



# Win Awenen Nisitotung

August 18, 2021 • Vol. 42 No. 8  
Raspberry-Picking Moon  
Mskominike Giizis

Win Awenen Nisitotung  
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Official newspaper of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians

## Sault Tribe Inc. disburses \$3.25M to tribe in 2021

SAULT STE MARIE, Mich. — Sault Tribe Inc., Sault Tribe's federally-chartered business holdings company, disbursed \$3.25 million to the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians on July 20 in a presentation attended by the board of directors from both organizations.

The funds come directly from operating revenue earned by newly formed Sault Tribe Inc. subsidiary businesses Chippewa Government Solutions LLC, Ojibwe Hazardous Abatement LLC, Hawkeye Facilities Maintenance LLC, Sault Tribe Online Gaming TC, as well as through multiple land lease agreements with Lume Cannabis Company.

"This is just the start as we look forward to a wide array of robust opportunities moving forward for Sault Tribe Inc.," Sault Tribe Inc. corporate board member Scott LaVictor said during a presentation in the Tamarack Business Center in downtown Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.

According to the Sault Tribe Inc. Charter, the dividends from surplus funds "shall be used to fund tribal governmental services, programs, initiatives, liabilities, contingencies or for other lawful purposes, as determined by the tribal board of directors," Sault Tribe EDC Executive Director Joel Schultz said.

The funding represents a significant step forward for Sault Tribe in fulfilling a long-standing strategic objective to diversify its economic portfolio through the establishment of infrastructure that fosters business development and growth.

In appreciation and gratitude for the generous contributions, the Sault Tribe Board of Directors offered reciprocating gifts of ash baskets and sweetgrass braids, showcasing the talents of Native artisans Josh and Sarah Homminga of From Log to Basket.

Just announced at the presentation, Chippewa Government Solutions (CGS) received confirmation from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) regarding acceptance into the SBA's 8(a) program. According to the SBA, the 8(a) program's main objective is "to help provide a level playing field for small businesses owned by socially and economically disadvantaged people or entities." This goal is accomplished through the government limiting competition for certain contracts to businesses that participate in the 8(a) Business Development program, according to the SBA.

Upon approval, stemming from a rigorous application process, CGS represents the



Photo by David Lockhart

Back row, from left, Kewadin Casino CEO and president of the Sault Tribe Online Gaming Corporate Board of Directors (BOD), Allen Kerridge; Sault Tribe BOD Unit II director, Catherine Hollowell; Sault Tribe BOD Unit II director, Lana Causley; Sault Tribe EDC executive director, Joel Schultz; Sault Tribe BOD Unit I director, Michael McKerchie; Sault Tribe BOD Unit I vice chairman, DJ Hoffman; Sault Tribe BOD Unit I director, Austin Lowes; and Sault Tribe chief financial officer, Robert Schulte. Front row, from left, Sault Tribe EDC real estate manager, Brenda Jeffreys; Sault Tribe BOD Unit III director and BOD secretary, Bridgett Sorenson; Sault Tribe BOD Unit III director and BOD treasurer, Keith Massaway; director, Sault Tribe Inc. Corporate Board of Directors, Dr. Madan Saluja; Sault Tribe BOD Unit I director, Kimberle Gravelle; Sault Tribe BOD Unit I director, Betty Freiheit; director, Sault Tribe EDC Commercial Development, Sheryl McKerchie; Sault Tribe EDC director of Business Development, David Lockhart; and holding the check is director, Sault Tribe Inc. Corporate Board of Directors, Scott LaVictor.

first Sault Tribe business entity to gain 8(a) certification, a journey more than a decade in the making. CGS will now be able to compete for set-aside and sole-source contracts in the program, get a business opportunity specialist to help navigate federal contracting, and, perhaps most significantly, form joint ventures with established businesses through the SBA's Mentor-Protégé Program.

Since forming in January 2020, CGS has established itself as an award-winning provider in instructional design, training technology development, and filmed media production, offering clients a highly effective, cognitive-based, and engaging training experience that promotes increased comprehension and improved learner retention.

Looking forward, Sault Tribe Inc. will focus on ramping up infrastructure to support CGS' efforts through its ability to hire and train tribal members from across the U.S., using a hybrid workforce model, in addition to leveraging relationships with Sault Tribe member business owners and leaders to form joint ventures on a variety of projects. Contact Sault Tribe Thrive at [info@saulttribethrive.com](mailto:info@saulttribethrive.com) for more information.

## Dale accepts JKL principal position

JKL School Principal Carolyn S. Dale, Ph.D., began her new position on July 1. The former director of curriculum and instruction and state and federal programs wanted a change in duties to "sharpen and hone my leadership skills to a wider range of roles and responsibilities."

Dale is a Sault Tribe member born and raised in Sault Ste. Marie.

Dale's objectives are to foster and support high quality instruction coupled with social and emotional learning.

In addition to her former duties, Dale was middle school principal before the school switched to a one-principal system. She said, "I really enjoyed my time as middle school principal and wanted to spend more time as a principal."

As director of curriculum and instruction and state and federal programs, Dale set the curriculum — what is taught and how it is taught. She also wrote and recertified all state and federal grants and had oversight of school special programs — after school, summer school, language and culture and so forth — all except for special education.

Now, as school principal, Dale



Carolyn S. Dale, Ph.D., was recently made principal of JKL School.

leads instruction and daily operations of the school.

Dale said the schoolchildren are the best thing about working at JKL. "I like seeing a student's face light up when they see me and want to tell me about their weekend or something new they learned," she said. "I also like seeing staff expand their capacity and skill set. It's an all-around, highly rewarding career."

Dale thinks helping to nurture students' self-confidence, moral compass and perseverance is the most important aspect of her job. "We all work very hard at

this at JKL because we know that these attributes must be fostered for learning and growth to occur," she said. "It's a great honor and responsibility."

Dale enjoys building relationships with people — students, staff, parents and community. "There are so many interesting people with interesting backgrounds, ideas and experiences," she said.

JKL School enrolls 635 students, with the same total enrollment expected for next year. The school has 19 elementary classes with 19 teachers and 19 paraprofessionals. According to Dale, the school has 12 middle school "core content teachers" — they teach math, language arts, social studies and science — and four paraprofessionals. "We also have eight academic services teachers and several special education teachers and paraprofessionals," she said.

Others include three social work staff and a dean of students. Dale said, "We offer comprehensive wrap around services for all students based on their individual needs."

JKL offers the following programs:

See "NEW PRINCIPAL," page 9

# Red Road to D.C.



Photos by Rick Smith

Bay Mills Indian Community Council President Whitney Gravelle speaks to the crowd assembled beside the Mackinac Bridge in Mackinaw City on July 27. The assembly was there to support the Red Road to D.C. organization as it goes across the nation with a totem pole to be delivered to federal officials in Washington, D.C. Gravelle was instrumental in bringing the organization to the area. See story and photo about the visit on page 11.



The Bawating Drum and Singers performed at the Red Road to D.C. assembly in Mackinaw City. About 200 people attended the rally where they were able to become acquainted with the totem pole and contribute their spirit for the journey to Washington, D.C., listen to several speakers on a wide variety of matters concerning Indian Country that need to be addressed with a united front.

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# 40th Annual Bahweting Summer Gathering & Powwow

## September 3, 4, 5, 2021

### Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Powwow Grounds Ice Circle Rd, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

#### Weekend Schedule

**Thursday:**  
Spiritual Gathering 10:00am - 6:00pm

**Friday:**  
Family Fun Night 3pm - 6pm

**Saturday:**  
1st Grand Entry 1:00pm  
Feast 5:00pm  
Hand Drum Contest TBD  
2nd Grand Entry 7:00pm

**Sunday:**  
Grand Entry 12:00pm

**Dance Specials  
Free Admission  
Open to the Public**

#### Head Staff

**Head Veteran: Nick Van Alstine**

**Arena Director: Pilch**

**M.C.'s: Gerard Sagassige, TBD**

**Head Contest Judge: Bernard Biron**

**Head Dancers: TBD**

**Head Jr. Dancers: TBD**

**Host Drum: High Crossing**

**Invited Drums: Southern Straight,  
Wigwam Express**

**No Politics, No Drugs  
No Alcohol, No Dogs**

All COVID-19 Safety Protocols and Social Distancing Guidelines Apply  
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Limited Vendor Spaces Available, First Come-First Serve Basis  
Limited Hotel Accommodations Contact Kewadin Casino Hotel 1-800-539-2346  
(Please remember to mention you are attending the Powwow when booking)  
For vendor application or more information please call 906-635-6050 or email [culture@saulttribe.net](mailto:culture@saulttribe.net)

## Bay Mills Indian Community

is hosting a

### Free Electronic Waste Collection Event

Saturday, September 18, 2021

10:00 am—2:00 pm.

This collection is free to the Tribal community, Chippewa County and non-Chippewa County residents.

### Items that will be accepted:

Desktop Computers	VCRs	Desktop Fax Machines
Laptop Computers	Tablets	Computer Keyboards/ Mice
Computer Monitors	Microwaves	DVD Players
Television—All types	Cell Phones	Desktop Scanners
Desktop Printers		

For more information contact Jen Parks (906) 248-8655

**Location:** Bay Mills Indian Community Farmer's Market Pavilion. Corner of Lakeshore Drive & Plantation Road.

Sponsored by:

# Latest vacancies on Sault Tribe committees

The following committees have vacant seats. Sault Tribe members interested in filling these vacancies 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 for any questions.

Anishinaabe Cultural Committee - nine vacancies - four males (4-year term), five female

(4-year term)  
 Child Welfare Committee - two vacancies (4-year term), one vacancy (expires 5-23)  
 Election Committee - four vacancies (4-year term)  
 Higher Education Committee - four vacancies (4-year term)  
 Health Board - four vacancies (4-year term)  
 Special Needs/Enrollment Committee - seven 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), two alternate vacancies  
 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 alternate seat vacancy  
 Unit II - Hessel (4-year term), two regular seat vacancies, one alternate vacancy  
 Unit II - Newberry (4-year term), one regular seat vacancies,

one alternate vacancy  
 Unit II - Naubinway (4-year term), two regular seat vacancies  
 Unit IV - Escanaba (4-year term), three regular seat vacancies, two alternate vacancies  
 Unit V - Munising (4-year term), one regular seat vacancies, one alternate seat vacancy  
 Unit V - Marquette (4-year term), two regular seat vacancies, one alternate seat vacancy

# Election Committee advisory: Campaign by the rules

The Election Committee reminds all Sault Tribe members of the importance of adhering to Chapter 10 of the Tribal Code (the Tribal Election Ordinance). Please be advised, pursuant to Section 10.107, the election cycle does not commence until the last Friday in January in the year in which a general election occurs.

The next election cycle commences on Friday, Jan. 28, 2022. Pursuant to Section 10.112 of the Election Ordinance, no campaigning shall take place prior to that date. "Campaigning" shall mean "all efforts designed to influence

members to support or reject a particular candidate, including without limitation, advertising, rallying, public speaking, or other communications with members."

Recently, the Election Committee received several election complaints, some of which were legitimate and others questionable. The Election Committee reminds all members who may be interested in running for office, supporting someone who may run for office or campaigning against someone in office or who may run for office, not to publish or post to social media or other

public sources any comments that may appear to be "campaigning" until after Jan. 28, 2022.

While the Election Committee appreciates the fact that there is a "gray area" in the definition of "campaigning," the committee requests all members err on the side of caution and civility.

For example, while publicly supporting certain political or philosophical views is certainly appropriate and encouraged; associating such views (or opposing views) with a potential candidate, while referencing the next election date, prior to the Notice of

Election, starts to appear more like unlawful campaigning.

It is important for members to recognize the difference between "campaigning" and "freedom of expression" before filing a complaint with the Election Committee.

While the Election Committee fully supports all members' rights to free expression of their political and philosophical views, such rights have been curtailed by Chapter 10 of the Tribal Code when that speech becomes "campaigning."

The entire code can be

found on the tribe's website at saulttribe.com/government/tribal-code.

At the end of the day, we are all one tribe.

The Election Committee requests all members to be open, tolerant and respectful of all other members' political and philosophical views, regardless of whether they agree or disagree with such views and, most importantly, refrain from "campaigning" until after Jan. 28, 2022.

## Early Childhood Programs have moved

The Early Childhood Education Programs (Child Care, Head Start, and Early Head Start) have moved to their new building effective July 19, 2021. Please send all inter-office mail to their new address and update your contact files.

New address: 4 Ice Circle Dr., Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783  
 Main phone lines: (906) 635-7722, (906) 632-5258  
 Fax lines: (906) 635-4779, (906) 635-6513



## Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians

# Sault Tribe Town Hall

*Bahweting Powwow Homecoming Weekend*

**When** 6 p.m., Thursday — Sept. 2  
 1 p.m., Friday — Sept. 3

**Where** Grand Ball Room, Kewadin Casino, Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.

**What** The Sault Tribe Board of Directors invites Sault Tribe members to attend in person or virtually to vote on a list of tribal priorities.

**To attend virtually, you must register in advance.**

**Zoom Link to Attend:** <https://zoom.us/j/96906911516>

**Register to Attend Virtually:** <https://fs29.formsite.com/SaultT/q1aksnvjv3/index.html>

**Questions?** If you have questions regarding this event, please call (800) 793-0660, and ask to speak to Linda Grossett.

## Win Awenen Nisitotung

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

August 18, 2021  
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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

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

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

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# Whitmer appoints two members to state seats

LANSING, Mich.  
— Governor Gretchen Whitmer recently announced several appointments to state commissions and boards, which included two Sault Tribe members.

Commission on Services to the Aging – Euphemia “Sue” P. Franklin, of Center Line, is the executive director of South Eastern Michigan Indians, Inc. Mrs. Franklin is a member of the Sault Ste Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and the chair of the Michigan Multi Cultural Network Executive Committee. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in business administration from the University of North Florida.

Mrs. Franklin is appointed to represent Democrats for a term commencing on July 29, 2021, and expiring on July 28, 2024. She succeeds Dona Wishart whose term expires July 28, 2021.

The Commission on Services to the Aging advises the Governor and Legislature on coordination and administration of state programs, changes in federal and state programs, and the nature and magnitude of aging priorities. The commission also reviews and approves grants made by OSA and participates in development of the state plan and budget as

required by the federal Older Americans Act of 1965, as amended.

Michigan Board of Real Estate Appraisers – Carolyn S. Dale, Ph.D., of Sault Ste Marie, is the director of curriculum, instruction and state and federal programs at the Joseph K. Lumsden Bahweting Anishnaabe Public School Academy. She holds a Bachelor of Science in elementary education from Lake Superior State University, a Master of Education and an educational specialist in educational leadership from Northern Michigan University, and a Ph.D. in education leadership from Eastern Michigan University.

Dr. Dale is appointed to represent the general public for a term commencing on July 22, 2021, and expiring June 30, 2025. She succeeds David Worthams whose term expired June 30, 2021.

The Michigan Board of Real Estate Appraisers works with the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs to oversee the practice of approximately 6,011 limited real estate appraisers, state licensed appraisers, certified general appraisers, and certified residential appraisers.

Appointments are subject to consent of the Senate.



## Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Anishnaabek Community and Family Services Child Care and Development Fund

ACFS has Child Care Assistance Applications for CCDF Subsidies for:

- Income Based
- Essential Employees (Income Waived)

Eligible families have the right to choose from high quality child care services that best meet their needs for child care without regard to cost. Applications can be found at <https://www.saulttribe.com/membership-services/acfs/direct-services/child-care-development-fund> or can be obtained by mail, fax, or email. Our number is 906-632-5250 or email us at [apeer@saulttribe.net](mailto:apeer@saulttribe.net) or [psterling@saulttribe.net](mailto:psterling@saulttribe.net).

Eligible families must be working, attending an educational program or in a job training program. The child in need of care must be a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians between the ages of birth through 12 years.

You can choose from the following types of providers:

1. State Licensed Child Care Center;
2. Tribal Licensed Child Care Center;
3. State Licensed Family/Group Home Providers;
4. Relative Care Provider;
5. In-Home Aide.

If you are choosing a **Relative Care Provider** they must meet the following criteria prior to providing care:

- must be a relative of the child(ren) needing care (Grandparent, Great Grandparent, Uncle, Aunt, Sibling)
- be of at least 18 years of age; -live in a separate residence; -must care only for children they are related to;
- obtain a clear MDHHS Clearance; -obtain a clear ICHAT (ACFS runs this report);
- obtain a clear Tribal Registry Clearance (ACFS runs this report); -Provide a signed Open Door Policy, Provider Registration Form, and a signed Client/Provider Agreement; -follow the CCDF Payment schedule and payment paperwork requirements; -complete initial Home Visit with CCDF Coordinator.

If you are choosing an **In-Home Aide** they must meet the following criteria prior to providing care:

- be of at least 18 years of age; -live in a separate residence; -must provide care in the child's home and only provide care for children listed on Child Care Certificate; -obtain and pass FBI fingerprint background check;
- obtain clear MDHHS Clearance; -obtain a clear ICHAT (ACFS runs this report);
- obtain a clear Tribal Registry Clearance (ACFS runs this report); -Provide a signed Open Door Policy, Provider Registration Form, and a signed Client/Provider Agreement; -follow the CCDF Payment schedule and payment paperwork requirements; on-line Health and Safety training; -CPR and 1<sup>st</sup> Aid; -complete initial Home Visit with CCDF Coordinator.

Saturdays All Sites

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Register online at [tickets.kewadin.com](https://tickets.kewadin.com) or at the Box Office

Call 906-635-4958 for more details.

### TOURNAMENTS

#### VIDEO POKER

St Ignace | August 27 & 28

Up To \$15,000 CASH/BONUS POINTS

#### QUICK HIT MANIA

July - September

Christmas - Mondays & Tuesdays

Manistique - Wednesdays & Thursdays

Hessel - Mondays & Tuesdays

Daily Prize Pool 25,000 Bonus Points

#### KEWADIN CLUB SLOT TOURNAMENT

Sault Ste. Marie | Fridays | September 3 - October 22

Finals | October 29

Daily \$300 CASH and 45,000 Bonus Points Prize Pool

#### PINKTASTIC

St Ignace | October 1 & 2

Sault Ste. Marie | October 15 & 17

Up To \$15,000 CASH/BONUS POINTS

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

# Newland confirmed to lead DOI Indian Affairs

BY RICK SMITH

A citizen of the Bay Mills Indian Community and former tribal council president, Bryan Newland, received confirmation by the U.S. Senate on Aug. 7 as the new Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs, the leader of the Office of Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs for the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI).

U.S. Senator Brian Schatz (D-Hawaii), chairman of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, led the passage of Newland's nomination in that committee before the measure went

on to the floor of the Senate.

"Mr. Newland has invaluable experience as a tribal leader, personal and in-depth knowledge of the issues facing tribes, expertise in complex areas of federal Indian law, an understanding of Interior's unique role in fulfilling and enforcing the federal trust responsibility to Native peoples, and a diplomatic and respectful approach to honoring tribal sovereignty," Schatz said in a prepared statement. "It is clear from the record that Mr. Newland has the qualifications to succeed in this role, and to serve this country with honor as one



Bryan Newland

of the chief federal advocates for American Indians, Native Hawaiians, and Alaska Natives."

According to the DOI, the Office of the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs is headed by the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs. The Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs assists the Secretary of the Interior, Debra Haaland, in fulfilling the department's trust responsibilities to American Indian and Alaska

Native tribes and individuals. The position of the Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs is established under the authority of federal law.

The Assistant Secretary discharges the duties of the Secretary with the authority and direct responsibility to strengthen the government-to-government relationship with American Indian and Alaska Native tribes, advocate policies that support Indigenous self-determination and tribal sovereignty, protect and preserve Native trust assets held by the federal government for their benefit, and administer a wide array of laws, regulations and functions relating to Native tribes, individual Native trust beneficiaries, tribal members and Indian Affairs bureaus, offices and programs that are vested in the Secretary by the president and the Congress of the United States.

Fawn Sharp, president of the National Congress of American

Indians (NCAI), commented, "The confirmation of Bryan Newland as the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs is an important step forward in strengthening the nation-to-nation relationship between the United States and tribal nations, and we congratulate the Assistant Secretary on this achievement. We are in a time of great opportunity to make inroads on critical issues such as growing tribal economies, developing infrastructure, building healthy communities and protecting sovereignty. This confirmation places someone with the experience and a unique understanding of these issues into this key role and NCAI looks forward to working closely with Assistant Secretary Newland on advancing Indian Country's priorities."

According to Senator Schatz, the Assistant Secretary is the highest-ranking post in the Bureau of Indian Affairs and more than 40 tribes and tribal organizations supported Newland's nomination.

## DOI, DOJ take next steps in implementing Not Invisible Act

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The departments of the Interior and Justice recently announced the next steps in implementing of the *Not Invisible Act*, including the publication of a solicitation for nominations of non-federal members to join the Joint Commission. The Joint Commission will focus on reducing violent crimes against American Indians and Alaska Natives and address the long-standing missing and murdered Indigenous person crisis. The agencies are also moving forward with nation-to-nation consultations with tribal leaders related to the commission and implementation of the act.

The *Not Invisible Act*, sponsored by Secretary Deb Haaland when she served in Congress, mandates the creation of a commission that includes representatives of tribal, state and local law enforcement; tribal judges; health care and mental health practitioners with experience working with Indian survivors of trafficking and sexual assault; urban Indian organizations focused on violence against women and children; Indian survivors of human trafficking; and family members of missing and murdered Indian people.

"The Interior and Justice departments have a unique opportunity to marshal our resources to finally address

the crisis of violence against Indigenous peoples," said Haaland. "Doing this successfully means seeking active and ongoing engagement from experts both inside and outside of the government. Incorporating Indigenous knowledge, tribal consultation and the commission that reflects members who know first-hand the needs of their people will be critical as we address this epidemic in Native American and Alaska Native communities."

"The Justice Department is committed to working with the Interior Department to address the persistent violence endured by Native American families and communities across the country," said Attorney General Merrick B. Garland. "The membership of the commission must represent a diverse range of expertise, experience and perspectives, and we will consult with tribal leaders who know best what their communities need to make them safer."

Congress unanimously passed the *Not Invisible Act* in October 2020 to increase intergovernmental coordination to identify and combat violent crime against Indians and on Indian lands. The act calls for the Interior Department to coordinate prevention, grants and programs related to missing and murdered Indigenous peoples.

### 6 Mile Farmers Market

Located on 6 Mile Rd. just after I-75 Overpass. Watch for signs.

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Stop In To See Us!

### Sault job opening for an elder

Sault Tribe Language and Culture Department seeks an elder to work with the department's repatriation specialist helping in the Ojibwe Learning Center and Library in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., during scheduled public hours.

Position entails providing historical and cultural information about Sault Tribe, demonstrations of Ojibwe music, construction of Ojibwe musical instruments, giving guidance on cultural issues and other tasks as may be assigned.

Applicants must be Sault Tribe members aged 60 or over and reside in the tribe's service area.

Reply to WIOA/Senior Employment Program, Attn: Brenda Cadreau, 2 Ice Circle, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 or call (906) 635-4767

# Anishinaabemowin 2021

“You should spend 20 minutes in nature a day, unless you are busy.  
Then make that an hour.”

## Aambe! Zhaadaa gbeshiwining

*aam-be zhaa-daa g-be-shi-win-ing*  
Come on! Let's go to the campsite

### Gii michi-boodwewag

*gii mi-chi-bood-we-wag*  
They made a fire on the ground.

### Aangwaamizin! Be careful!

*aan-gwa-mi-zin*

### Gegwa zhichigeke mitigwaaki-shkode!

*ge-gwa zhi-chi-ge-ke mi-tig-waa-ki-sh-ko-de*  
Don't make a forest fire!

### Odi zaagigan te

*o-di zaa-gi-gan te*  
The lake is over there.

### Ngaasmoon-gamig wi.

*n-gaas-moo(nh)-ga-mig wi*  
That is the tent.

### Nishke! Waya giigoonhke zaagiganing.

*nish-ke way-a gii-goo(nh)-ke zaa-gi-gan-ing*  
Look! Someone is fishing at the lake.



**Fun Fact:** We have no words for he or she in Anishinaabemowin. They are included here so the ideas make sense in English. We're fine without them.

### Wii nandawaabmaag nanda ge'e.

*wii nan-da-waab-maag nan-da ge-e*  
She will look for these too.

### Bangii negwakmigaa maampii

*ban-gii neg-wak-mi-gaa maam-pii*  
The ground is a little sandy here.

### Waakonag

### Aasaakamig

### Zhaashkwedoon

### Esbikenh sab

### Bimikwaan

### Naaganashk

### Jikenh

### Bigijiisak

*waa-kon-ag*

*aa-saa-ka-mig*

*zhaa-sh-kwe-doon*

*es-bik-e(nh) sab*

*bi-mik-waan-an*

*naa-gan-ash-k*

*ji-ke(nh)*

*bi-gi-jii-sak*

lichen

moss

a mushroom

a spider web

tracks

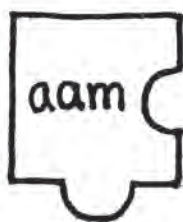
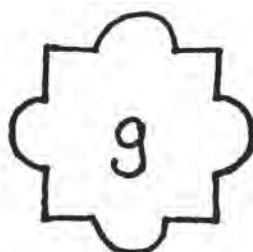
a fern

a stump

rotting wood

“N'bekaadendam maampii,” gii kida. “I'm content (at peace) here,” she (or he) said.

*n-be-kaa-den-dam maam-pii gii ki-da*



Put this jigsaw puzzle together to figure out what comment from this lesson shows up. Write the comment under the tent, then draw in the puzzle bumps and dents on the side of the tent. Have fun playing with our language! That's a great way to remember what you learned.

*If you're in the woods, how can you tell if a tree is a dogwood? (By its bark!)*

**What's another name for a sleeping bag?**  
(why, a nap sack of course)

*You can't run through a campsite. You can only ran. Why?(because it's past tents)*

**Why didn't the bike go camping? (It was 2 tired)**

*If you ever get cold while camping, stand in the corner of the tent for a while. They're usually around 90 degrees.*

**Which type of witches like to camp on the beach? (sandwitches)**

## Making our Sounds

Most letters sound like in English. Here are the exceptions.

**aa** sounds like the a in *awsome*

**ii** sounds like the e in *be*

**oo** sounds like the o in *go*

**e** sounds like the e in *end*

**a** sounds like the a in *tuba*

**i** sounds like the i in *dip*

**o** sounds like the oo's in *wood*

**g** sounds ONLY like it does in *go*

Pronounce all the letters. *Italic type* will tell you which word-parts to stress. No italics in a word means the parts have equal stress. Long words are broken up with dashes (-); still, say each word smoothly. And notice “nh” has NO SOUND of its own. It is a sign to say the vowels just before it “through your nose.”

## Mskominike Giizis

*mis-ko-min-i-ke gii-zis*

Raspberry-picking Moon

by Susan Askwith

### Aanii kina waya! Niin sa Booniid Bineshiinh.

*aa-nii ki-na wa-ya niin sa boo-niid bi-ne-shii(nh)*

*Hello everyone! It's me, Alight Bird.*

When **Nimkii Nimosh's** (*Thunder Dog's*)

**godooziwing** (*go-doo-zi-wing*) **family**

makes **gbeshiwin** (*g-be-shi-win*) **a campsite**,

I like to fly over there and keep an eye on things!

### Biinji mkak odi miijim te giji doopwining

*biin-ji ma-kak o-di mii-jm te gi-ji doop-win-ing*

The food is in a box over there **on the table**.

### Aapiish te wiigwaamenhs?

*aa-piish te wiig-waam-e(nh)s*

Where is the outhouse?

### Wa kwe baamase miikanaanhsing.

*wa kwe baa-ma-se mii-kan-aa(nh)-sing*

That woman is walking on the trail.

### Nandawaabmaag mskominan.

*nan-da-waab-maag mis-ko-min-an*

She is looking for raspberries.

# Nourishing Nations provides free postpartum and newborn care packages for young moms

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

Nourishing Nations is a grassroots support program for teen and young Indigenous/Anishinaabe mothers located in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., and run by local Indigenous doulas and breastfeeding counselors Raeanne Madison and Lindsey McGahey. The program offers traditional cultural support to Indigenous mothers aged 21 and younger who are Michigan residents. Madison and McGahey would

like young Indigenous mothers anywhere in Michigan to know that if you are pregnant or currently breastfeeding your baby, they have postpartum and newborn care packages for you containing organic diapers, wipes, diaper cream, breast pads and much more.

Madison and McGahey also offer free cultural support and doula care during pregnancy, postpartum recovery and lactation period.

In-person care is available for families in Chippewa County, and virtual care is available for other qualifying Michigan Indigenous moms.

Eligibility is very simple: You must be a parent aged 21 or younger, self-identify as Indigenous to any tribal nation (enrollment in a tribe/card carrying is not a requirement), currently breastfeeding a baby age 12 weeks or younger, or currently pregnant with a due date in 2021. There are no income or other requirements.

To claim a care package or nominate a young person, please message them on the Nourishing Nations Facebook page.

McGahey said she and Madison knew the local community needed a program that was different and catered to the unique needs of Indigenous people. She said the program is grant funded through September and just got its start in the past few months. "The grant we received focuses solely on young parents, as well as safe sleep education," McGahey said. "There is a possibility to extend grant funding for our community if necessary. With the unique criteria of teen parents, we knew our client base



Artwork by Celeste Contreras

would be small. But that allows us to create in depth, specialized care and time to really focus on the families we are serving. With our recent start we've just begun working with our first family, but we have gained traction online as communities outside of Chippewa County have expressed gratitude and support for the care we are providing, including many who have donated supplies to the program."

Lindsey McGahey, IBC, FSD, is a Sault Tribe member (crane clan) and lives near Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. McGahey has worked as a breastfeeding counselor for four years and focuses on the ceremonial and traditional aspects of lactation. She works with Indigenous communities to reclaim traditions in pregnancy, birth and postpartum.

Raeanne Madison, MPH, is a citizen of the Ojibwe nation (crane clan) and lives in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. Madison has over 10 years of experience as an Indigenous birth worker and community educator, with a focus on traditional cultural practices and healing after birth.

McGahey said, "We provide

skilled breastfeeding support, baby care information and cultural teachings as well as meal preparation with traditional herbs and foods and light housework. We will also bring hot, nutritious traditional meals and a pot of herbal tea while we work with you and your postpartum and breastfeeding needs. The skilled traditional postpartum care Nourishing Nations provides is confidential, compassionate and supportive and is completely free of cost. As part of our postpartum bundles, we provide free care package for families that contains organic newborn diapers, wipes,

diaper cream, menstrual pads for postpartum bleeding, breast pads, postpartum squirt bottles included with herbal pain relief spray, a silicone milk collector and more! We will also work with families anywhere in the state of Michigan and provide care and information virtually. Families outside of Chippewa County will also receive a care bundle by mail, and education on how to use the tools and products inside of it."

Register for your care package(s) and additional services, at Nourishing Nations on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/nourishingnations>.

## Attention Sault Tribe Households

The Sault Tribe Food Distribution Program would like to announce that we are open to the public and accepting new applicants. Our office hours are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., and our store is now open by appointment for clients to come in and shop. We ask that everyone keep social distancing in mind and to also wear a mask if not fully vaccinated. We would also like everyone to know that we now have a variety of seasonal fresh fruit and vegetables, as well as other new items.

Also there has been some confusion regarding eligibility and the extra pandemic money. Please note, our program does not use the extra \$300 pandemic unemployment compensation, the recent child tax credit payments, or any past stimulus payments to determine eligibility. If you want to know if you or a loved one qualifies or you have any questions about USDA and the food program, please call us at (906) 635-6076 or (888) 448-8732.

We are here and happy to help. Miigwech!

## Sault Tribe Health Center May Employee of the Month



Congratulations to Dr. Styer for being chosen as the May Employee of the Month. Dr. Styer was nominated for his dedication and assistance while the Health Center was without a medical director.

## MILLER FAMILY FARM Community Shared Agriculture



Box of Produce Each Week starting June 28

Sign up by June 1 for Discount and Bonus items!

The Miller Family Farm is looking for health conscious partners to secure a share of the farm's bounty in 2021. Boxes will begin the week of June 28, 2021, and continue for 16 weeks to Oct. 18 and be ready for pick up at a central location.

Spots secured and paid for by June 1 will receive a priority status.

Discount price of:

- \$475 for a family box – feeds 4-6 people (\$85 savings)
- \$350 for an individual box – feeds 1-3 people (\$50 savings)
- Bonus item each month (i.e. eggs, fresh bread or jam)



To sign up, stop by The Journey Matters, 545 Ashmun St. in the Sault, visit the Miller Family Farm at 845 W. 6 Mile Rd., email [jdebruler@att.net](mailto:jdebruler@att.net), or call (616) 558-9958.

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2x4 frame 24" OC  
LP Smart Siding  
Shingled roof  
Double door

**Sizes 8x8 to 12x24, from \$1,488 to \$5,094.**



SHE SHED

**Tool Shed • Workshop Man Cave • She Shed**

Treated runners, Joist 12" OC  
5/8-inch treated plywood floor  
2 x 4 frame 16" OC  
7-ft. wall, T1-11 siding  
Shingled or metal roof  
Double doors  
12" overhang  
2 windows

**Sizes 8x8 to 12x30, \$2,502 to \$9,810.**



CABIN

**Wide Range of Sizes and Prices**

Treated Runners, Joist 12" OC  
5/8-inch treated plywood floor  
Gambrel or gabel sided Roof  
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4-ft. loft

**Sizes 8x10 to 14x48, \$3,660 to \$14,645.**



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Painted or Vinyl Siding  
Metal or Shigled Roof  
Double Doors

**Sizes 8x8 to 12 x 30, \$2,049 to \$9,315**



GARAGE

**Portable Garage**

Treated Runners, Joist 12" OC  
5/8-inch Treated plywood floor  
2 x 6 rafters 12" OC  
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7-ft. wall  
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# Resolutions passed by the board on July 20

The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Board of Directors met on July 20 and passed the following resolutions.

**Resolution 2021-171 – Recovery Hospital and Third-Party Revenue FY 2021 Budget Modifications** – Approved to change the personnel sheets and increase third party revenue \$55,075.60 with no effect on tribal support.

**172 – Tribal Practices for Wellness in Indian Country FY 2022 Budget Modification** – Approved to increase federal CDC funds \$56,574.41 with no effect on tribal support.

**173 – Environmental-Air Programs FY 2022 Budget Modifications and Establishment of FY 2022 Budget** – Approved

for a decrease in federal EPA revenue of \$55,593.25 and tribal support funds of \$3,158 reflecting carry over funds. Further established budget for EPA funding of \$57,963.98 with no effect on tribal support.

**174 – American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)-Governmental Administration Establishment of FY 2021 and 2022 Budgets** – Approved 2021 budget for \$147,107.22 and other revenue of \$25,000 for a total budget of \$172,107.22 with no effect on tribal support and 2022 budget for \$1,121,124.18 and other revenue of \$15,000 for a total budget of \$1,136,124.18 with no effect on tribal support.

**175 – Strategic Director FY 2021 Budget Modification** – Approved for an increase in

other revenue of \$17,136 with no effect on tribal support.

**176 – Approve Contract Award and Federal Funds for Sault Tribe Broadband Consultant Project** – Approved pursuit of project on behalf of tribe and members and contracting with winning bidder to complete Sault Tribe Broadband Project. Authorized expenditures of \$200,000 from governmental CARES Act funds.

**177 – Approving Lease Amendment for the Escanaba Tribal Community Health Center** – Renewed lease to July 31, 2022, and authorized staff to search for grant or loan funding to build a center on the Escanaba reservation.

**178 – Authorization to Set Up NADP Site** – Authorized the

Environmental Program to move National Atmospheric Deposition Program platform and equipment to Gardenville Road site, set it up and operate at that location for a renewable three-year term.

**179 – Authorization to Bid on Parcels Public Land Auction (August 3, 2021)** – Authorized tribe's EDC executive director to bid on designated lands using previously approved funds.

**180 – Manistique Ranger District Office and Complex** – Consented the transfer of the land to the tribe and paying delinquent taxes due since 2018.

**181 – Authorization to File Notice of Intent State Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI)** – Authorized application to the SSBCI for funding to

operate small business financing programs and technical assistance to small businesses applying for SSBCI and other government programs.

**182 – Authorizing the Joinder and Filing of an Amicus Brief in Gray Wolf Delisting Cases** – Authorized the tribe's general counsel to coordinate with Animal Wellness Action and other tribes toward taking actions on behalf of the tribe in federal court cases over protecting gray wolves.

**183 – Authorizing Litigation Relating to Tribal Insurance Claim** – Authorized the tribe's general counsel to initiate litigation on the tribe's behalf to resolve the tribe's insurance claim filed in 2020 due to COVID-19 related closures.

## Make a difference in the life of a child as an ACFS foster parent

Anishnaabek Community and Family Services (ACFS) needs caring individuals who can provide a safe and nurturing home environment for children who have been placed out of their home due to abuse or neglect.

The family foster care program is designed to provide a substitute family life experience for a child in a household that has been approved and licensed. A relative may become licensed or may be unlicensed. ACFS makes every effort to place children with a relative if possible.

Children may need foster care for a temporary or extended period of time. The primary goal during foster care is to reunite the child with his or her parents. Under the "team" approach, foster parents or relatives, together with the worker, attempt to provide the specific kind of help a child and their family need for reuniting the child with their parents. When the child cannot be reunited with their parents, the children are prepared for permanent placement, with relatives or non-related adoptive families. The majority of adoptions done by ACFS are with relatives or other Native American families. Under certain circumstances, a foster fam-

ily may adopt children in their care. When adoption is not possible for older youth, the goal is to prepare the youth for independent living.

Foster Care is seen as a short-term solution to an emergency situation.

Anishnaabek Community and Family Services needs committed individuals who are willing to work with the child's birth parents, supportive of efforts to return the child home, able to work with children who have significant emotional and behavioral needs, and able to encourage teens toward independent living

You are not required to own your own home, be married or give up your job and stay home full time in order to foster children. You may be renting an apartment or be single. You may apply for day care payments for the time that you are working or continuing your education. You will work with the agency to determine what type of placement works best for you.

To become a foster parent, applicants must:

- Complete a licensing application and home study;
- Provide successful background clearances for all adult household members;

- Provide medical statements for all household members;
- Have an environmental inspection (when applicable);
- Provide three letters of refer-

- ence;
- Meet basic home safety standards;
- Attend training pertinent to foster care issues.

For more information on becoming a foster parent, please call ACFS by telephone at 632-5250 or (800) 726-0093, or by email at [acfs-fosterhomes@saulttribe.net](mailto:acfs-fosterhomes@saulttribe.net).

JKL Bahweting Anishnabe Public School Academy

## OPEN POSITIONS

Do you have an interest working in an educational setting or looking to build your career in the field of education? JKL School is accepting applications for qualified candidates for the 2021-2022 school year. JKL School offers a benefit package that includes:

- ◆ Michigan Public School Retirement System – Pension and 401(k) offered
- ◆ BC/BS Health Insurance – 80% employer paid premium which includes Health, Vision, Dental, and Prescription
- ◆ Life Insurance – Employer paid
- ◆ Long-term and short-term disability
- ◆ Optional life insurance
- ◆ PTO and sick time

**Special Education Teacher** - Candidates must possess a valid Michigan teaching certificate, and Special Education endorsement required.

**Academic Services Teacher** - MS and Elementary

**Physical Education Teacher** – Candidates must possess a valid Michigan teaching certificate with a K-8 Physical Education Endorsement.

**Custodian** (3-11 shift)

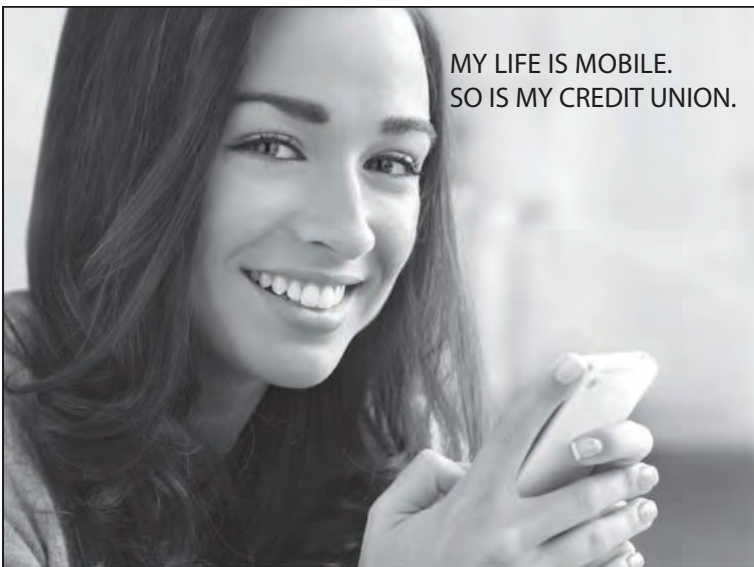
**School Social Worker** - Candidates must possess a master's degree from a graduate school social work program approved by the Michigan Department of Education.

**Paraprofessionals**

**Substitute Bus Driver**



Applications can be found at [www.jklschool.org](http://www.jklschool.org) by clicking on the employment opportunities link on the home page. JKL application package must include electronic versions of the following: application, letter of interest, current resume, copy of Michigan Certification, Transcripts, and MTTC results if applicable. Only electronically filed applications that are complete with all required documentation attached will be considered. Positions are open until filled. Employment at JKL is considered "at-will." JKL is an equal opportunity employer.



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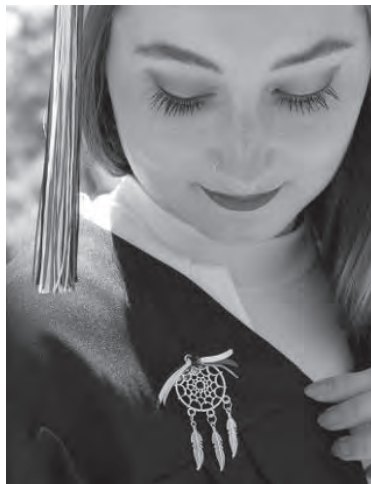


# Sault Tribe member graduates

Katelyn Niccole McKerchie, 22, of Mobile, Ala., graduated Cum Laude from the University of South Alabama in May 2021.

Katelyn graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in exercise science. After the one year waiting period Katelyn will be applying to attend Physical Therapist School to obtain her doctorate degree.

Parents are Todd and Amber McKerchie of Mobile, Ala. Grandparents are Harold (Bud) and Linda McKerchie of Mobile, Ala., formerly from Sugar Island. The late great-grandparents are Harold (Cub) and Mary McKerchie of Sugar Island.



**Katelyn Niccole McKerchie, 22, of Mobile, Alabama graduated cum laude from the University of South Alabama in May. She and her cousin, Ryllie Marie McKerchie, wore their dream catcher pins on graduation day with Native pride. The pins were made and gifted to the girls from Jennifer (Hill) Blair of the Sault.**

# McKerchie graduates



**Ryllie Marie McKerchie, 18, from Mobile, Ala., graduated with honors from Faith Academy School in May 2021. Ryllie received an academic scholarship from Auburn University and a state VA**

dependent scholarship covering the remainder of her tuition. Ryllie will be studying psychology this fall. Her parents are Christopher McKerchie (Melissa McKerchie) and Bridgett McKerchie, all of Mobile. Her grandparents are Harold (Bud) McKerchie and Linda McKerchie of Mobile, formerly of Sugar Island. Her late great-grandparents are Harold(Cub) McKerchie and Mary McKerchie of Sugar Island. Her and her cousin Katelyn Niccole McKerchie wore their dream catcher pins on graduation day with Native pride. The pins were made and gifted to the girls from Jennifer (Hill) Blair of the Sault.

# Cyanobacteria: how you and your pets can stay safe

BY CRYSTAL FALK, ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIALIST

These hot summer days provide the perfect opportunity to head to the beach with your family and dog, but there are some dangers to be aware of on the waterways.

Some algae, like blue-green algae, can be toxic to both humans and pets. Blue-green algae, also known as cyanobacteria, produces microcystin. Microcystin is known for causing rashes and making people, and particularly pets, sick. Humans can become sick if airborne water droplets are swallowed, breathed or contact skin. This could happen during boating, swimming, tubing, bathing, waterskiing or any other water-related recreational activity. In humans, symptoms include vomiting, diarrhea, rash, eye irritation, cough, sore throat and headache. Symptoms

will usually begin hours to two days after exposure.

Dogs are more likely to swim in slow-moving possibly stagnant waters, putting them at a higher risk for encountering cyanobacteria. Symptoms in dogs include seizures, panting, excessive drooling, respiratory failure, diarrhea, disorientation, vomiting and liver failure; unfortunately, many times resulting in death. If your dog begins to exhibit any of these symptoms, you should contact your vet immediately.

Cyanobacteria or blue-green algae is a form of bacteria that grows in free-floating colonies, occurring when there is an excess of nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorous in the water. Cyanobacteria occur in slow-moving waters when there are hot temperatures, along with high light intensity and an excess of nutrients in the water such as phos-

phorous and nitrogen.

An excess in phosphorous and nitrogen (often referred to as nutrients) have numerous sources. Sources of nutrients include septic systems, fertilizers, manure, industrial wastewater, sanitary landfills and garbage dumps. When conditions are right, cyanobacteria will bloom possibly creating microcystin, creating a toxic environment, these blooms are called harmful algal blooms.

Harmful algal blooms aren't always easily recognizable, however, there are some things to look for before you let your pup or family jump in the lake.

An area with a harmful algal bloom will have almost a spilled paint look to the water, a swirling neon green look, but can also appear as a solid color, flecks and globs. Blooms are often green, but can also appear yellow, brown, purple, red, or white. The smell of the water body can be a good indicator of cyanobacteria.

As the bacteria begin to decompose, gasses are produced that often have a swampy or fresh-cut grass odor.

— If there are leaves or roots present, it is most likely an aquatic plant such as duckweed.

— If it's stringy and can be draped over a stick then it is most likely green algae.

— If it's dust floating on the water and more yellow in color, it is most likely tree pollen. This one is probably the easiest to confuse with cyanobacteria.

If you suspect that you or someone you know has become sick, please seek medical attention. If your pet becomes sick, get in touch with your vet immediately.

Check the water before you swim or let your dog swim. If you believe you have identified a harmful algal bloom, please contact the Michigan Department of the Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy at (800) 662-9278 or visit their website at [algae\\_bloom@michigan.gov](mailto:algae_bloom@michigan.gov).



Dogs are more likely to swim in slow-moving possibly stagnant waters, putting them at a higher risk for encountering cyanobacteria.

## Continued from page 1

From "NEW PRINCIPAL," pg. 1  
Dynamic general education classes

Special education  
Gifted and talented (Individual and school-wide)

Twice exceptional program  
Elementary: Anishinaabe language and culture, art, physical education, music and movement, technology, library/media, general music and orchestra

6-8 Choir and orchestra  
6-8 Swimming

6-8 CTE (Career technical education)  
Middle school exploratory

classes such as robotics, STEAM, grossology, integrated technology, sculptury, indigenous arts and crafts, advanced anishnabemowin, history of theater, war college, Minecraft, media blitz, school newspaper, mythology and more. Middle school advisory: Creates a strong support system for each student by supplying a single point-person (their advisor) who will develop a strong relationship with them and their parents, as well as building relationships with peers.

After school program  
MHSAA athletics

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### 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.

# American Indian residential boarding schools

SAULT STE. MARIE, Mich. — American Indian people across the United States are experiencing an increase in trauma responses in direct correlation to the recent unearthing of thousands of children's remains buried in unmarked graves at several Canadian residential boarding school locations. For many years, families remained skeptical about the whereabouts of their missing children. Sadly, with these recent and ongoing discoveries, we now know the harsh truth. Residential boarding schools and the historical trauma caused by the brutal acts of systemic genocide are now surfacing and both the family members of the missing children and their tribal communities are struggling to process, cope and heal.

Starting in 1860, American Indian children were forced by the United States government into residential boarding schools with the intentions to "kill the Indian and save the man." After drastic and failed attempts to completely destroy and eliminate the Indigenous peoples, the government concluded that they would assimilate and "civilize" the "savage Indians."

Forced assimilation, meaning to conform to white society norms, was the goal of the United States and Canada. Young children were ushered into schools with much resistance from their



**Harbor Springs Holy Childhood of Jesus was opened in 1829. It was closed from 1839 until 1884, when it reopened. The boarding school officially closed in 1983, but continued as a day school, daycare center and thrift shop. It was demolished in November 2007.**

families often times empty promises of visitations and summers at home. Society wanted to take care of the country's "Indian problem" and wished to strip the Natives of their culture, language and practices.

Many boarding school survivors refuse to speak of their experiences. Other survivors described humiliating acts being performed upon their arrival at the schools. Their long, sacred hair was immediately cut off, their traditional clothing, beautiful beadwork, photographs of their families, medicine pouches and personal items were often burned or destroyed; never to be returned. Native children were called "dirty Indians" and doused in alcohol, kerosene and dichlorodiphenyl-

trichloroethane (DDT) and other known pesticides to "disinfect" them. Young Native children were clothed in matching, uncomfortable uniforms made of poor quality intended to teach them about "sameness, regularity and order." School staff assigned each child a new English first and last name and beat the children brutally for speaking their first language, claiming the languages, like Anishinaabemowin, was from the devil. The reports of physical, sexual and emotional abuse are endless. The trauma that affected our ancestors continues to affect generations today.

In May 2021, the gruesome discovery of 215 Native children in unmarked graves at the Kam-

**On Aug. 20, 2021, a traditional healing ceremony and a memorial walk will take place at Niigaanagizhik Ceremonial Building and adjacent powwow grounds to provide support to our community and honor the children who survived the boarding schools, children recently discovered and those who remain missing. The Advocacy Resource Center (ARC) is available for support and advocacy at (906) 632-1808. The Sault Tribe Language and Culture Department is also available for assistance and can be reached at 635-6050.**

loops Residential School in British Columbia, Canada, opened a floodgate of emotions and sparked a nationwide investigation to bring our children — our ancestors — our family members, home. This discovery only reminds us that this traumatic

period in our history existed.

On Aug. 20, 2021, a traditional healing ceremony and memorial walk are set to take place at Niigaanagizhik Ceremonial Building and adjacent powwow grounds to provide support to our community and to honor the children who survived the boarding schools, the children recently discovered and those children who remain missing. The Advocacy Resource Center (ARC) is available for support and advocacy at (906) 632-1808. The Sault Tribe Language and Cultural Department is also available for assistance and can be reached at (906) 635-6050.

Harbor Springs Holy Childhood of Jesus was opened in 1829. It was, however, closed from 1839 until 1884, when it reopened. The boarding school officially closed in 1983, but continued as a day school, daycare center and thrift shop. It was demolished in November 2007.

## CALLING ALL AUNTIES and JINGLE DRESS DANCERS!

Seeking Volunteers to cook for Spirit Feast and Jingle Dress Dancers to dance for healing. Friday, August 20, 2021 at Niigaanagizhik 3:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.

To honor the lives and spirits of the Indigenous children whose remains were recently discovered in unmarked graves at residential boarding schools across Canada and those yet to be brought home in the United States.

Please call Jess Gilotte-King at 906-632-1808 or message at [facebook.com/saulttribeARC](https://www.facebook.com/saulttribeARC) to volunteer. **Miigwech!**



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# Red Road to D.C. visited Mackinaw City

BY RICK SMITH

Members of the Red Road to D.C. entourage stopped in Mackinaw City, Mich., with a 25-foot, 5,000-pound totem pole in tow while making their way across the country from their Lummi Nation homelands in the Puget Sound area of Washington state to Washington, D.C. The totem was carved by the House of Tears Carvers to commemorate sites sacred to Indigenous people, according to an advisory from the Bay Mills Indian Community, who hosted the visit.

Totem poles, have long been carved from western red cedar tree trunks by Indigenous people of the Pacific Northwest region from southeast Alaska through British Columbia, Canada, into Washington state. The painted poles are a way of communicating ancestral clans, significant events, legends, some other messages and serve a few other functions.

The Red Road to D.C. group left home on July 14 with an estimated arrival in Washington, D.C., of July 29. They scheduled stops at sites of battles over land and water rights in Snake River, Idaho; Bears Ears, Utah; Chaco Canyon, N.M.; Black Hills, S.D.; Missouri River, S.D.; Standing Rock, N.D.; and White Earth, Minn., before arriving in Mackinaw City, which was their last stop before Washington, D.C.

Upon arriving in the nation's capital, the organization present-



Photo by Rick Smith

**The Red Road to D.C. totem pole on trailer during a visit in Mackinaw City on July 27 on its way to Washington, D.C., for delivery to federal officials.**

ed the totem pole to Department of the Interior Secretary Debra Haaland in recognition of the Biden administration's actions on land and water protection as well as serving as a symbolic reminder of the federal government's treaty obligations to Indian Country.

According to the Red Road to D.C. organization, the pole carries the spirits of the visited lands and the power and prayers of the communities along the way – ultimately delivering the prayers, power and demands to the Biden-Harris administration and Congress. After a reception by federal officials and tribal organizations, the pole is eventually to be placed on exhibit at the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian.

Judith LeBlanc, director of the Native Organizers Alliance, one

of the Red Road to D.C. sponsors, is cited on the organization's website, "The Lummi Carvers are offering their totem pole as a way to gather the prayers and hopes of many different tribal nations, to bring people together and help each area and tribal nation understand they are not alone. That collectively, by building and utilizing the power of our prayers and our beliefs and our hopes and our organizing, we are able to make transformational change happen."

Indeed, somewhere around 150 to 200 folks at the Mackinaw City stop were invited to register their names in a show of support and infuse the pole with their spiritual hopes to take along in its journey.

Regional tribal leaders who spoke at the function included Bay Mills Indian Community

Council Chairwoman Whitney Gravelle, Sault Tribe Board Chairperson Aaron Payment and others from the Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians, Grand Traverse Bay Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, and the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians. Most of the focus was on the controversial Enbridge Line 5 threat to the area waters, treaty rights, importance of voting and putting "unity in community" – bringing tribes nationwide together for common causes.

Members of the Lummi Nation involved with the House of Tears Carvers and the Red Road to D.C. journey also spoke at the gathering, mostly urging the "unity in community" concept of tribal nations across the country joining together for common causes.

Two of the speakers, elders

Doug James and Siamel Wit, spoke about the totem pole, some Indian Country statistics and other matters. James is the brother of the House of Tears Carvers lead carver, Jewell James. Lummi Nation member Phreddie Lane spoke at length on several topics and acted as the master of ceremonies for the function.

The House of Tears Carvers first totem pole journey came about following the Sept. 11, 2001, calamity in New York City. The journeys turned into annual functions starting in 2013, traveling to tribal and non-tribal communities throughout the country under threat of destructive fossil fuel extraction and environmental degradation. The organization now has about 70 partners and 20 sponsors to aid in its efforts.

More at [www.redroadtodc.org](http://www.redroadtodc.org).

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# Annual business conference conducted on Aug. 6

BY RICK SMITH

Pure Michigan Business Connect and the Sault Tribe Business Alliance sponsored the 2021 Tribal Member-Owned Business Conference on Aug. 6 at the Kewadin Casino and Convention Center in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.

Pure Michigan Business Connect is a component of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, it is a free service that brings Michigan businesses together with local, national and global companies for supply chain sourcing, investment and partnership opportunities.

The Sault Tribe Business Alliance operates under the Sault Tribe Economic Development Corporation (EDC), it is a member-driven organization promoting business education and advocacy while acting as an information hub to connect businesses owned by Sault Tribe members in a network for a variety of functions in developing

businesses.

In all of the matters discussed at the conference, a focus seemed to be placed on opportunities and advantages Sault Tribe members could employ through the organizations and associated entities to enable them to start or maintain successful businesses. At one point, the advantages were described as a launch pad for small businesses. Aside from building more prosperity, one idea behind growing businesses among members is it would promote growth of the alliance.

So where do Sault Tribe members start if they want to investigate going into business with help from the tribe and state? One should visit the Sault Tribe Thrive website at [www.saulttribethrive.com](http://www.saulttribethrive.com) to get acquainted. Sault Tribe Thrive is a grant-funded entity is described as a one-stop-shop for all things to do with business. It details business resources unique to businesses owned by Sault Tribe members, including tax info,

## 2021 Conference focused on golden opportunities and advantages for Sault Tribe members who own their own businesses or harbor entrepreneurial dreams.

strategic advantages of partnering with the tribe, support network contacts and maps of all the tax agreement areas and trust lands, directory of businesses owned by Sault Tribe members, news and insights on economic opportunities and more.

If someone needs to a person to contact, David Lockhart, director of business development at Sault Tribe Thrive, develops, coordinates and conducts outreach to Sault Tribe members who own businesses and facilitates training on the benefits of members to open firms on the tribe's trust lands in its service area. He also helps tribal entrepreneurs worldwide. Lockhart can be reached either through (906) 635-6050 or via email at [dlockhart@saulttribe.net](mailto:dlockhart@saulttribe.net).

"The Sault Tribe Thrive initiative forms the foundation for the Sault Tribe EDC's outreach and intake efforts around business development and aims to foster an environment of entrepreneurship among tribal members and help member-owned businesses access the resources they need to grow and thrive," said Lockhart.

Sault Tribe Business Alliance Chairman Bill Pemble, president of DreamCatchers Consulting, LLC, opened the conference with an overview of the organization and introductions. He was followed by Tanya Markos-Vanno of the Pure Michigan Business Connect and Tom Durkee of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, both of whom spoke of small business supplier-buyer matchmaking and

resources through their respective organizations. Lockhart spoke on small business resources available through the Sault Tribe Economic Development Corporation, and Sault Tribe Economic Development Corporation Executive Director Joel Schultz explored how Sault Tribe members can help businesses grow.

An interactive discussion took place between a panel of a half-dozen alliance business leaders and those in attendance in which years of business experiences were shared along with suggestions for meeting challenges. Members of the panel consisted of folks in a variety of business concerns from a NASA supplier to a home health care firm.

David Goudreau of Northern Wings Repair based in Newberry, Mich., was awarded the 2021 Business of the Year Award for his involvement with the alliance and his contributions in advancing objectives.



Photos by Rick Smith

From left, Northern Wings Repair Operations Manager Chris Burger, Northern Wings Repair Owner David Goudreau and Sault Tribe Business Alliance President Bill Pemble. Goudreau is receiving the alliance's Business of the Year Award from Pemble. Northern Wings Repair is a multi-award winning firm based in Newberry, Mich., that manufactures parts for aerospace concerns.



People socializing just before the start of the conference while others get registered.



A panel consisting of folks with many years of experiences in different fields discussed a variety of business matters with attendees. From left, Josh McCoy, Breanna McCoy, Scott LaVictor, Rick Schmidt, Goudreau and Sandy Griggs.

# Drums beat again at Sugar Island powwow



Folks in the eastern Upper Peninsula had their first chance to enjoy a powwow since the COVID-19 restrictions went into effect early last year. Once again, they observed traditions and enjoyed good times with family, friends and others. While conditions and predictability of other powwows remain uncertain with the rise of the highly contagious COVID-19 variant Delta virus, the 24th annual Sugar Island Powwow and Gathering over July 17-18 brought one opportunity.



Beaming happiness.



An opportunity for education.



Lifting those feet.



Swaying to the drum.



Swinging in the circle.

Photos by Rick Smith



Joining in the dancing circle.



Dancing and contributing percussion with bells.

# Tug Captain Joseph Henry Leask family history

BY DOLORES HALL AND KEVIN C. BROOKS

Joseph Henry Leask— 1863-1939.

The year is 1905. The small boat made its way up the St. Mary's River. A steady hand and practiced eye steered the craft through the Little Rapids cut heading for the ferry dock. Joseph Leask had been plying his trade as a tug captain for some time. He knew the river and lakes between the Sault and the DeTour passage like he knew his own farm field. He knew where the stumps and boulders lay just below ground as he plowed, and he knew every sandbar and obstacle in the river. He had proved his worth as a boy of 17 in one of the island saw mills and he proved his worth on the river.

Joseph's father Henry had captained a sloop in the Orkney Islands off the northeast coast of Scotland when he was propositioned by the Hudson Bay Company. A new schooner was being built and it needed a master. The catch was, it was being built in the new world. In 1837, Henry set sail for St. James Bay and the Moose River, then by portage and overland to Michipicoten on the north coast of Lake Superior. After two years as a company man 25 year old Henry was chaffing and anxious to be his own man on the lakes. He was released from service at St. Mary's where he made his way to Sugar Island, married into a Native family, and raised his children.

Now, as Joseph reached out for the dock pylon he saw his wife Annie on the bank holding their one year old daughter Pearl. Annie always came to the dock to walk Joseph home. She was pregnant. This time the doctor was certain it would be a boy. After six girls a boy would be nice. As usual Annie was accompanied by their neighbors; a Native family who kept her company on her walks to the dock. "Boozhoo, mino dibikad." Joseph nodded to them. He and Annie felt lucky to have such friends nearby. Joseph would feel that appreciation again in the near future. He took Pearl in his arms while Annie grabbed his coat and lunch pail. The sun was beginning to set behind them as they headed back to their farm.

The doctor held the newborn out for her to see. "Annie... Annie," the doctor said with quiet firmness, "Annie, you have to calm down. It's Ok." Annie was inconsolable. She was supposed to have a boy! Annie's body was wracked with spasms first



Leask family collage. See more information in article.

from the birth exertions and then from the emotional disappointment. Joseph loved his girls but she knew he was hoping... Still sweating and drained from the birth Annie couldn't stop crying if she wanted to. Spasms continued to rock her frame causing a hemorrhage that could not be stopped. Slowly her crying grew quiet and was replaced by the needful crying of Joseph's seventh daughter. The doctor stood over the deathbed in quiet shock, slowly rocking the crying baby girl.

Joe was quiet and soft-spoken, and he loved his girls. He received lots of help with the girls after the death of his Annie, though he discouraged any talk of splitting them up among family. Pearl was virtually raised by the Indian family next door; so much so that she didn't really speak much English until her teen years. Baby Rose was raised by Joe's sister Jane but died of TB when she was five. The family wondered if Annie didn't have Tuberculosis at the time of her death. Lavina, (the oldest) died at 17 in 1909 of the black measles. Lena died at 24 in 1922 of T.B. one year after marrying Bill Quinn the local baker. Joe still captained a tug out of DeTour and the girls worked the farm. Cows needed to be tended, crops planted and harvested, canning, churning. Pearl learned how to make "Boo-da" ("boudin," French) blood sausage, Joseph slaughtered a pig, collecting the blood which Pearl boiled for hours over an open fire outside adding suet, herbs and spices, meat, along with other ingredients



Leask family members maintain the cemetery where their family is buried.

discovered until 1928 and people died of very common problems in today's standards.

Joe and his girls lived their lives like many others of their time; with grit. They lived and thrived with a tenacity that brought them through the tough times and helped them to find joy and laughter in the hard life. Joseph Henry Leask passed away in 1939 at 75 years old. His surviving daughters grew to adulthood and married. Pearl married Russell Payment and had many children. Marna McGahey and Russell Payment Jr., both of the Sault, Gary Payment of Minnesota, and Delores Payment Hall of New Baltimore, Mich., are the surviving children born to Pearl and Russ. They recount the family history here as it was told to them, and they are elders of the tribe.

#### Notes from Dolores:

Here is the picture of Joseph



Leask (See family collage above left). Sad that all our old pictures were burned in a house fire on sugar Island; my sister, 8 years of age, died from this fire. So, this is all I am able to share.

Jane Leask (bottom in light blouse) had only one daughter Marion, and she married Dennis Roy; the family lives in Sault Ste. Marie, they are the only other descendance of of Joseph Leask. The girl to left, died at the age of five, this is the only picture I had of her. she died from TB.

Gramma Ann is standing near St. Mary's River looking out to the boat that grandpa Joe Leask was getting out from. She walked there often to walk home with him.

Joseph died a year before I was born.

Life struggles, leaves us all with much love and a beautiful out-look of life. Life goes on.



## From Lake to Table

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**Tuesday, August 24,  
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**Niigaanagiizhik**

**Ceremonial Building,  
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*The lake gives us the good life and good food.*



Joe Leask and daughters coming from Sugar Island, Mich.

# Walking on

## ANTHONY JACOB. GOKEY

Anthony Jacob "AJ" Gokey, 24, of Louisville, Ky., and formerly of Bowling Green, Ky., passed away from injuries sustained in a vehicle accident on July 1, 2021.



He was born on May 9, 1997 in Glendale, Ariz., to Lena Gokey. AJ attended St. Joseph Catholic School for grade school and graduated from Bowling Green High School, where he was a member of the choir and played varsity football, contributing to two state championships. He attended Western Kentucky University for a short time before meeting his wife, Madeline, and moving to Louisville, where they were married and were raising their two sons.

AJ was a remarkable father, provider and protector. His sons were his pride and joy, and he was deeply loved by his family and friends. He was known for his unwavering opinions and constant desire for knowledge and answers. He was a proud member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and spent many summers in northern Michigan, where he enjoyed fishing with his grandfather and always planned to spend his final years.

AJ is survived by his loving wife, Madeline Claire (Miller) Gokey; sons, Charles Gary Gokey and Benjamin Allen Gokey; mother, Lena Marie Gokey-Almendarez; step-father, Dorian Almendarez; father, James "Jim" Smith; siblings, Anna Catherine Smith, Zachary Smith, Heather Shields (Evan), Justin Smith and Zachary Almendarez (Katlynn); mother-in-law, Christy Miller; father-in-law, Frank Miller, Jr. (Rae Williams); sister-in-law Elizabeth Miller; brother-in-law, Colson Miller; grandparents, Elaine A. Gokey, Gary Allen and Elaine J. Gokey, Dora and John Piskor, Molly Schnieder; uncles, Chris Gokey, Gary "Sonny" Gokey, Rene Almendarez (Jennifer) and Chris Almendarez; nephews, Gavin, Jed, Arlowe, Shepherd; niece, Ellie Grace; many cousins; and his biological father, Anthony Schnieder.

A memorial Mass and visitation took place on July 7, 2021, at Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Bowling Green. Visitation also took place on July 16 at Newcomer Cremations, Funerals and Receptions East Chapel in Louisville, Ky. His funeral service took place on July 17 at the Chapel in the Woods in Louisville. His ashes will be buried at Bliss Cemetery in Bliss, Mich., at a later date.

Contributions in AJ's memory may be made to the trust fund for his sons, Charlie and Benjamin Gokey, at the South Central Bank, 1757 Campbell Lane, Bowling Green, Ky. 42104.

## DAVID R. LAVAKE

David Russell LaVake, 79, of St. Ignace, Mich., died on Aug.

1, 2021, in Sault Ste. Marie. He was born in St. Ignace on June 30, 1942, to Franklin Chester and Mary Ann (Owens) LaVake.

David grew up in St. Ignace and graduated from LaSalle High School. He met his wife, Rita Robbins, while they were both in high school and they married on Oct. 27, 1962, at the St. Ignatius Loyola Catholic Church. He spent 20 years working at Proctor and Gamble as a line worker. He spent his older years working at the Kewadin Casino as a slot machine technician.

David enjoyed fishing in his spare time. Most of all, he loved all sports. He never missed the opportunity to watch his children and grandchildren play.

David is survived by his wife, Rita; children, Loni (Matthew) LaJoyce of St. Ignace and Darren (Angelique) LaVake of Hessel, Mich.; grandchildren, Krista (Andy) Tamlyn, Morgan (Jamin) LaVake, David LaVake, Ryan LaVake, Kelly Perrault and Joshua LaJoyce; great-grandchildren, Gracia, Rayden, Joyanna, Talise, Jordy and Cayde; and sister, Ilene Moses of St. Ignace.

David was preceded in death by his parents, Franklin and Mary; sister, JoAnn Congee; great-grandson, Louis St. Andrew; and aunt, Eileen Owens.

A graveside memorial service will be held at Brevort Township Cemetery on Aug. 28, 2021, at noon, to be followed by a celebration of life at 2 p.m. at the Coast Guard Park in St. Ignace.

Galer Dodson Funeral Home and Cremation in St. Ignace is serving the family. Condolences may be sent to the family at [www.rgalerfuneralhome.com](http://www.rgalerfuneralhome.com).

## FREDRICK J. MONGENE

Fredrick Joseph Mongene of Racoon, Mich., aged 90, passed away on July 28, 2021, in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. He was born on Jan. 14, 1931, in Sault Ste. Marie to Joseph and Anna (Brown) Mongene.

Fred worked for the State of Michigan for the Department of Corrections in the Maintenance Department until his retirement in 1993, he also worked for the U.S. Forest Service until 2003.

Fred is preceded in death by his wife, Virginia Vassar Mongene; his son, George Mongene; his parents, Anna and Joseph Mongene; and siblings, Loretta Miller, Lorraine Miller, Eleanor Germain, Beatrice Willis, Dorothy Suggitt, Frank Mongene, Joseph Mongene Jr. and Kenneth Mongene.

Fred is survived by his children, Allan (Sarah) Mongene, Elizabeth (Michael) Trimm, Donna (Jeff) Smith, Eleanor (Gene) Swartz, Mark Vassar, Ken Mongene and one other daughter; 13 grandchildren; seven



great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandson on the way, arrives in late September 2021; and many nieces and nephews.

No services were conducted and burial is at Hillcrest Cemetery in Racoon.

## TIMOTHY J. SHAGEN

Timothy James Shagen, born on June 5, 1951, passed away peacefully on July 25, 2021, at War Memorial Hospital after a strong battle with cancer.

Tim loved to fish and spend time with his grandsons.

Tim leaves behind his wife of 26 years and 50 years together, Raydella Shagen; one brother, Del Shagen; two sisters-in-law, Lucy Kirkpatrick and Linda Tadgerson; and several grandsons, Cris, Orion and Drake, all of Sault Ste Marie.

Tim was preceded in death by his father, Clifford Peter Shagen; mother Rita (Shagen) Thibault; brothers, Clifford Paul Shagen, Lawrence Albert "Larry" Shagen; and sisters, Mary Louise Shagen and Mary Eloise (Shagen) Thomas.

There will be no funeral per Tim's request. Arrangements are in the care of C.S. Mulder Funeral Home and Cremation Services. Condolences may be left online at [www.csmulder.com](http://www.csmulder.com).

## THOMAS W. STAFFORD JR.

Thomas W. Stafford Jr., was born in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.,



on Nov. 8, 1927, to Thomas and Mae (McGowan) Stafford. He passed away on July 21, 2021, in Muskegon.

Tom married the former Ethel (Mickey) Fenner in Muskegon on Sept. 1, 1950. He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II and the Korean Conflict. During July 1946, Tom was a participant in the first post-Hiroshima blasts "Operation Crossroads" off Bikini Atoll in the South Pacific. Tom served a total of 20 years including his years in the Naval Reserve, for his country.

Tom was self-employed as an air conditioning and refrigeration contractor and worked as a pipefitter with Local 174 West Michigan Plumbers and Fitters. Tom was past commander of the VFW Don Rea Post 8846 and Disabled American Veterans of Muskegon Chapter 11. He served on the honor guard for Muskegon County and Don Rea Post. He was proud to be an elder with the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. Tom was a past member of the Muskegon Rotary

Club and Muskegon Elks Club. He was an active and involved member in the Masonic Temple – Muskegon Lodge, past president of the Muskegon Shrine Club, Shrine Clown Unit, Royal Order of Jesters, Commandry 22, and Knights Temple. Tom was also past president of "The Old Newsies." He loved deer hunting and fishing. After slowing down in his later years, you could often find him at "Little River Casino."

He is survived by his loving wife, Ethel, of 70 years; beloved children, Tom and Mai Stafford, Debra (Lynn) Mosier, and Diana (David) Timmer; grandchildren, Linda Stafford, Katie Reeves, Meredith (Henry) Muehlhausen, Tammy (Freddy) Buitron, Lydia Rodriguez, Dylan Timmer and Davis (Annie) Timmer; six great grandchildren; brothers, Samuel and Raymond; sisters, Evelyn Blondeau, Maebelle (Arlen) Brooks and Carolyn Thiele; and many beloved nieces, nephews and cousins.

Tom was preceded in death by his parents, Tom and Mae Stafford of Hart, Mich.; two brothers, Charles and Clarence Stafford; and two sisters, Pauline Moll and Linda Shepherd.

A memorial service was conducted on July 26, 2021, at Lake-ton Bethel Reformed Church with Dr. Sherwin Brantsen officiating. Memorial contributions in Tom's name to the Harbor Hospice Foundation will be appreciated.

Share memories with the family online at [www.sytsemafh.com](http://www.sytsemafh.com). Arrangements by The Lee Chapel of Sytsema Funeral and Cremation Services, Norton Shores, Mich.

## BASEL G. WILLIS

Basel George Willis, age 92, of Barbeau, Mich., walked on July 31, 2021, at the hospice house in Sault Ste Marie, Mich. He was born on Nov. 23, 1928, on Neebish Island, Mich., to the late Joseph Nolan Sr. and Doris Willis.

On Jan. 13, 1962, he married Betty Krull of Sault Ste. Marie. Basel enjoyed the outdoors and loved his Native culture and teaching others about it. He loved spending time with his family and friends. He was a member of the Holy Family Catholic Church and the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

Basel is survived by sons, Rod (Rene'e) Hutte of Sault Ste Marie, Jack (Carol) Hutte of White Pine, Mich., David (Diane) Hutte of Park Falls, Wis.; daughters, Christine Moran of Sault Ste. Marie, Barbara Parker and Janice Whitten of Kincheloe, Mich.; numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren; sister, Marsha Willis of Sault Ste Marie; brothers, Melvin (Judy) of Millington Mich., Duane Willis of Dayton Ohio and Joseph Nolan of Sault Ste. Marie; and several nieces and nephews.

Basel was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Betty; par-

ents, Joseph Nolan Sr. and Doris Willis; sisters, Zalia Frazier and Jeanette Alstergren; brother, Edward (EJ) Willis Sr.; daughter, Cheryl Mahoney; and son-in-law, Tom Moran.

At Basel's request, there was a fire and a feast in Hessel, Mich. He chose to be cremated and will have a burial at a later time at Pine Grove Cemetery.

The family thanks the staff at the hospice house for all their help and caring over the last 10 months. Arrangements are in the care of C.S. Mulder Funeral Home and Cremation Services. Condolences may be left online at [www.csmulder.com](http://www.csmulder.com).

## Announcements

### Manistique seniors

The Sault Tribe Youth Education and Activities (YEA) Program in Manistique seeks an elder to join the staff in a part-time position. The job entails helping youngsters with crafts and homework, chaperoning activities, field trips and outings, ensuring safety of youth, help tutor with homework labs, prepare snacks, help with cleaning and basic office tasks.

Applicants must be Sault Tribe members aged 60 or over and reside in the tribe's service area. Must pass a criminal background investigation and pre-employment drug test. Must be able to travel.

Position is open until filled. Reply to WIOA/Senior Employment Program, Attn: Brenda Cadreau, 2 Ice Circle, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 or call (906) 635-4767.

### WIOA Program

Sault Tribe's WIOA Program is accepting applications for the Work Experience Program.

Eligibility requirements: Must be Native American aged 16 to 21 and reside in the seven-county service area.

If interested in applying for after school employment, applications may be picked up at the WIOA office at 2 Ice Circle in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., or by contacting Brenda Cadreau at (906) 635-4767 or via email at [bcadreau@saulttribe.net](mailto:bcadreau@saulttribe.net).

Deadline to apply is Sept. 17, 2021.

### Training opportunities

The Sault Tribe 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 eligibility requirements and be a resident of the service area.

Apply at WIOA at Chi Mukwa Community Recreation Center in Sault Ste. Marie, or call Brenda Cadreau at 635-4767 for more information.



# Sault Tribe Thrive Business Directory

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

**If you have not already please check out our new website and social media sites at <https://saulttribethrive.com> and <https://www.facebook.com/saulttribethrive>.**

**Sault Tribe Thrive Office: [Info@saulttribethrive.com](mailto:Info@saulttribethrive.com), (906) 635-6050, ext. 26121.**

Above The Bridge Outdoors Morgan Gelinas Curtis, MI 49820 (906) 287-0903 abovethebridgeoutdoors@gmail.com www.abovethebridgeoutdoors.com RV Rentals to help experience the Upper Peninsula outdoors.	Benoit's Glass and Lock Rick Benoit Escanaba, MI 49829 (906) 786-5281 benoitglass@gmail.com Glass repair shop and locksmith.	(906) 643-9578 thecedarsmotel@aol.com Motel.	(906) 495-2800 tgermain@saulttribe.net Property management company.	Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 440-4457 dawn@franksplace.biz Restaurant.
A Little Golden Studio Kaitlin Lenhard Lansing, MI 48826 (616) 902-0191 alittlegoldenstudio@gmail.com Photography/video and handmade gifts.	Blondeau Construction Matthew Blondeau Marquette, MI 49855 (906) 362-6288 mattblondeau@gmail.com Residential construction company.	Clear From Here Jennifer Jesperson North Hollywood, CA 91601 (818) 415-9025 jennifer.jesperson@mac.com Music clearance and consulting for film/television. CompHoppers Vickie Griggs Livingston, TX 77399 (337) 739-3664 comphoppers@comphoppers.com Travel agency bookings and training.	Derusha Construction David Derusha Ashland, WI 54806 (715) 730-0734 Derushaconstruction@yahoo.com Construction. Dream Catchers Consulting LLC Bill Pemble Williamston, MI 48895 (517) 243-2877 pemblew@gmail.com Business IT maintenance and management.	General Contractor Fred Sliger Trout Creek, MI 49967 (906) 852-3232 fredsliger@jamadots.com General contractor.
Allegra Roger Leask Traverse City, MI 49686 (231) 632-4448 roger@allegratc.com Marketing print mail.	Blondeau Properties Matthew Blondeau Marquette, MI 49855 (906) 362-6288 mattblondeau@gmail.com Home rentals, storage units and an Air BnB.	Contain-A-Pet of EUP LLC Melinda Menard Dafer, MI 49724 (906) 290-0478 capofeup@yahoo.com Electronic pet fencing and dog training.	Dress Up and Tuxedo Jody Bugay Escanaba, MI 49829 (906) 789-9796 Jody@dressup906.com Clothing outlet.	Geo Shelter Michael DiAngelo Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6A5A8 (705) 542-7208 mdiangelo@geoshelter.ca Steel homes and buildings.
American Dream Builders Gary Vallier Kalamazoo, MI 49009 (269) 365-1969 garyadbslm@hotmail.com Construction.	Bloom Co. Maddie Lockhart Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 205-0275 shop@bloomcosault.com Online floral designing for every day, events and weddings.	Cottage UP Thomas Clark St. Ignace, MI 49781 (906) 298-2298 cottageup@outlook.com Vintage home decor retail store.	Eagle HVAC Services LLC Bryan Goudreau Garden, MI 49835 (906) 450-0408 groundsourcehtg@gmail.com Residential/commercial heating/cooling service and installation.	Gitche Gumees Handcrafted Jewelry Gina Harmon Newberry, MI 49868 (906) 293-3625 ginavgc@gmail.com <a href="https://www.lakesuperiorpendants.com/">https://www.lakesuperiorpendants.com/</a> Handcrafted Lake Superior agate, stone and fossil pendants.
Anchor Systems LLC Fredrick Carr Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (202) 306-1365 frederick.t.carr@gmail.com Computer security service.	Bonacci Contracting Carmine Bonacci Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 632-1425 Bonacci10@gmail.com Construction.	Creative Change Alan Barr Manistique, MI 49854 (906) 286-1922 alanb@creativechange.org Communication/job performance services.	Eagle's Dream Rachel Mandelstamm Greensboro, NC 47406 (989) 385-2129 eaglesdream2@yahoo.com <a href="https://www.facebook.com/eaglesdream2">https://www.facebook.com/eaglesdream2</a> Authentic native handmade dream catchers, quilting, crochet and knitted items.	Gitchi Enterprises Mike Brown Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 203-4491 mikeborwnsells@gmail.com Used car/mobile home dealer.
AndersonMedia906 Noah Anderson Grand Rapids, MI 49501 (906) 440-2238 <a href="https://www.noahandersonmedia.com/">https://www.noahandersonmedia.com/</a> A Michigan based content creator.	Burnside Creations Lisa Burnside Hessel, MI 49745 (906) 430-7323 Burnsidecreations1@gmail.com Handmade crafts.	Creative Memories Janet Hess Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 630-3878 jhess4cm@hotmail.com <a href="https://www.creativememories.com/user/JanetHess">https://www.creativememories.com/user/JanetHess</a> Scrapbook supplies - albums, decorative paper, embellishments, tools, etc.	Eagle Specialties, LLC Taryn Sulkes Detroit, MI 48227 (313) 638-6640 Ext 1 taryn@es.us.com <a href="https://es-us.com/">https://es-us.com/</a> Specialties supplier/Sub contractor	Great Lakes Roofing & Insulation Systems Inc. Craig Miller Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 647-2916 info@greatlakesroofing.com <a href="http://greatlakesroofing.com/">http://greatlakesroofing.com/</a> Commercial Roofing & Insulation Systems
Arbor Insight Scott Lavictor Ann Arbor, MI 48104 (734) 992-7267 Consulting Services	C.H. Marine Services Chris Hank Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 203-6396 chmarineservices@gmail.com Boat repair services.	Credence HR Michael DiAngelo Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6A5A8 (705) 542-7208 michael@credence.ca Management consulting.	Everson's Furnishings Jimmy Everson St. Ignace, MI 49781 (906) 643-7751 info@eversonsfurniture.com Residential and commercial furniture.	Greene Environmental Services Mike Greene Livonia, MI 48154 (734) 272-8434 mgreene@greeneenvironmentalservices.com Asbestos abatement services.
Barbeaux Fisheries Paul Barbeaux DeTour Village, MI 49725 (906) 297-5969 barbeauxfish@gmail.com Fishing.	Carrow Super Market Edward Carrow Farwell, MI 48622 (989) 588-2965 eddie2toes@hotmail.com Super market.	Crooked Music Zac Crook Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 259-7400 crookedmusicstore@gmail.com Music lessons and instrument sales.	Farmhouse Restaurant Patty Basse Gould City, MI 49838 (906) 286-9763 jbasse2112@yahoo.com Restaurant.	Hakola Logging Tate Hakola Rudyard, MI 49780 (906) 440-0842 Cuts, splits, delivers firewood.
Bay Area Demo Pros Kristopher Wood Interlochen, MI 49683 (231) 709-5895 bayareademopros@gmail.com <a href="https://northernmichigan-demolition.com/northern-michigan-demolition">https://northernmichigan-demolition.com/northern-michigan-demolition</a> Demolitions and debris removal.	Caster Construction Ed Caster Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 635-3550 elcasterconstruction@gmail.com Construction.	D & S Custom Upholstery Dwayne Lehn Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 748-1047 dwaynel91@gmail.com Custom upholstery.	Feathers Upholstery LLC Emily McGeary Escanaba, MI 49829 (906) 446-3406 mce Emily451@gmail.com Sewing repair shop residential and commercial.	Hakola Porta John & Rental Tony Hakola Cedarville, MI 49719 (906) 484-6202 tonyhakola@hotmail.com Rental of porta johns and tents.
Bay Pharmacy Douglas Goudreau St. Ignace, MI 49781 (906) 643-7725 bayrxsi@gmail.com Pharmaceuticals and prescriptions.	Castle of Wood Nick and Matt DePlonty Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 748-0739 nickdeplonty@gmail.com <a href="https://www.facebook.com/castleofwood">https://www.facebook.com/castleofwood</a> Custom woodwork and various crafts.	Dance of the Sun Day Spa Dawn Cremeans Marquette, MI 49855 (906) 249-9084 hello@danceofthesun.com www.danceofthesun.com The holistic approach to personal care and wellness.	Floor Masters Art Derry Dafer, MI 49724 (906) 322-0252 art.derry@yahoo.com Flooring and carpet.	Hand Trucking Andrew Garvin Mount Pleasant, TX 75455 (469) 403-5930 persevere12@yahoo.com We provide vacuum truck services to oil companies.
Belonga Plumbing and Heating Steven Paquin, St. Ignace, MI, 49781 (906) 643-9595 lbelonga@sbcglobal.net Residential and commercial plumbing.	Cedar's Motel Tim or Kathy St. Ignace, MI 49781	DeMawating Development Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783	Franks Place Dawn Bumstead	Herbal Lodge Nathan Wright Petoskey, MI 49770 (231) 622-9063 native14u@yahoo.com Herbal medicines, treatments.

<b>From "Thrive," page 16</b> Hilltop Bar/Restaurant Brandon/Tracy McKerchie Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 259-2621 mckerchiebrandon@yahoo.com Restaurant.  Horn's Odds and Ends Irene Horn St. Ignace, MI 49781 (906) 984-2189 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 Boat props and small metal working projects.  Irwin Group LLC Mitch Irwin Lansing, MI 48826 (517) 896 6875 irwinmitch@gmail.com Business development, investment and consulting.  ISHPI Earl Bowers Suffolk, VA 23435 (757) 809-2302 info@ishpi.net Cyber protection service company.  Iversons Outdoors Jim Baker Munising, MI 49862 (906) 452-6370 baker.jimr@gmail.com Handcrafted traditional snowshoes.  IvyTek Inc. Sandy Griggs Jacksonville, FL 32245 (337) 212-0994 sales@ivytek.com Loan management software services.  JETA Corporation Linda Grow Neenah, WI 54956 (888) 380-0805 lgrow@jetacorp.com Distribution.  Kings Fish Market Sally Shultz Naubinway, MI 49762 (906) 477-6311 benschultz3134@gmail.com Fish, gifts and sporting goods.  Kings Fish Robert King Naubinway, MI 49762 (906) 477-6282 Wholesale.  Lajoie Trucking Service and Freight Marty Lajoie Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 647-3209 ltsf1@yahoo.com Trucking.  Lockview Amy Goetz Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49784 (906) 632-2772 lockview2019@gmail.com Restaurant.  Long Ships Motel Scott Albon	Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906)748-0589 scotty_joce@yahoo.com Motel.  Ludington Outdoor Services Caleb Bowman Ludington, MI 49431 (231) 690-1002 calebbowman1982@gmail.com Landscaping and tree removal.  M&M Fishing Lynn Rickley St. Ignace, MI 49781 (906) 984-3209 Fishing company.  Mackinaw Trail Winery Laurie Stabile Petoskey, MI 49970 (231) 487-1910 stabilelaurie@gmail.com Winery.  Manley's Famous Smoked Fish Don Wright St. Ignace, MI 49781 (906) 430 0937 https://www.facebook.com/Manleysfishmarket/ Fish market.  Mark and Sons Plumbing and Heating Lewis Mullins St. Ignace, MI 49781 (906) 643-9597 markandsonsp@gmail.com Plumbing/heating/HVAC.  Massey Fish Co. Jamie Massey St. Ignace, MI 49781 (906) 984-2148 masseysfish@hotmail.com Fish market.  Matson's Fisheries Katy Matson Munising, MI 49862 (906) 202-0025 matsonfish@yahoo.com Fish market.  McGahey Construction Randall McGahey Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 632-4272 ashmuncreek@sbcglobal.net Construction.  McCabes Flooring Bill McCabe Marquette, MI 49855 (906) 228-8821 mccabesflooring@aol.com Flooring.  Medical Arts Optical Melanie Cook Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 632-2289 melaniebea@aol.com Glasses and hearing aids.  Mesick Market Carl Brasseur Mesick, MI 49668 (231) 885-1030 carlbrasseur@gmail.com Full line grocery store (Spartan Brand).  MI Playground Andy/Nick Behling Jensen, MI 49428 (616) 201-8731 contact@enjoymiplayground.com Digital media production.  Mid-American Title Amy Goetz Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 379-9555 amy@mid-americanitle.com Title agency.	MidJim Convenience Store Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 635-4782 jmacdonald@saulttribe.net. Convenience store.  MidJim Convenience Store St. Ignace, MI 49781 (906) 643-9906 jmacdonald@saulttribe.net. Convenience store.  Mike's Garage Mike Cook Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 635-5755 mikemike1962@hotmail.com Vehicle repair shop.  Moofinfries Laura Flatt Naubinway, MI 49762 (906) 630-6932 Moofinfries@gmail.com https://www.facebook.com/moofinfries/  Moore Trosper Ted Moore Holt, MI 48842 (517) 694-6310 tmoore@mooretrosper.com Construction.  Mountainside Apartments Marrijo Beckman Boyne Falls, MI 49713 (231) 330-1992 mjobeckman1@gmail.com Rental apartments.  Mountainside Grille Marrijo Beckman Boyne Falls, MI 49713 (231) 330-1992 mjobeckman1@gmail.com Restaurant.  Mullenbrock and Associates Craig Mullenbrock Piqua, OH 45356 (937) 773-8500 craig.w.mullenbrock@ampf.com A private wealth advisory practice.  Muscotts Painting James Muscott Petoskey, MI 49770 (231) 342-7055 jamesmuscott@hotmail.com Painting, residential and commercial.  National Painting Contractors (MBE) LLC James McClusky Kincheloe, MI 49788 (828) 929-1395 nationalpaintingcontractors@gmail.com Commercial and residential painting.  Native American Church of Turtle Island David Gaskin Redding, CA 96001 (906)-256-0062 davidgaskin4@gmail.com https://www.nacturtleisland.org/ Helping to develop Indigenous communities.  Native Steel Welding & Fab Trystan Ferris Moran, MI 49760 (906) 430-7816 nativesteelwelding@gmail.com Here for your welding and repair needs.  Natures Cure Joel Halloran Cedar Springs, MI 49319 (616) 970-8016 hallorjo@mail.gvsu.edu www.naturescurestore.com	Online store selling natural herbs.  NMK Consulting Charlee Brissette Dafter, MI 49724 (906) 630-3082 cnbrissette@gmail.com Consulting services for Indigenous health and wellness education, individual or organization.  Nontrivial Solutions LLC James Bearden Oklahoma City, OK 73137 (405) 698-3702 james@nontrivial.net Health care system software management.  Northern Hospitality Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 635-4800 smckerchie@saulttribe.net Flooring service and furniture sales.  Northern Wings David Goudreau Newberry, MI 49868 (906) 477-6176 dave@northernwings.com https://northernwings.com Aerospace and national defense manufacturer.  Ogitchidaa LLC Ann Dailey Holt, MI 48842 (906) 322-2716 ann@companyk.us Military/law enforcement training.  Ojibwe Hazardous Abatement Rob Arndt Escanaba, MI 49729 (906) 786-3001 robarndt95@gmail.com Asbestos removal and abatement.  Pedersons Lawn and Landscape LLC Heather Pederson Garden, MI 49835 (906) 644-2150 dr.pederson@hotmail.com Lawn and landscaping service.  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.  Peninsula Shores Gallery Eirnella O'Neil Gould City, MI 49838 (906) 477-6303 Nature and wildlife photo art by Jim O'Neil.  Pennzoil Tracy Smart or Mickey Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 635-3018 tsmart1218@gmail.com Oil change/car wash.  Premier Learning Colleen Ford Swartz Creek, MI 48473 (810) 732-6493 cgkford@comcast.net Tutoring and tutor training.  Prescription Oxygen Ron Gordon Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 632-3772 ron@prescriptionoxygen.com	Durable medical equipment.  Pink Giraffe Beauty Products Maddi Lynch Gladstone, MI 49837 (906) 280-6994 pinkgiraffebeautyproducts@gmail.com www.pinkgiraffebeautyproducts.com Candles, Lip Balms, Scrubs & More  Proline Auto Mike Pages Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 259-0809 mpages73@gmail.com Vehicle repair shop.  Red Sky Woman Designs Helen Wilkins Kincheloe, MI 49789 (906) 322-3370 hwilkins5@gmail.com Handmade crafts.  Regal Home Health LLC. Breana Eby Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (620) 308-0277 regalhomecare@outlook.com Rock Road Masonry & Construction Inc. Brandon Deno Escanaba, MI 49829 (906) 789-7892 scs@chartermi.net Residential and commercial work, ICF foundation work and exterior concrete applications.  Ron's Birchbark Studio Ron Paquin St. Ignace MI 49781 (231) 420-3518 mollyronpaquin@gmail.com Native American artist with in-store items, workgroups and demonstrations.  Roy Electric Jeff Roy Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 632-8878 royelectric@lighthouse.net Electrical, mechanical and maintenance business.  Ruddle's Native Painting Carol Ruddle Mackinac Island, MI 49781 (906) 430-1728 nativepaintingmack@gmail.com Painting contractor.  Sabatine Appraisals Stephanie Sabatine Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 322-2960 stephsabatine@gmail.com Appraisals and rental properties.  Sacred Tattoo Studio Danielle Pemble Marquette, MI 49855 (906) 273-0800 sacredbooking@gmail.com  Salon C Cathy McClellan Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 635-3964 cathyann906@gmail.com Hair salon.  Sault Printing Ron Maleport Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 632-3369 ron@saultprinting.com Printing and office supplies.  Sawyer Village Gwinn, MI 49841 (906) 346-3919 jpage@saulttribe.net Rental apartments.
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Seniors Helping Seniors LLC  
Chad Lawson  
Jacksonville, FL 32258  
(904) 716-5680  
clawson5454@yahoo.com  
Non-medical personal services.

Snowbelt Brewing Co.  
Angielena Muellenberg  
Gaylord, MI 49735  
(989) 448-7077  
drinklocal@snowbeltbrewery.com  
Brewery.

Soo Welding  
Charles Fabry  
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783  
(906) 632-8241  
soowelding@outlook.com  
Welding and metal working.

Sore Arms Fishing Charters  
Aaron Hendrickson  
Gwinn, MI 49841  
(906) 360-6035  
sorearmscharters@gmail.com  
Fishing and market.

St. Ignace in Bloom  
Alex or Samantha Belonga  
St. Ignace, MI 49781  
(906) 643-9480  
greenhouse@stignaceinbloom.com  
Flower and plant shop.

State Farm Insurance Office  
Kristi Harwood  
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783  
(906) 635-5377  
kristi.harwood-causley.ke8b@statefarm.com  
Insurance agency.

Sunset Motel  
Armand Horn  
St. Ignace, MI 49781  
(906) 643-8377  
sunsetmotel786@gmail.com  
Motel.

Superior Custom Blinds  
Jennifer Roy  
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783  
(906) 630-6939  
jennroy209@gmail.com  
Custom window blinds

Superior Satellite Solutions  
Gary Talarico  
Germfask, MI 49836  
(906) 450-7675  
chieffishfinder@gmail.com  
U.P. Satellite TV and Internet  
installation and service

Superior Web  
Gina Harmon  
Newberry, MI 49868  
(906) 293-3625  
ginavgc@gmail.com  
https://www.superiorweb.net/  
Responsive web design, web  
page/site builders.

Surface Tech Applicators  
Nathan Cremeans  
Rudyard, MI 49780  
(906) 203-9397  
Industrial paint applications.

Synchronized Networking  
Solutions  
Robert Gonczy  
Penrose, CO 81240  
(719) 371-2315  
rgonczy@syncns.com  
http://www.syncns.com/  
Provides networking expertise  
for service providers, government  
agencies and enterprise business-  
es.

T & K King Fisheries  
Theron King  
Moran, MI 49760

(906) 643-1068  
kingsfishmarket@gmail.com  
https://www.facebook.com/  
kingsfishmarketandrestaurant/  
Wholesale and retail.

The Bostique  
Cindy King  
Manistique, MI 49854  
(906) 283-3245  
Bohemian shop.

The Brickyard Bar and Grill  
Tate Hakola  
Rudyard, MI 49780  
(906) 442-1099  
Restaurant and bar.

The Buckley General Store  
Carl Brasseur  
Buckley, MI 49620  
(231) 342-4245  
carlbrasseur@gmail.com  
Convenience store.

The Ice Cream Shoppe  
Jill or Jeff McLeod  
Cedarville, MI 49719  
(906) 484-5525  
jmcLeod@eupschools.org  
Ice cream and treats.

The Palace Saloon  
Doreen Goetz  
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783  
(906) 632-7721  
palacesaloon1903@gmail.com  
Restaurant.

Thermal Kernels  
Cathy Baker  
McMillian, MI 49853

(231) 675-1060  
lovethermalkernels@gmail.com  
Therapeutic hot and cold pads,  
wraps and more.

Tickled Pink Antiques  
Carole Prisk  
Negaunee, MI 49866  
(906) 475-4567  
caroleprisk@yahoo.com  
Antique shop.

Timberdoodle  
Janelle Gross Dudeck  
DeTour, MI 49725  
(906) 297-1011  
timberdoodle.mercantile@gmail.com  
Handmade crafts.

Tipping Point Solutions  
Rick Schmidt  
Centennial, CO 80112  
(303) 353-0440  
info@tp-solutions.com  
Digital media production.

Total Outlook  
Connie Payment  
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783  
(906) 632-6936  
totaloutlooksalon@gmail.com  
Hair Salon.

Trim and Tan  
Kelly Hatinger  
Manistique, MI 49854  
(906) 341-8746  
khatinger@centurytel.net  
Hair salon with tanning beds.

U.P. Auto Group

Gerald Jackson  
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783  
(906) 259-1559  
gjackson@upautosales.com  
Used car sales / car detailing.

U.P. Carpet Mart LLC  
Derrick Eitrem  
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783  
(906) 635-1026  
https://upcarpetmart.business.site/  
Residential and commercial floor-  
ing.

Up Cycled Hippie  
Jessica Shields  
Escanaba, MI 49829  
(906) 553-8430  
jessicaloushields@gmail.com  
Handmade hippie/bohemian  
clothing.

Walsh Service Solutions LLC.  
Rich Walsh  
Kalamazoo, MI 49009  
(269) 823-1051  
rich@walshservicesolutions.com  
Environmental consulting ser-  
vices.

White Pine Lodge  
Christmas, MI 49862  
(906) 387-1111  
whitepinelodgeonline.com  
Hotel and convenience store.

Wholistic Energy Healing  
Shelly Kucharczyk  
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783  
906-440-2224  
s.kucharczyk@yahoo.com  
https://www.facebook.com/

wholisticwellnesssolutions  
We clear the negative energy,  
allowing wellness.

Wicked Walleye Tackle  
Mendy Kolbus  
Rapid River, MI 49878  
(906) 286-1886  
wickedwalleyet@yahoo.com  
Handmade lures for walleye fish-  
ing.

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

Windy Hills Bison Farm  
Carl Brasseur  
Tustin, MI 49688  
(231) 342-4245  
Brasseur@windyhillsbisonfarm.com  
Full bison farm and home to  
award winning animals.

Y&R Complete Outdoor Services  
Yolanda Mellon-Bear  
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783  
(906) 203-7388  
petitpasyolanda@gmail.com  
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  
Convenience store.

## Young Men's (Oshkaabewis) Teachings Group (For Ages 12 years to 18 years)

Thursday, July 22, 2021

6:00pm - 8:00pm (EST)

at Niigaanagiizhik Ceremonial Building

11 Ice Circle, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

### Aaniin/Boozhoo,

Starting this month, we will be hosting teaching and talking circles for our young, men every other week on Thursday evenings. Elders and Pipe Carriers will be sharing teachings about Coming of Age, Fire Keeping, Drumming, Ceremonial Responsibilities, Fasting and our Anishinaabe Traditional Life Ways.

For more information, or to sign your young man up, please  
call (906)635-6050 or email [culture@saulttribe.net](mailto:culture@saulttribe.net)

# Keeping kids safe by choosing external caregivers

FROM MSU EXTENSION

Most people have a hard time thinking and talking about child sexual abuse, but if we are going to prevent it, education is key. A parent's top priority is the safety and well-being of their child. Therefore, letting go of the reins and letting someone else care for your child without your supervision can be very scary for parents, especially when they are outside of your family or close circle. Not only are you picking adults to keep your child safe, but also choosing the role-models in their life. Ensuring that your child is surrounded by safe adults

is a key protective factor in your child's development and safety. Taking the proper precautions while choosing external adults to care for your child can help alleviate some of the risk and fear of this process. Use these tips from Michigan State University Extension to think thoughtfully about choosing external caregivers to care for your child.

**Evaluating centers and agencies**

When your child is interacting with adults through an agency or center like a school sport's team, summer camp, or childcare center, it's important to stay engaged

to make sure your child is safe. Centers and agencies have more criteria, rules, and qualifications compared to individual caregivers, therefore are often easier to evaluate. Check their screening policies. What types of screenings do the agencies run on their employees? It is important to be aware of what criteria, rules, and qualifications the agencies expect of their employees. RAINN (<https://www.rainn.org/articles/evaluating-caregivers>) recommends asking if they are licensed in the local jurisdiction, question their hiring criteria, certifications, and other

relevant information. Consider an interview or orientation. Hosting an interview is still recommended in order to make sure this individual will be the best caregiver for your child. Additionally, it provides an extra layer of relief knowing that you have also conducted a thorough vetting process to ensure your child is protected. Attend the facility. Planning a visit to the facility before you decide to enroll your child is crucial in assessing if it is truly a safe environment. You can also plan on visiting or dropping in expectedly to get a sense of what the environment is like when staff or volunteers are not expecting you. Always assess. Deciding whether an adult is safe isn't a one-and-done decision. An individual can lose their status as a "safe adult" at any time. It is really hard for parents to think about a loved one hurting the child. Child predators are skillful in grooming families in order to hide their actions, gain access, and decrease the risk of being found out and stopped. It is important to always be looking out for the warning signs of abuse in order to protect your

child. One way you can assess is by having a daily check-in with your child. Ask them how they are feeling? If they feel safe? Make sure they know the difference between what is appropriate and inappropriate. **Trust your gut** The last component of assessing safe adults is trusting your gut intuition. Things can feel "off" or unsafe even if there are no apparent red flags. As the primary caregiver of your child, you know what they need to be safe more than anyone. It can be challenging to follow your intuition and set boundaries, especially with family members and other close individuals. However, if you don't think someone is a safe adult to care for your child, or something just doesn't feel right, don't overthink it—trust yourself. Although it would be easy to trust everything individuals say to you or write on paper, it is important to be proactive and fact check in order to understand if this individual is truly safe for your child. Making these personal connections with your child's possible future caregiver is a great first step in keeping them safe.

## Sault Tribe Housing Authority EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



**Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic:  
Are you at risk for Housing instability?  
Are you facing eviction?  
Are you behind on your rent or utilities?**

**For more information, call: 800-794-4072 or 906-495-1454 or email [EmergencyRentalAssistance@saulttribe.net](mailto:EmergencyRentalAssistance@saulttribe.net)**

The ERA program provides assistance to Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa members and households who rent homes any where in the United States.

Applicant households must have incomes at or below 80% of the Area Median Income and meet other eligibility requirements.

**For full details, visit:**

**[Housing offers Emergency Rental Assistance - The Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians Official Web Site](#)**

- What costs can the program cover?**
- The ERA program can help renters with the following costs starting as far back as March 13, 2020:
- ◇ Past due, current and up to 3 months of prospective rent costs
  - ◇ Past due, current and up to 3 months of prospective utility costs
  - ◇ Security deposit, relocation & rental fees
  - ◇ Emergency motel stay
  - ◇ Application or screening fees
  - ◇ Internet service
  - ◇ Other Housing expenses incurred related to housing due, directly or indirectly, to COVID-19 that qualify for assistance under federal law

**Download an application today at:**  
**[Housing offers Emergency Rental Assistance - The Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians Official Web Site](#)**

**CALL TODAY!**

"This project is being supported, in whole or in part, by federal award number 21.023 awarded to Sault Tribe Housing Authority by the U.S. Department of the Treasury."

5/28/21

## TAX EXEMPTION CERTIFICATES

### MICHIGAN SECRETARY OF STATE APPOINTMENTS

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The Tribal Tax Office may be reached at (906) 635-6050 or [cblocher@saulttribe.net](mailto:cblocher@saulttribe.net).

## AUGUST COVID VACCINATION CLINICS

The Sault Tribe is offering the following free COVID vaccination clinics in August!

- Aug. 24—St. Ignace
- Aug. 26—Manistique Health Center
- Aug. 26—Marquette Tribal Community Health Center
- Aug. 30—Munising Tribal Health Center
- Aug. 31—Escanaba Tribal Community Health Center
- Aug. 31—Sugar Island Community Center

Reserve your spot: [www.saulttribehealth.com](http://www.saulttribehealth.com).

Available to anyone 12 and older. Minors must have a parent or guardian present. Bring photo ID. Walk-ins welcome!

## PFIZER COVID VACCINATION CLINICS

The Sault Tribe is offering the following free Pfizer COVID vaccinations at Big Bear Arena, 2 Ice Circle in Sault Ste. Marie from 1 to 2 p.m.:

- Wednesday, Sept. 1
- Wednesday, Sept. 23
- Wednesday, Oct. 14
- Wednesday, Nov. 4
- Wednesday, Nov. 24
- Wednesday, Dec. 16

Reserve your spot: [www.saulttribehealth.com](http://www.saulttribehealth.com). Available to anyone 12 and older. Minors must have a parent or guardian present. Bring photo ID.

## Sarah Gardner-Weber Memorial Golf Scramble Aug. 26

Sarah Gardner-Weber Memorial Golf Scramble at Wild Bluff Golf Course

- Aug. 26 at 5:30 p.m.
- 9-Hole Tournament
- Shotgun start
- 4-Person teams
- \$50 Per person / \$200 per team

Featuring: bean bag toss, longest drive, Happy Gilmore hole, raffle and prizes, food provided. For further information or team registration, sponsorship or donations, please contact Suzette Gardner at (906) 203-9863 or Tina Gardner at (906) 630-7534, or [sgwscholarship@gmail.com](mailto:sgwscholarship@gmail.com). All proceeds go directly to the Sarah Gardner-Weber Memorial Scholarship.

# Anishinaabek delegation asks President Biden to shut down Line 5 during orchard visit

TRAVERSE CITY – July 6, MackinawOde (Heart of the Turtle) an indigenous-led water protection group based in Petoskey, Mich., attended President Biden's July 3 "America's Back Together" tour to celebrate the country's progress against the COVID-19.

The event took place at King Orchards cherry farm in Central Lake, Mich., just north of Traverse City. Approximately 300 people attended, includ-

ing members of MackinawOde (Heart of the Turtle) and its allies. The location was officially announced the same morning.

MackinawOde members met in the morning for an Anishinabek Pipe ceremony on Torch Lake in Eastport led by Tom Binesiwegiizhig. A water ceremony was also conducted by Beatrice Menase Kwe Jackson.

After a search by the Secret Service, the group made its way into the cherry fields of King Orchard for the event, members carrying their signs and wearing their Anishinabek regalia.

"We were all excited to meet the President and tell him to shut down Line 5; we are a peaceful water protection group. And, we hold ourselves with respect and follow our traditional Anishinabek teachings," Wright said. "A long time ago, a delegation of Anishinabek people would meet the President either in Washington DC or when the President visited our territory. So we sent our delegation to greet the President when he came to our territory, but with an important issue to discuss."

Wright feels Indigenous people need to assert themselves, their opinions and their territory. They did so July 3 by greeting a sitting President and reminding him they are concerned with Line 5 and its dangers.

President Biden was engaged at least five times by members of the group. All engagements asked him to shut down Line 5. They heard short responses like he is "working on it." Or he just listened.

One of the groups best engagements was when Wright asked President Biden for a picture with himself, Ray Sinclair, Peggy Mcnew, Beatrice Menase Kwe Jackson and Michael T. Findley. All are members of MackinawOde. Biden happily obliged, telling Wright to put his arm around him. The President seemed to jump at the opportunity. On onlooker yelled out, "Oh my God," which seemed to suggest they could not believe what they were seeing. "We just had an eagle fly over, and

now we are all gathered around President Biden, wearing our regalia, and laughing - here we are a bunch of Anishinabek in our traditional attire and we had the President of the United States surrounded," Wright said..

When the group posed for the photo, together they said, "Shut down Line 5" twice. Biden did not flinch or leave. "The second time he almost appears to be mouthing it with us. He smiled the whole time and shook Ray's hand when he left," Wright said.

Wright also spoke to Biden earlier who said, "Remember Indian Nations," to which Wright responded, "Right on, brother." One of the reasons he founded MackinawOde was to give Indian nations a voice, especially on environmental and water issues. "So often others are allowed to speak for us, and no one asks us for our opinion," Wright said. "The media does this and so does society in general. MackinawODE aims to change this." Wright said, "Our mission was accomplished. We came showing ourselves as Anishinabek people welcoming the President of the United States to our territory and letting him know we want the Line 5 and Line 3 pipelines shut down. And we did this better than we thought."

Wright added, "It was an historic day for all Anishinabek as we asserted ourselves as a people, wore our traditional attire, greeted the President and aired our grievances in a respectful manner. We believe our actions will help make a difference. And, we know the story of our actions will be repeated for others to hear."

Wright also said the group spoke with Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer, Congressman Gary Peters and Congresswoman Debbie Stabenow about Line 5. Wright said all of their comments were well received.

Wright believes if all else fails with getting the Enbridge pipeline out and stopping the tunnel from being built, "it may be our treaties that can help put an end to this."



Members of MackinawOde meet up with President Biden during his visit to King Orchards near Traverse City, Mich., to ask him personally to shut down Line 5.

## Happy 80th Birthday Judy!



Tribal member Judy Bellant is celebrating her 80th Birthday on Sept. 27, 2021. Judy is married to Richard Bellant Sr., both originally from Cheboygan, Mich. They share four adult children: Richard, Jr.(Cindy), Dicksie (Warren), and twins, Jerry & Mary (Lou) and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Hugs and love for who you are and our prayers for your continued health and happiness. We love you. Mom!

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All proceeds go directly to the Sarah Gardner-Weber Memorial Scholarship.

# TRUTH & HONESTY: 2 OF OUR 7 GRANDFATHER TEACHINGS



**AARON PAYMENT** VICE PRESIDENT OF NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICA

## Representing All Members Everywhere

*Ahneen, Boozho, Negee:*

The Sault Tribe Constitution requires that we make a monthly report to the Membership. For the entire time I have been on the Board and as Chairperson I have written 263 reports to the Membership. The only time I missed was the month I reported when the Board voted to give the Chairperson (before me) a \$856,275 annual salary! The interim Executive Director (at the time) refused to publish my report.

A \$67,500 a year Tribal Board salary should be sufficient to make the once a month unit report deadline. It is surprising that I see a report drafted by Director Hoffman (who only writes a report once every several months) to propagate "fake news" with regarding the unfair and unequal distribution of relief total amount of \$3,000 for "In Service Area" Members and \$1,000 less for "At Large" Members. Several Board Members signed on to Director Hoffman's spin-doctored report, despite the fact that neither the Federal Government nor the Tribe's Legal Counsel ever provided a legal opinion to advise the Board they could not give an equal distribution. I stopped reading the reports of certain Board members' long ago as they say nothing of value for how they are representing you. Other than attend one meeting

**PIPE OUT PADDLE UP FLOTILLA**  
*shut down line 5*  
 BRING AWARENESS TO ENBRIDGE'S LINE 5. THE PIPELINE THREATENING DESTRUCTION OF THE LARGEST SOURCE OF FRESH WATER IN THE WORLD.  
**SEPTEMBER 4TH**  
**8AM-12PM**  
 102 W. STRAITS AVE, MACKINAW CITY, MI  
 TRIBAL LEADERSHIP • FAMILY & DOG FRIENDLY • WATER CEREMONY  
 JIMAANS • PIPE CEREMONY • TRIBAL DRUM • JINGLE DRESS DANCERS  
 ALL ARE WELCOME! PROTECT OUR GREAT LAKES. RESPECT THE WATERS. AND BRING AWARENESS TO THE DANGERS OF LINE 5!  
 FOOD AND WATER WILL BE PROVIDED, BYO WATER BOTTLES

a week (at a gross income of over \$1,300 a meeting) there are no real defined duties of Tribal Board Members. Failing to write a monthly report as a minimum is a dereliction of duty. As a minimum duty, you'd expect the report to contain more than manipulations to the Members to deceive you into believing there is a valid reason to continue to deny you benefits.

## WHEN THE COVER-UP IS WORSE THAN THE LIE

Publishing a group report bent on deceiving the Membership is a long standing practice. The author of these efforts has consistently been Director Hoffman. Here are a few examples. In 2007, the then Chief of Police/ Board Member was investigated and charged with assaulting a Native women. He subsequently threatened her not to cooperate with the State Police (this is on audio tape as the conversation was wiretapped); he threatened that if she continued to cooperate with the investigation, she'd lose her job as well as her father's job. After conferring with Human Resources and Tribal Legal, I recommended the Chief of Police be fired. Led by Director Hoffman, the Board voted against termination. To protect the victim's father, I then moved his employment out from under Tribal Law Enforcement. Director Hoffman then drafted an organization chart to place the victims' father back under law enforcement and her father was fired. I wrote about this in my Chair's report, but Director Hoffman simply drafted a press release and convinced Board Members to sign their name to deny the truth.

Another time this happened, was when the Casino CEO in 2007, reported that a majority of the Board were violating the Board Entertainment ticket policy by receiving more than 2 tickets per show. Several were receiving tens of thousands worth of perquisites annually in the form show tickets. Whether Board Members were giving tickets away while campaigning or selling them is unknown. In my Chair's report, I exposed that a majority of the Board were violating policy which likely constituted embezzlement under Tribal law. Director Hoffman once again authored a fake news report to claim this was not true. This is deceitful.

## WHEN THE COVER-UP IS AS BAD AS THE CRIME

Hindsight is 2020, and it is now a matter of public record, but as it turns out, the former Chief of Police/ Board Member pled to a lesser charge and the victim agreed to avoid having to testify in court. However, while the former Chief of Police was on disciplinary leave, Board Members like Director Hoffman continually insisted of his innocence and pushed to return him to employment. At one pivotal workshop the former Chief of Police was required to be outside of deliberations given he was the subject of the discussion. Dream Catcher's restaurant wait staff texted me (in real time) during the meeting that Director Hoffman was informing the suspended Chief of Police of every word we were saying in a closed workshop. In the end, the Board ~ led by Director Hoffman ~ forced the former Chief of Police back to work while he was still under investigation by the FBI, BIA and DOJ.

In the end, the former Chief of Police was charged with misappropriating over \$800,000 and for directly embezzling over \$241,000. While the former Chief of Police was indicted, convicted of a federal felony and did his time, those Board Members who insisted on his innocence, pushed to put him back to work and voted to pay out his severance estimated at over \$200,000 even though his impending felony conviction ultimately invalidated the severance provision of his contract.

This recitation of the facts is not to further cast aspersions on the former Chief of Police. It is to expose the phenomena of Board Members working as mob of the majority to cover-up someone's wrong doing by simply publishing a spin doctored report to denounce their own actions. These examples, clearly expose why we need Constitutional Reform including a separation of powers and an independent judicial system to investigate, prosecute and hold accountable the very individuals you expect to uphold the law.

## WHEN THE COVER-UP IMPEDES TRANSPARENCY

Recently, I was threatened with a lawsuit ~ (for slander or libel) I will pose

## Rosemary Gaskin Memorial Scholarship

The Rosemary Gaskin Scholarship was established to honor and carry-on Rosemary's leadership and good works.

Students Complete for a \$1,000 Scholarship by writing a 500 word essay focusing on:

- Native American Rights
- Education Issues
- Issues of Racial or Gender Equality
- Reviving Native Cultural/ Traditional Beliefs



Rosemary (1972) in front of her home and Mar-Shunk Headquarters

### Who is Eligible?

- Sault Tribe Members;
- No Minimum Indian Blood
- Quantum;
- Attend a public institution of higher education;
- Not Need Based;
- Full Time or Part Time.

### How do I apply

- Write or Submit a 500 word essay;
- Include a copy of Tribal Card.
- Include Return Address, Phone Number, School attending, and degree;

**DEADLINE: SEPT 30**

For more information, please call the Chippewa County Community Foundation at: 906-635-1046 or Email: cccf@lighthouse.net

the following as questions. If Director Hoffman did work for our former Down State Casino Developers after he lost his re-election in 2010, did he disclose this as required by tribal law? The rumors at the time were that he was paid a \$50,000 consultant fee; presumably to secure the very contract the Developers got and for which they are now suing our Tribe for over \$100 million! If he did work for the Developers, doesn't this constitute a "double dealing" conflict of interest? Did he use his Board position before, during or after he served to enrich himself? An independent judicial arm of the Tribe should be able to investigate, make this determination and if the law was violated, prosecute. There is something very wrong with an elected official who would misuse the public trust for personal gain like a \$50,000 consulting salary.

## SECURING NEARLY \$1/2 BILLION!

While some Board Members write nasty and emptyheaded rants month after month, I choose to ignore them entirely. Instead, I focus on advocating for our People at the highest levels. I helped secure funding for Indian Country to the tune of an historic amount over \$44 Billion so far just this year (\$31 Billion in the American Rescue Act + \$1 Billion for Broadband, + \$12 Billion for Infrastructure) and nearly 1/2 Billion for our Tribe alone. I am working on securing our Mandatory Trust; negotiating our Great Lakes Treaty Rights; participating in budget formulation to secure 30% increases to Indian Country budgets, making our funding mandatory and to advance appropriate our funding to

protect against government shut downs and sequestration, and much more. The amount received in supplemental federal funds in one year is worth over 20 years of Casino and Enterprise funds!

I love representing *All Members Everywhere* and will do so as long as you'll have me. Please see the above scholarship opportunity I created to honor one of my heroes and please give if you can for Sault Tribe Scholarships (see below).

*Chi McGwitch, Negee,*

**Sault Tribe GOLF Scholarship Classic**  
 Saturday ~ September 25th  
**To Sponsor or Request an Official Entry Form**  
**Level of Sponsorship:**  
 O Platinum (\$25,000)  
 O Triple Diamond/Gold (\$10,000)  
 O Double Diamond/Silver (\$5,000)  
 O Diamond/Bronze (\$2,500)  
 O Corporate/Business (\$1,000)  
 O Hole (\$500)  
 O Cart (\$200)  
 O Reception (\$3,500)  
 O Lunch (\$3,000)  
 O Putting Contest (\$2,000)  
 O Driving Range (\$1,500)  
 O Donation Amount \_\_\_\_\_  
**Golf Entry Information:**  
 Entry Fee: \$225 per golfer (\$900 per team, unless included in sponsorship). Those sponsors at Corporate/Business level or higher will receive discounted rate of \$150 for each additional golfer. Classic registration will close after the first 36 teams have registered.  
 For more information, please contact [Sberger@saulttribe.net](mailto:Sberger@saulttribe.net) or call Sheila at 906-635-6050.

Call: 800-793-0660 Cell: 906-203-5159 Email: [aaronpayment@yahoo.com](mailto:aaronpayment@yahoo.com) Facebook 'Aaron Payment'

AT LARGE MEMBERS CAN REGISTER TO VOTE BY CALLING :

**1-800-251-6597**

# Let representatives know community priorities



**AUSTIN LOWES**  
DIRECTOR, UNIT I

Aniin, I must admit, I rarely read unit reports from other board members. Rather than providing an update, they have become propaganda to cause division, deflect criticism and turn the membership against political foes. Recently, several unit reports have been negatively directed towards Chair Payment,

Director Freiheit and myself. They allege that we're rogue troublemakers who are damaging the tribe. This couldn't be further from the truth. If there's one thing we're damaging, it's the status-quo, which is a good thing. Since I work for you, the membership, and not the board of directors, I'm proud of this.

When Director Freiheit and I campaigned last year, we did so under the promise of change. Our message was well-received, which caused us to receive hundreds of more votes than the other candidates. I've tried my best to fulfill my campaign promises every day. This includes improving services, increasing wages and leading in a fair and respectable way. If disrupting the status-quo causes resentment from the board, so be it. It's something I embrace and it won't impact how I advocate for the membership.

In addition to serving the tribe, I'm also a master's level social worker and therapist. I therefore make my decisions based on how they'll help others. Something I've always supported are direct payments to members. We receive funding based on our enrollment numbers, so you deserve your cut! By the time this newspaper is delivered, \$2,000 checks will have arrived or they will be close to it. This program cost \$90 million, and it's the largest payment the tribe has ever provided to the membership. Many people worked hard to make this possible, but I'd like to give a special shout out to the Enrollment Department. They have worked diligently to update addresses and enroll children. Their work has been vital and they deserve our thanks and appreciation. Julie Salo, Melissa Morehouse, Carrie Sayles,

Bonnie McKerchie, student workers and the accounting staff who are pitching in - THANK YOU!

I'd also like to discuss the pay increase that team members will receive. The tribe will be providing a temporary \$3 per hour raise for all hours worked from July to October. This will be provided on the Aug. 24 paycheck. This program will end in October when it will be replaced with our new pay grid, which will permanently increase wages for team members. Miigwech for your hard work!

To conclude, I have a favor to ask: please tell the board what our community needs are. We have tens of millions of dollars left in American Rescue Plan funding. How we spend these funds will impact future generations. As a member of our tribal community, you know what our needs are. Express them to

your elected officials as loud as you can. We've had these funds for months and we knew they were coming long before receiving them. It is therefore unacceptable that we continue to drag our feet. It's time to establish our next priorities. We have a desperate need for housing and a homeless shelter for tribal members. I support this, along with community farms to improve food sustainability. I also support creating a portal on our tribal website. This could be used to update addresses, request medical documentation, submit hunting and fishing reports, apply for services, etc. Funds should also be used to improve elder services, cultural services and services for impoverished members.

Miigwech for the support. Serving you has been an honor!

Austin Lowes

## Freiheit appreciates Enrollment staff's hard work



**BETTY FREIHEIT,**  
DIRECTOR, UNIT I

Hello tribal members, we have great employees in our tribe. They keep the programs and services going in spite of the unexpected obstacles. I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to the enrollment staff who rose to the monumental task of updating addresses, enrolling children and

preparing rosters for the pending tribal Rescue Act payments. They have worked nonstop in a highly professional and conscientious manner.

I am also pleased and grateful that I am able to donate \$2,000 to the annual Sault Tribe Golf Classic that raises money for higher education scholarships. Aaron Payment and Austin Lowes will be donating as well. The proceeds of this event will help stretch our limited dollars so more students are able to be helped. I urge all my board colleagues to dig deep and donate to this worthy cause.

I would like to address recent allegations by several tribal board that Aaron, Austin and I have caused division in the tribe. Quite the contrary. The three of us have been attempting to heal the decades old rift or division created by a board who refuses to accept our tribe is bigger than the seven counties defined as the

service units.

It is extremely unfortunate that those board who oppose equality choose to make our tribal papers their political platform for launching their 'position statement.' Their statement is not just misleading, it appears to contain more spin than actual facts and is designed to convince members that their actions of excluding at-large from assistance were warranted and consistent with federal regulations.

Not true, Cares Act and Rescue Act funds are not 'different money.' They are both federal dollars designed to mitigate the effects of COVID on individuals, businesses, and governments.

All tribes across the country received limited funding under the Cares Act last year. The expectation was that the tribes distribute it according to the greatest needs. And many tribes, including several right here in Michigan, managed to use those

dollars to fund all their members regardless of where they resided. There were no restrictions that prohibited this or mandated that only service unit members receive awards.

Our at-large members have been subject to policies and practices of exclusion from the tribe sense the time of federal recognition. Tribal board has implemented policies that restrict them from running for office in the same manner as unit members, and that makes voting registration more complex and not automatic as it is with unit members. And of course at-large have been told 'NO' for 45 years when they asked for certain services and programs.

So when Aaron, Austin and I saw an opportunity to equalize the COVID relief awards for at-large and unit members, we sponsored resolution to do so. What a great opportunity we had to reach out and help this popula-

tion and recognize them as value tribal members. But the opposition board shot it down. For many at-large this was just one more rejection. And they raise their voices in protest. And rightly so. But instead of taking the time to speak with the at-large members, or even try to understand why they were upset, the opposing board shut down and started blaming the three of us causing a division for political gain. So far from the truth.

Board like to repeat we are all one tribe but those are just words. In reality their actions pushed our at-large members even further away from the tribal circle. We need to do better!

Please keep yourself and family safe, help your neighbors and look out for our elders any time you can.

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

## Tribal Business Alliance conference held at casino



**KIMBERLE GRAVELLE**  
DIRECTOR, UNIT I

Hello, the Sault Tribe Business Alliance (STBA) hosted our 2021 STBA Conference at the Kewadin Casino and Convention Center. Those in attendance were Sault Tribe members who own businesses and some new entrepreneurs from all over the United States. The sessions included speakers who covered small business resources in Michigan, the power of online marketing, Sault Tribe Thrive and how Sault Tribe can help grow your business.

An interactive panel with STBA business leaders answered questions from the audience about what it takes to start a business, how to keep it going and what obstacles they had to overcome. This is a great networking opportunity and it felt good to be with a group who are successful and want to see others succeed.

The STBA Business of the Year Award was presented to David Goudreau, of Newberry, owner and president of Northern Wings. David is a native of Michigan, retired from the U.S. Marine Corps, a graduate of Lake Superior State University and an active proponent for economic development in the Upper Peninsula.

Joel Schultz, economic development director for Sault Tribe, and his team are responsible for bringing this all together and asks anyone who is interested in being involved with the Sault Tribe Business Alliance to contact Sandy Griggs at (904) 504-6968. Also, you can contact David Lockhart if you have any questions about the STBA event

at (906) 635-6050. Further, the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Reservation is "Hub Zone" certified.

The Powwow Committee is busy preparing for our 40th annual Bahweting Summer Gathering and Powwow during the weekend of Sept. 3-5, 2021. We look for-

## 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 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

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

ward to seeing everyone again and please invite your friends to join us for this traditional gathering.

As always, I would like to thank team members for their dedication and continued hard work.

Please keep the men and

Units IV and V — Mary Jenerou, Manistique Tribal Center, (906) 341-8469; Munising

women in our armed forces in your prayers and thoughts for a safe return to their families.

If you have any questions or comments you can contact me at (906) 203-6083 or at kkgavelle@saulttribe.net.

Thank you,  
Kim Gravelle

Centers, (906) 450-7011 or (906) 450-7011, mjenerou@saulttribe.net.

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# Board meeting weekly to discuss *Rescue Act*



**BRIDGETT SORENSON,**  
DIRECTOR, UNIT III

The board has been meeting every Tuesday morning to discuss the *American Rescue Act* funds. I think the majority, if not all, believe housing is the biggest need.

We have about 450 low-income rentals and 55 home ownership homes. The housing market is so crazy right now and so is the cost of construction.

We are currently building more homes in the Sault but cannot build as many as originally planned due to pricing.

Many members would like their own homes but we also have needs for single people that could benefit from apartment complexes.

I would like to see more focus on home ownership since many tribal members currently living in housing would like to purchase their own home. We could help them by building houses on trust land and selling the units to them and building more from the proceeds of the sale.

At the Aug. 3 board meeting,

we voted to give all team members a \$3 increase per hour for those employed as of Aug. 3 continuing until Oct. 2. This will be retroactive to July 4. Due to wage inflation and the need to keep our current team members, it was imperative that we take action. There has been a compensation study completed but the executives and board have not had the time to dissect the information yet, so this will allow the time to get those new grids in place.

The board really does care and appreciate our team members and want to make the tribe the preferred place to work like it once was. We have started to build those benefits and incentives that were cut or taken away in 2008. The 401k contribution of three percent was one of those initiatives. We covered team member's insurance premiums for half of 2020 as well as the hazard and appreciation pay. The insurance premiums did not increase this year. We have given COLA adjustments as well for the last several years.

I know many employees in my community make comments to me that they have worked through the pandemic and haven't received anything extra. We have been fortunate enough to get some relief money to help our team members.

This week will be the grand opening of the Anne Suggitt Early Childhood Building. Anne was so instrumental in building our programs. She has so much love for our kids and families. I am so excited to be a part of this celebration. The new building was built next to the Big Bear in the

Sault. The kids will be in a new building, away from the casino, and childcare will also be in the same building. This will give us room for expansion when we can get enough staff. I am hopeful we will see a new center or renovated building in St. Ignace that includes Early Head Start Center Based in the near future as well. Last week I attended the Sault Tribe Business Alliance reception and conference in the Sault. The Lockview Restaurant was the host and the food, service and atmosphere was great. I enjoyed meeting all the sponsors and tribal member business owners. Our EDC director gave a great presentation on how the tribe continues to grow, acquire and diversify.

Since 2017 the tribe has acquired 515 acres of land. The EDC tax revenue to the tribe has been over \$2.3 million.

In 2019 we received a \$485,000 MBDA grant which was used to renovate the space that is now the Tamarack Business Center. This space is leased to Sault Tribe business owners and houses Sault Tribe Thrive. Sault Tribe Thrive is a resource for member businesses. They have created a member directory, provide consultation and support services as well as outreach and advocacy.

In 2018, nine Sault Tribe business owners formed Sault Tribe Alliance, which was tribally chartered in 2021. They represent businesses across the country. They provide advocacy and resources to each other and recruit other member business owners.

The EDC has received a \$2

million DOC grant, \$250,000 MEDC grant and the tribe put in \$100,000 to build Crane Industrial Suites which will be 20,000 sq. ft. of industrial space. Jetta Corp (member owned) will be leasing 5,000 sq. ft. of that space.

Through Sault Tribe Inc., we have created leases with Lume (recreational and medicinal marijuana) in Sault Ste. Marie, Escanaba (both currently open), Manistique, Christmas (will be opening in the next few weeks) and Newberry and St. Ignace to be open by the end of the year.

The White Pine Lodge in Christmas is also under Sault Tribe Inc. This was purchased because it was located next to our casino and Munising is one of the top tourist destinations in the U.P.

Sault Tribe Online Gaming in partnership with Wynn Bet is also under Sault Tribe Inc. They recently provided a check for \$3.2 million to the tribe. The same day we were told we were approved for 8(a) status which we have wanted to do for several years. This will allow us to compete for large government contracts.

Revenue growth since 2016 under the EDC has almost doubled from over \$8 million to over \$16 million. Gitchi Enterprises which is our used car dealer, modular home, shed, scooter, etc. business had revenues over \$3.6 million in 2020.

I have only touched on some of what our EDC is doing and there will be a lot more information provided in the Sault Tribe annual report that will be out soon. I know many members are

skeptical about the tribe acquiring and running businesses because of some bad experiences in the past. We need to learn from those mistakes and keep plugging forward. Many of us were not there during those times and not all businesses will succeed.

The \$2,000 checks will be processed soon. I would like to thank all the team members in enrollment for all the hard work they have endured with this process. Hopefully, members will continue to keep up on their address changes and card renewals going forward.

I thank the executive team for all the hard work and long hours they have put in over the last 1.5 years. They have put together a ton of information for all the federal funding we have received and are making sure the funds are spent within guidelines. They have protected our team, customers, clients and members through this pandemic and they are not always recognized or treated respectfully.

Thank you to all the team members who have stuck with us through the pandemic and have worked so hard constantly short-handed. I know you have dealt with many rude customers and that is unfortunate. We will all make it through this and hopefully once again be the employer of choice!

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

Enjoy the rest of your summer! Don't forget the Sault powwow is during Labor Day weekend.

## Unit V youth, free wrist bands for state fair



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

Ahnee, let me start out by saying I hope everyone is safe and well.

I pray that all are navigating their way through the pandemic safe and their health both mentally and physically are well.

We, as a tribe, have managed for our businesses to stay profitable even as we struggled with profitability through the pandemic.

Our businesses that rely on the tourist industry have done really well through the summer tourist season.

Our casinos have been seeing a drop in profits compared to

Escanaba state fair - FREE wrist bands for Unit V youth on Aug. 19, from 11:30 to 6. We will be at the picnic area next to the Ruth Butler building. Call (906) 450-5094 or email: cmatson@saulttribe.net to pre-register.

pre-pandemic years, but they are receiving a much needed boost in revenues with the tourist season in full swing.

Our Sault casino continues to struggle to get to pre-pandemic numbers, but that is to be expected with the International Bridge

still being closed.

With the Sault casino profits relying heavily on Canadian patrons, we expect a revenue decrease in this gaming establishment until we see travel restrictions eased at the International Bridge.

Our online gaming partnership has exceeded expectations and is set to surpass our original projections. This has proven to be a solid business venture and should provide much needed revenues well into the future.

We will be offering free wrist bands for Unit V youth on Aug. 19, from 11:30 to 6, at the

Escanaba state fair. We will be at the picnic area next to the Ruth Butler building. Please call (906) 450-5094 or email cmatson@saulttribe.net to pre-register.

Make sure to bring your tribal identification cards with you to the fair. Look forward to seeing everyone there.

Feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns at (906) 450-5094 or email cmatson@saulttribe.net.

Respectfully,  
Charles J. Matson Sr.  
Sault Tribe Board of Directors, Unit V

## Director Massaway updates Unit III membership



**KEITH MASSAWAY,**  
DIRECTOR, UNIT III

If you are reading this and have filled out your form online or have mailed it in, you should be receiving your \$2,000 member check soon. We are very pleased to be sending this out to all members of our tribe. Thank you for all the calls and e-mails regarding the disbursement.

I will give you some of the discussions we have had. Is this money taxable? The answer is NO. This money is considered as a replacement for dollars the pandemic has cost you. If I don't want or need the money, what should I do? You can sim-

ply do nothing and you will not receive it. The money will go back into services of the tribe.

Will accepting the money affect my social security, disability or unemployment? NO. The tribe does not and will not release the names of the members who get a check.

You do not have to disclose you received a check to anyone.

How can I cash a check made out to a minor? The best way is to open a savings account in both your names and then deposit it. After the bank clears the check, it is yours to with-

draw. These were a few of the frequently asked questions I received.

If you have others, please call your board representative or call (906) 635-6050 and ask for someone who can help with your specific question.

The tribal board is working hard and getting input from all sources to make sure our needs of the tribe are being met.

We have about \$35 million of the rescue act money that will go to services. It may sound like a lot of money but the request for services from all our depart-

ments were over \$300 million.

We are currently going through the requests and determining our highest priorities for our members.

This entire process and fiscal spending must be completed in three years by law under federal guidelines. We will be reporting exactly where all the funds were spent as we designate cost centers.

Thank you for all the e-mails and phone calls. Keith Massaway, 702 Hazelton St., St. Ignace, MI 49781, kmassaway@msn.com, (906) 643-6981.

# BACK TO SCHOOL: E-cigarettes and their effects



**FROM ITCMI**

Back-to-school season is upon us, it's time to talk about e-cigarette use and the effects on students.

From 2017 to 2018, the Food and Drug Administration says e-cigarette use – defined by use on at least one day in the past 30 days – by high school students increased 78 percent, from 11.7 to 20.8 percent, accounting for a troubling 3.05 million American high school students using e-cigarettes in 2018. The proportion of current e-cigarette users in high school who reported use on 20 days or more in the past 30-day period increased from 20 percent to 27.7 percent between 2017 and 2018.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, most e-cigarettes contain nicotine — the addictive drug in regular cigarettes, cigars and other tobacco products. A recent CDC study found that 99 percent of the e-cigarettes sold in the United States contained nicotine.

Some e-cigarette labels do not disclose they contain nicotine, and some are marked as containing 0 percent nicotine have been found to contain nicotine.

The CDC notes the use of e-cigarettes is unsafe for kids, teens and young adults. Most contain nicotine, highly addictive and can harm adolescent brain development, which continues into the early to mid-20s. Using nicotine in adolescence can harm the parts of the brain that control attention, learning, mood and impulse control. E-cigarettes can contain other harmful substances besides nicotine. Young people who use e-cigarettes may be more likely to smoke cigarettes in the future.

The CDC describes e-cigarettes as electronic devices that heat a liquid and produce an aerosol or mix of small particles in the air. They come in many shapes and sizes. Most have a battery, a heating element and a place to hold a liquid. Some look like regular cigarettes, cigars or pipes. Some look like USB flash drives, pens and other everyday items. Larger devices such as tank systems, or “mods,” do not look like other tobacco products. They are known by many different names, sometimes called “e-cigs,” “e-hookahs,” “mods,” “vape pens,” “vapes,” “tank systems” and “electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS).” Using an e-cigarette is sometimes called “vaping.”

If one would like free help to quit using e-cigarettes, Native Americans in Michigan may call

(855) 5AI-QUIT (1-855-524-7848) or visit [aiquitline.com](http://aiquitline.com) for free culturally tailored quit coaching. You may also call (800) QUIT-NOW (800-784-8669) for free help.

# Celebrating five generations

Philma “Noodle” Woodford/Mattox/Leazier, her daughter Irene M. (Woodford) Horn, her son Gerald R. Horn, his daughter Sasha K. (Horn) Ormsbee and her son Jeremiah B. Ormsbee. Philma is 95 years young and a resident at Evergreen Living Center in St. Ignace, and young Jeremiah is 2. Each, including Philma, were first born children in the respective generations, and all are members of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.



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# KEWADIN CASINOS ENTERTAINMENT



## AUGUST

**Goo Goo Dolls with special guest  
Cheap Trick**  
Thursday | 19th | 7 p.m. | Start at \$50  
St. Ignace Outdoor

## SEPTEMBER

**Big & Rich with special guest  
Walker Hayes**  
Saturday | 4th | 8 p.m. | Start at \$40  
St. Ignace Outdoor

## OCTOBER

**Little Texas**  
Saturday | 9th | 8 p.m. | Start at \$15  
St. Ignace Event Center

**Bone Thugs-N-Harmony**  
Friday | 15th | 8 p.m. | Start at \$25  
Sault Ste. Marie DreamMakers Theater

## OCTOBER

**Aaron Lewis and the Stateliners**  
Thursday | 28th | 8 p.m. | Start at \$35  
Sault Ste. Marie DreamMakers Theater

## NOVEMBER

**Black Label Society: Doom  
Trooping Over North America  
with special guests Obituary and Prong**  
Saturday | 13th | 7:30 p.m. | \$27.50  
Sault Ste. Marie DreamMakers Theater

**Jack Russell's  
Great White Acoustic Duo**  
Friday | 19th | 8 p.m. | \$15  
Sault Ste. Marie DreamMakers Theater

**Grand Funk Railroad**  
Saturday | 27th | 8 p.m. | Start at \$35  
St. Ignace Event Center

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# Unit I Director Michael McKerchie August 2021 Unit Report

*Editor's note: Director Mike McKerchie's unit report was accidentally left out of the August newspaper and is being attached to the online edition. Apologies to Director McKerchie. Thank you.*



Michael McKerchie,  
Unit I Representative

We recently approved a COVID-19 appreciation pay for all team members as our new wage grid implementation is taking longer than expected. The appreciation pay is only temporary and is allowing us to honor our team members who are helping us get through this pandemic. I am thankful to all those that are keeping the tribe moving forward. We are in strange times and I truly appreciate all those team members that have kept our tribe running and to all the front-line employees — Miigwech.

The pandemic slowed the market study but it is the Board's hope that we move forward as soon as we can. We have a lot of team members and everything takes time when dealing with such a large workforce across the entire tribe. The problem is compounded when our team members are working short staffed and several positions throughout our organization remain unfilled. We appreciate everyone's patience while we get this all sorted.

There will be a "Healing Ceremony and Memorial Walk" to honor the recently discovered children's remains at several residential schools in Canada and those yet to be brought home in the United States with many more schools yet to be searched. The ceremony and walk will take place Friday, Aug. 20, please consider attending the event to bring awareness of the damage and impact residential schools has had on Native communities. If you are unable to attend please take a moment to send prayers for much-needed healing.

We held a grand opening of our newly constructed early childhood center, which will be named after Anne Suggitt this month. Anne worked for our tribe for decades and helped build the program to what it is today. She worked with our federal counterparts and was instrumental in building our policies for our current center as well as creating several committees to have parent and community involvement in all aspects of our center(s). Anne is well known and respected by many in the childhood development field and I couldn't think of a more deserving person for the building to be named after. Miigwech, Anne, for all that you've done.

Lastly, for those who do not go on social media, there have been several sites that like to elevate the differences in our tribe and you may see others responding to it. I do not go on social media often. I recognize its importance to get information out, but it is a horrible medium to have a discussion. I do not go to these sites but many members will ask me about it or share a screenshot, and my message is always the same: Treat social media sites like you would the "National Enquirer" — which is to say, sure,

## **Unit I Director Michael McKerchie August 2021 Unit Report**

it might be fun to read the headline, but don't read every article and surely don't buy a subscription. Bad news and chaos help sell newspapers and help social media sites gain popularity, but they don't help our tribe.

The truth is, our tribe has some major obstacles ahead of it with the effects of the pandemic not going away anytime soon. Many of our government programs depend on revenue gained by gaming or our economic development. It has been very helpful for our tribe that our economic development branch continues to grow. Sault Tribe Inc. recently presented the Board with a \$3.25 million check and is looking at additional growth this year. We've tasked and designed a structure to help our tribe navigate economic development and all the different branches are helping it succeed. Thank you for all the hard work to our Sault Tribe Inc., Thrive and Sault Tribe Business Alliance, as well as our other EDC ventures and partnerships.

Miigwech for taking a moment to read this. I will continue to be optimistic for our tribe and look forward to helping our tribe's continued success. Any questions or if you want to discuss anything, please contact me at (906) 440-7768.