gidner would like his fellow Sault Tribe citizens to know the federal government has opportunities waiting for them. "There are a lot of dedicated Native civil servants in the federal government working on their behalf," he said. "But that out of more than 7,000 senior executives in the federal government, there are probably less than 100 Natives. It's a great career and you can do a lot for the country and for Indian Country in those positions. And if anyone is interested in federal careers or in rising to the executive level once they get there, they should get in touch with me. I would be happy to discuss that with them."

Gidner can be reached by email at [jerold\\_gidner@btfa.gov](mailto:jerold_gidner@btfa.gov).

## Sault Tribe hires Binogii Placement Agency specialist

By Rick Smith

Francoise "Franci" DeCoe recently accepted a position as a specialist with the tribe's Binogii Placement Agency, an affiliate of Anishnabek Community and Family Services.

DeCoe was born in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., and raised in Barbeau, Mich. She graduated from Sault Area High School and attended Lake Superior State University for two years before taking a position at the Chippewa County Prosecutor's Office in Sault Ste. Marie for about nine years. While working with the prosecutor's office she attended Central Michigan University where she earned a Bachelor of Science in psychology. She also started work on a Master of Science in administration with a focus on health administration, an endeavor she continues at this time.

As a specialist for the Binogii Placement Agency, DeCoe

focuses on conducting foster care licensing for Anishnabek Community and Family Services.

DeCoe and her daughter, Olivia, have been involved with the United Way of the Eastern Upper Peninsula for about seven years, they became co-chairs last year and chairwomen this year.

DeCoe has lived in Sault Ste. Marie for the past 23 years with her husband, Bill. Her daughter is a sophomore biology and pre-dental student at Lake Superior State University. Part of her family includes two Labrador retrievers, Sadie and Murphy.

In her spare time, DeCoe enjoys the outdoors, gardening and reading.

The Sault Tribe Binogii Placement Agency is licensed by the State of Michigan to provide foster care services. As a licensed agency, it is required to comply with all the rules and regulations established by the state when providing foster care



**Francoise DeCoe**

and adoption services through contracts, Binogii Placement acts as an agent of the Department of Human Services. Children who are Sault Tribe members in the tribe's service area are generally referred to the Binogii Placement Agency where cases of substantiated abuse or neglect is found.

DeCoe can be reached at (906) 495-1232 or [fdecoe@saulttribe.net](mailto:fdecoe@saulttribe.net).

## Hank returns to help the Housing Authority

Michelle Hank is the new project specialist for the Sault Tribe Housing Authority. Hank started her career with the Sault Tribe in 1985 as an intern with the tribe's court system, ending as court administrator/associate judge. Michelle also worked in the tribe's Planning and Development Department.

Beginning in 2010 until her early retirement in 2017, she held contract positions in Washington, D.C., with the Department of Energy, the Administration for Native Americans, and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, assisting tribal and non-tribal communities with projects and grant administration.

Hank earned her doctorate degree in business administration, a master's degree in administration along with a bachelor's degree in business administration and legal assistant studies.

She lives in Sault Ste. Marie



**Michelle Hank**

with her husband, Don. She has three grown children and three grandchildren. She enjoys time with her children and grandchildren, decorating her home and socializing.

Hank said she is excited to be back in the work world after an early retirement in 2017. She said a few things have changed but is excited to be back working in her tribal community.

## Michigan Small Business Development Center to expand support services

Small businesses in all 83 counties in Michigan will benefit from expanded support services offered through the Michigan Small Business Development Center (SBDC), thanks to CARES Act funding.

The Michigan SBDC, a statewide nonprofit organization providing free business consulting, training, and market research, has expanded its service offering to reflect the needs of small businesses affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. New services include:

- 46 additional business consultants to meet the increase in demand for one-on-one consulting support
- New partnerships with service providers (website development, marketing, accounting, etc.) who can help businesses

Entrepreneurs and small business owners may access the services of their nearest Michigan SBDC by visiting [www.sbdc-michigan.org](http://www.sbdc-michigan.org).

weather the effects of COVID-19 and thrive in the future.

"We were able to add consulting staff to meet increased demands and extend our service offerings into key areas that we know will expedite small business recovery," commented J.D. Collins, state director of the Michigan SBDC.

"This tangible support will aid in business recovery from the immediate effects of COVID-19 while building resilience for the future."

The expanded services offered through the Michigan

SBDC are available through March 2021, and are complemented by the SBDC's well-established team of business consultants, offering free, one-on-one support to small businesses in all 83 counties.

"Through the SBDC, I was able to access accounting support for my business," commented Sheila Kloski, owner of B.B. Trophy and Awards Company. "It has been a great experience. We are going through my Quickbooks with a fine-tooth comb and restructuring my books. Organized and efficient to help me succeed, just what I need!"

"As an SBDC business consultant, my goal is to provide objective support and guidance throughout the life of your business," shared Daniel Yoder, a

consultant with the Michigan SBDC.

"By working together, we can provide you with strategic direction to meet your business goals and connection to our service providers. Spending a few hours with a business consultant can save you hours of headaches down the road."

Governor Whitmer has proclaimed Sept. 20-26, 2020, as Michigan Small Business Week, recognizing the thousands of small businesses across the state that keep Michigan's economy strong and our communities united.

"We are excited to celebrate Michigan Small Business Week and are committed to helping small businesses pivot and prepare for the future," added Collins.

All entrepreneurs and small businesses can access free business consulting, on-demand and online training, and market research at [SBDCMichigan.org](http://SBDCMichigan.org).

The Michigan Small Business Development Center provides consulting, business education, market research, and technology commercialization to new and existing businesses throughout Michigan's 83 counties. Michigan SBDC services are available through the support of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) and the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC).

Entrepreneurs and small business owners may access the services of their nearest Michigan SBDC by visiting [www.sbdc-michigan.org](http://www.sbdc-michigan.org).



# Caldwell accepts assistant executive director post

By RICK SMITH

Sault Tribe recently hired Tasha Caldwell as the assistant executive director. By way of traditional self-introduction, Caldwell said she is known as One Star Woman in her community. She is an enrolled member of the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin and comes from the Bear Clan. In the Menominee language, her clan is called Awaesaah (pronounced A-wah-sah); they serve as speakers and regulators of civil affairs.

“Where I come from, you always introduce yourself by acknowledging your parents and grandparents first,” Caldwell added. “My parents are Vyron Dixon and Mary Grignon. My maternal grandparents are the late Sunday and Jerome Grignon. My paternal grandparents are the late Lois and Vyron Dixon, Sr. My husband, Melvin, and I just celebrated our 20th year together and 14th wedding anniversary. We have three children, two foster children and two dogs.”

Caldwell said her lifelong passion is Indian law and policy. She is an alumna of the Fox Valley Technical College Law Enforcement Academy in Appleton, Wis. She also earned a bachelor’s degree in psychology and a master’s degree in public administration from Ashford University, Iowa. She maintained a straight A average while earning a Master of Legal Studies in Indigenous Peoples Law from Oklahoma State University – College of Law.

“More recently, I have completed certification in HR in Indian Country offered through Falmouth Institute and Advanced Background Investigation and Adjudication Certification through Personnel Security Consultants, Inc., which meets compliance with the *Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act* and the *Tribal Law and Order Act*. These are just a few of the additional training areas I am experienced in,” Caldwell added.

Much of her career, so far, was spent working for her tribe as a law enforcement officer in various capacities. Her 10-years in the field included responsibilities as a patrol officer/deputy, school resource officer, evidence technician, shift sergeant and officer trainer and instructor. Caldwell’s experiences includes training, certification and instructor level training in several areas of law enforcement.

Taking advantage of her education, experience and knowledge of intimate partner violence, she took a position as a domestic abuse co-facilitator and family violence prevention advocate at her tribe’s family wellness center. In those roles, Caldwell provided assessment of abusers for treatment programs, conducted treatments for rehabilitation and provided family violence intervention services. Caldwell also served as a caseworker for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program.

Seeking a role in her tribe

where she could help people on a larger scale, she served as inter-governmental affairs manager for her tribe’s legislature for about six years before accepting a promotion to human resources director for the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin.

“Upon completion of my second master’s degree,” Caldwell said, “I sought a role that would allow me the opportunity to work in Indian law and policy, which has resulted in my acceptance of this role with the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.”

Caldwell said she is very excited to start her journey with Sault Tribe and becoming acquainted with others.

In her spare time, Caldwell enjoys beading, making many styles of regalia and ribbon work for ceremonies as well as star quilts. She said much of her family time is dedicated to ceremony, traditional gathering and teaching her children how to be good relatives.

“My husband and I enjoy our



Assistant executive director Tasha Caldwell

traditional spring activity of gathering and processing maple sap for maple sugar and candy on our reservation at our sugar camp,” Caldwell said. “In the summer, we would spend time gathering berries and plants for ceremony and personal use. No matter the season, we try to spend as much time as possible outdoors doing a variety of different activities.”

# Sault Dial-A-Ride implements changes in service

By RICK SMITH

It could be called a local silver lining in the dark cloud of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Sault Ste. Marie Dial-A-Ride (SSM DAR) transit service ceased International Bridge shuttle operations due to the Canadian closure of the border brought on by the scourge. This gave SSM DAR the opportunity to implement enhancements in its transportation services in town.

As of Oct. 1, 2020, DAR implemented circular rapid transit routes with a dozen stops that loop around Sault Ste. Marie along the I-75 business spur, Sault Tribe reservation, downtown area, LSSU vicinity, West Easterday and the Algonquin area.

Specific scheduled stops on weekdays are at Walmart, the tribal health clinic, Walgreen’s, Midjim Convenience Store,

Michigan Works!, Pullar Stadium, War Memorial Hospital, Wood Creek Manor, Industrial Park, L&M Homes Country Court, Meijer and the bus terminal. The weekday routes run hourly with westbound runs starting at 7:02 a.m. from Walmart and ending at the bus terminal at 2:53 p.m. Eastbound runs are also hourly and make the same stops in reverse order starting at 10:03 a.m. from Meijer and concluding at the bus terminal at 5:53 p.m. In short, the weekday hours of operation are from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

On Saturdays, only the westbound route is available hourly beginning at 10 a.m. from Walmart with stops along the loop at Walgreen’s, Midjim, Michigan Works!, Pullar Stadium, Up North Laundry, Wood Creek Manor, the Industrial Park, L&M, Meijer, Cascade Crossings and

the bus terminal; roughly, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

All schedules are subject to change.

Aside from the loop service, DAR also offers “On Demand” rides. “On-Demand service can also be called ‘Curb-to-Curb’ service. Same day service is available on-demand, but it’s recommended to schedule in advance,” said Joel Amo, transportation coordinator for SSM DAR and Mackinac County Transportation (MCT). “Until we receive additional funding, we are only able to provide pre-scheduled Saturday ‘On-Demand’ service. However, you may schedule many weeks in advance at (906) 632-6882. Overall, the Sault Loop was added in hopes to offer another transportation option for the community.”

Sault loop fare rates are \$1 for senior folks aged 60 and

older, people with disabilities and students; \$2 for the general public; free for children under age 6 with adults; and accompanying caregivers are free.

On Demand fares are \$2 for seniors, disabled and students; \$4 for the general public; children under 6 years with adults are free; and accompanying caregivers are free.

“In regards to the pandemic,” Amo added, “we are sanitizing the vehicles as frequently as possible with deep cleanings over the weekend. Masks are still required prior to entry, and touchless hand sanitizer stations are located near the entryways for convenience.”

Brochures with route schedules and other information are available by calling the DAR dispatch office Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., at 632-6882 or seek Sault Sainte Marie Dial-A-Ride Transportation on Facebook

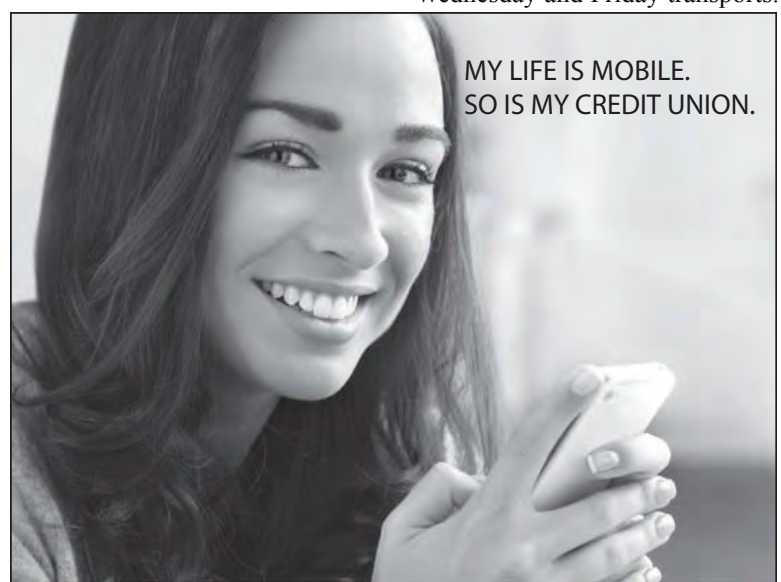
Last spring, SSM DAR acquired new buses with a new look. The old white buses bore single wide red stripes and the wording “Sault Dial-A-Ride 632-6882” along the sides. The new white buses feature blue likenesses of the City of Sault Ste. Marie logo and the wording “Sault Ste. Marie Public Transit” and “SSM Dial-A-Ride” along with the phone number.

SSM DAR transit services has provided affordable public transportation in the town since 1974. Both DAR and MCT services operate under the auspices of the Chippewa-Luce-Mackinac Community Action Agency.

MCT provides specialized bus services to seniors and the general public in Mackinac County. The dispatch office can be reached at 643-6746 to schedule Monday, Wednesday and Friday transports.



Photos courtesy of Sault DAR  
Left, one of the old style Dial-A-Ride buses with the red and white paint scheme so familiar to residents of Sault Ste. Marie. Some remain in use at this time. Below, one of the new buses bearing the new blue and white paint scheme. The new buses also have changeable, illuminated signs for customer convenience. Dial-A-Ride has implemented regularly scheduled “loop” routes in Sault Ste. Marie in addition to the curb-to-curb service.



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# Michigan's health insurers to provide no-cost COVID-19 testing

LANSING, Mich. – Governor Gretchen Whitmer and the Michigan Department of Insurance and Financial Services (DIFS) announced that the state has secured agreements from nearly all of the state's health insurers to waive all out-of-pocket costs for COVID-19 testing and treatments through the end of 2020, including copays, deductibles and coinsurance.

These agreements cover more than 92 percent of the commercial health insurance market in Michigan.

"Ensuring access to appropriate testing and medical treatment without financial concern is an important part of fighting this virus," said Governor Gretchen Whitmer. "We're continuing to work around the clock to slow the spread of this virus and keep people healthy, and I am thankful that Michigan's health insurers have continued to step up to do

their part."

At least through year's end, consumers with these individual and group health plans will not be charged cost-sharing for medically appropriate COVID-19-related medical treatment, such as primary care visits, diagnostic testing, emergency room visits, ambulance services and U.S. Food and Drug Administration-approved medications and vaccines when they become available.

"Once again, our governor has shown strong leadership to protect the health of the residents of this state," said DIFS Director Anita Fox. "Eliminating financial barriers to testing and treatment will ensure that Michiganders can focus on getting appropriate care, instead of worrying about how they are going to pay COVID-19-related medical bills."

The insurers who have agreed to waive cost-sharing are:

- Aetna Better Health of

Michigan

- Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, Blue Care Network
- HAP, Alliance Health
- Humana
- McLaren Health Plan
- Meridian Health Plan
- Molina Healthcare Michigan
- Paramount Care of Michigan
- Physicians Health Plan (PHP)
- Priority Health, Priority Health Insurance Co.
- Total Health Care

The waived cost-sharing applies to commercial health insurance products from the insurers named in the state agreement. Consumers seeking COVID-19 testing or treatment should contact their insurance company to find out about their coverage. Insured consumers who pay up front or receive a bill for COVID-19 testing or treatment should contact their insurance company for assistance.

Under the U.S. Families First

Coronavirus Response Act, consumers with health insurance through Oscar, United Health Care, and other insurers not named in the state agreement currently have COVID-19 coverage without out-of-pocket costs during the federal public health emergency, which is currently set to expire in late October. These insurers may extend their coverage with no out-of-pocket costs so consumers should contact their agent or call the number on the back of their card to ask about their coverage before incurring costs for COVID-19 testing or treatment. In accordance with federal law, consumers with Medicaid or Medicare may also receive a no-cost COVID-19 test and related services provided by a health care provider.

DIFS can help consumers with health insurance questions and complaints. In addition, the Michigan Health Insurance

Consumer Assistance Program (HICAP) can provide shopping tips and help answer questions about health insurance including special enrollment periods for those experiencing job loss or an income reduction. Contact DIFS Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at (877) 999-6442 or DIFS-HICAP@michigan.gov.

The mission of the Michigan Department of Insurance and Financial Services is to ensure access to safe and secure insurance and financial services fundamental for the opportunity, security and success of Michigan residents, while fostering economic growth and sustainability in both industries. In addition, the department provides consumer protection, outreach and financial literacy and education services to Michigan residents.

For more information, visit [www.michigan.gov/difs](http://www.michigan.gov/difs).

## Whitmer's Healthy Michigan plan rises to over 800,000 enrollees

LANSING, Mich. – The Healthy Michigan Plan is now providing health care coverage to more than 800,000 low-income residents for the first time, Governor Gretchen Whitmer announced on Sept. 29.

There are now 800,794 people enrolled in the Healthy Michigan Plan, the state's expanded Medicaid program.

"As Senate Democratic leader, I was proud to work across the aisle with a Republican governor and legislature to expand health coverage for Michiganders through the Healthy Michigan plan," Whitmer said. "Now, with the Affordable Care Act under constant attack in the courts, it's more important than ever that we protect Healthy Michigan and ensure care for families across the state. Repealing the law would put Michiganders' lives at risk and hurt our economy. I will continue working with everyone who wants to protect and expand health care for Michiganders."

COVID-19 affected the finances and health of so many Michiganders that the number of Healthy Michigan Plan beneficiaries jumped from just under 682,000 in late March to more than 800,000 six months later.

Michigan instituted policies to help families access affordable health care coverage such as deciding to avoid terminating Healthy Michigan Plan coverage

and freeze premiums for as long as the COVID-19 public health emergency exists.

The state was able to qualify for additional Medicaid funding from the federal government through the Families First Coronavirus Response Act.

The department has also worked to streamline the application process over the past few years to ensure people eligible to receive benefits are able to access them without unnecessary burdensome requirements.

Whitmer and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) have strongly supported the Healthy Michigan Plan.

When she was state senate Democratic leader, Whitmer helped pass the bipartisan legislation that created the Healthy Michigan Plan, which was enacted in April 2014.

In March, Whitmer and MDHHS preserved Healthy Michigan Plan coverage for tens of thousands of people by supporting swift action on the legal challenge of work requirements that had been adopted by the Republican legislature.

Policies like work requirements that take away health insurance undermine the purpose of Medicaid which is to provide health care coverage to low income and vulnerable populations.

Senator Winnie Brinks (D-Grand Rapids), a champion of expanding health care, reducing maternal deaths and addressing healthcare disparities, praised the news.

"Simply stated: Health care is a right and should be treated as such. This pandemic has reaffirmed how important it is that everyone has access to quality, affordable health care. More than 800,000 people enrolled in Healthy Michigan have been able to take proactive steps to ensure they and their families can get the care they need," Sen. Brinks said. "Especially in such an uncertain time, the certainty of having access to affordable health care is critical for keeping Michigan residents healthy, and I am proud to continue standing by Healthy Michigan."

"For so long, we've treated

health care as if it were a luxury reserved for the wealthiest few, rather than a fundamental right shared by all Michiganders," said Rep. Laurie Pohutsky (D-Livonia). "Healthy Michigan and the Affordable Care Act changed that by throwing open the doors to care for hundreds of thousands of families across our state who needed it most. If we've learned nothing else from our fight with COVID-19 this year, it's that we must urgently act to protect these health care programs and continue expanding critical health care access to every resident — no matter who they are or where they're from."

Plan coverage is available to Michiganders aged 19-64 years old who have an income at or below 133 percent of the federal poverty level — or \$16,971 annually for a single person — and

meet other eligibility requirements, such as not qualifying for other Medicaid programs.

Expanded Medicaid plans are allowed under the federal Affordable Care Act if states decide to implement them.

According to 2017 research from the University of Michigan, the Healthy Michigan Plan more than doubled primary care usage, reduced enrollees' reliance on the emergency room by 58 percent, cut uncompensated care by nearly 50 percent, and added \$2.3 billion to our state's economy.

Apply for the Healthy Michigan Plan at [www.michigan.gov/MIBridges](http://www.michigan.gov/MIBridges) or by calling the Michigan HealthCare Helpline at (855) 789-5610.

Anyone seeking more information may go online and visit [www.michigan.gov/HealthyMiPlan](http://www.michigan.gov/HealthyMiPlan).

### 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.

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# Sault Tribe Behavioral Health peer recovery coaches support tribal members in recovery

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

Each fall in September, National Recovery Month is observed. It's a way to educate communities that substance use treatment and mental health services can help those with mental and substance use disorders to live healthy and rewarding lives. In its 31st year, Recovery Month celebrates people living in recovery and encourages organized activities such as recovery walks to show support and offer hope.

Sault Tribe recovery coaches work with individuals immersed in addictions and provide coaching to people in recovery from the abuse of alcohol, drugs, gambling, eating disorders and other addictive behaviors. Their focus is to assist clients residing in Sault Tribe's three opioid recovery residences to have a supportive and sober living environment. Recovery coaches are not professional counselors, but speak from their strength, experience and hope.

Recovery coaches provide regular feedback to Sault Tribe's Behavioral Health clinical social workers and case managers. The coaches offer their clients resources, education and referrals to additional resources; help with acquiring personal documents such as a driver's license, food stamps, etc.; provide transportation when needed and encourage clients to participate in traditional medicine and other culturally appropriate recovery activities. That is just a small part of what they do.

Sault Tribe Behavioral Health has four recovery coaches, Justin Mandosking, Rachel McCord, Joseph Gravelle and Dean Cameron. Lucas Gardiner is one of the peer recovery coaches working for the Bay Mills Indian Community (BMIC), who often works closely with the Sault Tribe program when requested.

Cameron is a member of the BMIC and became a peer recovery coach for Sault Tribe in March 2019. He said one of his main goals is to try and remove as many obstacles and hardships as he can to help recoverees stay focused on their rehabilitation and goals. "We hope to build their foundations as strong as we can



Peer recovery coaches Joe Gravelle, Justin Mandosking, Rachel McCord and Dean Cameron at a recent NARCAN distribution.

to get them as ready as we can before they step back, wholly, into society," he said. "I became an addict at a young age and didn't finish high school. After 25 years of using, through a lot of hard times and hard lessons, I began my walk down the Red Road of Sobriety three years ago. I think my being a recovering addict and being in recovery myself will help me relate better with recoverees and help me have a better understanding of what they are going through."

Gardiner is a peer recovery coach with the BMIC and has an associate's degree in substance abuse prevention and treatment. He is pursuing a bachelor's in psychology at Lake Superior State University. He is also Michigan Department of Health and Human Services certified for peer recovery coaching and a certified wellbriety facilitator.

Gardiner began working for Bay Mills in July 2019, supporting clients in their chosen recovery pathway by utilizing his personal experience in addiction and recovery, as well as professionally gained knowledge. He works to promote awareness and reduce stigma within the community, plans and stages recovery events, and is a public speaker. "Being a part of the positive changes taking place in the recovery community has given me a sense of purpose I always lacked previously," he said. "I have always had respect and admiration for the traditional Native American approach to life and spirituality, so being able to help make a difference in tribal communities specifically is an honor."

year. He is a full-time student at Bay Mills Community College and is working on an associate's degree in Native studies, and an Anishinaabemowin language instruction certificate.

He said his job includes peer mentoring, peer recovery resource connecting, facilitating and leading recovery groups and building community. "What I love about my role as a peer recovery coach is that I have the opportunity to help guide others through the recovery process, and that this process of change is reciprocal. I wanted to work for the tribe in order to serve my people. There are four main things that support a person in recovery: health, home, community and purpose. The recovery homes address one need and the coaches help guide the person to meet their other needs. I believe that as individuals begin the process of recovery, they can in turn begin to help their families heal as well. Healed families lead to healed communities which lead to healed nations."

Mandosking said his primary interest since he began his personal recovery process is in our Anishinaabe izhitwaawin (our culture). "Other people led me to where I am today, my great-grandmother, Dorothy, was my number one supporter," he said. "Others include elders who showed me how to live, individuals in recovery who believed in me and wanted to see me recover, and traditional medicine. I would not be where I am today without the social and

community support and guidance I received. Recovery is like the rapids; one has to know how to navigate through the twists and turns without crashing into unseen rocks lying below the surface. A recovery coach is kind of like a fishing guide who shows you how to extract resources to meet your own needs."

Rachel McCord is CCAR trained for peer recovery coaching, trained as an "angel" in the Hope Not Handcuffs program through Families Against Narcotics, and is also a certified cosmetologist. She began working for the tribe Jan. 21, 2020.

McCord helps people move into the tribe's recovery housing, and works alongside them during their personal recovery journey. "It's my passion to help people out of the situation that I was once in. I wanted to work this job for Sault Tribe because I believe it's an amazing program and very needed in our community. When coming home from treatment, jail or prison, you typically have nothing. The tribe's recovery homes can be a huge stepping stone into the recovery community and community as a whole. I am a recovering opiate addict, and I wish these resources were available when I started my recovery journey," she said.

If you would like to talk to a peer recovery coach or find out information about services available to tribal members, call Sault Tribe Behavioral Health at (906) 635-6075.

## Make a quit plan during the Great American Smokeout in November

Quitting smoking is hard. It takes commitment, a good support system and begins with a plan.

"Start with day one" and commit or recommit to a healthful smoke-free life by joining others across the country who are participating in the American Cancer Society's 45<sup>th</sup> annual Great American Smokeout on Thursday, Nov. 19.

When you enroll in the Nicotine Dependence Program, a trained

tobacco treatment specialist will speak with you over the phone to create an individual quit plan so you feel more confident about managing withdrawal symptoms, overcoming obstacles and coping with triggers. Eligible patients will also have access to evidence-based medications and receive regular follow up support to ensure they are on track to successfully quit.

If you or someone you know wants to quit, contact your local

Sault Tribe health center to talk with your healthcare provider to get started on your journey. Let Nov. 19 be the day you take your first step!

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# A potential new method for knotweed control

BY HADLEY REED

For years residents of the Sault Tribe service area have struggled with Japanese knotweed invading their yard. Japanese knotweed, also known as Michigan bamboo, is an invasive species. Originally from the volcanic fields in Japan, knotweed was introduced as an ornamental plant for landscaping like many of our other invasive species.

Growing up to 10 centimeters per day, Japanese knotweed is more aggressive and threatening than most native and invasive species. In some cases Japanese knotweed will grow through the cracks in concrete and house foundations causing major damage. Unfortunately, you or your neighbor may not be able to treat and remove knotweed effectively by yourselves.

Until recently, there were only two ways to treat Japanese knotweed, and neither method was ideal. If the knotweed was caught early enough you could dig it up, but all of the roots and pieces would have to be removed or your work would be in vain.

On larger patches of Japanese knotweed, licensed pesticide applicators would have to come in and apply specific chemical pesticides to the plant. Chemicals need to be applied for several years before the knotweed is controlled. Using chemicals can lead to ground contamination and damage other plants and pollinator species in the area, including native species.

Due to knotweed's aggressive nature and lack of effective control methods, researchers have been looking for a new treatment

for years. Luckily a new method has recently been published, that's been effective in England where Japanese knotweed is such a problem it's preventing people from getting mortgages to buy an affected house.

Although the long-term effects are still unknown, metal hardware mesh may provide a mechanical method for controlling Japanese knotweed. Easily obtained at your local hardware store, hardware cloth works by girdling the young shoots of Japanese knotweed in the springtime. Unlike digging and physical removal of the plant, hardware cloth is not an immediate fix. The method may take five or more years for complete control over Japanese knotweed. Sault Tribe's Environmental department is testing this method at several sites



**Metal hardware mesh may provide a mechanical method for controlling Japanese knotweed.**

across the tribe's service area. We will be recording how effective it is over time at the sites we have treated.

If you might be interested in

taking part in testing this new method of Japanese knotweed control, call the Sault Tribe Environmental Department at (906) 632-5575.

# Local poacher loses lifetime hunting privileges

FROM MICHIGAN DNR

A Chippewa County man accused of poaching numerous animals, including 18 gray wolves, was sentenced under a plea agreement.

Kurt Johnston Duncan, 56, of Pickford pleaded guilty in September to seven poaching crimes following an investigation by Michigan Department of Natural Resources conservation officers.

Chippewa County District Court Judge Eric Blubaugh sentenced Duncan to: Pay \$36,240 total; \$27,000 as reimbursement

for the animals illegally taken; \$9,240 in court fees and costs.

Lifetime revocation of all hunting and trapping privileges in Michigan; including that he may not assist anyone else in any hunting or trapping activities. With this privilege revoked, he will not be allowed to hunt in 48 states that are members of the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact.

90 days of jail time; 30 of which will be held in aside should he violate probation.

18-24 months probation.

Forfeiture of all items and evi-

dence seized by the DNR during the execution of search warrants, including, firearms and snares.

"This is a historical case for the division and department," said Chief Gary Hagler, DNR Law Enforcement Division. "We hope this poaching case acts as a deterrent to criminals for committing future wildlife crimes such as this. Our officers did an excellent job working as a team and building this investigation so it could move quickly through the criminal justice system."

The Michigan DNR's months-long investigation of Duncan

identified 125 wildlife misdemeanor crimes. During an 18-month period Duncan committed numerous wildlife crimes of various species, including: wolves, bald eagles, deer, turkey and bobcat.

On Sept. 24 Duncan accepted a plea agreement offered Chippewa County Prosecutor Robert Stratton. Duncan pleaded guilty to: Three counts of the illegal take; possession of wolves. Three counts of the illegal take; possession of bald eagles. One count of illegal commercialization of a protected species (wolf).

Anyone witnessing a natural resources crime or having information about such a crime is encouraged to call or text the DNR's Report All Poaching hotline at (800) 292-7800.

Michigan conservation officers are fully commissioned state peace officers who provide natural resources protection, ensure recreational safety and protect citizens by providing general law enforcement duties and lifesaving operations in the communities they serve. Learn more at Michigan.gov/ConservationOfficers.

# Michigan Clean Water Corps to be administered by MSU through a new \$1.7 million grant

BY CAMERON RUDOLPH, MSU EXTENSION

EAST LANSING, Mich. — The Michigan Clean Water Corps (MiCorps), a statewide network of volunteer programs for monitoring lake and stream water quality, will now be administered through Michigan State University with a five-year, \$1.7 million grant from the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE). Alongside several MSU partners and EGLE, outside collaborators include the Huron River Watershed Council and the Michigan Lakes and Streams Association.

Jo Latimore, an outreach specialist in the MSU Department of Fisheries and Wildlife and MSU Extension, will administer the program. Although new to the MiCorps leadership role, she's been involved with the initiative for roughly 15 years.

"Our water resources are an essential aspect of our state and something we take great pride in. Agencies can't possibly monitor each individual body of water, but with the assistance of volunteers, we gain access to data that makes our water management efforts much stronger," Latimore said.

MiCorps also offers training and resources to groups around Michigan to ensure practices and procedures adhere to quality standards.

MiCorps also provides funding and technical assistance, a forum for communication and support among volunteer monitoring groups, and quality assurance practices in sampling and data reporting. The Volunteer Stream, River and Creek Cleanup Program (VRSCCP) is another way for those interested in natural resources to get involved. The VRSCCP provides grants for organizations to cleanup anthropogenic trash in sections of their local streams.

To help with aerial imag-

ery, modeling and large-scale data analysis, the MSU Remote Sensing & Geographic Information Systems (RS&GIS) program will be a partner in the new grant.

Erin Bunting, the director of the RS&GIS program, is particularly interested in natural and human systems, and how they react to climate change and variability. RS&GIS regularly works with government agencies, non-profits and universities.

Erick Elgin, an MSU Extension water resources edu-

cator based in Newaygo County, will provide leadership for the Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program.

"We have a team of researchers from MSU, EGLE and partner

agencies that are experts in their fields and can give new insights for MiCorps," Latimore said. "Add to that the many volunteers, and we have tremendous capacity to make a real difference."

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# Historic Native American Catholic church, St. Isaac Jogues, sends out call to parishioners

**COVID-19 closing and low attendance are making it difficult for the parish to pay staff and bills**

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

A small Native American Catholic church with a huge history sits surrounded by reservation land owned by the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. St. Isaac Jogues Catholic Church was dedicated Nov. 27, 1949 by the diocese of Marquette. Father Paul M. Prud'Homme, S.J., pastor, became the first priest to give Mass under its newly constructed roof.

In 1966, Father Prud'Homme announced that a building from the former Camp Lucas property would be moved to the back of the parish rectory and church. The extra space was to be used for religious instruction, meetings and other parish needs.

Over the decades the church has been a big part of the lives of its parishioners and the people in Sault Ste Marie. Wanting it to remain that way, Rev. Fr. Dominic Afrifa Yamoah has put out a call to action. The church needs its pews full for Mass, and help paying salaries and bills. "We need the people to come to church and form a formidable and reliable parish council, finance council and money counters, among others," he said. All churches in the diocese were closed on March 17 due to COVID-19, and reopened on May 18.

Rev. Yamoah said, "There are strict observance of COVID-19 protocols, so people should be rest assured of their safety when coming to church. Since the time of church opening, these have been observed in the whole diocese and the church has been commended for the protocols and zero cases recorded in the diocese of Marquette as a result of people attending church or Mass.

"Nobody thought COVID-19 was coming to stay, but from the look of things it's not going to leave us anytime soon, though scientists and people are working assiduously to find solutions to this pandemic. This should not keep us from serving God and receiving his word and the sacraments. Car accidents kill many people and so there are precautions. Many souls are lost during games and other activities and so there are precautions. The same is with COVID-19, just as people wear seat belts to save lives, so we can wear masks to save lives in church and our social gatherings. And so other protocols can be observed to keep us worshipping God together and having communion with our brothers and sisters. COVID-19 has separated many families. But we can observe these safety protocols and keep ourselves united with our families and communities," Rev. Yamoah said.

Rev. Yamoah is the priest in charge of the churches in Barbeau (Holy Family), Bay Mills (St. Kateri Tekakwitha), and Sault Ste. Marie (St. Isaac Jogues). For some time now, he said the numbers have not been very encouraging; few people



**Rev. Fr. Dominic Afrifa Yamoah at a church event in Colorado that was held the same day as his birthday and tenth anniversary of his priesthood, on Aug. 29, 2019.**

attend Mass and few donate for the upkeep of the church, so he is encouraging parishioners to come to church and donate to help.

Rev. Yamoah said the bishop is aware of how much the mostly Native American congregation at St. Isaac Jogues loved retired priest Brother John Hascall and his unique approach to the church and Native American culture. Rev. Yamoah said he is learning the tribe's culture by speaking with some of the parishioners. "I organized and planned Brother John's farewell Mass with the help of the executives of the general council of the three parishes, invited the bishop who gladly attended despite his busy schedule and a short notice," he said. "To the best of my knowledge, what happened has never been done in the history of the diocese. The bishop generally only attends installations that he officiates, but in the case of Brother John, the bishop saw how important he has been to the people in this area and as a way to express his appreciation to brother John and the parishioners in these parishes, he accepted to grace the occasion against all odds."

Rev. Yamoah is from the Republic of Ghana in Western Africa, where he grew up in the Catholic church with his father being a catechist and his mother working in the Catholic school. "I am from the middle part of the country and belong to the tribe called Ashanti that traces their origin from "Asher," the eighth child of Jacob (Genesis 49:20)," he said.

Rev. Yamoah said the belief system the Anishinaabe people have is very similar to his culture, "especially the beating of the drums and regalia that is used during special occasions such as funerals and festivals. Just as there is an Ojibwa language that is different from the American English, there are 52 different languages in my country aside from the British English we speak as a national language," he said. "I can speak eight of them and can understand 12."

He said his culture also had their own way of worshipping God before the introduction of Christianity.

As a young boy living with



**Rev. Fr. Dominic Afrifa Yamoah sends out a call to parishioners to return to church and help support the historic building, pay bills and staff.**

his parents in a rectory, he said priests would come to the rectory once or twice a week, and also seminarians coming to stay with them from one to five weeks for pastoral assignments. Because of his love of volunteering to say daily prayers at school, he earned the nickname "Father" in the third grade. "I was touched by the style the priests were wearing their cassocks, and said to myself that I will one day wear that," he said. "On my completion at the junior high school, while waiting for my results, my pastor (who is also now working in this same diocese and is assigned to St. Anne's Catholic Church at Mackinac Island) came to have Mass with our church in my village one weekend and asked who would want to go to the seminary? I raised my hand and Rev. Fr. Henry Peter Ofofu wrote my name and registered me for entrance exams. When the time came, he took me to sit for the exam in Kumasi, where the minor seminary was (St. Hubert seminary/secondary). I passed and continued to our philosophy section from 2000 to 2004 (St. Paul's Major Seminary in Sowutuom, Accra) and earned diplomas in religion and sociology."

He continued with theological studies in St. Peter's Regional Seminary from 2005 to 2009. He graduated in 2009 with a bachelor's degrees in theology and

education and was also ordained a priest.

For 10 years he worked in Ghana as a pastor, chaplain, administrator and teacher while also earning a master's of philosophy in educational leadership.

He remained in Ghana until coming to the U.S. in 2019. "I am from a country that lives with over 52 different tribes that live in peace and harmony. I have ears to listen to everyone no matter the gender, color, race or nationality," he said.

Mass at St. Isaac Jogues is

held Saturdays at 6 p.m. and Fridays at noon, and very soon Wednesdays at noon. Mass is said at St. Kateri in Bay Mills on Saturdays at 4 p.m and Thursday, Tuesdays, Wednesday and Fridays at 10 a.m.

St. Isaac Jogues is located at 1529 Marquette Avenue in Sault Ste. Marie. Rev. Dominic Afrifa Yamoah can be contacted there by calling the parish: (906) 632-3213, or the rectory: 248-1077. He can also be reached by email at: [Katakyieafrifa1974@gmail.com](mailto:Katakyieafrifa1974@gmail.com).



Photos by Jonas Acheampong

**Rev. Fr. Dominic Afrifa Yamoah's home parish in Ghana. The church above was built to hold 30 people. Seven years ago a new structure was planned (below) to hold 600 people. Because of funding issues, construction on the new church has stopped. But due to COVID-19 and the requirement to social distance, parishioners are using the new church for services on nice days when there is no rain.**



# Annual Bimose Noojimo'iwewin (Recovery Walk) takes place on tribe's reservation Sept. 24



Photos by Brenda Austin

The Recovery Walk is an annual event in support of individuals and families in recovery and to recognize the positive effects recovery can have. The 2020 walk registration took place Sept. 24 at the Big Bear Arena. The first 200 registrants received masks instead of T-shirts this year. Anyone who was unable to participate in the walk was still welcomed to pick up masks and goodie bags. No hot meals were served this year, but goodie bags included Subway boxes. The Recovery Walk included a cake walk, information booths and NARCAN give away with training. The event was sponsored by the Sault Tribe Behavioral Health Program and Sault Ste. Marie Chippewa Tribal Court. Sault Tribe Behavioral Health can be contacted by calling (906) 635-6075, or Tribal Court at (906) 635-4963.



# A walk in the woods, learning about invasive species

BY HADLEY REED,  
ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH  
ASSOCIATE

On Saturday, Sept. 12, several members of the Sault community gathered to attend a nature walk with Sault Tribe Environmental Department from Ashmun Creek down the ORV trail.

Despite the rain and chilly weather, they trekked over a mile learning about invasive species and ways to prevent their spread. Most participants were shocked by how many invasive species could be present in such a short distance. Over that mile we identified 18 invasive species, including cow vetch, two species of buckthorn and

spotted knapweed. Participants recognized several species they had seen before near their homes, workplaces or schools.

Along with the invasive species, 18 native species and three non-native species were noticed on our walk.

The difference between plants classified as native, non-native and invasive depends on their origin and their impact on the environment, economy and human health.

A native plant species has developed in the current region for thousands of years, the species originates from the area it is currently in. Black-eyed Susan's, purple cone flowers and red

raspberries are a few examples of native plant species in our region.

A non-native species developed in a different region for thousands of years before it was moved or introduced to a new region. For instance, apple trees did not develop in Michigan; they originated in Asia and were slowly moved to Europe and North America. Although they aren't native, apple trees are not considered invasive because they benefit the economy through fruit production. An invasive species is also from a different region, but they negatively impact the environment, economy or human health.

Invasive species in the eastern

Upper Peninsula include Japanese knotweed which can grow through concrete and cause infrastructure damage, bittersweet nightshade, a vine that wraps around trees and prevent their growth, and wild parsnip, which contains a toxic sap that causes severe burns on exposed skin.

Every plant species you'll see falls into at least one of these three categories (native, non-native or invasive), no matter how big or small.

Figuring out whether a plant is a problem in your area can be tricky and require some research, but there are resources available for these tricky situations. To determine if a species is invasive

or not, you can search for it on the Midwest Invasive Species Information Network website. If it isn't on the website, it more than likely isn't an invasive species. Now to determine if it is native or non-native look up the U.S. Department of Agriculture plant database, there you can search for the plant and find a map showing its native range. If you're really stumped, you can always contact a local environmental agency such as a Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area or the Sault Tribe Environmental Department. Whatever it takes, deciphering a plants classification is worth it to help protect the environment from invasive species.



Photos by Hadley Reed and Lisa Burnside  
Nature walk with Sault Tribe Environmental Department in Sault Ste. Marie.



Hadley Reed speaking to walk participants about invasive plants.



Walk participants learn the difference between invasive and native plant species.



Hadley Reed (left) talks about invasive and native plant species on the nature walk.



An invasive plant called *butter and eggs*.



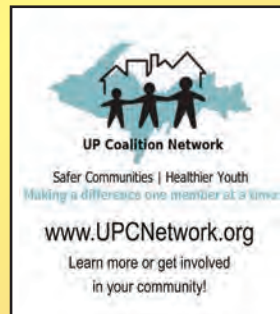
Native to our area is the *least evening primrose*.



One of the native plants they identified is the *Jerusalem artichoke*.

## PAIN MANAGEMENT

The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and Communities That Care coalitions are partnering to bring you the following message: "Pain affects many Americans on a daily basis. To minimize the negative effects of opiates, and ensure the best possible treatment for pain, talk with your doctor about using non-opioid alternatives for managing pain. These alternatives, such as acupuncture, chiropractic, cognitive behavior therapy, massage therapy, meditation, physical therapy and yoga, can provide relief and do not carry the negatives affects that using opiates can."



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# Sault Tribe Thrive directory of businesses

Thank you to all the Sault Tribe member-owned businesses who have reached out and contacted us so far. If your business is not listed, please contact us so we can get you and your business set up with our office and into the directory going forward. We will update the list as needed and publish every month to ensure new members and changes are seen consistently. The Sault Tribe Thrive office is here to help any and all member-owned businesses.

Contact Justin Emery, business support coordinator, Sault Tribe Thrive at [Jemery@saulttribe.net](mailto:Jemery@saulttribe.net) or (906) 635-6050, extension 26121.

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[jbasse2112@yahoo.com](mailto:jbasse2112@yahoo.com)  
Restaurant

Feathers Upholstery LLC  
Emily McGeary  
Escanaba, MI 49829  
(906) 446-3406  
[mcemily451@gmail.com](mailto:mcemily451@gmail.com)  
Sewing repair shop residential and commercial

Floor Masters  
Art Derry  
Dafer, MI 49724  
(906) 322-0252  
[art.derry@yahoo.com](mailto:art.derry@yahoo.com)  
Flooring and carpet

Flowers Automotive  
Jim Flowers  
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783  
(906) 632-8074  
Vehicle repair shop

Franks Place  
Dawn Bumstead  
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783  
(906) 440-4457  
Restaurant

Geo Shelter  
Michael DiAngelo  
Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6A5A8  
(705) 542-7208  
[mdiangelo@geoshelter.ca](mailto:mdiangelo@geoshelter.ca)  
Steel homes and buildings

Gitchi Auto and Home  
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783  
(906) 203-4491  
[mikebrownells@gmail.com](mailto:mikebrownells@gmail.com)  
Used car/mobile home dealer

Greene Environmental Services  
Mike Greene  
Livonia, MI 48154  
(734) 272-8434  
[mgreene@greeneenvironmentalservices.com](mailto:mgreene@greeneenvironmentalservices.com)  
Asbestos abatement services

Hakola Firewood  
Tate Hakola

Rudyard, MI 49780  
(906) 440-0842  
Cuts, splits, delivers firewood

Hakola Porta John  
Tony Hakola  
Cedarville, MI 49719  
(906) 484-6202  
[tonyhakola@hotmail.com](mailto:tonyhakola@hotmail.com)  
Rental of porta johns and tents

Herbal Lodge  
Nathan Wright  
Petoskey, MI 49770  
(231) 622-9063  
[native14u@yahoo.com](mailto:native14u@yahoo.com)  
Herbal medicines and treatments

Hilltop Bar/Restaurant  
Brandon/Tracy McKerchie  
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783  
(906) 259-2621  
[mckerchiebrandon@yahoo.com](mailto:mckerchiebrandon@yahoo.com)  
Restaurant

Horn's Odds and Ends  
Irene Horn  
St. Ignace, MI 49781  
(906) 984-2189  
[imhorn517@gmail.com](mailto:imhorn517@gmail.com)  
Antique, vintage and thrift store

Huck's Pub  
Tate Hakola  
Rudyard, MI 49780  
(906) 442-1042  
Pub/Restaurant

Innes Welding and Repair  
Mike Innes  
Brimley, MI 49715  
(906) 440-5634  
[thepropmaster@hotmail.com](mailto:thepropmaster@hotmail.com)  
Boat props and small metal working projects

Io DuPont Inc.  
Tony Dupont  
Boise, ID 83702  
(208) 908-0630  
[tony@7genco-ops.com](mailto:tony@7genco-ops.com)  
Engineer

Irwin Group LLC  
Mitch Irwin  
Lansing, MI 48826  
(517) 896 6875  
[irwinmitch@gmail.com](mailto:irwinmitch@gmail.com)  
Business development, investment and consulting

ISHPI  
Earl Bowers  
Suffolk, VA 23435  
(757) 809-2302  
[info@ishpi.net](mailto:info@ishpi.net)  
Cyber protection service company

Iversons Outdoors  
Joel Schultz  
Munising, MI 49862  
(906) 452-6370  
[baker.jimr@gmail.com](mailto:baker.jimr@gmail.com)  
Handcrafted traditional snowshoes

IvyTek Inc.  
Sandy Griggs  
Jacksonville, FL 32245  
(337) 212-0994  
[sales@ivytek.com](mailto:sales@ivytek.com)  
Loan management software services

JETA Corporation  
Linda Grow  
Neenah, WI 54956  
(888) 380-0805  
[lgrow@jetacorp.com](mailto:lgrow@jetacorp.com)  
Distribution specialist

Kings Market  
Sally Schultz



<b>From “Thrive,” page 17</b> Naubinway, MI 49762 (906) 477-6311 Fish/trinkets shop	(231) 885-1030 carlbrasseur@gmail.com Full line grocery store (Spartan Brand)	(906) 322-2716 ann@companyk.us Military/law enforcement training	Marquette, MI 49855 (906) 273-0800 sacredbooking@gmail.com	The Buckley General Store Carl Brasseur Buckley, MI 49620 (231) 342-4245 carlbrasseur@gmail.com Convenience store
Kings Fish Market Theron King Moran, MI 49760 (906) 643-1068 kingsfishmarket@gmail.com Fish market	MI Playground Andy/Nick Behling Jensen, MI 49428 (616) 201-8731 contact@enjoymiplayground.com Digital media production	Ojibwe Hazardous Abatement Rob Arndt Escanaba, MI 49829 (906) 786-3001 admin@pearsonasb.com Asbestos removal and abatement	Salon C Cathy Mclellan Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 635-3964 cathyann906@gmail.com Hair salon	The Bunker Bar and Grill Helen Wilkins Kincheloe, MI 49788 (906) 322-3369 hwilkins5@gmail.com Golf course/restaurant
Kings Fish Wholesale Robert King Naubinway, MI 49762 (906) 477-6282 Wholesale of fish	Mid-American Title Amy Goetz Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 379-9555 amy@mid-americanitle.com Title agency	Pedersons Lawn and Landscape LLC Heather Pederson Garden, MI 49835 (906) 644-2150 dr.pederson@hotmail.com Lawn and landscaping service	Sault Printing Ron Maleport Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 632-3369 ron@saultprinting.com Printing and office supplies	The Ice Cream Shoppe Jill or Jeff McLeod Cedarville, MI 49719 (906) 484-5525 jmcleod@eupschools.org Ice cream and treats
Lajoie Trucking Service and Freight Marty Lajoie Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 647-3209 ltsfl@yahoo.com Trucking	MidJim Convenience Store Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 635-4782 jmacdonald@saulttribe.net. Convenience store	Peninsula Shores Gallery Eirnella O’Neil Gould City, MI 49838 (906) 477-6303 Nature and wildlife photo art by Jim O’Neil	Sawyer Village Gwinn, MI 49841 (906) 346-3919 jpage@saulttribe.net Rental apartments	The Palace Saloon Doreen Goetz Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 632-7721 palacesaloon1903@gmail.com Restaurant
Lockview Amy Goetz Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49784 (906) 632-2772 lockview2019@gmail.com Restaurant	MidJim Convenience Store St. Ignace, MI 49781 (906) 643-9906 jmacdonald@saulttribe.net. Convenience store	Pemble Concrete Coatings Charles Pemble Marquette, MI 49855 (906) 361-6562 PemConCo@gmail.com Epoxy floor coatings/polishes concrete in industrial, commercial and residential settings.	Snowbelt Brewing Co. Angielena Muellenberg Gaylord, MI 49735 (989) 448-7077 drinklocal@snowbeltbrewery.com Brewery	Thermal Kernels Cathy Baker McMillian, MI 49853 (231) 675-1060 lovethermalkernels@gmail.com Therapeutic hot and cold pads, wraps and more
Long Ships Motel Scott Albon Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906)748-0589 scotty_joce@yahoo.com Motel	Mike’s Garage Mike Cook Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 635-5755 mikemike1962@hotmail.com Vehicle repair shop	Pennzoil Tracy Smart or Mickey Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 635-3018 tsmart1218@gmail.com Oil change/car wash	Soo Welding Charles Fabry Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 632-8241 soowelding@outlook.com Welding and metal working	Tickled Pink Antiques Carole Prisk Negaunee, MI 49866 (906) 475-4567 caroleprisk@yahoo.com Antique shop
Ludington Outdoor Services Caleb Bowman Ludington, MI 49431 (231) 690-1002 Calebbowman1982@gmail.com Landscaping and tree removal	Moore Trosper Ted Moore Holt, MI 48842 (517) 694-6310 tmoore@mooretrosper.com Construction	Premier Learning Colleen Ford Swartz Creek, MI 48473 (810) 732-6493 cgkford@comcast.net Tutoring and tutor training	Sore Arms Fishing Charters Aaron Hendrickson Gwinn, MI 49841 (906) 360-6035 sorearmscharters@gmail.com Fishing and market	Timberdoodle Janelle Gross Dudeck De Tour, MI 49725 (906) 297-1011 timberdoodle.mercantile@gmail.com Handmade crafts
Mackinac Trail Storage St. Ignace, MI 49781 (906) 4952800 tgermain@saulttribe.net Storage units	Mountainside Apartments Marrijo Beckman Boyne Falls, MI 49713 (231) 330-1992 mjobeckman1@gmail.com Rental apartments	Prescription Oxygen Ron Gordon Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 632-3772 ron@prescriptionoxygen.com Durable medical equipment	St. Ignace in Bloom Alex or Samantha Belonga St. Ignace, MI 49781 (906) 643-9480 greenhouse@stignaceinbloom.com Flower and plant shop	Tipping Point Solutions Rick Schmidt Centennial, CO 80112 (303) 353-0440 rick.schmidt@tp-solutions.com Digital media production
Mackinaw Trail Winery Laurie Stabile Petoskey, MI 49970 (231) 487-1910 stabilelaurie@gmail.com Winery	Mountainside Grille Marrijo Beckman Boyne Falls, MI 49713 (231) 330-1992 mjobeckman1@gmail.com Restaurant	Proline Auto Mike Pages Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 259-0809 mpages73@gmail.com Vehicle repair shop	State Farm Insurance Office Kristi Harwood Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 635-5377 kristi.harwood-causley.ke8b@statefarm.com Insurance agency	Total Outlook Connie Payment Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 632-6936 totaloutlooksalon@gmail.com Hair Salon
Manley’s Famous Smoked Fish Don Wright St. Ignace, MI 49781 (906) 430 0937 dwright@clmcaa.com Fish market	Mullenbrock and Associates Craig Mullenbrock Piqua, OH 45356 (937) 773-8500 craig.w.mullenbrock@ampf.com A private wealth advisory practice	Red Sky Woman Designs Helen Wilkins Kincheloe, MI 49789 (906) 322-3370 hwilkins5@gmail.com Handmade crafts	Sunset Motel Armand Horn St. Ignace, MI 49781 (906) 643-8377 sunsetmotel786@gmail.com Motel	Tri County Painters Patty Doss Pellston, MI 49769 (231) 881-4569 Professional painters
Massey Fish Co. Jamie Massey St. Ignace, MI 49781 (906) 984-2148 masseysfish@hotmail.com Fish market	Muscotts Painting James Muscott Petoskey, MI 49770 (231) 342-7055 jamesmuscott@hotmail.com Painting, residential and commercial	Regal Home Health LLC. Breana Eby Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (620) 308-0277 regalhomecare@outlook.com	Super 8 Motel James Dekeyser St. Ignace, MI 49781 (906) 643 7616 jmdeke@sbcglobal.net Motel	Trim and Tan Kelly Hatinger Manistique, MI 49854 (906) 341-8746 khatinger@centurytel.net Hair salon with tanning beds
Matson’s Fisheries Katy Matson Munising, MI 49862 (906) 202-0025 matsonfish@yahoo.com Fish market	Nontrivial Solutions LLC James Bearden Oklahoma City, OK 73137 (405) 698-3702 james@nontrivial.net Health care system software management	Riverside Village Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 495-2800 tgermain@saulttribe.net Mobile home placement and rentals	Superior Custom Blinds Jennifer Roy Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 630-6939 jennlroy209@gmail.com Custom window blinds	U.P. Auto Group Gerald Jackson Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 259-1559 gjackson@upautosales.com Used car sales/car detailing
Mc Gahey Construction Randall Mc Gahey Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 632-4272 ashmuncreek@sbcglobal.net Construction	Northern Hospitality Jennifer Menard Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 635-4800 jmenard3@saulttribe.net Flooring service and furniture sales	Roy Electric Jeff Roy Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 632-8878 royelectric@lighthouse.net Electrical, mechanical and maintenance business	Superior Satellite Solutions Gary Talarico Germfask, MI 49836 (906) 450-7675 chieffishfinder1@att.net U.P. satellite TV and Internet installation and service	U.P. Carpet Mart LLC Derrick Eitrem Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 635-1026 https://upcarpetmart.business.site/ Residential and commercial flooring
McCabes Flooring Bill McCabe Marquette, MI 49855 (906) 228-8821 mccabesflooring@aol.com Flooring	Northern Wings Repair David Goudreau Newberry, MI 49868 (906) 477-6176 dave@nwrepair.com Aerospace manufacturer	Ruddle’s Native Painting Carol Ruddle Mackinac Island, MI 49781 (906) 430-1728 nativepaintingmack@gmail.com Painting contractor	Surface Tech Applicators Nathan Cremeans Rudyard, MI 49780 (906) 203-9397 Industrial Paint Applications	Up Cycled Hippie Jessica Shields Escanaba, MI 49829 (906) 553-8430 jessicaloushields@gmail.com Handmade hippie/bohemian clothing
Medical Arts Optical Melanie Cook Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 632-2289 melaniebea@aol.com Glasses and hearing aids	Odenaang Storage Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 495-2800 tgermain@saulttribe.net Storage units	Sabatine Appraisals Stephanie Sabatine Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 322-2960 stephsabatine@gmail.com Appraisals and rental properties	The Bostique Cindy King Manistique, MI 49854 (906) 283-3245 Bohemian shop	White Pine Lodge Christmas, MI 49862 (906) 387-1111 whitepinelodgeonline.com
Mesick Market Carl Brasseur Mesick, MI 49668	Ogitchidaa LLC Ann Dailey Holt, MI 48842	Sacred Tattoo Studio Danielle Pemble	The Brickyard Bar and Grill Tate Hakola Rudyard, MI 49780 (906) 442-1099 Restaurant and bar	See “Thrive,” page 25

# National Indian Health Board annual honors

WASHINGTON, DC— In a year packed with change and uncertainty, the National Indian Health Board (NIHB) was pleased to recognize and honor, in a virtual setting, a group of tribal health leaders, providers and advocates during its *Heroes in Health Awards Gala* on Oct. 14 at NIHB's National Tribal Health Conference.

NIHB presented 36 awards in the categories of Local Impact, Area/Regional Impact, National Impact, Youth Leadership and the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Jake Whitecrow Award.

"This year's Heroes in Health Award recipients are an exceptional group that, in the face of a global pandemic that has entered their homes and communities, have risen to a level of service that is far beyond outstanding. With COVID-19 dominating much of our lives these days, it's important, now more than ever, that we share stories of resilience and perseverance across Indian Country," said NIHB CEO Stacy A. Bohlen. "As Tribal health professionals and citizens, we have seen the devastating impacts of COVID-19 but we have also wit-

nessed kindness, selflessness and extreme acts of love. That is the place where our best work comes from – the heart. On behalf of the NIHB Board of Directors, I give our deepest gratitude and congratulations to all the award winners and continued blessings to their communities and the people they serve."

2020 Jake Whitecrow Lifetime Achievement Award

The Jake Whitecrow Award, in memoriam of the founder of the National Indian Health Board, recognizes an individual with outstanding lifetime achievements in elevating health care advocacy, raising awareness or affecting positive change for Native health care. This year's award was given posthumously to the late Michael D. Mahsetky of the Comanche Nation who was the former Director of Congressional and Legislative Affairs with the Indian Health Service (IHS).

Mr. Mahsetky was nominated for his leadership and keen legislative insight by former colleagues, including former Indian Health Service (IHS) Director Dr. Charles Grim who gave a heartfelt message, "I relied on

him much when I was director of the Indian Health Service and I know that was the same with anyone who has ever needed him in all roles he played throughout his life. I hate that he isn't here today in-person to accept this award. If he were here, I would thank him for what he did for me personally and for all of Indian Country, all the battles we fought hard including the Indian Health Care Improvement Act that had positive impacts on millions of American Indian and Alaska Native lives. What's a little sad is that most of these people will never have heard of Mike Mahsetky and realize the impact of his life's work on their lives. But that's the way with heroes, their work often goes unsung. Michael would say that we didn't do it for the recognition, we did it to make our people's lives better and give them more opportunities for the future and because it was the right thing to do."

2020 Youth Leadership Award

Each year, NIHB awards a young American Indian or Alaska Native for their leadership and outstanding efforts to increase the quality of health care, public

health services or awareness of health issues within their peer group or community on a local or national level. This year's Youth Leadership Award went to Emelia Pino from the Pueblo of Zia for her selfless acts of kindness and coordinating food distribution drives after COVID-19 hit her small community.

2020 National Impact Award

All honorees were nominated by their peers from across the nation. NIHB had the privilege of honoring six individuals or organizations with the National Impact Award for their tireless efforts in improving the health of American Indians and Alaska Natives.

- Dr. Donald Warne
- Dr. Winifred Booker
- Indian Health Service, Division of Environmental Health Services
- National Council of Urban Indian Health
- Native American Research Internship, Department of Pediatrics, University of Utah
- StrongHearts Native Helpline

"StrongHearts Native Helpline is honored that our important role in addressing the domestic violence crisis in tribal commu-

nities has been acknowledged with this prestigious award," said StrongHearts Director Lori Jump.

"The National Council of Urban Indian Health is honored to receive this award for our work on COVID-19. Since February, NCUIH has been fighting to ensure that all of Indian Country receives the necessary resources to combat this pandemic that is killing our people every single day. Due to our advocacy, resources for urban Indians were included in all legislation addressing COVID-19. We will continue to hold this Administration and Congress to their trust and treaty obligations," said NCUIH CEO Francys Crevier.

2020 Area and Regional Impact Award: This year NIHB acknowledged eight individuals and organizations with the Area and Regional Impact Award. Their respective work has affected change or impacted health care and public health services for their entire IHS Service Area or region.

The Heroes In Health Awards was sponsored by: Medscape, BeWellNM and Southern Plains Tribal Health Board.

## Walking on

MARJORY M. ARNING

Marjory Mae (Shannon) Arning, age 74, of Manistique and formerly of Tecumseh, Mich., passed away on Oct. 2, 2020, at the Schoolcraft Medical Care Facility, where she had resided for the past month. Marjory was born on March 20, 1946, in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., the daughter of Alice Mary Shannon Payment. She attended school in Sault Ste. Marie and graduated from Sault High.

She furthered her education and worked in the banking industry as a head teller as well as other functions in the bank.

In 1966, she married the late Gregory Gierke Sr. with whom she had her only child. Later, she married George Arning. Together with her son, they enjoyed restoring and attending car shows with their Model Ts.

She was a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and will be missed by her family and friends.

Marjory was a member of the St. Elizabeth Catholic Church of Milan and was very active in its Altar Society. She enjoyed visiting the casino and loved to shop rummage sales. She also liked to fish.

Marjory is survived by her son Greg (Gail Sulander) Gierke, of Manistique; grandchildren, Cody Gierke, of Gladstone, Mich., Ryan Gierke and Jessica Gierke, both of Temperance, Mich., and her fiancé, Bob Meyer of Adrian, Mich.

She was preceded in death by her parents, and her brother Garry Payment.

The family will remember Marjory privately in Sault Ste. Marie at a later date. Memorial contributions in Marjory's

name may be directed to the Lenawee Humane Society, 705 Beecher Street, Adrian, MI 49221. Fausett Family Funeral Homes of Manistique assisted the family with the arrangements. Condolences may be left at their website at fausettfh.com.

MICHAEL L. BURTON

Michael "Mike" Lukas Burton, 67, died on Oct. 1, 2020, at War Memorial Hospital. He was born in Detroit, Mich., on Feb. 11, 1953. Mike was the third child born to John and Ava (Voit) Burton but the first child to be born in the United States. His father had been stationed in Vienna for the U.S. Marshall Program for European Recovery and his mother was a citizen of Vienna, Austria.

When he was 13, Mike's parents divorced and he moved from Detroit to Dollar Settlement with his mother, sister and two brothers to start a new life. They lived in a 130-year-old cabin that had been moved across the frozen bay from Canada by a team of horses. The cabin had no water, no electricity and was heated by a wood-burning stove. Mike graduated from Brimley High School and traveled cross country, including Houston, California, Alaska and South Carolina. He worked various jobs: construction, tree cutting and drove trucks for Klondike Concrete in Chugiak, Alaska. At age 32, Mike lost a leg in an auto accident in Alaska but that didn't stop him; months after the accident, he trained with Team Blood, a handicapped downhill ski-racing team in Alaska.

Mike returned to the U.P. and on May 13, 2005, married Jennifer Marie Dale of Bay Mills. Many times family would hear

Mike say, "I wish I would have met and married her sooner." Mike spent his days maintaining their home and gardens, which featured his sculptures and artwork. He loved the woods and foraging for mushrooms, hunting, fishing and going for drives with his beloved Jennifer and dogs. Mike also played a mean blues bass. He had a lifelong love and respect for animals, and nursed raccoons, birds or any other creature in need back to life. Mike had a heart of gold and was known for helping anyone, especially the "underdog." He was an artist in everything, but especially in his Raven Mad Art – the paintings, wood carvings, found objects and signs that showed his unique personality and sense of humor. You couldn't miss his camo mushroom truck with the deer antlers on the hood. He was a storyteller, a dreamer and had definite opinions about making the world a better place.

He is survived by his wife, Jennifer Dale-Burton, and her daughter, Lindsay Carpenter (Matt); sister, Linda (Ron) Johnson of Sault Ste., Marie; brothers, Peter (Lori) Burton of South Bend, Ind., and John Burton of Brimley, Mich.; sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Carolyn Dale and Eric Gadzinski, and sister-in-law, Jane Palermo; his nephews, Del (Leisl) Shagen, Paul (Jessica) Shagen, John Arthur (Amy) Burton, Erik Burton, Marcus (Erika) Burton, Todd (Danielle) Theel, Tyler Theel, Travis Theel; and great-nephews, Jesse, Jake, Sam, Justin, Preston, John Paul, Anthony and Ira; his nieces, Julie (Larry) Hopper, Brook Burton, Oona Burton, Emily Gadzinski, Kirsten Hoover and Jamie Hoover; and great-nieces, Kaley, Sydney, Claudia, Emma, Isabella, Manisa; as well as Aunt Edith Voit; many cousins, countless friends and beloved pets.

Family and friends remem-

bered Mike on Oct. 6, 2020, at the Niigaanagizhek Ceremonial Building with visitation and eulogy followed by a luncheon.

MARY C. RAINEY

Mary C. Rainey, age 77, of Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, passed away, peacefully, at Hospice at Summa/ACH on Sept. 11, 2020. She was born on Feb. 19, 1943, in Kalamazoo, Mich., the daughter of the late Albert Gordon and Ida Ramona (nee Felver) Miron.

Mary leaves behind her husband of 46 years, Ronald G. Rainey; and her youngest sister, Glenda Miron; a dear cousin, Bob and Lois Lichti of Illinois, her best friend Cathy and Stewart Rigby; and many nieces and nephews. Mary will be missed!

In addition to her parents, Mary was preceded in death by her brothers, John and Joe Miron, her sisters, Judith Helene Miron, who was an infant, and Eva Mae Farkas.

Mary retired from Little Tikes as a tow motor operator. She was a proud member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. She was very honored to be a member of the tribe. She loved and adored her dogs throughout her life. She is missed very much by her little schnauzer, Chloe.

Private committal prayers took place at Northlawn Memory Gardens, Peninsula, Ohio.

We want to thank the very compassionate Dr. Luke and the hospice nurses, especially, "Don" (LPN), also, Dr. Ted Shaub, what an amazing man and doctor.

Arrangements for a private service were entrusted to the care of Newcomer Funeral Home, Akron, Ohio. Interment is at Northlawn Memory Gardens.

BEATRICE M. WOLFF

Beatrice "Bea" May (Ferris)

Wolff, 85, of rural Bonner Springs, Kan., passed away on June 30, 2020, at the St. Luke's Hospice House in Kansas City, Mo. She was born on March 16, 1935, in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.

She loved going to the casino, watching the Detroit Tigers and the Detroit Lions and she especially loved family get-togethers and being with all the grandkids and great-grandkids. She enjoyed watching all sports and was most especially a big fan of Tom Watson, her favorite golfer.

Bea is survived by three children, Billie Rayl and her husband, Terry, Terry Michener and her husband, Larry, and Eddie Rogers, all of Bonner Springs; eight grandchildren., Terry Anderson and Jason Lightfoot, Sherrie Bender and Kenny Robinette, Jimmie Rogers and Shawndra, Willie Rogers, Jeremy Rogers, Chris Rayl and Brooke, Kayla Rogers and Kourtney Rogers; 11 great-grandchildren, Kailey, Jerron, Maddison, Sydney, Monti, RaeAnne, Micah, Jai, Jordan, Taye and Christian; two sisters, Kay Bailey and her husband, Phil, of Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., Canada, and Diana Calder of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.

She was preceded in death by two husbands, Billy Lee Rogers and Harold Eugene Wolff; a son, William Clyde Rogers; a grandson, Taylor Keana Anderson; two sisters, June Reynolds and Anne Owen; and one brother, Delbert Ferris.

Visitation at the Alden-Harrington Funeral Home in Bonner Springs and graveside services took place on July 6 at the Mt. Sidney Cemetery near Linwood, Kan.



# Whitmer acts to protect workers, keep workplaces safe from COVID-19, emergency rules released


LANSING, Mich. — The Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration (MIOSHA) within the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity (LEO) is one of the first state OSHA programs to promulgate rules which clarify the safety requirements employers must follow to protect their employees from COVID-19. Governor Gretchen Whitmer recently signed her concurrence of the need for a comprehensive set of emergency rules that will help protect Michigan workers, businesses, customers and communities from the spread of COVID-19.

“While most Michigan job providers are doing their part to slow the spread of COVID-19, these rules provide them with clarity regarding the necessary requirements to keep their workplaces safe and their employees healthy,” said Whitmer. “I will continue to work around the clock with my partners in labor and business to ensure protections for every Michigan worker.”

Under the Emergency Rules, businesses that resume in-person work must, among other things, have a written COVID-19 preparedness and response plan and provide thorough training to their employees that covers, at a minimum, workplace infection-control practices, the proper use of

## MIOSHA EMERGENCY RULES

The rules implement workplace safeguards for all businesses and specific requirements for industries, including manufacturing, construction, retail, health care, sports and exercise facilities and restaurants and bars. These rules take effect on October 14, 2020 and shall remain in effect for six months.



personal protection equipment (PPE), steps workers must take to notify the business or operation of any symptoms of COVID-19 or a suspected or confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19, and how to report unsafe working conditions.

MIOSHA’s Emergency Rules implement workplace safeguards for all Michigan businesses and specific requirements for industries, including manufacturing, construction, retail, health care, exercise facilities, restaurants and bars.

The rules establish workplace safety requirements and employers should coordinate these requirements with the Emergency Order issued by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services restricting gathering sizes, requiring face coverings in public spaces and childcare facilities, placing capacity limitations on stores, bars and other public venues and providing safer workplaces.

“As we reengage our economy, the Governor’s actions reiterate

the importance to keep workplaces safe for employees and protect customers from COVID-19 transmission,” said COVID-19 Workplace Safety Director Sean Egan. “These rules will formalize the workplace safety guidelines previously in place, and are necessary to save lives. We will continue to educate workers and employers on requirements for businesses to get open and stay open.”

Since March 2020, employers have reported 30 worker deaths from COVID-19 in Michigan and 127 in-patient hospitalizations potentially linked to workplace exposure. MIOSHA has received over 3,800 complaints from employees alleging uncontrolled COVID-19 hazards in the workplace and 263 referrals from local government, including local health departments, indicating that businesses were not taking all the necessary measures to protect their employees from infection.

“Since the beginning of this

pandemic, the working folks I’ve talked to have been most concerned about avoiding catching this awful virus at work and bringing it home and spreading it to their families,” said Ron Bieber, president of the Michigan AFL-CIO. “We need to make sure we’re doing everything we can to help these people protect themselves and their families, because we can’t have a strong economy when people are catching a deadly virus just by showing up to work.”

“Small businesses owners are dedicated to providing safe workplaces. Consistent, practical, and clear rules are important to achieving that goal,” said Brian Calley, president of the Small Business Association of Michigan. “We welcome the initiation of the departmental rule-making process to establish predictable and well defined expectations.”

A set of online resources at Michigan.gov/COVIDWorkplaceSafety pro-

vides businesses with the guidelines they and their employees must follow and includes a sample COVID-19 preparedness and response plan and a reopening checklist to help businesses put safeguards in place. Businesses can also find posters for employees and customers, factsheets and educational videos.

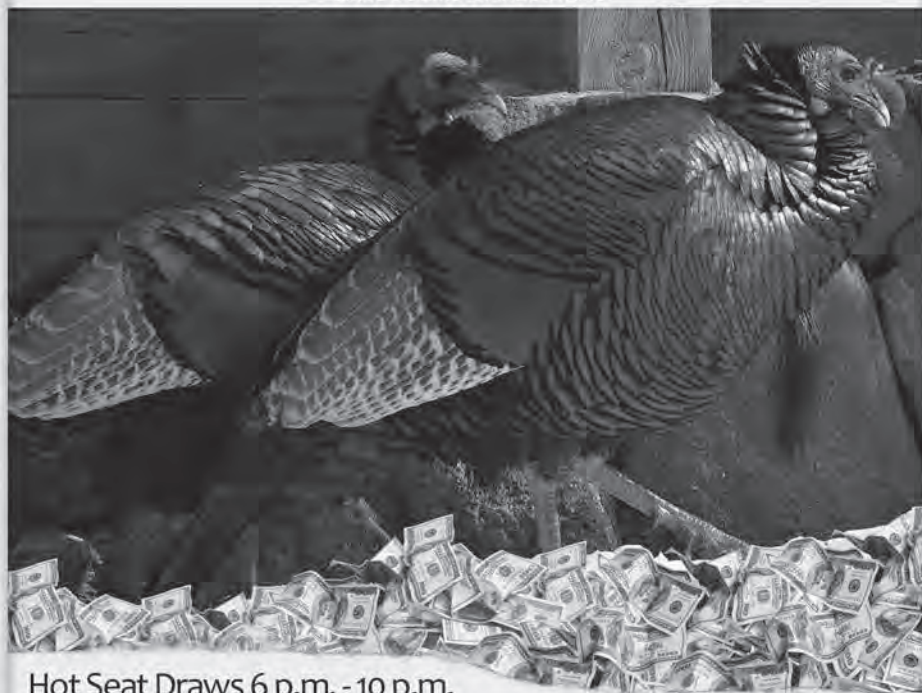
To enhance MIOSHA’s consultative services, the newly launched MIOSHA Ambassador Program will send safety and health experts to businesses statewide now to offer education and support, with a focus on workplaces with a higher risk of community transmission. To request consultation, education and training services, call (517) 284-7720 or online at MIOSHA Request for Consultative Assistance.

For more information about MIOSHA’s safety and health guidelines to protect Michigan’s workforce during the pandemic, visit Michigan.gov/COVIDWorkplaceSafety. Employers and employees with questions regarding workplace safety and health may contact MIOSHA using the new hotline at (855) 723-3219.

To report health and safety concerns in the workplace, go to Michigan.gov/MIOSHACOMPLAINT. To view the Emergency Rules, visit MIOSHA Emergency Rules 10-14-20.pdf.

## THE TURKEY TROT

FRIDAYS  
ALL SITES  
EXCLUDING CHRISTMAS



Hot Seat Draws 6 p.m. - 10 p.m.

WIN up to \$100 Kewadin Credits

Punch A Bunch draws at 10:15 p.m. and 10:30 p.m.

Win up to \$250 CASH in Punch A Bunch plus a free gift!



See Northern Rewards Club to register and for more details. Must earn 50 base points to qualify for promotion.

MANISTIQUE - ST. IGNACE - SAULT STE. MARIE - HESSEL



SAULT STE. MARIE + ST. IGNACE  
HESSEL + CHRISTMAS + MANISTIQUE  
1-800-KEWADIN | KEWADIN.COM

### VETERANS DAY

November 11

All Valor Card holders receive \$10 Kewadin Credits

### CAN - A - THON

November 1 - 3 - All Sites

Donate 3 non-perishable canned goods and receive \$5 Kewadin Credits

### CASH IS KING

Christmas - Fridays in November

Win your share of \$16,000 CASH

Hot Seat Draws 7 p.m.

Weekly \$3000 CASH GRAND PRIZE at 11 p.m.

### MONSTER CASH

Saturdays in October at All Sites

Win your share of up to \$55,000 CASH and Credits

Weekly CASH Draws

### HALLO - WIN HOT SEATS

Fridays in October 6 p.m. - 10 p.m.

Win up to \$300 CASH

### FALL FRENZY SLOT TOURNAMENT

Sault Ste. Marie - Wednesdays 2 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Weekly Prize Pool 40,000 Bonus Points

\$25 Kewadin Credit Hot Seat Draws

### CANATHON SLOT TOURNAMENTS

Sault Ste. Marie - Mondays & Tuesdays 3 p.m. - 6 p.m.

November 2 - 24 & December 1 - 22

Daily Prize Pool 25,000 Bonus Points

\$100 Monthly CASH Prize

Hessel - Wednesday & Thursday 3 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Daily Prize Pool 13,000 Bonus Points

Final \$100 CASH Prize



REEL CLEAN FUN

Point requirements for all promotions. See Northern Rewards Club to register and for more details.

# Win Awenen Nisitotung archive photos

## JKL SCHOOL TAKES STUDENTS TO AN OUTDOOR ZOO IN CANADA IN 2004



## The goblins and gremlins came out for Halloween in 1996!



# October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

BY STRONGHEARTS NATIVE HELPLINE

Every October during Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM), advocates and communities across Indian Country and the United States rally together to honor survivors of domestic violence and support abuse prevention.

In 2020, StrongHearts Native Helpline once again calls on advocates, tribal leaders, reservation and urban Indian community members, service providers and Native organizations to support the movement to prevent and end domestic violence, which disproportionately affects millions of Natives every year.

Violence against indigenous peoples began with European contact and continues to this

day, adding up to more than 500 years of abuse. Domestic violence, which continues as a tool of colonization, represents a lack of respect for Native peoples.

Native women and men in the United States experience domestic violence at alarming rates, with more than four in five Natives having experienced some form of violence in their lifetime and more than half experiencing physical violence by an intimate partner in the past year.

Domestic violence has many faces: physical, sexual, emotional, cultural, financial and digital. It doesn't discriminate and includes violence against children, elders and LGBTQ2S individuals. There is also a strong connection between domestic

violence and thousands of missing and murdered indigenous women.

Native nations in the lower 48 and Alaska Native villages continually go underfunded for life saving domestic violence services. Now in its fourth year of operation, StrongHearts has received more than 9,103 phone calls and online chats requesting critically needed support to deal with intimate partner violence. Of the phone calls, 5,010 were received in 2019 — a 396.04 percent increase from 2018.

This year, during the COVID-19 pandemic, conversations focused on domestic violence have attracted international media and public attention. Alarming increases in domestic violence have been documented

worldwide, due to victims and their abusers trapped in close quarters while sheltering in place during quarantines. In August, in an effort to help Natives affected by all forms of violence during this uncertain and dangerous time, StrongHearts added sexual violence advocacy to its existing domestic and dating violence outreach services.

"We must continue to heighten public awareness of the issues of violence in Indian Country," said StrongHearts Native Helpline Director Lori Jump (Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians). "StrongHearts Native Helpline urges all individuals not only during October but throughout the year to believe survivors, speak out and take action against

abuse, and to share supportive resources with their loved ones and communities in a concentrated effort to put an end to domestic violence forever."

StrongHearts Native Helpline is a safe, anonymous and confidential domestic, dating and sexual violence helpline that offers culturally appropriate support and advocacy for American Indians and Alaska Natives. If you or someone you love is experiencing domestic, dating or sexual violence or if you have questions about your behavior, help is available. For one-on-one advocacy, click on the Chat Now icon at <https://www.strongheartshelpline.org/> or call (844) 7NATIVE (762-8483). Advocates are available daily from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m., CT.

## Tribal elders can experience domestic violence

BY STRONGHEARTS NATIVE HELPLINE

A Native American is usually considered an elder when they are above the age of 60 to 65, although it varies from tribe to tribe.

In our Native communities, we are taught to respect our elders. We honor them at ceremony, community gatherings and powwows. Their presence is considered to be an honor. We depend on them for wisdom and guidance gleaned from their years of experience. They are invaluable to us. Yet, they can still be victims of domestic violence.

Abuse can happen to anyone. It is not limited to a specific age, class, religion, gender or sexual orientation. Abuse can happen in relationships where couples are married, living together, dating or have children together. Violent behavior can appear at any time in a relationship, though possessive, controlling and other alarming behavior often reveals itself as the relationship becomes more serious.

Domestic violence happens when an intimate partner uses a repetitive pattern of abuse to maintain power and control over their partner. The abuse can physically harm, intimidate, prevent a

person from acting freely or force them to behave in ways they do not want.

What can domestic violence look like in elder relationships? Domestic violence can look similar in elder relationships as it does in their younger counterparts, but some elders may be more vulnerable to the impacts of abuse and less able to get support.

- Physical abuse includes inflicting physical pain or injury upon the victim like pushing, holding or pinching. It can also include prohibiting one to get medical help, withholding medicine or not allowing one time to heal after illness or surgery.

- Emotional abuse includes verbal assaults, threats of abuse and intimidation. It also includes isolation, where the abusive partner will not let the victim visit with their relatives. Isolation can be particularly harmful to elders as they may already have limited mobility or relationships.

- Gaslighting is also a form of emotional abuse. This can occur when the abusive partner blames the victim for their behavior in such a way that the victim begins to question their own version of events or reality. In this situation, it can be very difficult for the victim to recognize that abuse is

happening.

- Spiritual and cultural abuse happens when the abusive partners use hurtful stereotypes to criticize the victim, uses tribal membership against them, won't allow them to participate in traditions or restricts them from honoring their beliefs.

- Sexual abuse includes grabbing and hurting the sexual parts of the victim's body, pressuring the victim for sex and becoming angry or violent when refused sex.

- Financial abuse happens when an abusive partner keeps money, accounts or financial information hidden from the victim. The abusive partner may also give an allowance to the victim or keep the victim's social security or per capita checks. They may also use gaslighting as a tactic of control here. They may say things like, "I've always controlled the money" or "You aren't good with money" or "You have everything you need, don't you?"

- Digital abuse happens when the abusive partner takes away phones, iPads or computers in a bid to control who the victim can contact.

Elders can be more traditional. They came of age when families stayed together even during

abuse. Some elders have endured a lifetime of domestic violence. To understand why elder-survivors of domestic violence stay, consider the following.

- Love: They have a long history of loving their partner and believe the abuse will someday end.

- Family: They want to maintain harmony in the family.

- Normalization: Elders may feel they have lived through the violence their whole life and there is no need or way to change it now.

- Community: They fear having to leave the community in order to escape the abuse or are embarrassed about what other members of the community would think about the abuse.

- Manipulation and low self-esteem: They blame themselves for the abuse or feel hopeless.

- No money/resources: They don't have the resources to leave their situation, or feel a responsibility to financially support their abusive partner.

- Denial/shame: Denial or shame happens when a survivor is embarrassed and wants to protect themselves, their children or families from being associated with the stigma of abuse.

At StrongHearts Native Helpline, we know that Native American elders are humble and it can be difficult for them to ask for help. Native Americans and Alaska Natives experience domestic violence at higher rates than any other ethnic group and elders still suffer intimate partner violence. Domestic violence and dating violence are not Native American traditions, and neither is ever okay.

StrongHearts Native Helpline is a free, culturally appropriate and anonymous helpline for Native Americans and Alaska Natives impacted by domestic violence and dating violence. We acknowledge and support all victims regardless of age, gender, sexual orientation or relationship status. If you or someone you love is experiencing domestic violence, help is available.

Contact StrongHearts at (844)-7NATIVE or click on the Chat Now icon to connect one-on-one with and advocate daily from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. CT. As a collaborative effort of the National Domestic Violence Hotline (The Hotline) and the National Indigenous Women's Resource Center, after-hour callers can connect with The Hotline by choosing option one.

## MSU Extension offers online holiday support program for caregivers called *Powerful Tools for Caregivers*

MSU Extension is offering a free online series titled *Powerful Tools for Caregivers* for six consecutive Tuesdays starting on Nov. 17, 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. EST via Zoom.

The entire six-week series (Nov. 17 to Dec. 22) provides support and tools to help caregivers in a variety of ways. The series is designed to provide support and strategies to keep the caregiver strong and empowered.

This program will help you take care of yourself while caring for a relative or friend. You will benefit from the series whether you're helping a parent, spouse or friend of someone who lives at home, in a nursing home or across the country.

Participants are limited to fifteen, allowing for groups to develop trust, conversation, unity

and support. The series will provide strategies to: Reduce stress; effectively communicate with other family members, doctors, paid help; notice signs and steps towards better self-care; reduce guilt, anger and depression; make difficult decisions; setting goals and problem-solving.

The topics the series will cover are as follows: Hiring in-home help; understanding depression; helping memory-impaired elders, making decisions about driving, making legal and financial decisions; making decisions about care facility placement; communicating with other family members; and planning, creating and using agendas for family meetings.

To register for this series please go to Michigan State University College of Agriculture

and Natural Resources Events Management site at: <https://events.anr.msu.edu/UPPTC111720/>.

Once registered, participants will receive a registration confirmation email week prior to

first session that will provide the Zoom link and course material to the series. That Zoom link will be the same for all six classes of the series.

If anyone needs assistance with downloading or using Zoom,

or technical assistance, please contact MSU Extension educator and series presenter, Tracie Abram, at [abram@msu.edu](mailto:abram@msu.edu) or call (906) 235-2985 to schedule an appointment for assistance before Nov. 17, 2020.

### Sault Tribe Thrive - Sault Printing looking for full time sales/service technician

Local family-owned and operated for over 50 years Sault Printing is looking to hire a new employee a service technician/sales personnel.

**SERVICE TECHNICIAN:** Experience with copiers, fax machines, computers, and other office machines preferred - will train. Position also requires self-motivation, professional attitude and appearance along with excellent communication skills. Non-smoker preferred.

**SALESPERSON:** Due to our expanding business equipment division Sault Printing Co., Inc. is seeking an experienced salesperson. Position requires an energetic and dependable person with a professional attitude. As an authorized Ricoh dealer, we offer a great earnings potential to the right individual. Come and join our rapidly expanding company.

Pay: \$11 and up. Contact Sault Printing at (906) 632-3369 or [ron@saultprinting.com](mailto:ron@saultprinting.com).

# FOR "AT LARGE" MEMBERS TO BE HEARD & REPRESENTED ~ REGISTER TO VOTE:

# 1-800-251-6597



With my friend Sen Gary Peters

*Representing All Members Everywhere*

*Ahneen, Boozho, Negee:*

As Tribal Chairperson, I am the only individual elected directly by all ST voters. I try my best to represent ~ "All Members Everywhere". The Sault Tribe Constitution calls for voter registration every four years but the Board of Directors has interpreted that those who reside in the service area are automatically registered while those outside must register to vote. This violates the equal protections clause of the US Constitution. The Board takes an oath of office to uphold the US Constitution along with the ST Constitution. However, there is no separation of powers, or standing in Tribal Court for "At Large" Members to challenge this voter suppression injustice. The result is voters outside of the service area being relegated to second class Tribal citizens. This is wrong!

This inequity allows a majority of the Board to focus their efforts almost entirely on those who live in the service area at the expense of those who do not. The most recent egregious example is the recent "Per-capita" type Cares Act Distribution which was not based on income eligibility or any economic demonstration of need. While this method of distribution was initially dissuaded by the US Department of Treasury in "Guidance" on the Cares Act use, it is now likely that this is allowable. A group of Sault Tribe citizens is suing the Tribe on this matter but will fail because they lack standing in our Tribal Court.

(Some) Tribal Board Members have published in their unit reports that the Cares Act, Treasury Guidance & Tribal Legal have advised we were not allowed to benefit all our Members who live At Large. I challenge anyone making such assertions to demonstrate in writing, any federal guidance that prohibited the Board from benefit-

ting "At Large" Members. Some even suggest I posted in my Chair's reports or in press releases that we were limited to benefitting Members in the service area. This is either a misunderstanding or outright lie.

This became an issue when the Tribal Board originally approved ~ based on need and for the service area only ~ \$3.5 million of the Cares Act and pandemic \$60 million our Tribe received need. The Board also contemplated another \$1.5 million for tribal small business relief including tribal fishers. Then, nearly a month into implementation, a Board Member raised the idea to abandon the need based program and go based on simply residing in the election units or seven county service area. This Board Member and five others are up for re-election in 2022 such that a \$1,000 check could be seen as campaigning with tribal funds.

## RESTRICTION OF CARES ACT SERVICES TO THE SERVICE AREA?

It is absurd to claim anyone advised the Board that Cares Act Funds are restricted to the service area. For that matter, **NONE OF THE FUNDS THE TRIBE RECEIVES ARE RESTRICTED** by the federal government in which Members we serve. It **IS TRUE** that we only receive funds based on our service area count or in the case of health, PRC (purchased and referred services). Based purely on sheer population numbers, the Tribe prioritizes services to those in the service area. We also obligate 100% of our net revenues or about \$18 million to supplement these services as the federal government chronically fails to fully fund the tribe. These funds are also not restricted by any federal law or guidelines for who we serve.

For the Cares Act specifically, during consultation sessions with the federal government on what number to use to qualify for Cares Act Funds, I pushed hard to include all 44,000 Members. Unfortunately, the formula was not based on our total population but about 1/3 of our people who live in our Indian Housing Block Grant area which approximates our 7 County Service Area. Our estimated losses exceed \$100 million during the pandemic. We are grateful for the \$44

million in Cares Act Funds and another \$16 million in competitive or formula grants for a total of \$60 million!

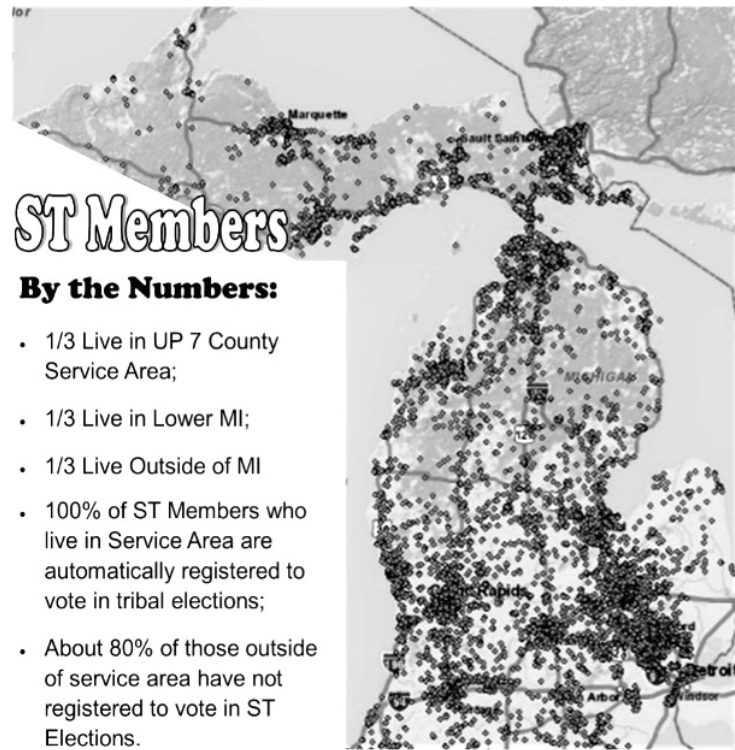
Initially, the paternalism of the Trump Administration put severe restrictions on how we can use the funds and an unrealistic deadline of 12/30. National level tribal leaders and I successfully pushed back and eased restrictions. What follows is a progression of press release quotes from me as the Board moved from a \$3.5 million need based plan to a \$15.5 million per capita not based on need and excluding 2/3 of our people. In a 7/7 release, I said:

"We have worked hard with other tribes and national organizations to secure \$8 billion in the CARES Act to benefit tribes impacted by COVID19. Our Administration and Board are working hard to fashion tribal benefits in accordance with federal statutes and guidelines. Unfortunately, tribes are held to a higher standard than state governments, so determining a spending plan is complex. We are clear, however, that federal guidelines DO NOT permit a per capita type distribution. Our collective goal to provide relief from the pandemic in accordance with our tribal strategic plan. While our allocation was significant, our service area population for which the funds were based is large. Our priority is to meet the needs of our neediest and most impacted first."

This was supportable when it was need based and not purely a percap that ignores economic need entirely. On 7/23, the Tribe issued the following statement:

"Sault Tribe Chairperson Aaron Payment and other tribal leaders pushed for the use of total tribal enrollment population as part of the formula for a tribe's share of the \$8 billion. Instead of the Sault Tribe's 44,000 enrollment, Treasury used 16,500, the Indian Housing Block Grant (IHBG) Statistic covering the service area."

This statement is true but for (some) Board Members to now say this explains why At Large Members cannot be included **is total nonsense**. Nothing in this statement says we were barred from benefitting "At Large" Members. The choice to exclude 2/3 of the Tribal Members was not made by the Tribal Administration, not guided by the US Treasury, as stipulated in the Cares Act or as advised by Tribal Legal. Further, I expressed my regret the Board did not include the 2/3 of our members who live at large by saying:



## By the Numbers:

- 1/3 Live in UP 7 County Service Area;
- 1/3 Live in Lower MI;
- 1/3 Live Outside of MI
- 100% of ST Members who live in Service Area are automatically registered to vote in tribal elections;
- About 80% of those outside of service area have not registered to vote in ST Elections.

"While members in the service area will be excited to hear the news of the COVID-19 relief benefit for the service area, Payment acknowledged the downside to this decision. **I deeply regret and apologize that the benefit plan approved last night does not include tribal members outside of the service area.** Federal guidelines under the CARES Act are very strict and frustrating to navigate."

No one begrudges those in the service area for benefiting. When the benefit was based on economic need and limited to the service area, while dissatisfying, At Large Members at least knew it was for those who really needed it (even while excluding them). When all income based criteria was erased and wealthy, as well as, poor tribal members received the \$1,000 check, then you have to wonder about our values as a Tribe that we would exclude those who live in Mackinaw City, Cheboygan, Detroit or other cities where our Members' needs are no less important. This too was wrong.

## PLEASE REGISTER TO VOTE OR RISK BEING IGNORED

In federal and state election, politicians often ignore young people, poor people, or those they don't see on a regular basis. When you choose to not register to vote, you relegate yourself to a non-factor to (some) politicians who care more about their reelection than your needs.

I strongly support an At Large Board Representative as well as, creating a Unit 6 for Northern Lower MI and adding a Board member for each. This was included in the draft amendments to the

Sault Tribe Constitution which is collecting dust, likely because so few at large members are even registered to vote. This is unfair, but it is too often how politicians chose who to listen to. The solution is easy; **REGISTER TO VOTE** by calling the toll free number above. Its easy. Its your right and is necessary if you ever want services extended to you no matter where you live.

## BAAMA PII RON CALERY

In 1972, the City of Sault Ste. Marie had a stalemate on the budget. In addition to serving as Executive Director for the Chippewa Luce Mackinac Community Action, he was also a City Commissioner. Having worked with civil rights, education and services pioneer Rosemary Gaskin on community mobilization projects for the Mar-Shunk Neighborhood group, he understood our need and the poverty we lived in. As a condition of his vote on the annual city budget, he stipulated that an amount be budgeted for a playground in our neighborhood. Ron is one of my heroes for this and for bringing supplemental services to non-tribal and tribal alike. I celebrate his life but also ask for God's Grace for his family who are mourning.

I continue to pray for the safety and wellness of all of our people. Please continue to wear masks and practice social distancing.

*Chi McGwitch, Negee,*

*Aaron*

# Denise Chase updates Unit IV membership



**DENISE CHASE, DIRECTOR, UNIT IV**

Youth Development Fund: Since school had started; I'm receiving a number of calls about funding for youth to attend various camps, class trips and payment for driver's education classes. Following is the information for the Youth Development Fund (YDF) program. Please contact Kaylynn Cairns, YEA manager at (906) 635-6050 for more information to apply.

The Youth Development Fund serves the seven-county tribal service area and provides income-based funding (income guidelines based on 300 percent the HHS Poverty Guidelines) for tribal youth for a variety of activities including: Sports fees for registration, equipment and shoes; music, dance and theatre lessons; instrument purchase and rental; language lessons; camps (sports, band, art, academic) and related travel fees; education, cultural and class trips; testing fees; drivers education; senior pictures; school supplies and book deposits (school clothes excluded); and regalia and youth drum.

Applicant qualifications: Must be a tribal youth age 0 through grade 12, living within the seven-county service area, which includes Alger, Chippewa, Delta, Luce, Mackinac, Marquette, and Schoolcraft. Applicants may receive funding up to \$150 once per academic year (Aug. 1-July 31). Qualifying categories for funding are based on tribal strategic directions of medicine wheel: academic/intellectual, physical, emotional and culture/spiritual.

Application requirements: Along with a completed YDF application, Sault Tribe mem-

bers must submit the following: Current copy of tribal membership card; copy of invoice, registration, brochure/literature with organization's name and cost or receipt of payment (check will be made payable to the organization, unless receipt of payment is provided). And proof of household income (recent check stub, tax forms, W-2, etc.).

Submit applications for funding to Kaylynn Cairns, YEA manager, Big Bear Arena, 2 Ice Circle, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783. Applications may also be submitted via email at kcairns2@saulttribe.net. Applications are available to www.bigbeararena.com, under Youth Programs.

**K-12 Technology Enhancement Funding:** I would like to remind everyone that the K-12 Technology Enhancement Reimbursement Program is open and available for any Sault Tribe K-12 student residing in the Tribe's seven-county service area who has been enrolled in a virtual or hybrid education program for the 2020-2021 school year.

Parents (or guardians) must provide proof that the student was enrolled in a virtual or hybrid education program prior to Sept. 8, 2020.

Applications are available at www.saulttribe.com under the education tab. Here is a list of allowable expenses: Computer (laptop, desktop, chrome books and accessories, iPad/tablets – and accessories), technology software, printers, printer ink, scanners, online coursework subscriptions, e-textbooks, Wi-Fi routers, internet modems and boosters.

All application and documents must submitted to the Sault Tribe Education Dept. no later than Oct. 30, 2020 by 5 p.m. Reimbursement checks will be mailed to qualified applicants by mid-November. Contact Cody Jodoin at the Education Department at (906) 635-7010 or cjodoin@saulttribe.net for more information or application questions.

**Heating assistance:** The LIHEAP program provides assistance to lower the burden of high energy bills and to increase energy efficiency of eligible tribal households. Here are a couple of the ACFS heating assistance pro-

grams and dates program opens. Winter is fast approaching.

**Heating: open:** Nov. 1 until funds are exhausted; eligible household will receive a heating credit toward their heat bill to help reduce hardships resulting from high energy bills during the winter months.

**Crisis: open:** Jan. 1 - target household may receive energy assistance that are at – risk of shut-off

\*Target household – document disability, elderly 60+ or child under age of 6 in the home.

**Elder Heating Assistance:** for elders 60+ and the program has a higher income guideline than the LIHEAP program.

Please contact your local ACFS office for more information or stop in and pick up an application or contact: Viola Neadow, direct services worker at (800) 347-7137 or (906) 341-6993.

**Employment Opportunities:** There are still employment positions open on the western end and human resources is seeking applications; Community Health Program Manager – Manistique;

**JOB POSTING** Community Health Program Manager - Rural

**CLASSIFICATION:** Full Time/Regular/Exempt  
**SUPERVISES:** Munising, Newberry and Marquette sites: Physician Supervisor, Secretary, Secretary – Munising, Patient Registration Clerk – Manistique, PCC Data Entry Clerk, Community Health Nurse, Dietician, Health Assistant, Maintenance Coordinator-West End Manistique and Escanaba Sites: Physician Supervisor, Administrative Assistant, Community Health Nurse, Dietician, Pharmacy Supervisor, Dental Supervisor and Optometrist Supervisor

**LOCATION:** Manistique Tribal Health Center 5698 West US 2 Manistique, MI 49854

**POSITION SUMMARY:** The Community Health Program Manager – Rural, under the direction of the Assistant Health Director, is responsible for managing the community health and clinic operations at multiple sites through direct and indirect oversight, collaboration

by providing open communication and the leadership required to head the complex, integrated, community and clinical operations that ensuring quality, standards of care and accreditation are maintained. The position is responsible for maintaining standardized operations in areas where service delivery is to be the same i.e. clinical care, home visit care, by following established policies and procedures, development of training and staffing and patient flow, strategic planning, equipment and space needs assessments as well as preparing and monitoring the operating budget and cost centers associated with the sites. The position is responsible for grant management and grant writing. The position is responsible for promoting and maintaining high levels of customer service and patient satisfaction related to services provided at the facility. The position is responsible for performance improvement activities, contract negotiation and monitoring, presentations and report writing as well as ensuring effective operation of the program, sites and day to day operations.

**ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS:** (includes, but is not limited to, the following)

- Oversees programmatic and fiscal activities and financial management of program budgets and multiple cost centers at multiple health center sites; Munising, Newberry, Marquette and Manistique and Escanaba.
- Manages large grants and grant stipulations.
- Responds to Division Director and Board of Directors regarding tribal and grant funded services and clinic services, home visits and community health.
- Implements programs and manages projects for community population based clinical services that outreach to tribal members with diabetes, disease management, case management, home visits and policy, implement system and environmental changes that promote the healthier choices in the population.
- Manages projects, plans, implements and evaluates daily operations to promote efficient and effective care.
- Represents community and/or rural health on various task forces, meetings, committees and project team.
- Supervises and manages health care professionals at 2 or 3 Health Center sites to include clinical and community based nursing, medical, ancillary and support staff.
- Prepare letters, documents, presentations and reports that articulate complex and detailed information.
- Strategic Long Term Planning for public health, rural health, clinical care, performance improvement studies, infection con-

trol, safety, staffing and trends in home based care.

• Develops policy relative to accreditation and standards of care and Federal and State regulatory requirements.

**ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- Implements and monitors sub-contracts.
- Promotes team building and mentors staff as part of grant meetings and staff development.

Additional employment opportunities: Elder Clerk – Escanaba, MI Elder Driver – western end Elder Outreach Workers (2) Housing Resident Worker – Manistique

If you are interested in applying for any of these positions please contact the Human Resources Dept. at (866) 635-7032 or apply online at www.saulttribe.com.

The COVID – 19 Emergency Utility Subsidy Program Funding is available as of Oct. 5, 2020. This funding is for water/sewer utility subsidy. See flyer below.

I would like to remind parents, please remember to enroll your children and make sure to update your address with the tribe's Enrollment Department by calling (800) 251-6597. If you recognize any family member names who are on the bad address list in this issue of the tribal paper, contact them and remind them to call Enrollment with an updated address.

Thank you to all of our tribes employees that work tribal wide, including governmental staff, EDC and enterprise staff, housing staff and Kewadin Casino employees. During these last eight months of maneuvering through this corona virus epidemic, we have seen many changes in the way we have to work and provide services. We would not have did it, or continue to do it, without all your dedication to keep our essential services and programs up and running.

I am glad we were able to recently give hazard pay and appreciation pay to our valuable employees.

If you need to contact me please call me at (906) 203-2471 or dchase@saulttribe.net.

Thank you, please stay safe! Denise Chase, Unit IV.

## Committee vacancies

The following have vacant seats. Interested Sault Tribe members should submit one letter of intent and three letters of recommendation from other members to Joanne Carr or Linda Grossett, 523 Ashmun St., Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783. Call (906) 635-6050 with any questions.

**Anishinaabe Cultural Committee** - six vacancies – three males (4-year term), three female (4-year term)

**Child Welfare Committee** - two vacancies (4-year term)

**Election Committee** - four vacancies (4-year term)

**Higher Education Committee** - two vacancies (4-year term)

**Health Board** - five vacancies (4-year term)

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

**Housing Commission** - one vacancy – Unit 5 (4-year term)

**Special Needs/Enrollment Committee** - five vacancies (2-year term)

**Elder Advisory Committee** Unit I - Sault (4-year term), one regular vacancy and one alternate vacancy

Unit II - Hessel (4-year term), one alternate vacancy

Unit II - Naubinway (4-year term), one alternate vacancy

Unit III - St. Ignace (4-year term), one regular vacancy and one alternate vacancy

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

Unit V - Munising (4-year term), one alternate vacancy

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

**Elder Subcommittee** Unit I - Sault (4-year term), one regular seat vacancy, two alternate seat vacancies

Unit II - Hessel (4-year term), two regular seat vacancies, two alternate vacancies

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

Unit II - Naubinway (4-year term), one regular seat vacancy and two alternate seat vacancies

Unit IV - Escanaba (4-year term), two regular seat vacancies

Unit V - Munising (4-year term), one regular seat vacancy, two alternate seat vacancies

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

### COVID-19 Emergency Utility Subsidy Program

The Sault Tribe Housing Authority is accepting applications for Water/Sewer Utility Subsidy Program beginning October 5, 2020.

Applications are processed on a first come first serve basis and will continue until all funds are exhausted. Funds will be distributed directly to vendors providing water/sewer service.

#### ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Program requirements: The applicant or his/her minor children shall be an enrolled member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.
- Applicant/household must reside in the Tribe's Seven County Service Area - proof of residency is mandatory.
- Applicant/household must meet current NAHASDA income guidelines and provide proof of income for the entire household. See below chart for family size and total household gross income:

Income Guidelines:	
2020	Person
80%	\$43,960
	\$50,240
	\$56,520
	\$62,800
	\$69,080
	\$75,360
	\$81,640
	\$87,920
	\$94,200

#### STANDARD OF SERVICE

- \$500.00 per household. Only served one time.
- Utility Assistance is provided by CARES Act funding.
- Water Shut off Notices are NOT required.
- Assistance payments are sent directly to water/sewer vendors.

Applications for the COVID-19 Emergency Utility Subsidy Program are available at the Sault Tribe Housing Authority offices, Tribal Centers and A.C.F.S. offices across the Seven County Service. You can also download an application at the Housing Tab on the Sault Tribe website.

For more information or for an application, please contact the Housing Authority office at: 906.495.1450 or 800.794.4072.

# Working on bringing more food trucks to Unit V



**CHARLES MATSON SR.**  
DIRECTOR, UNIT V

Ahnee, I hope this finds every one safe and well as we navigate this pandemic. As we are seeing the rise in infections, hospitalizations and deaths we need to take every precaution we can to make sure we protect each other

from this horrible virus. We need to stay aware of protecting all people, especially the elderly and those with underlying issues that makes them most vulnerable to the virus. Is wearing a mask an inconvenience for us all? Yes it is, but we all need to do our part to keep each other safe until a vaccine can be found. I personally want to say how much we appreciate our health staff, casino team members and all other of our employees for doing all they can to make sure we are safe while we are in their presence. Chi-megweech.

The board of directors has moved more monies into our emergency needs program. There is now available funds to help with water and sewer for those struggling to pay those bills. If you are struggling to pay your utilities bills do not hesitate to contact ACFS at (906) 632-5250

and they will let you know what funds are available and eligibility requirements.

We are currently working on getting more food trucks to Unit V. This is a great way to help those in need of help to feed their loved ones. Remember, if you are struggling to get the food needed for you and your family you can also contact our food program at (906) 635-6076.

Our gaming establishments have been down in revenues, which is to be expected with the unforeseen coming of the pandemic. Our casino management has been doing a good job in trying to keep profitability up as we navigate our way through these difficult times. We are expecting a boost to our bottom line when we get our sports betting going in our facilities. This project is very close to being completed and I look forward to seeing how

well this helps our revenue. Once again, I want to say thanks to all casino team members for going above and beyond to make sure all safety protocols are followed.

Our other businesses that we acquired through the tribe's EDC have been doing well even with the impact of the corona virus. The White Pine Lodge in Christmas has taken a hit, compared to summer season last year, but that is to be expected due to the fact that we only ran at fifty percent capacity due to the pandemic. The recent acquisition of Pearson's Asbestos Abatement in Escanaba is looking like it is going to be a good investment into the future. Under its new name, Ojibwa Hazardous Abatement LLC, it gives the business more opportunities such as the ability to bid on government contracts with utilizing our minority status. We are very

excited to see if this brings more growth and profitability into the business. I myself believe it will.

I am still working with the USFS to try and get our past 1836 reservation land back into our possession. We are trying to acquire these to turn into a cultural area to provide for our community. We are also working on using our recently purchased Harvey property to establish a spot for health, a meeting place for our elders/tribal members and a facility to hold our cultural activities.

In closing, I pray to the Creator that all of us make it through this pandemic healthy and safe.

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me at (906) 450-5094 or email at [cmatson@saulttribe.net](mailto:cmatson@saulttribe.net).

Respectfully,  
Charles J. Matson Sr.

## Sorenson updates her Unit III constituents



**BRIDGETT SORENSON,**  
DIRECTOR, UNIT III

I would like to apologize to any members with whom I haven't been so timely in responding to during this last month. I lost a friend and fellow hockey board mom to an unexpected death on Sept. 20, leaving behind two boys who loved her very much. On Sept. 21, my aunt passed away tragically (so I missed our unit meeting) and a few days later my dad was

taken by ambulance for pneumonia, which has since resulted in returning home to hospice. He has battled stage four small cell lung cancer for 20 months and he is not ready to leave. Death is so heartbreaking and puts things into perspective as priorities.

With planning my aunt's services, I realized that even cremation can be very costly to families. The basic package is around \$2,500 and with the tribe's \$1,000 it can make it challenging for families. I did bring this up to the board and hopefully we can find a way to negotiate or fund a more affordable package for our members.

I am hoping that some of the craziness of COVID subsides in the next few months so maybe we can start to do some in-person cultural activities in our areas. We had plans to do many things beginning in late spring and haven't been able to do anything since.

At the Oct. 6 meeting, the board passed a resolution that will provide public transporta-

tion in Mackinac County working with community action and EUPTA. There will be a small fee to use this service but this is a much-needed service for our members, especially those living on the reservation and elder complex that have no vehicles or cannot drive.

I hope the college students and K-12 virtual students are taking advantage of the programs to purchase computers and other accessories. This is a great opportunity for those who need a reliable computer since technology is constantly changing. The ISD (Intermediate School District) has helped some of our communities by placing Internet boosters in buildings for those who may not have home access. If you would like to apply, please contact the education department and ask for Cody Jodoin (906)-635-RINK or call 906-635-6050 to be transferred.

Housing is also running a sanitation program where you can qualify for up to \$500 for

your water bill. The income guidelines are very generous and you do not have to live on the reservation to apply, but you do have to live in the service area. Please call housing for more information (906) 495-1450.

Anyone looking to buy a vehicle, modular home, trailer or shed, please consider purchasing from the tribe's business Gitche Enterprises located next to the Sault Casino.

Last fall, the board voted to do a comprehensive classification and compensation study. This process has taken longer due to COVID but should possibly be complete by the end of the year. This was a costly but much needed process so we can move forward on being competitive in the labor market. The constant turnover and staff shortages are hurting our businesses and services.

For those members who want to plan a trip to see the colors, water falls, snowmobiling or pictured rocks, keep in mind the tribe now owns the White Pine

Lodge in Munising along with the gas station and Christmas casino. This is a very beautiful area, for those members who have never been there it is a must see.

A reminder to members who utilize PRC (formerly Contract Health) that you need to fill out an application every year. The program is not based on income but they encourage members to sign up for Medicaid if they are income eligible. Please remember to call prior to all your referral appointments and if you receive bills call your worker and let them know if you need to mail them in.

I encourage everyone to vote in the upcoming election. Every vote does count and you can make a difference.

As always if you have any questions or concerns, please email [bsorenson@saulttribe.net](mailto:bsorenson@saulttribe.net), [bridgett91@yahoo.com](mailto:bridgett91@yahoo.com) or call (906) 430-0536. Emails and text messages are usually easier because if I am in meetings I can respond quicker.

## Sault Tribe Thrive list continued . . . .

From "Thrive," page 18  
Hotel and convenience store

Wicked Walleye Tackle  
Mendy Kolbus  
Rapid River, MI 49878  
(906) 286-1886  
[wickedwalleyet@yahoo.com](mailto:wickedwalleyet@yahoo.com)  
Handmade lures for walleye fishing

Windy Hills Bison Farm  
Carl Brasseur  
Tustin, MI 49688

(231) 342-4245  
[Brasseur@windyhillsbisonfarm.com](mailto:Brasseur@windyhillsbisonfarm.com)  
Full bison farm and home to award winning animals

Willis Pest Control  
Willard Willis  
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783  
(906) 322 7445  
Full pest control services

Y&R Complete Outdoor Services  
Yolanda Mellon-Beard

Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783  
(906) 203-7388  
Tree Removal, Landscaping and Lawn Care

Zodiac Party Store, Taste of the U.P.  
Keith Massaway  
St. Ignace, MI 49781  
(906) 643-8643  
[kmassaway@msn.com](mailto:kmassaway@msn.com)  
Convenience store

## Dancing with the Stars and craft show

SAULT STE. MARIE – The 10th annual "Dancing with the Stars" for Hospice of the EUP, originally slated as an October reunion show at DreamMakers Theater, has been postponed to March 19, 2021.

"Dancing with the Stars" is an annually sold-out fund-raiser critical to the Hospice of the EUP operating budget. The 2019 event raised a record \$50,000.

The 10th annual "Dancing with the Stars" for Hospice of the EUP, has been rescheduled due to COVID-19 for March 19, 2021 at the DreamMakers Theater.

This year's DWTS has been postponed due to COVID-19. Hospice of the EUP prioritized the health and safety of instructors, participants and spectators. "My appreciation goes out to

our dance instructors, who have altered their schedules in order to continue volunteering for this event," DWTS coordinator MaryJo Duvall said. "They are a talented group, and with this extra time to prep, we expect nothing but an amazing show that you won't want to miss.

Duvall added that the Nov. 21 craft and vendor show at the Sault Middle School has been canceled.

## United in marriage



**Congratulations to Jacob and Rayna Sambrano, married on Sept. 26, 2020. Love, Mom and Dad.**



# Unit II firekeepers lodge gets needed remodel



**LANA CAUSLEY-SMITH,  
DIRECTOR, UNIT II**

This past month, we were able to have a small celebration to thank the men that remodeled and put work into our firekeepers lodge in Unit II.

This was a long time coming as many families count on this in their most troubled time of need, when they are grieving. Many other communities come here as well so we can help.

I want to thank Joe Bourque, Frank Gordon and Dillon Hillock. These important men for work they placed into this project. We plan to have a feast with them as soon as it gets nice

again this spring and all will be invited to be there.

Our YEA has really taken a lead role in keeping our youth in Unit II busy with home items and now have started to do small face to face activities again. This is a small step for our youth to feel part and help them mentally for normal activity.

I want to say thank you to all coordinators and all staff who think out of the box for the well being of our families.

If you want your youth involved, please contact Lisa and she will assist all she can. (906) 484-2298.

We have been busy working on our budget presentations for the coming years.

Our revenue has taken tolls when it comes to the casino in Sault Ste. Marie, as the bridge is closed, but hoping this will recover; these are items we will have to factor into when planning.

The relief funds helped us but that was a one time amount and all budgeted and being spent out accordingly.

I'm thankful we have many other EDC ventures moving for-

ward and this will help us in the future.

As the news is coming out it seems we will have some hard times again this winter with the COVID-19 virus.

We have tests and measures in place to help, so please look after yourself and stay home and safe as much as you can.

I'm very fortunate to keep in contact with my families and elders in the unit and want to remind you to contact me if you are in need of anything and I will do my best to assist through measures that can keep you safe and at home.

Please do not hesitate to contact me – lcausley@saulttribe.net., (906) 484-2954 or (906) 322-3818.

Baamaapii,  
Lana Causley-Smith  
Unit II Representative



**From left, John Causley, Sr., Joe Bourque, Catherine Hollowell, Frank Gordon and Dillon Hillock in the newly remodeled firekeepers lodge in Unit II.**

## Dominating element in a system = elitism!



**BETTY FREIHEIT,  
DIRECTOR, UNIT I**

Hello tribal members, according to our tribal Constitution, a role of the board of directions is to represent the members. But it seems over the years the board represents less, listens less and more often imposes their own will and protects their own inter-

ests above the members.

Remember when members could address the board and get their questions answered? Then things started to change. Members had to complete a form detailing their topic. Members were no longer allowed to criticize a board member in open session, statements were subject to time limits and board were told not to answer questions. And meeting times were changed so members could not easily attend. Members' comments are not even allowed to be filmed or aired on live stream. Who decided it was okay to limit the voices of the members? Now members' input is completely stopped. There was talk of members Zooming in concerns but nothing has happened.

Board are not representing members or allowing them a voice in government when they refuse to allow them to vote on submitted referendum petitions, a

right granted to members in our Constitution. Board are denying members input when they refuse to allow them to vote on board wages, pensions and term limits. Even the new Constitution that gives greater rights to members sits idle, because the board refuses to send it to the members.

In these refusals board are representing themselves and protecting their own interests.

We call employees team members but are we really on the same team? The board passed for themselves large salaries based on supposedly to be full time but, have refused to even define their duties. Employees can be fired for many reasons, but the board has changed the Removal Code so much from what it stated in the Constitution, that unless a board member commits a criminal offense it is nearly impossible to remove them, they cover for each other and that's why legis-

lation that affects them can't get passed.

And then there is the pension plan the board passed for themselves. Board who are earning the maximum pension receive over \$1,500 a month or \$19,000 a year. This is more than many tribal employees make working full time and is way beyond what employees will earn with their 401s. The tribe only gives a one percent match to employees' 401s and employees have to contribute the rest of their retirement. But the board pension is fully funded by the tribe.

How is this fair? How did the tribe end up with such an elitist board? They seem like tribal royalty, living above the members. And how can this be stopped? Term limits to stop career board, ethics code and rolling back wages and benefits may be a start. I believe the current board will never entertain these actions!

I believe my position is to represent the members, not direct them or lead them or pursue my own agenda. I will do this by continuing to listen to members and bring their concerns and wants to the board table. This may place me at odds with the board as my resolutions threaten their status quo and the benefits they enacted for themselves. Fine with me, I need to work with the board, but do not need to be their buddy or a member of their clique. I will never align myself with the board against the members. What ever happened to members FIRST?

Please keep yourself and loved ones safe from the COVID-19 and cold weather is going to hit us soon, so please help your neighbor anytime you can.

Betty Freiheit  
Unit I Director  
(906) 379-8745  
bfreiheit@saulttribe.net

## Advocating for reopening board meetings to public



**AUSTIN LOWES  
DIRECTOR, UNIT I**

Aaniin! I am writing this unit report on Indigenous People's Day. It's a day to remember the strength and resilience of our people. We're the descendants of warriors who survived genocide, smallpox, boarding schools

and other unspeakable atrocities. Although life is difficult with the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, we must remember that as a people we are strong, and as a community we are stronger. For that reason, I have no doubt that we'll persevere through our current challenges.

As a new tribal leader, I do my best to lead by example. There isn't a policy or procedure that I consider myself above. That's why I am in favor of the immediate dismantling of the board of director and chairperson's pension. One policy that I would like implemented is a quarantine policy for out of state travel. This would prevent team members from traveling to COVID-19 hotspots and returning to work to possibly infect their coworkers.

We have to be safe and diligent during this time, which is why I advocate for an official policy. I recommend that team members quarantine for five days and have a negative COVID-19 test before returning to work. I have put this practice into action in my personal life. I recently drove to Grand Teton National Park for an extended backpacking trip. When I returned home, I quarantined for five days and received a negative COVID-19 test prior to returning to my tribal functions. To the vulnerable members of our tribe, caution such as this is necessary.

Another COVID related matter that we must prepare for is childcare. As a parent of two small children, I am aware that many families rely on schools to

watch their children while they work. Many parents have children too young to stay home by themselves. When schools close for these children, their parents face job security issues. It is my position that the tribe should be as flexible as possible with these families. It's also important that parents begin to plan for the worst. Schools could close for the entire year at some point. Parents should therefore create plans for who will watch their children if this occurs.

To conclude, tribal members have an absolute say in their government. Unfortunately, board meetings have been closed to the public since the tribal shutdown seven months ago. Since our team members have been required to work with the

public for quite some time, so should the tribe's elected officials. Officials such as myself are servants to the constituents who elect us. We therefore shouldn't keep ourselves sequestered for safety reasons, but expect otherwise for our team members. I advocate for the immediate opening of board meetings. There are several locations in the our casino, such as the DreamMakers Theater, that have enough space to accommodate social distancing during these meetings. There could also be a section of the meeting for video conferencing, which would allow to raise concerns.

As always, stay safe and do good.

Sincerely,  
Austin Lowes

**JOE BIDEN** and **KAMALA HARRIS** will make far-reaching investments to **BUILD BACK BETTER** across Indian Country in *health care, education, economic opportunities* and *community development*.

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- Dramatically boost funding for Indian Health Service and provide affordable, quality health care
- Place more tribal land into trust and address climate change
- Preserve our language and our culture
- Ensure Native communities are safer and tackle the crisis of violence against Native women, children and the elderly
- Commemorate Native veterans
- Ensure free access to COVID-19 testing, treatment, and vaccines for everyone

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## IF YA GOTTA MASK...

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See Northern Rewards Club to register and for more details.  
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