



Win Awenen Nisitotung

December 20, 2023
Little Spirit Moon • Manidoo Giisoonhs
Vol. 44 • No. 12



Bahweting Bidajimowin • Official newspaper of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians

Tribe seeking community input to help shape future of health care system

The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians is seeking community input that will help shape the future the healthcare services the tribe provides to the region.

The tribe will hold a Town Hall meeting from 5 to 7 p.m. on Jan. 18 at the Kewadin Casino in Sault Ste. Marie to gather feedback from patients and community members. Members may also Zoom via <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86037562439>.

us/j/86037562439.

“It has always been our mission to provide high quality, patient-centered health care that is responsive, courteous, and sensitive to individual, family, community, and cultural needs,” said Sault Tribe Chairman Austin Lowes. “We want hear from the community what is working well within the health system, what changes would they like to see, what new services are needed and

what the health priorities for our community should be.”

Event Details

When: Jan. 18, 2024
Time: 5-7 p.m.
Location: Whitefish Point Room, Kewadin Casino, Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.
Zoom Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86037562439>

This town hall is part of a broader clinic operations assessment and community health needs assessment the tribe is conducting.

Other activities to evaluate possible changes and improvements include evaluating health system data, conducting staff surveys and interviews and analyzing market needs.

Each participant who attends the Jan. 18 event will have the

opportunity to win one of 25 gift cards valued at \$50 that will be drawn in a raffle to thank attendees for their time and input.

“It’s important that our health system continues to evolve to the needs of the community and this is one of the ways that we can ensure we are providing services that keep people healthy and improve the quality of life for those who are ill,” said Lowes.

Tribal Court celebrates Michigan Adoption Day

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

Adoptions are normally a private event, but the Tuesday before Thanksgiving Day is when Michigan’s Adoption Day is celebrated. The month of November is also celebrated as Adoption Month. During November, families are invited to public adoption hearings to raise awareness about the thousands of children in Michigan’s foster care system who are waiting for permanent homes.

In honor of this special day, held this year on Nov. 21, the Sault Ste. Marie Chippewa Tribal Court finalized an adoption hearing and invited friends, family and the community to help celebrate.

Tribal Court Judge Jocelyn Fabry said, “On Adoption Day we celebrate all of the families who open their hearts to our tribal children who need a home. There is no greater gift you can give a child.”

The Hon. Allie Greenleaf Maldonado, from the Michigan Court of Appeals and former

Little Traverse Bay Band tribal judge (and first Native woman appointed to Michigan’s appellate bench) appeared by Zoom to help celebrate the occasion. Michigan’s Adoption Day is co-sponsored by the Michigan Supreme Court, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Michigan Adoption Resource Exchange, and the Child Welfare Services Division of the State Court Administrative Office.

According to Michigan.gov website, there are about 10,000 children in Michigan’s foster care system and nearly 200 children who are still waiting for an adoptive family. Also according to the website, more than 1,600 children were adopted from Michigan’s child welfare system from October 2022 through September 2023.

Are you interested in becoming a foster parent? Sault Tribe’s Anishnaabek Community and Family Services (ACFS) is in need of tribal foster homes. Contact ACFS at (906) 632-5250



Photos by Scott Brand

Sault Tribe Chief Judge Jocelyn Fabry was happy to finalize an adoption on Michigan’s Adoption Day.

or by email at acfs-fosterhomes@saulttribe.net for information.

Additional resources include the Michigan Adoption Resource Exchange at (800) 589-6273, or see the biographies and photos of Michigan’s children available for adoption at www.mare.org. Adoptive homes for teens are

especially needed.

According to the National Adoption Day website (<https://www.nationaladoptionday.org>), National Adoption Day is a grassroots effort to help raise awareness of the more than 113,000 children waiting to be adopted from foster care in the United

States. National Adoption Day was launched in 1999 by a coalition of national partners, including the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption, Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute, Alliance for Children’s Rights and the Children’s Action Network.

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Left, Johnny Kennedy was welcomed into his new family joining his parents Jacalyn and Jenna Kennedy along with younger sister, Boston, in a blanket ceremony. At right, the 5-year-old received numerous gifts before finishing the celebration with some cake.

Tips for Older Michigan Drivers

LANSING, Mich. – In recognition of Older Driver Safety Awareness Week, Dec. 4-8, Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson reminded residents that resources are available through the Michigan Department of State (MDOS) for residents to educate themselves on safe driving at any age.

Benson encourages older Michigan drivers and their family members to take advantage of available resources at Michigan.gov/AgingDriver.

The Safe Drivers Smart Options: Keys to Lifelong Mobility website helps aging drivers stay safe behind the wheel, retain their independence, and remain active in their communities. National Older Driver Safety Awareness Week is the perfect time to take advantage of these helpful resources.

The Safe Drivers Smart Options website, Michigan.gov/AgingDriver, contains resources and information to educate, empower, and guide older drivers and their families to plan for their safe transportation and embrace the value of the occupation of driving and community mobility as essential to help them stay engaged in the community. Recognized for excellence by the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators, the website was developed through a collaboration of public and private agencies to promote safety and mobility for Michigan's aging adults. It includes the following resources:

- Older driver self-assessment driving tools and videos,
- Links to driver refresher courses and other community supports for older drivers,
- Information about how medications and health problems may affect driving and lists of resources available to drivers about when they stop driving,
- Strategies for initiating conversations about when and how to transition to a non-driving lifestyle,
- Procedures for referring an unsafe driver for a driver reexamination, and
- Information about the aspects of aging and how best to interact with older residents for audiences such as law enforcement, healthcare, and other professionals.



Part-Time Reporter for Sault Tribe Guardian. The Reporter for the Sault Tribe Guardian is required to be an Enrolled Tribal Member of the Sault Ste Marie of Chippewa Indians and must be available to attend Sault Tribe Board Meetings. You can attend meetings in person or on Zoom. This job is exclusively governed by Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians Regulations; You must have the rights and ability to work on the Sault Tribe Reservation when assigned by the Editor.

<https://saulttribeguardian.com> is a Tribal Member Owned Independent News Website for Sault Tribe Members and is not owned or operated by the Tribe.

To apply, email your Resume, References, Portfolio, and the Desired Rate of Pay to news@saulttribeguardian.com.

<https://saulttribeguardian.com>

Seasons Greeting from Sault Tribe Human Resource Department

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The Sault Tribe Human Resource Department Dedicated to Promoting our Culture, Leadership and opportunities for success.

SAULT STE. MARIE TRIBE OF CHIPPEWA INDIANS

TOWN HALL

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18

Dear Community Member,

You are invited to participate in a town hall discussion to gather input and feedback on the Sault Ste. Marie Tribal Health System's services. The town hall will last about 90 minutes. Refreshments will be served. This is an opportunity for you to provide input that will help shape the future of the Health System. Members may also Zoom at <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86037562439>

Some of the things we would like to know:

- What do you think is working well?
- What changes would you like to see?
- What do you believe are the community's most important health priorities?
- What new services are needed?

This town hall is part of a clinic operations assessment and community health needs assessment. It is important that you have a voice in these projects.

We look forward to seeing you there.

– *The Sault Tribe Board of Directors*



EVENT DETAILS

When: January 18, 2024

Time: 5 pm to 7 pm

Location: Whitefish Point Room, Kewadin Casino, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

Refreshments will be served prior to starting the discussion.

A raffle drawing will be offered to all attendees with 25 \$50 gift cards available.

Committee vacancies — volunteers needed!

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

Anishinaabe Cultural Committee - Ten vacancies - five males (4-year term), five females (4-year term)
 Child Welfare Committee - Three vacancies (4-year term)
 Health Board - Two vacancies (4-year term)
 Housing/Utility Authority - One vacancy (4-year term)
 Special Needs/Enrollment

Committee - (2-year term)
 Unit I - Two vacancies
 Unit II - Two vacancies
 Unit III - Two vacancies
 Elder Advisory Committee
 Unit I - Sault - One alternate vacancy (4-year term)
 Unit II - Hessel - One alternate vacancy (4-year term)
 Unit II - Naubinway - One regular vacancy (4-year term)

Unit III - St. Ignace - Two alternate vacancies (4-year term)
 Unit V - Munising - One regular vacancy (4-year term)
 Unit V - Marquette - One alternate vacancy (4-year term)
 Elder Subcommittees
 Unit I - Sault - One alternate vacancy (4-year term)

Unit IV - Manistique - One alternate vacancy (4-year term)
 Unit IV - Escanaba - Two alternate vacancies (4-year term)
 Unit V - Munising - One regular vacancy, two alternate vacancies (4-year term)
 Unit V - Marquette - One regular vacancy (4-year term)

WIOA funding for on-the-job training

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

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 seven county service area.

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

Senior Employment position available

A Senior Employment job is available in Hessel. If interested, reply to the Elder Employment Program, Attn: Brenda Cadreau, 523 Ashmun St., Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 or call (906) 635-4767.

The program may be able to reside in the seven county service area. Jobs are 14 hours per week at \$13.072 per hour.

Must undergo and pass a Criminal background investigation and pre-employment drug test. Must be insurable to drive GSA vehicle.

Experience in home meal preparation and Serve Safe Certification preferred.

The Hessel Tribal Center is looking for a kitchen aide. The kitchen aide, under the direction of the cook, assists with the preparation of elder congregate meals for an assigned meal site.



Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Communications Dept.
 531 Ashmun St., SSM, MI 49783; (906) 632-6398; fax: (906) 632-6556

2024 Win Awenen Nisitotung Production Schedule*

Deadline (Fri)	To Press (Fri)	Digital Issue Posted (Mon)	Publication Date (Wed)	Special Editions
January 12	January 19	January 22	January 24	
February 9	February 16	February 19	February 21	
March 8	March 15	March 18	March 20	
April 19	April 26	April 29	May 1	Primary Election*
May 17	May 24	May 24 (Fri)	May 29	General Election*
June 14	June 21	June 24	June 26	
July 12	July 19	July 22	July 24	
August 9	August 16	August 19	August 21	
September 13	September 20	September 23	September 25	Annual Report**
October 11	October 18	October 21	October 23	
November 15	November 22	November 25	November 27	
December 13	December 20	December 20 (Fri)	December 26 (Thu)	

* Dates are tentative, depending on NOE posted Jan. 31, 2024.

** The 2023 annual report issue is tentatively scheduled for September, pending 2023 audit approval.

DIVISION ANNUAL REPORTS DUE JUNE 30.

Please make your submissions for articles, announcements, advertising, etc., by 5 p.m. deadline day.

To submit, email to Jennifer Dale-Burton, jdale-burton@saulttribe.net, or Sherrie Lucas, slucas@saulttribe.net.

To make an appointment for photos or an interview, contact:
Brenda Austin, baustin@saulttribe.net or 26221
Scott Brand, sbrand@saulttribe.net or 26555

LIHEAP/LIHWAP Notice

Sault Tribe's Anishnaabek Community and Family Services (ACFS) Low Income Household Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) began accepting applications on Nov. 1. LIHEAP provides assistance to reduce the home heating/energy costs to eligible tribal households in the seven county service area.

Sault Tribe's ACFS Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) currently has funding available for the 2023-2024 funding year. LIHWAP provides assistance to restore water service/prevent water disconnections to eligible Sault Tribe housings in the tribe's seven county service area.

Please contact a Case Manager

in your area if you would like assistance completing these applications. Applications are available at the following ACFS Offices:

2218 Shunk Road, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783, (906) 632-5250
 60 Kincheloe Drive, Kincheloe, MI 49788, (906) 495-1232
 1140 N. State Street, St. Ignace, MI 49781, (906) 643-8689
 5698 W Highway US-2, Manistique, MI 49854, (906) 341-6993

622 W. Superior Street, Munising, MI 49862, (906) 387-3906

Download a print version at: www.saulttribe.com/membership-services/acfs/direct-services/low-income-home-energy-assistance

GAS & CIGARETTE DISCOUNTS

TRIBALLY OWNED OFFERING GAS AND CIGARETTE DISCOUNTS

MidJim Convenience Store, 2205 Shunk Rd., Sault Ste. Marie
MidJim Convenience Store II, 3045 Mackinac Trail, St. Ignace

TRIBALLY OWNED OFFERING GAS DISCOUNT ONLY

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University BP at 301 W. Fair Ave., Marquette

NON-TRIBAL OWNED STATIONS OFFERING GAS DISCOUNT ONLY

Newberry Sunoco Gas Station, 13975 M-28, Newberry
Manistique Oil company, 216 Deer St., Manistique
Carnes BP, 2300 Ludington St., Escanaba

Kinross BP Local Express, 4440 Tone Rd., Kincheloe
Cedar Pantry, 159 W M-134, Cedarville

Membership liaisons available

Three membership liaisons work with the chairperson's office on membership issues and concerns across the service area. The liaisons respond to membership issues and follow up to ensure they are resolved. Sault Tribe members are encouraged to contact the liaisons when they need help with tribal issues by emailing them at membersconcerns@saulttribe.net.

net or contacting them individually at: Clarence Hudak, Lambert Center, St. Ignace, Mich., (906) 643-2124, chudak@saulttribe.net. Mary Jenerou, Manistique Tribal Center, (906) 341-8469; Munising Centers, (906) 450-7011 or (906) 450-7011, mjenerou@saulttribe.net. Michelle Moore at (906) 635-6050, mmoore@saulttribe.net.

Enrollment announcement

Up to date addresses sought
 Sault Tribe members whose addresses are not up to date have "bad addresses" with the tribe's Enrollment Department.

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

Go to the tribe's website at saulttribe.net and scroll down

Membership Services to Tribal Enrollment. Then go to the Information column on the left side of the Enrollment page and select "Up to date addresses sought."

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

Win Awenen Nisitotung

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Submission and Subscriptions:
 Win Awenen Nisitotung
 Attn: Communications Dept.
 531 Ashmun St., Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783; (906) 632-6398
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Tribe now part of national sex offender website

BY SCOTT BRAND

A new website has been established — saulttribe.nsopw.gov. — under the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (SORNA).

“It’s hooked to the national sex offender website,” said SORNA Project Coordinator Derek O’Dell who is responsible for the Sault Tribe’s seven county service area. “Any offender who works, lives or goes to school on tribal property or works at the casino or other business owned by the tribe.”

O’Dell has been working for the Sault Tribal Police

A new website has been established under SORNA: saulttribe.nsopw.gov

Department since January and has recently completed the official list.

“I have finally finished the website and it appears to be working as it should,” he explained. “We here at the department thought that we needed to get this information out to the public.”

The Sault Tribe is not alone

in creating its own list, according to O’Dell, as the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, Keweenaw Bay Indian Community and the Bay Mills Indian Community have compiled their own lists with associated websites.

“This website will allow the user to see the offenders who have to register with the Tribe, along with information such as residence, employment, tattoos, vehicles and photos,” concluded O’Dell. “There is also a detailed map showing where they reside and where they are employed.”



Photo by Scott Brand

SORNA Project Coordinator Derek O’Dell recently completed a list of tribal sex offenders that is now linked to the national sex offender website.

Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act update

WASHINGTON – The Department of the Interior on Dec. 6 announced a final rule to revise regulations that implement the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA). These regulations provide systematic processes for returning Native American human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony to lineal descendants, Indian Tribes, and Native Hawaiian Organizations (NHOs).

The revised regulations streamline requirements for museums and federal agencies to inventory and identify Native American human remains and cultural items in their collections.

“The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act is an essential tool for the safe return

of sacred objects to the communities from which they were stolen. Among the updates we are implementing are critical steps to strengthen the authority and role of Indigenous communities in the repatriation process,” said Secretary Deb Haaland. “Finalizing these changes is an important part of laying the groundwork for the healing of our people.”

Enacted in 1990, NAGPRA, which is administered by the National Park Service, requires museums and federal agencies to identify Native American human remains, funerary items, and objects of cultural significance in their collections and collaborate with Indian tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations to repatriate them.

“NAGPRA is an important

law that helps us heal from some of the more painful times in our past by empowering Tribes to protect what is sacred to them. These changes to the Department’s NAGPRA regulations are long overdue and will strengthen our ability to enforce the law and help Tribes in the return of ancestors and sacred cultural objects,” said Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Bryan Newland.

Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks Shannon Estenoz said that the new NAGPRA final rule is the result of “many months of nation-to-nation consultation, collaboration across the Department and federal family,” adding, “It represents an all-of-government approach to respecting and strengthening our Indigenous connections, enhancing

our nation-to-nation relationships, and fully upholding our trust and treaty responsibilities.”

In October 2022, the Interior Department published a proposed rule for public comment and received 181 individual submissions that yielded over 1,800 specific comments. The final regulations incorporate input from all comments, especially those from Tribes and NHOs to the maximum extent possible.

The final rule makes a number of changes, including:

- Strengthening the authority and role of Tribes and NHOs in the repatriation process by requiring deference to the Indigenous Knowledge of lineal descendants, Tribes and NHOs.

- Requiring museums and federal agencies to obtain free,

prior and informed consent from lineal descendants, Tribes or NHOs before allowing any exhibition of, access to, or research on human remains or cultural items.

- Eliminating the category “culturally unidentifiable human remains” and resetting the requirements for cultural affiliation to better align the regulations with congressional intent.

- Increasing transparency and reporting of holdings or collections and shedding light on collections currently unreported under the existing regulation.

- Requiring museums and federal agencies to consult and update inventories of human remains and associated funerary objects within five years of this final rule.

Visit the National NAGPRA website for more information.

Saturdays in January

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SPIN TO WIN

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55TH ANNUAL I-500

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Sault Ste Marie | February 17

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Richard Rapson decorates home on Lumsden Way



Sault Tribe member and long-time employee Richard Rapson decorated his home on the tribe's Sault reservation on Lumsden Way for the Christmas holiday.



JKL School science fair winners



Photo by Scott Brand

JKL Bahweting School's 2023 Science Fair winners in grades second through eighth.

Congratulations to all the amazing young scientists who participated in JKL Bahweting School's 2023 Science Fair. The students will take their projects to the regional fair at Lake Superior State University on Dec. 8.

Second grade winners

First place: Reagan Rye, Emilia Lowes and Aliviyah Stobnicke.

Second place: Elliana Kagarise and Kellan Keefer.

Third place: Oliver McKenzie and Alan Li.

Third grade winners

First place: Grayson Drumheller, Gilbert Laitinen and Cullen Alford.

Second place: Jase Escherich, Jack Tetzlaff and Grayson Miller.

Third place: Wyatt Kibble, Willa Shunk and Camilla Perry.

Fourth grade winners

First place: Arya Neuenschwander, Ivan Neuenschwander and Holden Hoy.

Second place: Logan Follette, Grayson Kibble, and Brantley St. Onge.

Third place: Morgan Gurnoe, Alisa Mudloff and Claudia Bernier.

Fifth grade winners

First place: Jackson Ball. Second place: Abigail Aldrich. Third place: Corbin Pancheri.

Sixth grade winners

First place: Clara Neibuhr. Second place: Zachary Kibble, Nate Olmstead and Tia Gordon.

Third place: Lola Donmyer and Sophie Palmer.

Seventh grade winners

First place: Molly Escherich. Second place: Liam Roe.

Third place: Luke Roe, Karter Ince and Destiney Robinson.

Eighth grade winners

First place: Lorelai Kachur, Layla Thomas-Holm and Alexandra Balyeat.

Second place: Randy Lowes.

Third place: Troy Pavlat and Tristan Ortiz.

MacArthur harvests six-point buck



Sault Tribe member Brandi MacArthur harvested a 6-point buck on opening day. This is the second biggest buck she has ever harvested since learning to hunt at the age of 12 with her dad, Chip MacArthur. "I want to say thank you to all of my family and friends," she said. "It has taken a lot of love and support to get me back in the woods since my dad passed away in 2019."

Ingalls bags seven-point



Adam Ingalls shot this seven-point buck in Muskegon county Nov. 28.

Germain family Christmas gathering



Skylar Murphy and Braxton Wilkins with Santa.



Kinzlee Closs, Desi Germain and Waylon Closs.



L-R: Bernard Germain, Patti Bosley, (Santa) Duane Mongene, Sharon Oliver, Janet Germain, Suzy Niemi, Back Linda Germain and Sandy Graham.

Anishinaabemowin 2023

Wealth among traditional people is measured by having enough to give away. — Robin Wall Kimmerer in "Braiding Sweetgrass"

Baapinakamigad nanda giizhigadoon.

There are festivities these days.

G'waabndaanaan gegoon. We see things.

Goon waasaabkidek gnaajiwān.

The sparkling snow is beautiful.

Nangoonsak gnaajiwīwag.

The stars are beautiful.

Segaajiganan gnaajiwānan.

The ornaments are beautiful.

Zhoomiingweniwīnan gnaajiwānan.

The smiles are beautiful.

G'bijmaanjiigemi. We smell things.

N'bijmaandaan wīyaas gbojiizang.

I smell roasting meat.

N'bijmaandaan e-bizigawaakamik.

I smell stew.

N'bijmaandaan shki-bkwezhigan.

I smell fresh bread.

N'bijmaamaag bkwezhigaanhsak.

I smell cookies.

G'noondaanaan gegoon. We hear things.

Tataaganan minotaagotan.

Bells sound good.

E-wiikwejiibjigejig gegoon. Minotaagot.

People wrapping things. It sounds good.

Bboon-nagamwinan gegoon.

Winter songs sound good.

E-jiishaaganeged gojiing n'noondwaa.

I hear someone shovelling snow outside.

G'minopidaanaan gegoon. We taste things.

Giizhoo-chocolate mnopidaan.

Hot chocolate tastes good.

Mishiimin-aaboo minopidaan.

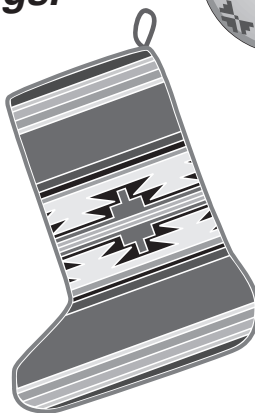
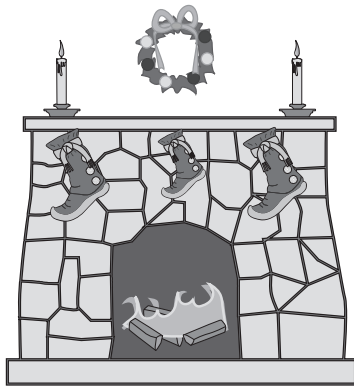
Apple cider tastes good.

Bkwezhigaanhsak minopagoziwag.

Cookies taste good.

Geshkbizoonh minopidaan.

Steamed pudding tastes good.



Manidoo Giisoonhs Little Spirit Moon

by Susan Askwith



From Nov.1 to Jan. 15 there are about 29 holidays observed by seven of the worlds major religions, and our Anishinaabe Aadzowin (Native Culture).

(in part from a Facebook post)

Maampii Baaweting Anishinaabek yaawag, niibina bmaadizijig wii kidwag...

Here at Sault Tribe, many people want to say . . .

Mino Niibaanamaam* miinwaa Mino Nimkodaading**

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

G'bishigendaanaan: (We like)

Niibaanamaa mitigook.

Christmas trees

Niibaanamaa midaasan

Christmas stockings

Ziisbaakdoonhs skowinan

Candy canes



Shkapijigaanhsan

Little gift packages

Zigaabiiginige-waawaashkeshak

Reindeer (*deer wearing leashes*)

E-nokijig minaadjidwaad.

Staff parties

Goon aazheniinsag

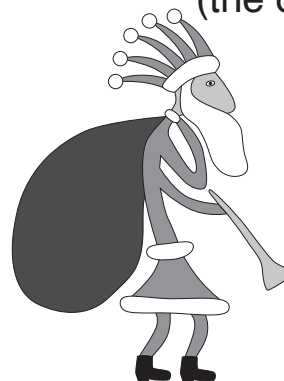
Snow angels



Miinwaa gegeti-gwa: and of course

Gechi-miigwet: Santa Claus

(the one who gives greatly)



* **Niibaanamaam** This says "pray all night" which refers to a midnight mass.

** **Nimkodaading** This says "we go around shaking hands in greeting," a traditional way affirm relationships from the past year and into the new year.

Pronunciation?? You'll find the Anishinaabemowin words in this lesson and on the calendar printed on the facing page, pronounced at this FaceBook link:

www.facebook.com/SaultTribeLanguageAndCulture.

Making our Sounds

Most letters sound like in English.

Here are the exceptions.

aa sounds like the a in *awesome*

a sounds like the a in *about*

ii sounds like the e in *be*

i sounds like the i in *dip*

oo sounds like the o in *go*

o sounds like the oo's in *book*

e sounds like the e in *Ed*

g sounds only like it does in *go*

Pronounce all the letters. Big deal: if **n** has an H or S after it, the n has NO SOUND of its own. It's a sign to say the vowels just before it in a nasal way - as if you had a stuffed up nose from a cold.

Kewadin Can-A-Thon donations



KEWADIN SAULT — L-R: Envoy Eric Gilbert of The Salvation Army accepts a check from Kewadin CEO Allen Kerridge, while Unit I Director Mike McKerchie awaits a massive food delivery, estimated to be in the neighborhood of two tons, to be off-loaded by Travis Jackman and Bill Carie for the pantry.



KEWADIN CHRISTMAS — Kewadin Casino Christmas Marketing Rep. Vicki Lindquist with volunteers Kim Swanberg and Ruth Ann Pokela with food donations and a check for the Alger County Food Pantry.



Photo by St. Vincent De Paul Sales Worker Remy Florek
KEWADIN MANISTIQUE — St. Vincent De Paul Coordinator Jan LeDuc and Kewadin Manistique Marketing Representative Abigail Galen. Ten boxes of canned food was donated to the Manistique St. Vincent De Paul, serving all of Schoolcraft County.



Photo by Abigail Galen
KEWADIN MANISTIQUE — Director of the Manistique Good Neighbors Food Pantry Margo Withey (left), General Manager of Kewadin Casino Lisa Fisher, and Director of Good Neighbors Food Pantry Loney Withey with the \$500 donation from Kewadin Casino. Over 1,000 pounds of food was also donated by Manistique Kewadin customers. Good Neighbor divides the food and the \$500 between them and Christ Fellowship Ministries out of Germfask, Mich. Good Neighbor Food Pantry services all of the Schoolcraft County area.

SAULT TRIBE TRADITIONAL MEDICINE PROGRAM 2024 January Healer's Clinic Hours Gerard Sagassige

January 8,9,15,16,22,23,29,30
Sault Ste. Marie Health Center
(906)632-0236

Wednesday, January 10th
St. Ignace Health Center
(906)643-8689

Wednesday, January 17th
Manistique Health Center
(906)341-8469

Wednesday, January 24th
Hessel Community Center
(906)484-2727

Wednesday, January 31st
Munising Health Center
(906)387-4721

George Goggleye

January 3,4,5,10,11,12,17,18,19,24,25,26,31
Sault Ste. Marie Health Center
(906)632-0236 Lori Gambardella

ANY QUESTIONS. OR TO BOOK AN APPOINTMENT PLEASE CALL
TRADITIONAL MEDICINE PROGRAM AT
906-632-0236 OR 906-632-5268

Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians Welcomes Nimkodaading Jiingtamok New Year's Sobriety Pow-Wow

Big Bear Arena
2 Ice Circle

December 31st, 2023
3:00 PM – 1:00 AM

• Host Drum: Eagle Lodge
Co-Host Drum: TBD

Head Dancers: Melissa Causley
& Tyrone Shawana

Head Veteran: Nick Vanalstine
MC: Tyler Bouschor

At this Powwow, we recognize the journeys of all of
who seek a healthy, sober life.

Sobriety Recognition Giveaway 5 PM
Dinner @ 6:00PM
Snack @ 10:00PM

Vendors Free: To Reserve Space,
Contact Acausley@saulttribe.net

For Info: Call Us @ 906-635-6510

Anishinaabek Community and Family Services' Child Welfare Program staff attend training

FROM ACFS

Anishinaabek Community and Family Services' (ACFS) Child Welfare Program recently attended a two-day Breakthrough Series Collaborative Learning Session in Kansas City on Nov. 15 and 16. Teams showcased innovative strategies for enhancing worker well-being, fostering connection

and improving employee retention. Teams engaged in deep discussions, self-assessment of their workforce and shared ideas. Teams left with new ideas and a plan for trying and expanding on previous strategies to address the needs of their workforce.

This is part of an 18-month breakthrough series collaborative

that was launched by the National Child Welfare Workforce Institute to improve the recruitment and retention of the child welfare workforce and build cultures that value justice, equity, diversity, and belonging. There are five tribal and nine public multi-level teams working together to build

anti-racist, anti-colonial child welfare programs that support the well-being of the workforce and the families and communities they serve.

Teams are working on designing and testing change strategies using the Plan Do Study Act (PDSA), small tests of change

strategies guided by a collaborative change framework that is based on the Surgeon General's Framework for Workplace Mental Health & Well-Being. Throughout the collaborative team members work together to make changes from their positions to help improve the workforce.



Staff from ACFS celebrated Rock Your Mocs at the Breakthrough Series Collaborative Learning Session in Kansas City on Nov. 15. Rock Your Mocs is a worldwide social media event designed to share Native and Indigenous pride. Above, from left to right, are Ashley Morrow, Carrie Myotte, Christina Menard, Melissa VanLuven, Heather Pavlat, Melissa Tominac, Emily Seppala, Cheryl Stec and Amanda Gil.

StrongHearts Native Helpline receives \$100,000

StrongHearts Native Helpline has been awarded a Giving Tuesday grant of \$100,000 from San Manuel Band of Mission Indians in Southern California. This substantial grant will be instrumental in advancing StrongHearts' mission to provide critical support and resources to Native communities while fostering healing, empowerment, and resilience.

StrongHearts Native Helpline extends its heartfelt gratitude to the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians for the tribe's unwavering commitment to its mission. This partnership reinforces our shared dedication to making a meaningful and lasting impact on Native individuals and communities affected by domestic and dating violence.

"We are deeply grateful for their generous support. This grant represents a significant step forward in our ongoing efforts to create a safer, healthier future for Native people," StrongHearts CEO Lori Jump said. "Together, we will continue to work tirelessly to ensure that our relatives never have to face domestic or sexual violence alone."

The grant funds will be strategically

allocated to strengthen StrongHearts in key areas:

Organization Infrastructure: StrongHearts is dedicated to building a strong organizational foundation for long-term sustainability, spanning seven generations, and this grant will help us allocate more staff hours to capacity building, prioritizing quality assurance and data-driven improvements in our services.

Outreach Initiatives: With the support of San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, StrongHearts will launch comprehensive outreach campaigns to raise awareness about our helpline's services and the importance of addressing domestic and dating violence in Native communities. These initiatives aim to reach a broader audience and connect those in need with our vital resources.

The grant will enable us to provide specialized training for our dedicated staff, equipping them with the knowledge and skills needed to offer culturally sensitive, trauma-informed support to our callers. This training will further enhance the quality of care provided by StrongHearts Native Helpline.

Tribal foster homes needed

Are you interested in becoming a foster parent?

Sault Tribe's Anishnaabek Community and Family Services (ACFS) is in need of tribal foster homes. Contact ACFS at (906) 632-5250 or by email at acfs-fosterhomes@saulttribe.net for more information.

Additional resources include the Michigan Adoption Resource Exchange at 800-589-6273, or see the biographies and photos of Michigan's children available for adoption at www.mare.org.

Adoptive homes for teens are especially needed.

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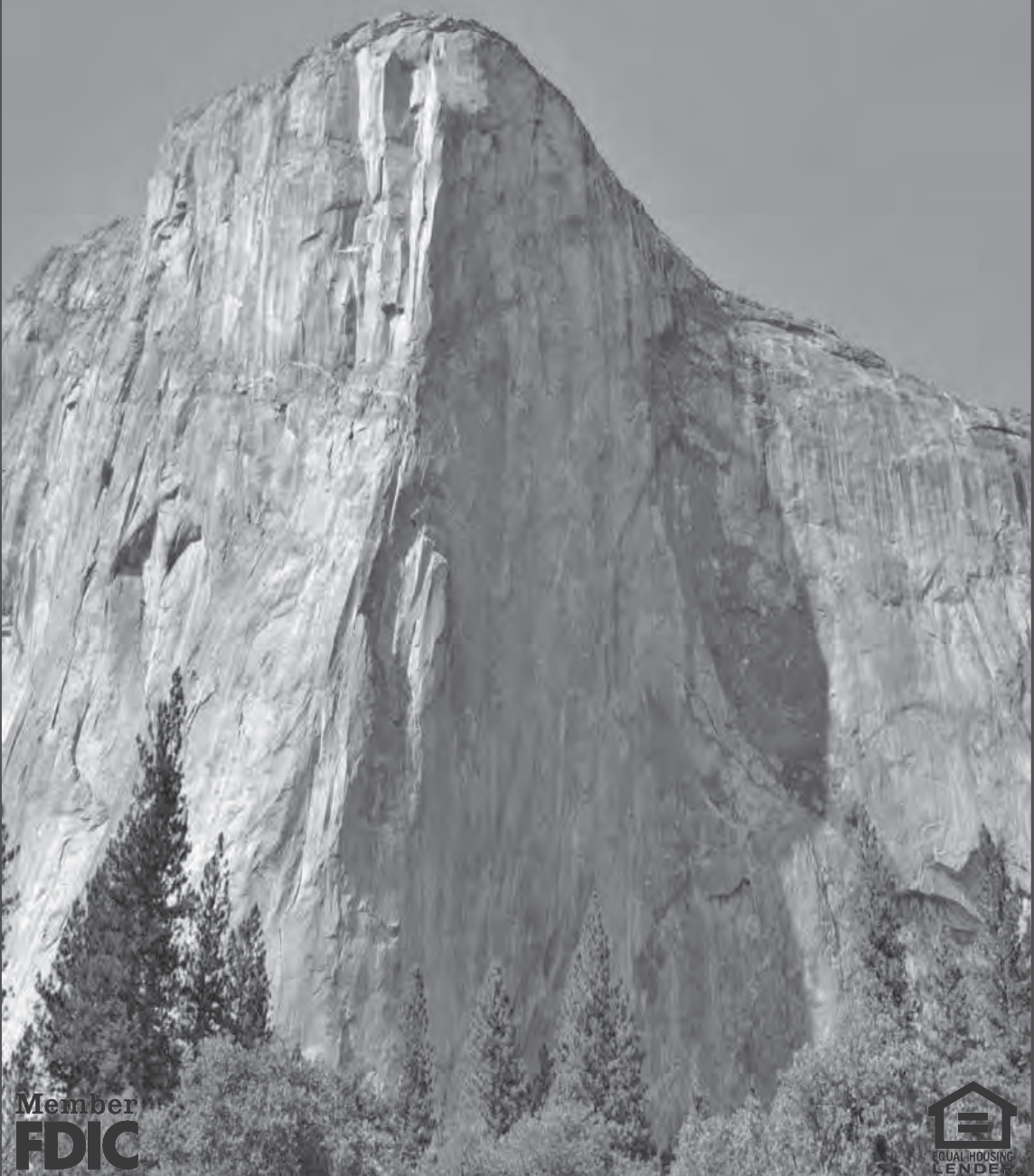
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Mackinac Island • Naubinway • Newberry



Embracing hope, celebrating recovery with the Wellbriety Tree of Hope at health center

BY SAULT TRIBE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

In the spirit of unity and the celebration of resilience, the Sault Tribe Behavioral Health Department invites all community members who are on their path of recovery from substance use to participate in a heartfelt initiative – The Wellbriety Tree of Hope.

Originally created by the White Bison, Inc.'s Wellbriety Movement, The Tree of Hope initiative inspires hope and healing. Recovery is a journey that deserves acknowledgment and support, and the Wellbriety Tree of Hope aims to create a symbol of strength and triumph within communities.

This holiday season, we encourage individuals who have embraced the path of recovery to put their names on ornaments that will adorn our community tree. Joining the Wellbriety Tree of Hope is not just about hanging an ornament; it's about proudly declaring your commitment to recovery and inspiring others on their journey. By adding your name to the tree, you contribute to a collective display of courage,

resilience, and the power of community support.

In the main lobby of our Sault location, you will find our Tree of Hope and supplies to participate.

Write your name on one side of the provided White Bison ornament. On the reverse side, note the time you've been on your recovery journey. You can also add a few words of encouragement or a positive message for others in the community. With consent, ornaments may be completed on behalf of a loved one who is currently on their recovery journey. Ornaments may also be completed on behalf of a loved one who has passed on.

Hang your finished ornament on the tree to be displayed for the month of December in the lobby of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribal Health Center. If you are unable to visit our Sault location but would like to participate, please contact Sault Tribe Behavioral Health and an ornament can be filled out on your behalf.

Participation in the Tree of Hope program is completely voluntary and participants are

not required to include identifying information. Participants may maintain confidentiality by completing an ornament anonymously, writing an appropriate nickname or initials, or leaving the name side blank.

Join us in fostering a supportive community for recovery!

Spread the word about our Tree of Hope by sharing information, displaying flyers in your agency or office, and reposting social media content from our Sault Tribe pages. Your small gestures make a significant impact on the recovery journey. Let's continue building an environment of understanding and encouragement together!

The Tree of Hope is made possible by The Sault Tribe Behavioral Health Department and funding from the SAMHSA grant 3H79TI085653-02S1.

For more information on the Tree of Hope or recovery support services, call Sault Tribe Behavioral Health at (906) 635-6075.

To learn more about White Bison Inc., visit whitebison.org.



In the main lobby of our Sault location, you will find our Tree of Hope and supplies to participate.

Walking on...

HAROLD LEO BELANGER

Harold Leo Belanger, 89, of Sugar Island, Mich., passed away Dec. 1, 2023, at McLaren Hospital in Petoskey, Mich.



Harold was a lifelong resident on the Island. He is survived by a daughter, Donna Jean Causley and a son, Paul Joseph Cadreau (aka: Buckshot). He was preceded in death by his beautiful wife of 50 years, Eleanor "Beebee" May (nee Causley) and a son, Randy Franklin. He also is survived by many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews - too numerous to mention.

Harold retired from the State of Michigan from a career as painter on the Mackinac Bridge. Harold enjoyed fishing, gardening and tinkering in the garage. He was known and loved by many friends and extended family during his life. He loved his home on Sugar Island and all of the friends that have come and gone and his absence in this world will be missed. Through the years, he belonged to many organizations and clubs. Recently, after the passing of his beloved wife in 2018, who was a Sault Tribe member, Harold volunteered as a groundskeeper at the Willwalk Cemetery and other sacred lands on the Island to honor both past and present tribal members.

A memorial service was held at the Community Center on Sugar Island on Dec. 9.

The burial followed at Willwalk Cemetery where he was placed next to his loving wife.

STEVEN RAY BRABO

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Steven Ray Brabo at the age of 63 (Oct. 31, 1960) on Dec. 3, 2023.



He is survived by his son, Michael Brabo, and his siblings Linda Wood, Sharon Brabo, and Christal (Douglas) Hatch, along with many nieces and nephews.

Steven is preceded in death by his parents, Raymond and Eleanor Brabo, and his siblings Alan Brabo, Pauline Clark, and Karen Brabo.

As a proud member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, Steven held his heritage close to his heart. His passion for fishing and hunting reflected his deep appreciation for nature and the traditions that shaped his life. With an infectious sense of humor, Steven had a remarkable ability to lighten any room.

May he rest in peace, leaving behind a legacy of cherished memories.

A funeral service was held Dec. 8, 2023, with interment following at Ridgelawn Cemetery, in Oxford, Mich.

Memorials may be made to the Alliance for the Great Lakes (<https://donate.greatlakes.org>).

HANK WILLIAM GRAVELLE

Hank William Gravelle, 38, of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., began his journey home on Oct. 29, 2023, at the Hospice of the EUP in Sault Ste. Marie after a fierce battle with cancer. He was born in the Sault to parents Chuck (Helen) Gravelle and Sharon Causley on Jan. 12, 1985.

Hank spent his youth in the Sault area and attended Malcolm High School. After obtaining his GED, he went on to work in the restaurant industry, Kewadin Casino and as a laborer for his brother's construction company. He lived for a brief time in Arizona before coming back to Michigan to be closer to family and friends.



Hank was a member of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians and was the original founder of the Rez Posse.

Hank loved music and was talented at both playing the guitar and drums. He enjoyed skateboarding, hacky sack and going to the casino to play slots. He enjoyed all life had to offer, hanging out with friends and loved his family greatly. He will be greatly missed by many.

Hank is survived by the love of his life, Tara Horka; daughter, Lilly; stepmother, Helen Gravelle; brother, Derek Causley; sisters, Rachel Causley, Denise Andrews, and Lisha Krull-Linder; many aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, great nieces and great nephews; special family and friends, Jena Peffers, Brian Matrious, Neemin-Gizis Matrious, Kewahtahsay Matrious, Justin Peek, Jake Stallard, Charlie Beaudry, Chris Goetz and Adam Rutledge

A traditional ceremony was held Oct. 31, 2023, at Niigaanagiizhik Ceremonial Building in Sault Ste Marie, Mich.

Hank will be laid to rest at Maplewood Cemetery in Hessel, Mich., at a later time.

See "Walking on," page 12

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William Joseph Hampton born



William Joseph Hampton was born to proud parents Sault Tribe member Spencer Hampton and his partner Marissa Mathias at 3:23 p.m. on Dec. 6, 2023, in Marquette, Mich. He weighed six pounds one ounce and was 18 inches in length. The family resides in Manistique, Mich. Grandparents are Kimberly Hampton, Sherry Bink and Harvey Mathias. Great grandparents are Kirk and Tammy Vincent, and Sharon Mathias.

Sault Tribe Housing Authority staff annual training event held



About 60 members of the Sault Tribe Housing Authority gathered on the escalator at Kewadin Casino on Nov. 9 before taking their lunch break. The annual event included required training, team building exercises cultural activities and crafts.

Barbara Donnay McAdams graduates with Doctorate of Occupational Therapy

Barbara Donnay McAdams of Big Rapids, Mich., graduated from Grand Valley State University (GVSU) with a Doctorate of Occupational Therapy (DrOT) on Aug. 8, 2023. McAdams participated in GVSU's doctoral hooding and graduation ceremony on Dec. 9, 2023.

She was raised in Flushing Mich., and is a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. Following high school, she received her combined bachelor/master of science degree in occupational therapy in May 1995 from D'Youville College in Buffalo, NY. After practicing in South Carolina for seven years, McAdams and her family moved to Big Rapids, Mich. She began the pursuit of her doctoral degree in occupational therapy from GVSU in August 2020 amidst a global pandemic. McAdams completed her doctoral capstone research project

titled Supporting Feeding, Eating, and/or Swallowing Challenges for Children and Families Receiving Services Through Early On® Michigan: A Survey of Occupational Therapists. She continues to work with infants and toddlers and their families through Early On of Michigan while employed at Newaygo County Regional Educational Service Agency (NCRESA).

McAdams is married to Nolan McAdams and they have four children, Jonatha, Connor, Jerry and Meredith. She is the daughter of tribal member Wanda Donnay and the late Gerald Donnay. McAdams is extremely grateful for the support of her family, friends, community and the Sault Tribe throughout her doctoral journey.



Tribal youth presents research project



ZEELAND, MICH. — Quincy Elementary School's fifth grade classes have been working on Native American research projects and did a big presentation on them recently. Adelyn Vandermate (center), 10, is the daughter of Sault Tribe member Jenna Vandermate and is the first Native American most of the kids in her school have ever known. Vandermate said there is a lot of Dutch ancestry where they live, so they didn't believe Adelyn when she told them she was Native, until she showed them her tribal card. The kids and teachers thought it was cool she is Native American and that she was able to present about her tribe.

Gordon, Ph.D., recognized as Proud Michigan Educator

By SCOTT BRAND

#proudMIEducator is a Michigan Department of Education (MDE) initiative that aims to acknowledge, elevate and celebrate the work of great educators in the State of Michigan and it will soon feature a familiar face for anyone who has attended JKL Bahweting School.

Chris Gordon, Ph.D., has been recognized as a Proud Michigan Educator and as a result, a camera crew was dispatched to the Eastern Upper Peninsula in November to share his story with the public. The visit just happened to coincide with the school's Nov. 8 drum dance social inspired by Gordon and his drummers.

"It's pretty humbling," said Gordon of receiving statewide recognition, "I would never have anticipated that. I'm still trying to let it sink in. I don't seek these things out, I just try to do the best I can for the kids and live up to the Elders' purpose for opening the school."

Gordon taught Anishnaabe language and culture for 22 years at JKL Bahweting, passing his knowledge to the K-8 students.

"My last eight years I was solely at the middle school," he said of his daily classroom interactions. "This is my third year as an administrator."

In his new capacity — Director of Curriculum, Instruction, Federal and State Programs — Gordon

spends less time working with students, but that doesn't mean he has given it up for good.

"I still teach drumming after school, two days a week" he said.

Gordon took the long route to becoming a teacher. He graduated with a Kinesiology degree from the University of Michigan in 1994. He left a hockey career in 1999 and began teaching at JKL after receiving his Anishinaabemowin Teachers Certification from Bay Mills Community College. Several years later, a joint program between Bay Mills Community College and Ferris State University designed to recruit and train Indigenous teachers allowed him to earn a Michigan Teachers' License certified in science and physical education. This allowed him to be recognized as a teacher in the State of Michigan although his primary focus was language and culture. It wasn't until 2017, that Gordon became Michigan's first endorsed teacher in the Anishinaabe Language.

"It opened the door for other teachers doing this type of work," said Gordon adding there are now a handful of other educators who have earned this endorsement.

The video of Gordon, shot by Biddle City Creative Media of Lansing, Mich., has not been released yet, but should be coming out sometime in early 2024. It will be viewable, upon release, on the Michigan Department of Education Website.



Chris Gordon, Ph.D., (center) had two cameramen following his every move during the Nov. 8 drum dance social at JKL Bahweting. Gordon has been recognized as a Proud Michigan Educator and will appear in early 2024 on the Michigan Department of Education Website.

Sault Tribe Law Enforcement and Conservation

BY ROBERT MARCHAND,
CHIEF OF POLICE

Sault Tribe Law Enforcement (STLE) issues treaty hunting and fishing licenses to Sault Tribe members to be utilized within the boundaries of the 1836 Treaty Area. If members have any questions regarding these licenses, the criteria for obtaining them, or the regulations governing their use, please contact our office at (906) 635-6065.

Inland Hunting, Fishing, and Gathering

Early elk season is over, late season will be Dec. 9 through Dec. 17, 2023. As a reminder, everyone who was drawn for elk tags have been contacted. If you were not contacted and you applied, we strongly encourage you to apply again in 2024. Applications for bear and elk will be in the April 2024 newspaper and will be available in our office May 1-31, 2024.

We would like to remind our members that if you held a 2022 Inland Non Hunting Harvest license or an Inland Hunting license, you are still required to submit the annual harvest report prior to obtaining your 2023 licenses. These reports are required to be submitted regardless of activity during the 2022 hunting and fishing seasons.

If you are requesting this license for the first time, you are required to provide a copy of your tribal card along with proof

of hunter safety if you want to engage in treaty hunting rights. STLE does administer a Youth Mentoring program that members under the age of 10 are able to participate in for a maximum period of two years; please note however that once the youth turn 10, they are not eligible for this program and will be required to provide proof of hunter safety. STLE recommends that they begin participation at 8 years of age so there is no lapse in licensing. Please contact our office for more information as there are other requirements to participate and special applications that must be filled out.

Tribal Code Chapter 21 regulates Inland licenses. Please remember that if you are using this license for fishing purposes, you are only authorized to fish inland lakes and streams within the boundaries of the 1836 Treaty Area. There are some exceptions on specific bodies of water that you can find more information about in tribal code. All tribal codes may be found online at saulttribe.com, select Government at the top, select "Tribal Code" from the drop-down list and choose Chapter 21 for Inland rules and regulations.

Sault Tribe's early deer season is over and ran until Oct. 31, 2023. During this time you were authorized to harvest ONLY two of the five deer tags you received, one of which may be antlered.

Quiet time is also over; during quiet time you are authorized to use a bow and arrow, or crossbow, but cannot use a firearm. Late deer season started Nov. 15 where you are able to harvest your remaining tags, and goes through the first full weekend in January, ending on Sunday, Jan. 7, 2024.

Sault Tribe's small game season started Sept. 1, 2023, and runs through March 31, 2024.

Migratory bird season is now in season and will end Dec. 21, 2023; STLE has received the regulations that include seasons and bag limits from the Natural Resource Department. These are available online or at STLE's office in the Sault.

Great Lakes Fishing – Subsistence/Netting and Commercial

Commercial licenses – captains and helpers – still have the requirement to schedule an appointment with STLE in order to renew each year. It is important that helpers and captains call to schedule their own appointments. STLE has to obtain specific personal information each year that only the member themselves can provide. **2023 Captains and Helpers licenses expire Dec. 31, 2023.** You are able to call our office the last two weeks of December to schedule an appointment to get your 2024 license. Captains who have not paid their 2023 licenses have had a letter sent out, if you are unsure,

please call our office as soon as possible.

2023 Subsistence and Subsistence Netting licenses also expire Dec. 31, 2023.

You are able to request the 2024 packet the last two weeks of December so that there is no lapse in your license. If you hold one or both of these licenses, please remember that you are required to turn in a monthly catch report by the 10th of each month. These reports are required whether you catch any fish or get out to fish. If you fax in your reports, please make sure to call STLE about 10-15 minutes after you faxed it to ensure we received it. Please remember that these licenses are valid only on the Great Lakes within the boundaries of Sault Tribe's 1836 Treaty Area. Tribal Code Chapter 20 and CORA code regulate both subsistence and netting licenses. Both sets of regulations may be found online at saulttribe.com, select "Government" at the top, select "Tribal Code" from the drop-down list, and choose either Chapter 20 or CORA code for Great Lakes rules and regulations.

If you are not fishing with your subsistence or subsistence netting license and do not want to have to turn in the required monthly reports, you are able to turn in your license(s) with a final catch report at any time. If during that licensing year you want to start fishing again, you can either pick up your license at STLE or call

and we can mail it to you.

If you choose to turn in your license for a period of time, during that time you are not authorized to fish under the licenses' rules until you have your license in your possession. If you are issued a ticket, you are STILL required to turn in the catch report that you received a ticket for. We have had many issues with this, please read through rules and regulations so that you understand fully what is required of these licenses.

As a reminder, you are authorized to recreationally fish in the Great Lakes within the boundaries of our 1836 Treaty Area with just your NON-expired tribal membership card as long as you follow state of Michigan rules for the activity.

Members are encouraged to educate themselves on the various rules governing our Treaty rights; however, STLE is here to help members wade through the sometimes complex rules. If you cannot find the information you are looking for in Tribal or CORA Code, please contact our office at (906) 635-6065 and ask to speak with a conservation officer. For STLE address, fax numbers and phone numbers, visit www.saulttribe.com/government/law-enforcement.

As we move into the New Year, Sault Tribe Law Enforcement and staff would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a very Happy and Healthy New Year!

First-of-its-kind Tribal Water Institute created: Walton Family Foundation commits \$1.4 million

WASHINGTON, D.C.. - The Native American Rights Fund and the Walton Family Foundation has announced the creation of the Tribal Water Institute. It will provide Tribal Nations resources and training to advocate for their water rights and develop water policy solutions. The Walton Family Foundation is making a three-year, \$1.4 million commitment to launch the Institute. It will be housed within the Native American Rights Fund.

"Addressing the West's significant water challenges requires an all-hands on deck approach. Tribal Nations must

be included in water decision making," said Moira McDonald, Environment Program Director of the Walton Family Foundation. "Tribal Nations often have the most senior water rights in the Colorado River Basin and throughout the West. But they are under-represented in federal and state policy discussions. That is unjust and unwise. We need to listen to their voices. More inclusive decision-making will lead to greater benefits for the environment and society as a whole."

The Native American Rights Fund has a long history of

representing Tribal Nations on water rights. The Tribal Water Institute will double their water staffing. They will be able to take on more casework. It will also build a pipeline of new leaders and develop research and forward-thinking policy proposals.

"As the nation's largest and oldest non-profit dedicated to advancing the rights of Native Americans, the Native American Rights Fund has been at the forefront of key legal battles across Indian Country," said Native American Rights Fund Staff Attorney David Gover.

"The Tribal Water Institute helps fill a critical gap. It will provide legal support, train water attorneys, develop policy ideas, and educate state and federal decision makers. By increasing law and policy expertise within Tribal Nations, we can help Indian Country ensure water is available for generations to come."

Learn more about the Tribal Water Institute at <https://narf.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/narf-tribal-water-institute.pdf>.

About the Walton Family Foundation

The Walton Family Foundation is, at its core, a family-led foundation. Three generations of the descendants of our founders, Sam and Helen Walton, and their spouses, work together to lead the foundation and create access to opportunity for people and communities. We work in three areas: improving K-12 education, protecting rivers and oceans and the communities they support, and investing in our home region of Northwest Arkansas and the Arkansas-Mississippi Delta.

To learn more, visit www.waltonfamilyfoundation.org.

2024 Black Lake Sturgeon Lottery Application

Sault Tribe has an allocation of **one sturgeon license** for Black Lake in Cheboygan County in 2024. Please fill out the following application and return to Sault Tribe Natural Resource Department at: **2428 Shunk Road, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783. Application must be received by 5:00 pm on December 29th, 2023.** Applications received after 5:00pm on December 29th, 2023 **WILL NOT** be accepted.

First Name Middle Name Last Name

Address City State Zip Code

File Number (Red # on Tribal ID) STS #

Date of Birth Sex Phone Number Email

Walking on continued...

From "Walking on," page 9

Family Life Funeral Home assisted the family with arrangements. Condolences may be left to the family at www.csmulder.com.

MARJORIE L. KELLY

Marjorie L. Kelly, 88, of Lombard, Ill. passed away Tuesday, Nov. 21, 2023.

A memorial visitation was held on Friday, Dec. 1, 2023, followed by a memorial service at St. Johns Evangelical Lutheran Church in Lombard, Ill. A private interment followed.

Marjorie was the beloved wife of 68 years of the late William R. Kelly; loving mother of late Brian (Deborah) Kelly of Aurora, Ill., Delora (Isaac) Davenport of Warrenville, Ill., the late Mark Kelly of Warrenville, Janiece Kelly of Villa Park, Ill., Annette (Edward) Kelly of Plainfield, Ill., Caryn (George) Arnold of Florida, Sharon (Paul) Bojan of Tenn., and Shawn (Jennifer) Kelly of South Elgin, Ill.; fond grandmother of 20; great-grandmother of nine; dear sister of the late Harold Prout and the late Justine (Shannon) Hubble; sister-in-law of Dolores Prout of Wisconsin; and also an aunt to many nieces and nephews and a dear friend to many.

Marjorie was a resident of Lombard for 55 years. She was an active and proud member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. Marjorie was an active member of St. Johns Evangelical Lutheran Church in Lombard.

Marjorie was multi-talented, there are many beautiful blankets, hats, scarves, etc. which were knitted or crocheted that are lasting memories for many. She had a love and talent for crafting, along with her ability to bake and cook, her recipes will be carried on for generations. Marjorie loved to entertain and above all

had a big heart and would do anything for anybody. She loved her bingo and spent many hours working on her puzzles. She was an inspiration!

In lieu of flowers, memorials to St. Johns Evangelical Lutheran Church, 215 S. Lincoln Street, Lombard, IL 60148, are appreciated.

Arrangements by Brust Funeral Home. Info at www.brustfuneralhome.com.

LAWRENCE E. PAVLAT, SR.

Lawrence E. Pavlat, Sr., 81, of Holyoke, Mass. passed away peacefully on Oct. 24, 2023. He was born in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., son of the late Alois and Katherine Pavlat, and was a member of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

Lawrence was employed at Atlas Copco for many years before retirement. He was a man of few words but had a big heart. He enjoyed his family and especially visiting with his brothers-in-law, Jr., Roger, and Paul Desroches. Lawrence was predeceased by his loving wife of 59 years, Janet (Desroches) Pavlat. He is survived by his daughter, Cheryl Kopec and her husband David, and his son, Lawrence Jr. and his partner Albert Pinto. His grandchildren, Cindy and Marissa, were the light of his life. Along with many nieces and nephews, Lawrence also leaves many siblings that will miss him dearly: James Pavlat and his wife Kathleen, Rosaline Armstrong and her husband Lynn, Howard Pavlat and his wife Angie, Gene Pavlat and his wife Marcelina, Anton Pavlat, Gloria Kangas and her husband Tony, Dale Pavlat, and Phillip Pavlat and his wife Debbie. Besides his parents and his wife, Lawrence was predeceased by his sister, Veronica Caskey.

The family wishes to thank all of the nurses at Pioneer

Valley Heath and Rehab of South Hadley and from Beacon Hospice for their compassionate care of Lawrence. A Funeral Service was held for Lawrence on Nov. 2 at the Barry J. Farrell Funeral Home in Holyoke, Mass., followed by burial in Saint Rose Cemetery, South Hadley, Mass.

SHARON GAY NYE

Sharon Gay (Sutter) Nye passed away on Sept. 5, 2023, in Phoenix, Ariz., where she spent most of her adult life. Beloved daughter and granddaughter, wife, chosen mother and grandmother, Shari is survived by her husband George Nye of Phoenix; her mother Marianne Milkowski of Cedarville; her mother-in-law Norma Nye of Hessel; two sons, Cedric and Justin Nye; four grandchildren, James Bruer and Marcus Nye of Toledo, and Bryanna Nye and Aiden Gibson of Phoenix; four siblings, Chris (Lisa) Sutter of Drummond Island, Jeff Sutter of Cedarville, Joe (Sabina) Sutter of Gladstone, Laurie (Dean) Stockman of Omaha, Neb., sister-in-law Janet Sutter of Pickford; and many other loving family members.

Shari was preceded in death by her father Jack Sutter, stepfather John Milkowski, father-in-law Harold Nye, and brother John Sutter.

Shari was born on Feb. 17, 1959, in Gladstone, Mich., to Jack and Marianne (Watson) Sutter. She grew up in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan in both Gladstone and Hessel. She graduated from Cedarville (Les Cheneaux) High School in 1977. She married the love of her life, George Nye, on Aug. 19, 1989, in Phoenix, where they made

their home and shared their life together. Shari was a mentor and big sister to many, both in and out of work. She will be desperately missed.

Shari is fondly remembered as artistic, stylish, and beautiful, and always filled her home with those same qualities. She liked to socialize and travel, was an expert shopper with exquisite tastes, and her family often consulted her for advice on fashion and accessories. She was a born achiever who made it clear early on that she was "going places" and that she believed in working hard to get there. Always strong but with an equally tender and generous side, Shari's personality was a rare blend of compassion and confidence with which she always provided an unfailing source of loyal friendship, help, support, and a whole lot of just

plain fun. She reliably gave solid, practical advice, and could make you laugh even when chewing you out for your own good. She offered her best analysis of whatever your current dilemma might be and did so with honesty and respect. Shari was an influencer, and on a professional level these same qualities showcased her intrinsic leadership skills and propelled her into a successful, 26-year career as a highly-valued business analyst at BCBS of Arizona, from which she retired in 2015.

Shari was a lifelong member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and a respected keeper of her Ojibwe Native American heritage. She loved to spend time in the Upper Peninsula amongst the woods and shores of Lake Huron where she

See "Walking on," page 21



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Celebrating Christmas with Units I, II and III elders



Annette Powers, Cindy Thomas and Arnetta Pope traveled up from St. Ignace to attend the event.



Tom Johndrow, Sally Nolan, Clara Johndrow and Sharon Johndrow shared a table.



Wendie Harten, Rhonna Calkins and Millie Redmond pose for a photo before their meals arrived.

Photos by Scott Brand



John LaVictor, Valerie LaVictor, Margie Johanson and Lee Mayer share hors d'oeuvres.



Sault Tribe Board members Isaac McKechnie, Kimberly Lee, Lana Causley-Smith, Mike McKerchie, Betty Freiheit, Bridgett Sorenson and Shawn Borowicz join Tribal Chairman Austin Lowes in honoring Suzanne Stevenson, 96, the oldest person in attendance. Stevenson was presented with a wool Pendleton blanket.



Janine and John Marble prepare to find their seats for the feast.



Above, Scott Alexander was awarded the volunteer of the year certificate from Del Powers of Unit III. Below, Lou Ann Bush presented the award to David Nainan representing Unit I. Greg Latour was unable to attend the event, but was recognized for his efforts in Unit II by John Causley.



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WOCTEP is funded by the US Department of Education through the NACTEP program. Federal funds contribute to 92% of funding (\$500,666) and tribal support of 8% (\$42,329) for project year 1 (2022)



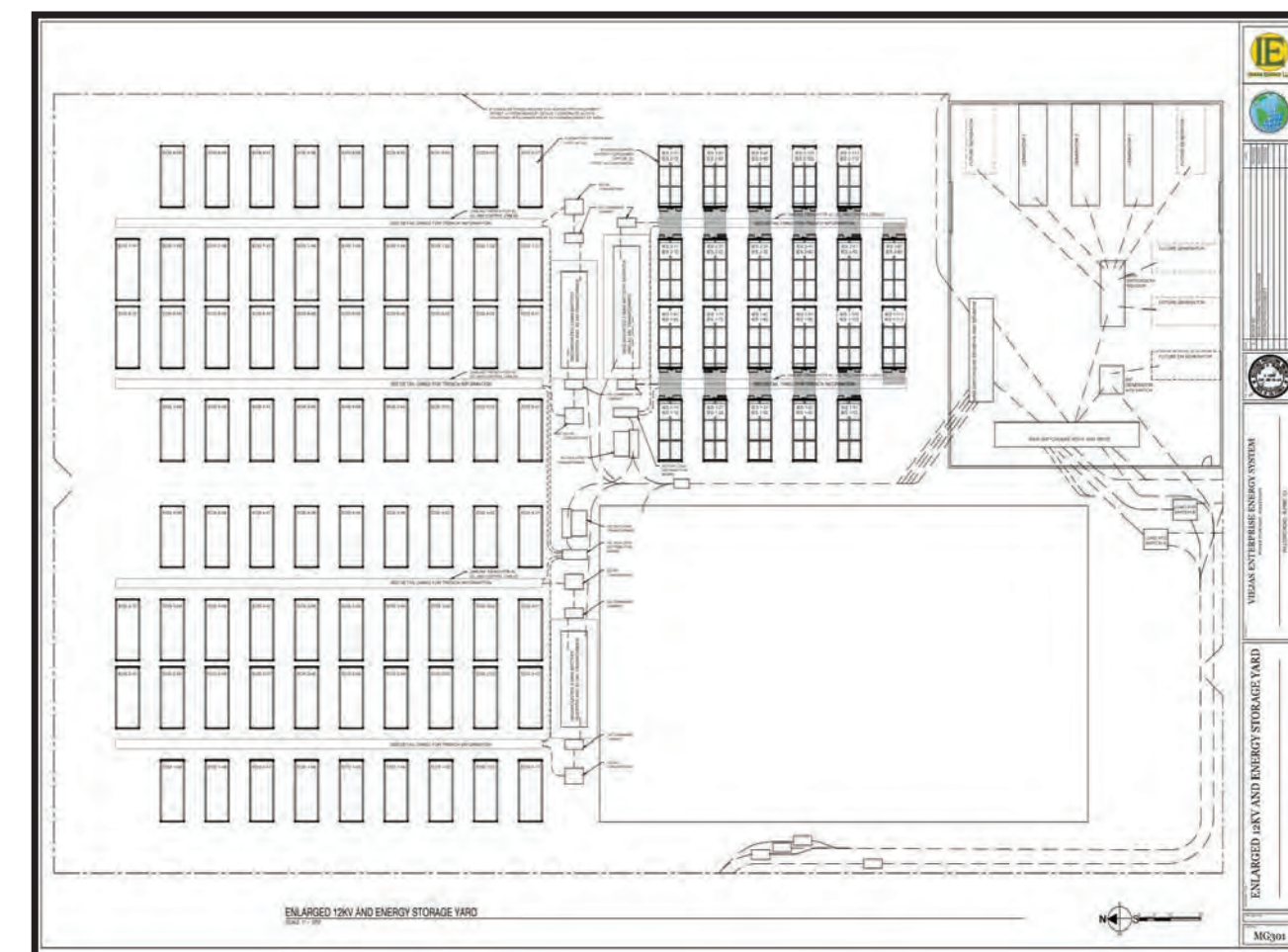
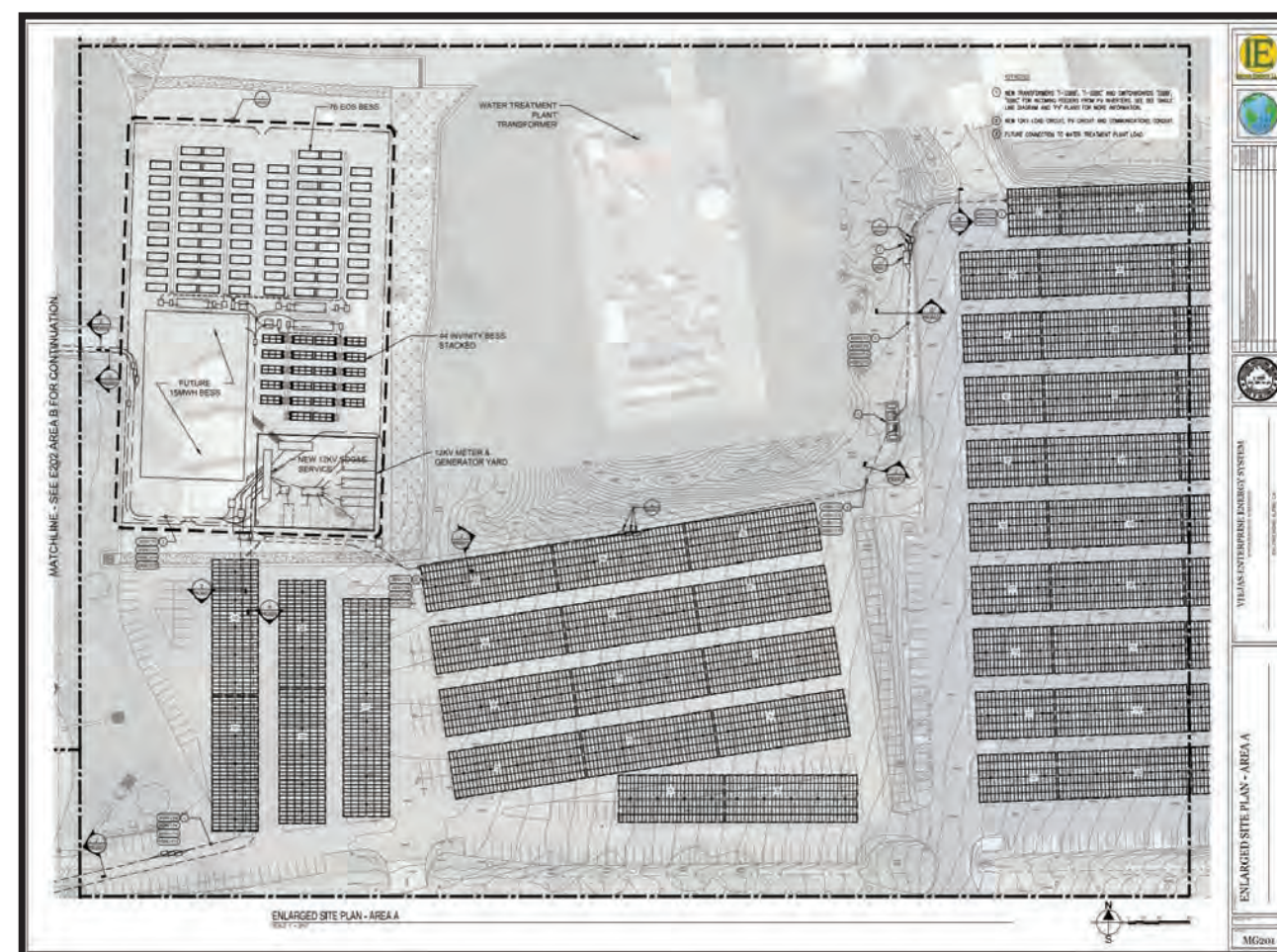
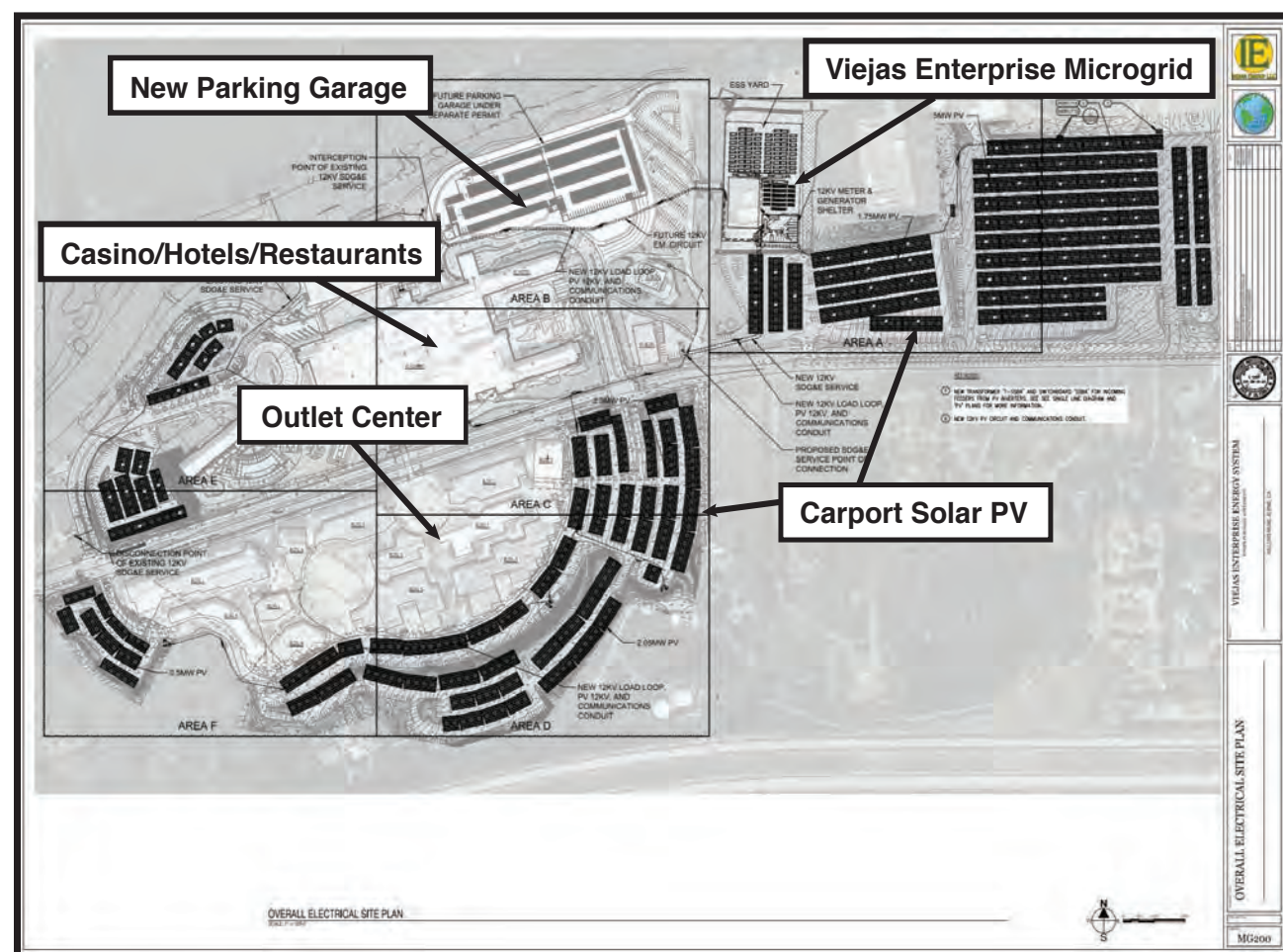


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Viejas Enterprises has entered into a 30-year power purchase agreement with Indian Energy. This project will be the first to utilize the Department of Energy's Tribal Energy Loan Guarantee

Annual Unit I, II & III Elder Christmas Party



Friends and family enjoying their time together.



Maryann Sawyers, Sault Tribe Community Health home health technician.



L-R: Mike and Becky Pine and Art and Bee Leighton.



Mary Belonga and Jennifer Predmore enjoying good food and great company.



Phyllis Smith, Ron McKechnie and Alice Valley.



Enjoying a good time and good food together.



Aimee Penrose (left) and Susan Boehmer.



Jackie Minton (center) enjoying the company of friends.



Sisters Diane Moore and Joyce Odell visiting.

Annual Manistique elders Christmas party



Photos by Elder Services Director Holly Kibble
YEA students volunteered to help serve elders, (L-R) Madison Ozanich, Ashlyn Smith, Emma Smith, Elder Outreach Worker Stacie Mattson, Jordan Carroll and Lilah Hinkson.



Elders having fun at the annual Manistique elders Christmas party.



Manistique elders enjoying good company and food at their annual holiday gathering.



YEA students presented elder committee members and staff with gifts. L-R: Sherry Boudreau, Lilah Hinkson, Emma Smith, Janet Krueger, Ashlyn Smith, Jo Nell Berger, Jordan Carroll, Sharon Barber, Carol Strauser and Tim Derwin.



SAULT TRIBE thrive

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

This business directory is intended to foster an empowered economy between Sault Tribe citizen-owned business, Sault Tribe enterprises, tribal businesses, and the global economy.

Sault Tribe Thrive's Business Directory is open to all Native/Indigenous entrepreneurs, artists, nonprofits, tribal governments, tribal colleges, and tribal enterprises throughout the Sault Tribe

service area and at large. Sault Tribe Thrive is proud to offer free basic business listings for all Sault Tribe citizen-owned businesses and Sault Tribe divisions, sub-divisions, and enterprises.

Sault Tribe Thrive reserves the right to review applications, request additional information before listing, and to refuse applications if they cannot be verified.

To be listed in the directory as a Native-owned business, you will be required to complete an intake form and provide the tribal file number from your tribal identification card. The intake form can be found by selecting "More Info" at www.saulttribe-thrive.com/business-development-2/.

Sault Tribe Thrive is an MBDA AIANNH Project estab-

lished in 2019, funded by the U.S. Department of Commerce's Minority Business Development Agency, with administrative support from the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. Sault Tribe Thrive provides business support to Sault Tribe citizen-owned businesses through outreach, advocacy, and business consultation initiatives.

To view the online business

directory, go to: www.saulttribe-thrive.com/business-directory/.

Connect with us in person at the Tamarack Business Center in Downtown Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. Find us online at Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram, and YouTube, or by email at info@saulttribethrive.com, or phone (906) 635-6050, ext. 26121.

Let's Connect!

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nscremeans@gmail.com
surface-tech-applicators.com
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pinkgiraffeproducts.com
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Construction

UpCycled Hippie

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Eagle HVAC Services

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Garden, MI 49835

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Sawyer Village

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Gwinn, MI 49841

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sawyervillage.com

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sorearmscharters.com

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Creative Change Associates

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Manistique, MI 49854

(906) 286-1922

alanb@creativechange.org

creativechange.org

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Gus' Gourmet Nuts

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mccabesflooring.com

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sacredtattoostudio.com

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carrowsmarket.com

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Sault Tribe Thrive - beyond Michigan's border

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comphoppers.com
Recreation

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projectpomona.com
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Business Services

Kalish works in entertainment industry as set decorator

BY SCOTT BRAND

"It's hard to find a 1970s stove that looks new," says Brandi Kalish of just one of the challenges a set decorator can face delivering historically accurate backdrops in the entertainment industry.

Kalish, Anang Aanzhenii, "Star Angel" is a proud member of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians who grew up in Alpena, Mich. where she graduated before

heading out to Seattle, Wash. for Art School then transferring back to Michigan to attend Kendall College in Grand Rapids. She began working with the band Korn and before a show at the Apollo Theater in Harlem, she was asked to turn the venue into a gothic cathedral and turned loose with a credit card.

"They were thrilled with what I did," she recalled and with a couple phone calls on her behalf

to the right people she had an internship secured. "I packed up my stuff and drove to L.A. with my mom."

She initially started in stage design working at Whetstone Design with Michael Whetstone her mentor and a Production Designer for famous acts such as Eminem, Britney Spears and the Backstreet Boys.

"I started doing music videos and then commercials," said

Kalish, "Set Decorating commercials are what got me into the Union."

She has a long resume including *The Killer*, directed by David Fincher premiered in theaters and Netflix in November, *Succession*, *American Horror Story (Double Feature)*, *Dead to Me*, *White Famous*, *Teen Wolf*, *Wilfred* and *Silicon Valley*, the latter which earned delivered her first Emmy

See "Kalish," page 21



Brandi Kalish



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Artist Tomantha Sylvester awarded art grant

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

Sault Tribe member Tomantha Sylvester was recently awarded the 2023 Native Arts and Cultures Foundation (NACF) LIFT award. The award offers early career support for Native artists with one-year awards to develop and realize new projects.

The program helps artists with financial support, professional development, evaluation, and communications and marketing support. It offers artists the opportunity to improve their craft, help build their careers and find their place as creative people within their communities. "I have the honor of being one of 15 Native artists selected from across the nation to receive this grant," Sylvester said. "Because my work is heavily connected to my community, I will be using some of the support I've received to take Ojibwe language courses which will be used in my newest show, as well as future pieces."

Sylvester's LIFT project



will be a performance piece titled "Ishkode." She said the work weaves the story of the seven prophecies given to the Anishinaabe with Ojibwe cosmology and scientific query, language revitalization, humor and the body, while holding the question of environmental reparations and advocacy set in the contemporary period.

She plans to present the show outdoors at Double Edge Theatre in Ashfield, Mass., and in her hometown of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.

She enjoys writing her own

shows, including one-person presentations in which she acts. Her most recent one-person show is titled "Something Else" and follows an incarcerated Ojibwe woman on death row, whose last wish is to be with other people before her execution. She said that doing the show was very challenging but taught her a lot.

Sylvester is a multidisciplinary storyteller (actor, musician, songwriter, playwright, and traditional beader) currently residing in Massachusetts. She holds a bachelor of arts degree from Lake Superior State University (LSSU) and is also a Miranda Family Fellow through the National Theater Institute, and an Art and Survival Fellow through Double Edge Theatre and Betty's Daughter Arts Collective. Additionally, Sylvester is an ensemble member through Double Edge Theater and an Emerging Native Artist through the Ohketeau Cultural Center where she also works in community advocacy.

She believes that storytelling comes in many forms and is a practical and necessary component to healing, joy, and knowledge. "I was fortunate to receive the following lesson from my elders growing up – that we are constantly surrounded by language and images and that they have the power to shift and change our realities. The type of language we're using, the stories we are being told, and who tells them are critical when shaping a world of truth and connection. This is not a simple philosophy but a scientific reality we have known since time immemorial," she said. "When you blend that together with interconnectivity of all things, something really powerful and necessary happens."

After graduating from LSSU, she took part in a program at the Eugene O'Neill Theatre Center in Connecticut and was searching for her next step. "I was looking for something that was 'different' than my previous training. I found the

Double Edge Theatre in Ashfield, Massachusetts. Their theater training, philosophy, partnerships, and work piqued my interest. I applied to a program, got accepted, and that was the end of it, or the beginning I should say. In addition to being an ensemble member at the Double Edge Theatre, she is also their residencies and events coordinator and is a community advocate and Native youth outreach lead through the Ohketeau Cultural Center.

"I am a believer that everything is connected to all or most aspects of my work, artistic or otherwise. I enjoy learning about physics and Native law. I also enjoy spending time with loved ones, beading, being outdoors, being indoors, sudoku puzzles, and going to kung fu class," she said.

Support LIFT at the Give! Guide link: ow.ly/5sNI50Q4Rf8. For the Double Edge Theater visit: doubleedgetheatre.org. For the Ohketeau Cultural Center: www.ohketeau.org.

Kalish works in entertainment industry as set decorator

From "Kalish" page 20

nomination. Kalish admits growing up here in Michigan that she would have thought it was just a dream to have this career.

"It is my purpose to inspire young creative Native girls and women that they can be anything, they can come from a tiny town in the upper part of Michigan, grow up in the woods and become something that is respected," wrote Kalish. "That highly talented artists come from

our tribal community and will continue to do so."

Her most recently completed project, *RezBall*, seemingly underscores that message.

"When I first got asked to do *RezBall* I heard LeBron James was our executive producer, our director is the very talented Sydney Freeland (Navajo), and the best part, the Production Designer Rich Toyon (Acjachemen), the Prop Master Carma Harvey (Navaho

"Diné"), and myself (Ojibwe) all Department Heads, all Native American," wrote Kalish.

"We shot in Albuquerque, Santa Fe and Shiprock New Mexico on the Navhjo reservation. I can't say much more about the project because it isn't out yet, but there is a new respect for the Native community and it is just so thrilling to think of our future," she added.

Kalish, in early December,

was stationed in New England on yet another project.

"One of the most fun parts, well there's many fun parts, is I get to travel all over the world," said Kalish. "I have a really good team that works with me, all those crew members who do different things."

And if the scavenger hunt proves unsuccessful, specific items can be fabricated by the propmakers.

"I really have to do a lot of research," said Kalish of the time that goes into getting everything right. "It's a lot of hard work, but it's a fun job."

Brandi is the daughter of Brian and Ruth Walborn, who still reside in Alpena.

You can find Brandi on Instagram at: @brandosetdec

"I post about my everyday life of being a set decorator, plus tons of art and design stuff!" she said.

Walking on continued...

From "Walking on," page 12

came each summer to refresh in Mother Nature, spend time with extended family, and connect with the beauty of her culture.

Her children, grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews were the lights of her life and always with whom she preferred to spend as much of her free time as possible. In alignment with her love for all children, Shari volunteered much of her personal time and resources at her local Toys for Tots organization and with Big Brothers-Big Sisters of Central Arizona.

Per her wishes, cremation has taken place. Services are pending until summer.

CELIA MARIE "TINK" VADNAIS

Celia Marie "Tink" Vadnais, 69, of Marquette, Mich., walked on peacefully, on Dec. 9, 2023, at the Norlite Nursing Center, surrounded by her family.

Celia was born Jan. 24, 1954, in Midland, Mich., a daughter of Donald and Pansy (Blane) Martin. She was a member of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians, loved doing beadwork, attending powwows and volunteering for Special Olympics.

Celia is survived by her husband,



Dale Vadnais; children, Chet Ransom, Crystal (Jason) Helms, Tiffany Vadnais, Casey Vadnais; her grandchildren, Jacob Ransom, Samantha Helms, Abigail Helms, and Liam Helms; great-grandson, Luke Ransom; her sister, Mary (Tracy) Ritter; nephews and niece, Darryl Martin, Mark (Amanda) Martin, and Brandi Fraley; great-nephews, Spencer and Christopher.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Donald and Pansy Martin; and brother, Glenn Martin.

No services will be held.

Fassbender Swanson Hansen Funeral and Cremation Services is serving the family, where condolences may be expressed, and an obituary viewed, online at fassbenderswansonhansen.com.

BETTY ANN (LEVEILLE) VIGNEAUX

Betty Ann (Leveille) Vigneaux, 88, of Rudyard, Mich., died at home on Nov. 17, 2023.

She was born on July 1, 1935, in St. Ignace, Mich., to Charles and Frances (Class) Leveille.

Betty graduated from LaSalle High School in St. Ignace and attended Ursuline Academy and Ferris State University. She met Paul J. Vigneaux, and they



got married on Oct. 13, 1962, at the St. Ignatius Loyola Catholic Church in St. Ignace. They settled in Rudyard, where they raised their three children. She retired from the Rudyard Co-op after 26 years.

Betty was a member of the St. Joseph's Catholic Parish in Rudyard and the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

Betty enjoyed the outdoors, working in her yard and in her younger years, ice skating, and skiing.

She is survived by her daughters, Cathy (Darby) McCoy of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., and Connie (Darwin) Stahl of Dafter, Mich.; son, Michael (Lucynda) Vigneaux of Sault Ste. Marie; grandchildren, Chelsea (Chris) Eckerman, Caleb Stahl, Chelsea (Joshua) Graham, and Lindsey McCoy; great-grandchildren, Jasper, Charlie, Max, and Willow; sisters, Barbara Barends of East Tawas, Mich., and Sharon Brown; and sisters-in-law, Marie Backland, AraJean Leveille, and Nel Leveille, as well as many nieces and nephews.

Betty was preceded in death by her parents, Charles and Frances; husband, Paul; brothers, Gerald Leveille, and Lawrence Leveille; sisters, Ursula (Joel) Smith and Theresa (Glen) McDowell; brothers-in-law, Frank Marcus, Louis J. Vigneaux, Gene Backland, Charles Barends; and sisters-in-law, Loretta (Louis) Litzner, Blanche (Alfred)

Schlehuber. Memorial contributions can be made out to the St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Rudyard, Mich., or Hospice of the EUP in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.

Visitation was held on Nov. 21, 2023, at the St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Rudyard, with a Mass of Christian Burial preceding burial.

Final resting place will be at the North Rudyard Cemetery.

Family Life Funeral Home assisted the family with arrangements. Condolences may be left to the family at www.galerfuneralhomes.com.

ARLEN "ARLIE" GEORGE KRUGER

Arlen "Arlie" George Kruger, 71, of Topinabee, Mich., left this world in the comfort of family, friends, and song on Nov. 22, 2023 after a short but valiant battle with a sudden illness.

Arlen was born in Sault Saint Marie, Mich., on June 25, 1952, to George and Bernice (Derusha) Kruger and spent his formative years in St. Ignace, graduating from LaSalle High School in 1970. He spent 28 years as an employee of Burt Lake Marina in Indian River, Mich., where he shared his encyclopedic knowl-



edge of the woods and waters of Northern Michigan with thousands. Arlen's love of everything outdoors was only trumped by the love he had for his children, daughter Jamie Menominee of St. Ignace, son Michael Kruger of Cheboygan as well as his grandchildren Austin Graham, Sawyer Graham, Maddison Menominee, Jayden Kruger, Hannah Kruger, and Violet Kruger.

Arlen was preceded in death by his parents, as well as his brothers Robert Backie and Kenneth Kruger.

In his final days Arlen refused to rest until he had told every soul he cherished how much he loved them, and how he couldn't wait to see them when they join him in heaven. Cremation has taken place with a celebration of Arlen's life planned for June 22, 2024, at Burt Lake State Park, in Indian River, Mich.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial donation in Arlie's name can be made to the Cheboygan Humane Society. Prayers for peace to the family in the wake of Arlen's passing are also appreciated.

Surely Jesus loves fishermen for He chose them for His own, to be with Him and learn from Him and someday share His home. It must have been their trust in God and patience He found rare, that keeps them very near His heart and ever in His care.

Advocating for our people on Capitol Hill



AUSTIN LOWES
TRIBAL CHAIRMAN

lawmakers to advocate for the Sault Tribe. Among them were U.S. Senators Debbie Stabenow, Cory Booker, Alex Padilla, Brian Schatz and Maria Cantwell. I also met with U.S. Representatives Jack Bergman, GT Thompson and John Moolenaar. I spoke to them about the increased need for housing in Indian Country, additional funding that tribal health centers should receive, missing or murdered Indigenous persons, and more. Representing our tribe at the national level is something I'm passionate about, and I will continue doing so to the best of my abilities.

I previously announced that the Kewadin Casino and Hotel will receive a 100% exterior renovation. This includes scraping the EIFS siding off the building and replacing it with durable metal siding. This project will also replace every hotel window. I spoke to the crew setting up the scaffolding, and I was informed that chunks of EIFS siding are breaking loose from slight contact. This verifies that the EIFS siding was not only an eyesore to our tribal community, but that it

Aaniin,
I will begin my unit report by discussing the ways that I've been advocating for the Sault Tribe on the national level. I recently attended the White House Tribal Nations Summit. This is an event that invites the chairperson of each tribe to Washington, D.C., where we speak to the President and his Cabinet about tribal Issues.

In addition to attending this summit, I also used my time in Washington, D.C. to meet with

was also insufficiently weatherizing the building.

Regarding the Kewadin Hotel, I'm proud to announce that every one of its 268 rooms will receive a renovation beginning next month. This will replace each room's flooring, sinks,

toilets, showers, beds, couches, chairs and TVs. There will also be new suites. This property was neglected for so long, and I'm grateful it's finally getting the resources it deserves. When these projects are complete, I'm confident the Kewadin will be

one of the nicest properties in the region.

I would also like to announce that we're having our Sobriety Powwow on Dec. 31 from 3 p.m. to 1 a.m. I hope to see you there!

Austin Lowes
Sault Tribe Chairman



Sault Tribe Chairman Austin Lowes with Senator Debbie Stabenow.



Tribal Nations Summit Panel discussion.



U.S. Representative Jack Bergman and Tribal Chairman Austin Lowes.



President Biden at the White House Tribal Nations Summit.

SAULT STE. MARIE TRIBE OF CHIPPEWA INDIANS BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2024 CALENDAR

January 2	Sault Ste. Marie	January 16	Sault Ste. Marie
February 6	Sault Ste. Marie	February 20	Sault Ste. Marie
March 5	Sault Ste. Marie	March 19	Sault Ste. Marie
April 2	Sault Ste. Marie	April 16	Manistique
May 7	Sault Ste. Marie	May 21	Sault Ste. Marie
June 4	St. Ignace	June 18	Sault Ste. Marie
July 2	Sault Ste. Marie	July 16	Sault Ste. Marie
August 6	Sault Ste. Marie	August 20	Hessel
September 3	Sault Ste. Marie	September 17	Munising
October 1	Sault Ste. Marie	October 15	Sault Ste. Marie
November 5	Sault Ste. Marie	November 19	Sault Ste. Marie
December 3	Sault Ste. Marie		

Per the Constitution and Bylaws, Article 1 – Meetings of the Board of Directors, Section 1:provided that at least one meeting per year shall be held in each of the five election units established pursuant to Article V, Section 1 of the tribal constitution.

General meetings of the Board of Directors are held the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month.

All general meetings start at 5:00 p.m. All Sault meetings will be held at the Kewadin Casino and Convention Center, other locations to be announced. Meetings with ** are changed to accommodate the Chair/Board attendance at MAST, NCAI, United Tribes, various Washington D.C. meetings, and/or holidays.

All special meetings will be announced.

For further information please call Lona Stewart (ext. 26338) at the Administration Office: (800) 793-0660 or (906) 635-6050.

Congrats to powwow committee, NMU NASA



TYLER LAPLAUNT
DIRECTOR, UNIT V

Aanii, Boozhoo!

Greetings, everyone! I hope your holidays are filled with excitement and the company of family and friends. This time of year is an important time to gather with loved ones and reminisce of the past, share stories, and keep each other warm with love and laughter. Historically, we would break off into familial units for the winter and make sure that everyone was cared for. It keeps with the spirit of today's holidays and traditions and it's an important reminder to check in on your neighbors, give a smile to someone when you see they are sad, lend an ear to someone who needs to talk, and be good to each other. That's always been our way, far before colonial holidays were invented.

I'd like to start out by congratulating the Unit 5 Powwow Committee and the Northern Michigan University Native American Student Association on a job well done on putting together this year's powwow. The Grand Island-Presque Isle Learning to Walk Together Powwow was the largest attended powwow that either Unit 5 or NMU NASA had ever seen. With over 500 in attendance for the first grand entry and a little over half as many for the second. Such an amazing night, filled with kind words, good thoughts and powerful energy. Everyone involved brought something amazing to the floor.

One of the highlights of the night was the meal planned and prepped by Indigenous Chef

Elena Terry. While it's not a common practice to have a powwow feast prepped by a chef, it was definitely a feast to remember. We had to be creative since we were under the NMU policy for food sourcing and Chef Terry knocked it out of the park. Everyone present would have to agree that was a feast for the record books.

Another one of the night's somewhat unexpected highlights was the youth activities station that some of our Elders and our YEA helped set up. You kept those kiddos busy for hours with activities and I heard nothing but praises from all of the parents and participants who showed up. Great idea bringing that together and great work on that!

Heading into 2024, we do have our eyes set on bringing the powwow back to the Grand Island community in the Munising area. In order to do that, we are going to need some highly dedicated Powwow Committee members to get things started very soon. Please reach out to me if you are interested in helping put on another amazing powwow for Unit 5 in 2024.

The Children's Christmas Party in Munising was held on Dec. 10 and was a huge hit! I want to thank Jennifer Meyer for volunteering her time and effort putting this together again this year. She has done so much for the Munising community out of the goodness of her heart, so for that, chi miigwech! I also want to thank all of the elders in Munising who helped decorate the community center and helped out at the Christmas party. It was awesome seeing so many happy faces.

It has also been a very busy and exciting year for the Sault Tribe. 2023 has brought about a lot of changes, and soon, we will begin to see those changes unfold for our tribe moving forward. By the time you read this report, we will have already broken ground at the Sault Kewadin on the interior and exterior renovations. Our flagship casino will finally be getting much needed upgrades and repairs after decades of neglect. The exterior is planned to be re-sided and modernized to



Dec. 10 Munising Children's Christmas Party was a huge hit.

help strengthen the integrity of the building and protect it from weather. While inside, we will be remodeling all of our guestrooms. Anyone who has been here knows that this is direly needed and an exciting move for the future and sustainability of our tribe.

As I mentioned in my last report, good changes take time and attention. This project is set to be completed by 2025. My hope is that we continue to repair and enhance all of our Kewadin properties and we are currently looking at plans of just how they will be doing that with the i-Gaming funds that we recently transferred to Kewadin's stewardship.

Our main goal is to be proud of our properties. All of them, and take care of them, because in return, those properties take care of us. We have to continue with that thinking moving forward. Maintain and grow what we have. Our revenue didn't decrease because people are tired of gaming and good food. Our revenue gradually decreased over time because of the neglect of our properties. It's easy to be happy with new and shiny things that bring in money, it's sustainability that is the hard part. Maintenance and remodeling must be a part of the discussion with every business and investment we have moving forward. It's the only way we will continue to grow and be successful.

As I mentioned before, Health,

too, is going to undergo a lot of change in the next few years. Blue Stone has officially begun its work on analyzing what we have in place, feasibility studies, MAT program policy, assisting with job descriptions and new hires of key positions, electronic health records modernization, and coming up with a plan for next steps on improving our health care for all of our people.

We hired Blue Stone for both an analysis and implementation, or a path forward. Once its analysis is complete, we will discuss as a Board what the next steps will be in the implementation of health care changes.

Our desired goal is to ensure that our patients' needs are being met at an acute stage and that chronic illness is managed routinely. In order to accomplish this, we need to be able to see patients at the onset of illness or changes to existing conditions. We cannot do that when some patients are waiting three to four months to be seen. As I've said in the past, we have amazing healthcare workers. We just need quality improvement and workflow efficiencies to better meet the needs of all of our patients.

To see the appropriate changes to all of our Health facilities, we need information from everyone. That includes all of you. There will be a Health Town Hall on Jan. 18. It has been opened up to everyone to join in person or via Zoom at <https://us06web.zoom.com/j/86037562439>.

Your input is extremely valuable moving our Healthcare into the 21st century. Please attend and provide input if you are able.

Finally, after months of waiting, the open parts of our workshops will now be open to all Sault Tribe members via Zoom. Up until now, we only had a few locals attend our workshops during open sessions due to the onsite restrictions. Director McRorie and I passed a motion earlier this year to open all of our board meetings and open workshops to all membership. With a few road bumps, the meetings were finally being broadcast efficiently in the Fall, and now I'm happy to announce that our workshops will be as well.

The links to both meetings and workshops should be posted to the tribal website www.saulttribe.com and Facebook page www.facebook.com/saulttribe. Thank you for your patience as we continue to make changes to be more open to the membership.

May you all have a Happy New Year and a prosperous 2024. Like many of you, I'm excited to begin to see some of these long-needed changes unfold for the tribe. Let's pray for the best so that we may better serve our people.

Chi Miigwech,
Tyler Migizii Migwan LaPlaut
Unit 5 Director/Vice-Chairman
tlaplaut@saulttribe.net
(906) 440-8294

Director Lee discusses Election Code changes



KIMBERLY LEE,
DIRECTOR, UNIT II

Aanii,

I hope that you can enjoy time over the holiday season with the people in your life who mean the most to you. For some, that

reach may not be a possibility. I hope you find peace in the season ahead instead.

On Nov. 21, Senior Attorney Ryan Mills held a membership input session for a revision to the Chapter 10 Election Code, along with many meetings before Nov. 21. I believe we did this backward. We find ourselves at the last minute trying to get through this before the election season begins. There were terrific suggestions in feedback from the membership. Ryan did a great job running the meeting. Then, based on the information provided on Dec. 5, we workshopped the membership input for a resolution to change it for the meeting that evening. I was unwilling to support the changes that the board would initially choose all five new commission members.

I'm afraid I have to disagree with the board having any say over who is placed on that commission. I suggested bringing the elder advisory committee forward as a solution. Allow the committee to be chosen by our elders—the keepers of our wisdom. Without asking the committee, I was met with resistance due to timing and the inconvenience it may cause our elders. It's unfortunate, as I believe it would have been an honor to seek the guidance of the ones who paved the way before us. It was evident I wasn't alone in the thought process. On the evening of Dec. 5, the resolution implementing the changes to Chapter 10 failed. Where do we go, returning to the original emergency plan implemented if necessary? Or discuss it differently with a more open mind, which

I encourage.

The board voted to purchase U.P Tire on Dec. 5. It is a long-standing profitable business in the Sault Area. The hope is to provide another revenue stream, as well as a resource for members to get the most affordable rates. In the same meeting, a resolution was brought to purchase an available liqueur license in Mackinac County for Bear on the Mountain Golf Course. I fully support this purchase as the license will hold its value and be an asset as we can allow this business to prevail with a business and marketing plan moving forward and a desire to see it succeed. I believe all politics aside, and it needs a driven-to-succeed chance.

The Kewadin renovation groundbreaking is this upcoming week. I am incredibly excited

to watch the much-needed hotel transformation. If we are in the customer service industry, we owe it to you, the members, and the guests who choose to spend their time with us the best possible experience.

This last month was one of many directions. I assure you I continue to work consistently on a growing list of tribal member issues and how we grow forward and heal.

I am attending many tribal holiday parties through December. I am hopeful to see as many of you as possible. Stay warm, safe, and kind this holiday. Happy New Year! Miigwech, thank you for your time.

Kimberly Lee
Unit 2 Director
Klee@saulttribe.net
(906) 379-8965

Director Sorenson discusses board meetings



**BRIDGETT SORENSON,
DIRECTOR, UNIT III**

At the Nov. 7 meeting, the board passed a resolution for team members who met the qualifications to cash out some of their vacation time. Since we are short handed, many team members could not take all their vacation time again this year.

The board also approved the contract for Blue Stone Consulting to perform an entire evaluation of our Health Division. This contract is quite pricey but should result in many savings, efficiencies and even hopefully new revenue sources. I am really hoping this rectifies many of the concerns our members have in regards to care and services provided.

Betty had a resolution to plow for veterans and spouses of veterans of unit one only. I don't think I have even seen someone only bring forward a resolution to only cover one unit. She claims to be about all members but didn't include them. She also said she has someone to do the plowing, this needs to be bid out if we approve it. These types of resolutions are usually put on close to or during campaign season. There was no prior discussion, data to go by or asked for to see the

interest, cost, etc. The resolution was tabled.

The Nov. 14 meeting consisted of the annual liquor license approvals for the casinos and Midjims. We also approved a tribal license for the detention center. In the past we were licensed by the state. We will have more control over it with our own license.

The Dec. 5 meeting had many budget modifications and establishments of budget for the community centers in Escanaba, Manistique and Marquette; and fitness centers in Manistique and Gladstone. Betty and Issac voted "no" on all them for Unit 4 but yes to Unit 5. That is obviously out of spite for Darcy, since Betty specifically was asking, "Is that Darcy's unit?" she's been on the board long enough to know the units.

Issac had placed term limits on the agenda but must have asked to have it removed after workshop conversations. I know when I first ran for the board, during the elder candidate forum, the topic came up and I stated that I would not support term limits. In my opinion, term limits take away a member's vote. If you are doing a good job, you should be voted back in and if you are not, the members usually vote you out. Term limits are part of the white man's government when those candidates can accept money from organizations, businesses and individuals. Our code only allows for individual tribal member donations up to \$250. The last thing I will say on the subject is if there are term limits, it should be the entire membership voting as a constitutional amendment.

The board hosted a member input session on Tuesday, Nov. 21. They were unfortunately only a handful of us board members on that Zoom. Total attendance was

39 people. The members were not supportive of allowing candidates to run with felony convictions. They proposed having the Election Commission be made up of a member per each unit. They did not support some board wanting to change the spending limits to run from \$20,000 to \$50,000 for a board member and a chair from \$50,000 to \$80,000. These were just a few comments. I agree with the members on these.

This was brought to a vote of the board on the Dec. 5 meeting and failed. At this point, the current Election Code is what we will operate under unless a special meeting is called by Dec. 27. I expect a special meeting to be called. Austin was in DC for the Tribal Nations Summit and Kim H was not in attendance. Tyler chaired the meeting.

I actually requested to lower the spending limits to \$10,000 for board and \$25,000 for chair. I understand postage and other items costs have increased but I for one have never spent anything close to the current \$20,000. Denny McKelvie barely ever spent any money but was very active in the community and people knew that. It seems that some current board members want to make it even harder for most members to be able to afford to run.

Last week, I went with the Head Start director to a Head Start conference. I have been involved in Head Start probably since my kids have been in the program, currently serving on the Tribal Head Start Advisory Board. We have always had an excellent program. Recently, we have been short staffed with having six open teaching positions in the Sault, which is preventing us from opening some of the new classrooms. We have also struggled

with bus drivers. The St. Ignace program hasn't had a driver in over a year. We recently raised the hourly wage and if members are interested we have a program that can help with the CDL license.

If you are a high school student or a member that would be interested in working in one of our classrooms, please contact HR. Our program works with Bay Mills to get the needed certification. Teachers can have such a major impact, especially on these young children. I was recently appointed to the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) Equity Advisory Committee as the only tribal nation member out of 24 members. The purpose of the committee is to provide equity advice regarding unmet needs, policies, programs and resources. It provides strategic guidance and feedback aimed at improving diversity, equity, inclusion, and opportunity for Michigan residents to live in safe, healthy, and quality housing, and to reside in communities of their choice. We will serve as community leaders to advance the broader interest of the local community or interest we represent. The group will advocate for housing access for all people, especially populations facing the greatest barriers to housing.

I would like to express my appreciation to Alexis Lambros for her many years of service to our tribe with her legal expertise. She has been a contracted attorney for us for at least as long as I have been on the board with her concentration in HR, the JKL school and other contracts and property acquisitions that tribe needed help with. Good luck in whatever venture you decide and hopefully we work together again someday.

In 2024, team members' insur-

ance premiums will actually be decreasing, which is great news. So many things have increased and have not kept up with wages, so this is one positive thing.

I would like to say thank you to all team members in all department for your dedication to our members. Times have not always been easy working through COVID, constantly shorthanded, etc., but you have stuck with us and I appreciate you!

I am working on scheduling a canoe build with Ron Paquin as well as other workshops for the cold winter season. Hoping to have a schedule by next month.

A few reminders: Weekly elder meals are served in the community room at the elder complex Monday-Thursday at 11:30 a.m. Monthly elder meetings are the second Thursday of the month at noon following lunch. We also hold monthly unit meetings on the third Monday of the month at 6 p.m. at the McCann School. If no members show up by 6:15 p.m., then I leave.

We had a very nice turnout for the Wequayoc Veteran's Ceremony on Saturday, Nov. 11. We burned the flags that were placed on the graves since Memorial Day, had some songs from Mukwa Giizik Drum and enjoyed a potluck. Chi Miigwich to the Moses Family that made fresh wreaths for the veteran graves.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all! May 2024 be a year of good health and healing for our tribe.

Big shout out to Tim Ryerse and the Kewadin Shores crew for working very hard on the Unit 3 children's Christmas party!

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

Director McKechnie discusses critical issues



**ISAAC MCKECHNIE
DIRECTOR, UNIT I**

Dear Citizens,
May the good times and treasures of the present become the golden memories of tomorrow for you and your lovely families. May your Christmas sparkle with moments of love, laughter and goodwill. May the new year ahead be full of contentment and joy. Wishing you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Health Care Reform

What should the number one priority of Sault Tribe be in the new year? In my humble opinion, based on factual research, it is health care. Quality and timely health-care to our membership should be

our top priority moving forward. This was identified in 1976 by the University of Michigan School of Public Health after they conducted a comprehensive health assessment of our tribe. The information that was collected by the tribe and U of M was used to provide the data for applications for funding, federal appropriation hearings and needs assessment reports to Indian Health Services (IHS). Sault Tribe's first federal contract was with Indian Health Services back in 1975 and was used for dental care for our elders. Since then, we have built a comprehensive Sault Tribe health care delivery system.

Today, health centers are built in areas that provide better geographical access to our tribal citizens, but now I propose we expand these services to all of our citizens. I believe the only way is to extend our telemedicine services to each and every home. To achieve this, we need to start treating our Health Division like a business and operating it in an efficient and effective manner. We need to be able to get patients in and seen in a timely manner. Our health centers currently see on average 8-10 patients per day for each provider, the national average is 18-20 patients per day. The number one driver for improving our Health Division is you, so please participate in the upcoming town hall health care meetings that

we will be organizing in the first quarter of 2024. I predict that our health division will be an economic driver for our tribe for generations to come.

Property Reinvestment

I am excited to announce that the construction has begun on the exterior of Kewadin Sault hotel tower! The contractors will be removing the old siding material and replacing it with aluminum siding, installing new windows and a new HVAC system. The tower hotel rooms interior renovation project, is slated to begin in mid-January 2024. The project will consist of gutting each room and reconstructing the interior. It has been 20+ years since the last renovations transpired at any of our casinos.

Open Enrollment

The rolls will open Feb. 1, 2024, and remain open until the Board of Directors close the rolls. To apply for membership, applicants must complete the application for enrollment. A \$25 processing fee will be charged that can be paid by money order or credit card (Visa, Mastercard or Discover). Applicants must submit copies of documents of their direct lineal descendants, starting with the applicant, then their Native parent(s), grandparent(s), and so forth, until they reach the descendant who is listed on one of the base rolls the enrollment

department uses to determine membership.

General Election

The general election is just around the corner and I am encouraging you to take the time to research the candidates. In the last election, our citizens voted for change and unseated many of the career politicians. Most posts shared on Facebook tend to be the

most negative stories about our people, so I am asking you to fact check these stories and choose the best candidates that align with your beliefs/values. As we encountered in the last election, change can be good for our tribe.

Happy holidays,
Isaac McKechnie
imckechnie@saulttribe.net
(906) 440-6661

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.

Director Hampton reports to Unit II members



**KIMBERLY HAMPTON,
DIRECTOR, UNIT IV**

Aniin kina waya (Hello everybody). Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to all. My hope for everyone, as we embrace the last part of 2023, is that you take time to slow down, enjoy time with family and friends, and take in all the magic of the holidays. May your holidays be magical.

Katchup with Kim

During the end of February 2023, I started holding Zoom meetings called "Katchup with Kim" as an avenue for our tribal membership, within Unit 4 as well as any of our units including at-large members, to converse with me and hold discussions regarding upcoming resolutions, ideas members have for our tribe, and current issues. I openly welcome anyone to attend these Zoom meetings as change will take a tribe. Below is the Zoom meeting schedule with Meeting ID and Password:

Thursday, Jan. 25, 2024, at 7 p.m. EST; Meeting ID: 906 440 8138; Password: KimHampton

Pow Wow Meetings

Throughout the upcoming year there will be regularly scheduled powwow meetings to keep the committee on task. SAVE THE DATE for the 2024 Niiwin Noodin Pow Wow scheduled for June 8, 2024. The first meeting of 2024 will be held on Jan. 15, 2024 at 6 p.m. EST.

I also encourage everyone to "like" the Niiwin Noodin Pow Wow Facebook page to keep updated on meetings, etc.

Meetings, open to the public, scheduled for the Niiwin Noodin Pow Wow Committee will be located at the Manistique Tribal Health Center, 5698W US Highway 2, Manistique, Mich.

Maamawi (together) Craft Night

The next Maamawi Craft Night is scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 18, 2024, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. EST at the Manistique Tribal Health Center, 5698W US Highway 2, Manistique, MI. There are no skills required to join. Bring a project to work on, work on a group project, or just come to socialize. There will be miscellaneous crafting supplies to get us started. Everyone is encouraged to bring their own snacks and drinks. Everyone is welcome to participate, open to the public.

Unit 4 Elder Meetings

I encourage our tribal elders to attend elder meetings to become involved as well as stay updated on what our elder committees are working on.

The next meeting in Marquette, which is a combination of Units 4 and 5, will be Thursday, Jan. 4, 2024, at 5:30

p.m. EST at the Holiday Inn in Marquette.

The next meeting in Manistique will be held Jan. 10, 2024, at 12 p.m. EST at the Manistique Tribal Center.

The next meeting in Escanaba will be held Jan. 10, 2024, at 5 p.m. EST at the Delta County Chamber Building.

November/December Activities

Tribal Homeland Security Advisory Council (THSAC): I and the rest of THSAC are working on creating collaborative work groups to begin addressing the issues that affect Indian Country. There is information I am not authorized to release regarding the THSAC, at this time, but what I can share is that we are working as a collaborative group of various tribal leaders on priorities to help protect and advocate for all tribal nations. I will provide the assurance that task groups have been created to focus on cybersecurity, grants and funding, as well as a group focused on Murdered and Missing Indigenous Peoples (MMIP), which I am assigned to. The task group for MMIP has been busy meeting with different agencies, has started gathering data, and will soon be drafting a briefing on how to improve education and prevention of MMIP. The first set of report briefings have been submitted and the THSAC will be traveling to Washington, D.C. the second week of January 2024 to present our findings to the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security.

Manistique Fitness Center and Escanaba Community

Center

The Manistique Fitness Center project has begun and is making great progress. The Escanaba Community Center project has made a lot of progress. Throughout the month of November there were regular progress meetings between all parties involved in both projects. I look forward to seeing the completion of both of these projects in the next month or two.

Community Events November and December

Nov. 13-The local youth drum Kitchi-ti-kipi held a drum presentation at Lake Effect Arts Gallery in Manistique

Nov 14-participation in a Human Resources Appeal Hearing

Nov. 15-I was able to attend a Native art dedication at Bay College which was an amazing experience

Nov. 16-Manistique Dental Expansion meeting and a THSAC meeting

Nov. 20-Meeting regarding Gladstone Health Center, Youth Drum Presentation at Emerald Elementary School, Lake Effect Arts Gallery for a Tribal teaching

Nov. 21-THSAC meeting and Membership Input meeting regarding Election Code revisions

Nov. 27-THSAC meeting

Nov. 29-Progress meeting for Manistique Fitness Center and Escanaba Community Center, Met with the Schoolcraft County Historical Society regarding repatriation of local Native artifacts, attended Youth Drum practice

Dec. 1-THSAC meeting

Dec. 2-Participated in the Learning to Walk Together Pow

Wow in Marquette

Dec. 14-THSAC meeting

Dec. 11-Finished shopping for Children's Christmas party, attended the Conservation Committee Meeting

Looking Forward

By the time this report has been published the Manistique and Escanaba Children's Christmas parties will have already occurred. There are currently 169 children registered for the Manistique party and 144 children registered for the Escanaba party. These numbers are larger than the 2022 numbers. I want to thank everyone in advance for all of their help, hard work and contributions toward these Christmas parties. Chi Miigwech.

I look forward to re-engaging with Members during Katchup with Kim sessions, attending Maamawi Craft Nights, beginning to plan the 2024 Niiwin Noodin Pow Wow as well as moving forward on goals I have for Unit 4 and working with the rest of the Board of Directors to move Sault Tribe forward toward unity and growth.

Chi Miigwech for allowing me to represent and advocate for our members. I am always available for questions, comments and ideas for growth. I encourage members to participate in Maamawi Craft Nights, the Niiwin Noodin Pow Wow meetings, and all other activities and events occurring throughout Indian Country. My number is (906) 440-8138, email is KHampton@saulttribe.net.

Kimberly Hampton,
Unit 4 Representative

Native voices are getting stronger on the Hill



**MICHAEL MCKERCHIE,
DIRECTOR, UNIT I**

During transitional times, often times when big changes happen in a government structure, mistakes get made and there is a learning curve. There is nothing wrong with making mistakes, and this new board has made some, but how we react and what we do with those mistakes matter. How our tribe moves forward matters.

I've been using my voice at workshops and meetings and would like to thank those members that continue to voice theirs as well — every voice helps. We are fast approaching a new year and an upcoming election cycle will start at the end of January. I am concerned as we have been unable to agree on any election reform. Our tribal laws currently dictate an Election Committee conducts our elections; but with

no members on committee and no agreement on moving forward with an emergency Election Commission, we are being placed in an unusual situation. My hope is that our board will come together and figure something out prior to the Notice of Election.

I don't believe there are two sides to this board, I believe our tribe and board are made up of individuals and our tribe is so much bigger than "this side vs. that side." I will continue to work with anyone who wants to see our tribe move on for the better and grow. I urge members to listen to all sides of an argument and don't be too quick to judge — all too often I witness only one side of a story being presented to the board and we react without hearing the other side. We must all learn to do better.

Its been a long fall. The chair, myself and team members met with Gov. Whitmer and her top staff at the Governor's Summit in late October to discuss many issues our tribe faces at the state level. It was a productive meeting and she expressed support for our concerns. Hopefully, this will lead to improvements with Michigan Health and Human Services and her support might be what is needed for crucial funding for our Lodge of Hope.

A few of us also attended National Congress of American Indians annual convention last

month. There were many informative sessions and best practices in Indian Country were discussed. It's always good to have representation at these events plus we got to have listening-sessions with federal departments and advocate for how the federal government consults with tribes. Native voices are getting stronger

Working on the challenges



**SHAWN BOROWICZ,
DIRECTOR, UNIT III**

Boozhoo, Another year has passed and the holidays are upon us! I hope you are all set for the family gatherings, the parties and the festivities to bring in the new year.

The new organization we hired to oversee and give recommendations to our entire health department has begun and from what

at the national level and I am proud to say that our tribe has several members throughout the federal government and its many agencies. Our voices are being heard, Miigwech to all who dedicate their time and energy to help move our tribe forward.

With that, I would like to wish you all Merry Christmas and

I've seen its going to be a win-win for all involved. Soon you should start to see it when you go to your medical, vision and dental appointments. Not that our system was broken, because our health providers have been doing the best they could with what they had, but with the needed fine tuning it will be much better and our services will be expanded in the near future.

The much needed renovations to the Sault casino have begun and when completed that facility will be up to date and inviting to all our guests. Why these repairs and upgrades were not done by previous boards on a yearly basis is anybody's guess. This board took the reigns with the casino staffs help and got the ball rolling to see this through and we will continue to do upgrades at all our facilities as needed to keep our guests' experience as exciting as they would like it to be.

All five general managers of our casinos as well as the Market-

Happy New Year. Our tribe is a big tribe and it has lots of good people in it; they will always be there to help build our tribe up. As always, please reach out to me to discuss any of these or any issues our tribe is facing, I can be reached at (906) 440-7768. Chi Miigwech.

Michael McKerchie

ing team gave us their reports at our last meeting. The financials as well as the future marketing strategy is on the upswing from the COVID years. With some additions to our properties and RV parks, we should be able to attract more guests as well as trying to make our facilities more family friendly, especially at the Shores location, which is the gateway to the Upper Peninsula.

Working on several issues with our conversion fisherman to get them back in line with the type of fishing they are familiar with. Some of these fisherman have been trying to get a different license since 2018 with no success. We have had many workshops on this issue and with our Legal staff and our new biologist, I'm sure this will be worked out in a timely manner.

If you should have any concerns or issues, I can be reached at sborowicz@saulttribe.net or (906) 379-8511.

Minawaa gigawaabamin.

Contesting open enrollment referendum election



ROBERT MCRORIE
DIRECTOR, UNIT I

Aaniin, Boozhoo to all of my fellow Sault Tribe Citizens. I hope each of you are well and in good health and spirit. I hope you are enjoying the Holiday Season with family, friends, and loved ones. Please remember to take some time for yourself and enjoy the small things that makes life enjoyable. I see many of our members working extremely hard to provide for their families and support community efforts, which makes me extremely proud, but it is also important to take breaks and focus on personal growth and maintaining spiritual, mental and physical health.

I would first like to acknowledge that if it appears that I have not been as active in responding to messages or as vocal as I normally am, I am still recovering from a tough battle with COVID. I want to say Chi Miigwech to everyone who has been patient with me and has sent messages of encouragement during this time. It has been a tough month; however, I was able to attend each workshop and meeting virtually. I appreciate the patience and understanding very much. If you have sent me a message, email, or call and have had to wait longer than normal to hear back from me, just know I am not ignoring you and will be catching up soon, as I am slowly beginning to feel better.

Following the results of the most recent referendum regarding the open enrollment resolution, I have decided to contest the results. I am doing so to give the more than 2,000 minority mem-

bers a voice within the Appellate Court process, as myself and many other Sault Tribe members still believe this action is unconstitutional. In addition to the questionable constitutionality of this legislation, I am contesting the results of this referendum due to the use of an improper voter roster and the exclusion of a large portion of legally eligible Sault Tribe voters. The following is the contest that I have submitted to the Election Commission.

In accordance with Tribal Code Chapter 12, Section 12.108 Election Contest I am submitting this Contest to the Referendum Election conducted on Nov. 20, 2023, on tribal board resolution 2023-261, Tribal Roll Opening.

I am contesting this referendum election on the basis that there were many major flaws within the process of conducting this election as well as to call into question the constitutionality of the resolution of which this referendum election was conducted on.

Resolution 2023-261, "Tribal Roll Opening," is an illegal resolution and is a violation of the Constitution of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians' Constitution was ratified, via vote of the membership, Nov. 13, 1975. This Constitution clearly identifies the six Historical Bands of Ojibwe Indians that are Sault Tribe members and reads, "All persons descended from the six historical bands (Grand Island, Point Iroquois, Sault Ste. Marie, Garden River, Sugar Island, and Drummond Island Bands) of the Sault Ste. Marie Chippewa Indians whose names appear on any historical roll, census or record made by officials of the Department of the Interior or Bureau of Indian Affairs."

The board of directors acted outside of their constitutional authority by voting to add additional Bands to the Membership Ordinance, without consent of the membership. The Board of Directors does not have the authority to establish codes that changes the Constitution. The addition of bands outside of the

six historical bands is a major deviation from the Constitution and could only be achieved, legally, via Constitutional Amendment. Constitutional members were never afforded an opportunity to vote on the addition of bands; therefore, these actions are unconstitutional.

Because the tribe functions as a one branch government, in which the board of directors retains all of the power, this issue has never been placed under any sort of judicial review to determine the constitutionality of additional bands; however, any competent court would rule this to be unconstitutional.

On Aug. 1, 2023 the Sault Tribe Board of Directors perpetuated these unconstitutional code changes by enacting Resolution 2023-261, "Tribal Roll Opening," neglecting their duty to uphold the Constitution of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. The referendum election conducted on Nov. 20, 2023, should immediately be voided by the Election Commission due to its lack of legal merit and unconstitutionality.

I am also contesting the results of the Referendum Election conducted on Nov. 20, 2023, due to the use of an improper voter roster. Throughout the process of this referendum election, there were credible reports made by members who did not receive a ballot to vote. Many of the members who reported that they did not receive a ballot had received ballots for the previous two referendum elections. This indicates a major flaw in the delivery system and more importantly denied members, who are legally eligible voters, their right to participate in their constitutional right to vote. During the ballot count of the referendum election, it was also discovered that ballots were mailed to members who have been deceased. This indicates yet another example of how this roster of voters has major flaws and does not accurately represent the will of legally registered Sault Tribe voters. There is no way to ensure the membership that these mistakes did not corrupt the integ-

rity of this election. It was also reported that multiple members, who are not yet 18 years of age, received ballots to vote in this referendum election. These are not even legally qualified voters. The comparable numbers used from the previous general election to this referendum indicates that the voter roster has not been properly maintained or updated to ensure that all constitutionally eligible voters had the opportunity to exercise their right to vote. If this was the roster used from the 2022 general election cycle, this does not account for members who have turned 18 since then and are now eligible to vote, nor does it include the voters who should have been added to the voting roster pursuant to Resolution 2023-233 "Equal Protection in Sault Tribe Voter Registrations." They, too, were denied their constitutional right to vote.

I am also contesting the referendum election conducted on Nov. 20, 2023, on the basis that this referendum was conducted in violation and out of compliance with Resolution 2023-233 "Equal Protections in Sault Tribe Voter Registrations." This resolution mandates that all Sault Tribe members over the age of 18 are automatically registered and shall receive a ballot to vote in referendum elections. The numbers generated during this referendum indicate that this referendum election was not conducted in compliance with tribal law.

This contest was quickly dismissed by the Election Commission, as I figured it would be, because the Election Commission lacks jurisdiction to rule on the constitutionality of legislation. The commission also rendered a dismissal ruling with no due process of a hearing or a formal investigation into the contests filed; therefore, I have now submitted a Notice of Appeal to the Sault Tribe Appellate Court.

In this report, I feel it is also necessary to clarify why I voted, "NO" on the proposed code changes to Chapter 10, "Election Ordinance." Although I do recognize the dire need for election reform, I must also stand by what

I believe as well as what many members voiced as concerns for these revisions. Since this process began, I have repeatedly stated that I will not support these changes if they include the continuation of a committee/commission, outside of our court, retaining investigative authority. I have also stated on many occasions that I will not support any revision that grants the board authority to directly choose the committee members. The proposed Chapter 10 revisions includes both of these elements; therefore, as I have stated, I will not support. I will not back down on these key principles based on the necessity of time. I do believe we must correct these issues. It was also very apparent the members felt the same during membership input session. Like myself, our members do not want the board selecting the commission members. It was suggested that the Elders Advisory Committee of each unit choose a representative for the commission. This is something I could support. I will not support the board choosing.

I am happy to inform members that the Child Welfare Committee, along with Sault Tribe Legal, members of the Executive Team, ACFS, and Sault Tribe Court officials have been continuing their work on the development of code revisions to strengthen the Child Welfare process. I would like to say Chi Miigwech to all of our employees and volunteers who have stepped up and are contributing to this process.

There will be many Sault Tribe sponsored Christmas parties and events for employees, youth, families and elders, so please be sure to check the Sault Tribe website and Facebook page for the dates and times of events in each unit.

I hope you all have a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Again, please make some time for yourself and enjoy time with friends and family. Like always, please feel free to reach out with any questions you may have or ideas on how we can improve our great Sault Tribe nation.

Chi Miigwech.

Director discusses board meetings, Unit II plans



LANA CAUSLEY-SMITH,
DIRECTOR, UNIT II

Hope this report finds all of you warm and safe for the holidays. I would like to start by reporting that we spent a significant amount of time attempting to make changes to our Election Committee. We were introduced a draft by the Legal Department and went through these in numerous workshops with the board —

finally polling and completing a document to go to a membership input session (we should have done the membership input session first).

We gathered the input from members via Zoom, online survey and in person. After adding more changes, the board was to vote on the final draft. I want to let you all know I did not support the final draft for many reasons. In my opinion, it was not reform in any sense. It would have limited members from applying by putting an application process in place and also the board would have once again been in the mix of many items and I do not support that as the past leadership had worked many years to keep the committee and the board at arms length. I support changes to the Election Code and committee in a real sense but I do not support members not having the ability to be nominated by their fellow members to have a seat there (current

code).

There were other changes that the members and I did not support and some did get noticed, but not all. I'm sorry that we are at the length to the next election and have not seen any change or reform. I will keep an open mind and move forward the best we can to reform as needed — I'm also sorry to report that at this moment I am unaware of how we are moving forward as I read one email about items, then it changes daily. This is frustrating for me and I know it's frustrating to the members.

I would also like to report that there was a resolution on the agenda a month before the elections to introduce term limits on board members running for office. I was not involved in any discussion with Director McKechnie as the author, so during the workshop on this item I asked if it included the four incumbents — he stated, "does it say that!" During debate

of presentation, nothing is worse than trying to get a clear answer what intentions or actions will be by passing legislation. In the end, a majority of the board did not support this and it was taken off the agenda by the author. I will await more legislation that will be coming forward. I do not believe in term limits as I truly believe the members are wise and involved enough to know exactly who they would like to represent them in their unit.

Director Lee and I have been working together toward our community/recreation center and in the upcoming new year we will be bringing forward a resolution to begin the construction of both a new recreation center as our YEA program, Heath and Elder groups are busting at the seams on the areas we have for them now. It's difficult to advocate when the other leadership's priorities are not on our unit, so we will make sure we have all legal obligations and

ducks in a row to move forward. We are also awaiting an RFP for the construction of our quadplex in Newberry for our Elders, and our Duplex in Hessel for our Elders. As stated in the past, this will cover the east and west end of our unit as we have the infrastructure and land in both areas to accommodate these new homes.

I would like to take this time to wish all the members a very special holiday season. We are very fortunate being part of the tribe and we have many, many dedicated employees that work very hard to keep our services and businesses going. Merry Christmas and I wish all a very blessed and healthy New Year in 2024.

If you want to meet or discuss anything please do not hesitate to contact me at (906) 322-3818 or email lcausley@saulttribe.net. Baamaapi and please take care of each for her.

Lana Causley-Smith,
Unit II Director

Recognizing and honoring our veterans for real



**BETTY FREIHEIT,
DIRECTOR, UNIT I**

constitution or even stand alone amendments. I find it shameful to have been paid \$1.35 million for being on the board for 20 years and not have enacted a separation of powers.

Those who know me realize my heart is in representing the people of Unit 1 and all tribal members, no matter where they live. You may not like my approach all of the time, but please understand it is with care and concern for serving the members. I admit that I get frustrated with excuse after excuse, meeting after meeting, month after month, year after year, and never having any real progress on the board. Did you know that some have never introduced any resolutions to make positive change? When board members sit back and collect a pay check and never legislate, remember only the board can do so. Therefore, when they never bring anything at all forward for action you can easily conclude they are getting paid to do nothing. Some argue that they hold member meetings or visit with the Elders. But, guess what, I do that, too, but it doesn't inhibit my ability to bring resolutions forward. It is what you elected us to do. It puzzles me that others never do anything but keep getting re-elected.

One item I brought forward recently, and in the past, is a resolution to provide snow plowing for Unit 1 tribal veterans. Freedom is not free, and our brothers, sisters, or other relatives who served in the military to protect our freedoms deserve at least a small token of

our appreciation. What I find ludicrous is those board members who have never thought to bring such a resolution forward instead push to table my resolutions because they didn't care enough to lift a finger to propose something on their own. It is disturbing when they play the unit wars and conclude that no one gets anything unless they agree. This pitting units against one another might get some votes from your unit, but is nothing but a smoke screen when these board members don't have an original thought or proposal to turn into a resolution. I genuinely support snow plowing for our veterans. Stay tuned as I report on my efforts here and who on the board is standing in the way. Some act as if their behinds are glued to the board table. The last election in 2022, with 100% of all incumbents losing their seat, should be a wake up call for those who do nothing but make excuses.

Most recently, a few fellow board members argued that it is impossible to amend the Sault Tribe Constitution when both our Constitution and federal law say otherwise. Could it be that some of these same board members have figured out how to hold a death grip on the unitary form of government, where one branch holds all of the power? It is not impossible to amend the Constitution. In fact, all it takes is an affirmative vote of the tribal Board of Directors to call a secretarial election.

Included in my report this month is a photo with Interior



Unit I Director Betty Freiheit and Interior Secretary Deb Haaland.

Secretary Deb Haaland, who is a Laguna Pueblo Tribal citizen. I met her through former Chairperson Aaron Payment who has been personal friends with her since she first ran for Congress. One year, during a National Congress of American Indians State of Indian Nations address Secretary Haaland gave, Aaron had the privilege of

introducing her when he served as first vice president of NCAI. Secretary Haaland and I had a nice chat; I cannot imagine that if we passed a resolution calling for a secretarial election that she would hesitate to honor our resolution of request.

So what is the hold up? We also have a friend in Assistant Secretary Bryan Newland, who previously served as the president of the Bay Mills Indian Community, our fellow tribe located most closely with our Sault Tribe and for whom former Chairperson Payment also holds a great professional relationship.

Please keep yourself and family safe. Help your neighbors anytime you can. And please look out for our elders.

Betty F. Freiheit
Unit 1 Director
bfreiheit@saulttribe.net
(906) 379-8745



Interior Assistant Secretary Bryan Newland, former White House Lead Native American Liaison Karen Diver and former Sault Tribe Chairman Aaron Payment (L-R).

There are enough things out there going viral.



Get your COVID-19 and flu vaccines.

Help keep your immune system from going viral. Talk to your health care provider.

Michigan.gov/COVIDFluRSV



ALL SITES
123123... GO
Ultimate Countdown to New Year's

OVER \$40,000
CASH AND CREDITS

NOON YEAR'S EVE

Hot Seat Draws Start 10 a.m.
\$6,000 CASH Draws 2:30 p.m.

NEW YEAR'S EVE

Hot Seat Draws Start 6 p.m.
Over \$1,500 in CASH Draws 10 p.m.
Grand Prize Draws Up to \$2,024 CASH

***Party Favors, Champagne Toast,
Cake, Hors d'oeuvres, Live Music**



*May not be offered at all locations.

MANISTIQUE \$ ST. IGNACE \$ SAULT ^{LES} MARIE \$ HESSEL \$ CHRISTMAS

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

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