

Win Awenen Nisitotung

January 26, 2024
Spirit Moon • Manidoo Giizis
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Bahweting Bidajimowin • Official newspaper of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians



Sault Tribe Legislative Director Michael McCoy (L) and Sault Tribe Chairman Austin Lowes (R) had the opportunity to meet U.S. President Joe Biden while in Washington D.C. for the White House Tribal Nations Summit.

New Election Commission seeks members

The newly established five-member Sault Tribe Election Commission seeks to fill five seats. To be eligible for the Election Commission, a person must be a registered voter of the tribe, at least 18 years of age, with preference given to enrolled Sault Tribe members with demonstrated knowledge in the function of the tribal government, the tribal election process, and the Tribal Code, specifically Chapter 10 Elections Ordinance.

Interested tribal members may submit their letter of interest and three tribal member references to elections@saulttribe.net, and these will be forwarded to the Elder Advisory Committee for its consideration. The Elder Advisory Committee will send its recommendations to the Board of Directors for final approval.

Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis, however, for immediate consideration to sit on the Election Commission for the 2024 General Election cycle, interested tribal members must have had their letter of interest and references submitted by Jan. 11,

Those with questions may also email elections@saulttribe.net.

Casino begins hotel renovation and remodel

SAULT STE. MARIE —
Armed with hard hats, work vests and golden sledge hammers, representatives from all parties involved in the massive Kewadin Casino Hotel renovation and remodel project gathered to kick off the campaign on Dec 18, 2023.

"We would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone who has supported Kewadin Casinos efforts in making this very large renovation project a reality, "said General Manager Dana Schlehuber of Kewadin Casino Sault Ste. Marie. "Today, we celebrate the start (Phase 1) of the exterior renovation project of the Kewadin Casino Hotel Sault Ste Marie, which will soon include the interior renovation project (Phase 2) as well."

Work had already begun on the outer tower, according to Project Manager Ron Radke of Gundlach Champion, Inc. explaining that the entire project will be conducted in phases to minimize the impact on visitors throughout the year. The exterior renovations to the hotel should be completed before the end of 2024, while the interior remodeling, encompassing all 268 rooms, will run into the winter of 2025. By executing the project in different phases, the Kewadin Casino will remain open at all times

"While our guest's experience is of the utmost importance to us, we also recognize the need to revitalize our flagship property which provides revenue to support services offered by our Tribe and within our local communities," said Kewadin Casinos CEO Allen Kerridge. "Soon, along with a premium gaming experience, our guests will have that same experience at our newly renovated hotel in Sault Ste Marie."

Schlehuber added, "Over 25 years ago, The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Leadership saw the importance having Kewadin Casino Hotel and Convention Center be an economic driver for both our tribal community and our local community. Today, we celebrate the same vision, as this renovation project will bring much

needed improvements for our guest's comfort and make it a property our board of directors, team members, tribal members, and local community members can be proud of. We are incredibly excited to watch the transformation over the upcoming months. Thank you to everyone who helped bring us to this day, we are grateful for your efforts."

Integrated Designs, Inc. (IDI) is responsible for the architecture and engineering services for the ongoing project.

Radke, providing a ballpark figure, anticipated there will be more than 30 people employed on this project during the peak of renovation and remodeling.

Kewadin Casinos currently offers over 2,000 slot machines, 26 game tables, hotels, dining and other amenities in Michigan's eastern and central Upper Peninsula.

"We're proud to be one of the first casinos in Michigan to open," said Schlehuber. "We celebrated our 38-year anniversary this year and our 40th anniversary will be celebrated in a completely modernized hotel — both inside and out. We're excited to see the new changes within our hotel and to watch our guests experience us for the first time all over again."

www.saulttribe.com

PRSRT STD J.S. Postage PAID ermit No. 30 Gaylord, MI 49735



Gundlach Champion Vice President of Field Operations Rob Berg, Gundlach Champion Superintendent Ron Radke, Sean LaRock, IDI, Sault Tribe board member Isaac McKechnie, General Manager of Kewadin Sault Ste. Marie Dana Schlehuber, Kewadin Casinos CFO Michael Jackson, Sault Tribe Chairman Austin Lowes, Kewadin Casino Vice President of Marketing and Sales Shawn Carlson, Sault Tribe board member Betty Freiheit, Sault Tribe board member Michael McKechnie, Kewadin Casino CEO Allen Kerridge and Dan Viau from Gundlach.

Successful hunt



Sault Tribe Chairman Austin Lowes and his fiancée Tara Maudrie had a successful waabooz hunt on New Year's Day.

Boda harvests elk



Richard Boda (above) harvested a cow elk on Dec. 9 at 9 a.m. off Webb Rd. between Afton and Wolverine with a rifle chambered in 30-06 Springfield. Boda was accompanied by his son (below back), daughter and son-in-law. The elk was 389 pounds dressed weight. Boda donated the hide to a tribal elder who will be using it to make a veterans drum.





Sault Tribe Community Health Presents

Cultural Beading Workshop

Date: February 12th, 2024 **Time**: 1 pm - 4 pm

Location: Big Bear Arena Hospitality Room

2 Ice Circle Chi Mukwa, Sault Ste.

Marie, MI 49783



To register or for more information, please contact:

Alexis Wrozek Phone: (906)643-8689 ext. 34532 Email: AWrozek@saulttribe.net

Supplies will be provided by Sault Tribe Community Health

Supported by the Tribal Practices for Wellness in Indian Country Project.

Made possible with funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



Youth Development Funding available!

Must be a tribal youth 0-12th grade, live in the seven-county service area and meet income guidelines.

Applicants can receive fund-

ing up to \$250 per calendar year for: Sports fees/equipment, music, dance, theatre, language lessons, testing fees, drivers education, senior pictures, school supplies, regalia and youth drum camps, class or cultural trips, instrument purchase and rentals See application for full list. Applications can be found at saulttribe.com/membership-services/education.

For more information or to request an application, email youthdevelopmentfund@sault-tribe.net or call (906) 632-6797.

volunteers need ommittee vacancies

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.

WIOA funding

The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe

of Chippewa Indians Workforce

Act (WIOA) Program has fund-

training and short-term occupa-

The program may be able to

A Senior Employement job is

If interested, reply to the

Elder Employment Program,

Ashmun St., Sault Ste. Marie,

Applicants must be a Sault

MI 49783 or call (906) 635-

Attn: Brenda Cadreau, 523

Innovation and Opportunities

ing available for on-the-job

tional training opportunities.

available in Hessel.

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)

provide tuition assistance for

skills training if it leads to an

industry-recognized certifica-

tion or under OJT, the program

may reimburse an employer 50

ified training period.

percent of your wage for a spec-

Candidates must meet eli-

Senior Employment position available

Tribe member age 60 or over

and reside in the seven county

service area. Jobs are 14 hours

per week at \$13.072 per hour.

looking for a kitchen aide. The

of the cook, assists with the

kitchen aide, under the direction

preparation of elder congregate

The Hessel Tribal Center is

Special Needs/Enrollment

for on-the-job

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)

gibility requirements and be a

Community Recreation Center

Brenda Cadreau at (906) 635-

meals for an assigned meal site.

Must undergo and pass a

Criminal background investiga-

tion and pre-employment drug

test. Must be insurable to drive

Experience in home meal

• Manistige Oil Company,

• Carnes Eco Fuels, 2300

Ludington Street, Escanaba, MI

Deer Street, Manistiqe, MI

preparation and Serve Safe

Certification preferred.

Newberry, MI 98

in Sault Ste. Marie, or call

Apply at WIOA at Big Bear

resident of the seven-county

service area.

GSA vehicle.

4767.

ular vacancy (4-year term) vacancy (4-year term) 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.

Unit III - St. Ignace - Two

alternate vacancies (4-year term)

Unit V - Marquette - One

alternate vacancy (4-year term)

Unit I - Sault - One alternate

Elder Subcommittees

lar vacancy (4-year term)

Unit V - Munising - One regu-

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

Please contact a Case Manager in your area if you would like assistance completing these appli-

2218 Shunk Road, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783, (906) 632-5250 60 Kincheloe Drive.

at the following ACFS Offices:

1140 N. State Street, St. Ignace, MI 49781, (906) 643-

Unit IV - Manistique - One

alternate vacancy (4-year term)

Unit IV - Escanaba - Two

alternate vacancies (4-year term)

lar vacancy, two alternate vacan-

cies (4-year term)

Unit V - Munising - One regu-

Unit V - Marquette - One reg-

5698 W Highway US-2, Manistique, MI 49854, (906) 341-6993

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

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



Hours: Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

7605 W M-123, Newberry, MI Next to Auto Value



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 Tribe 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

seven county service area.

cations. Applications are available

Kincheloe, MI 49788, (906) 495-

Sault Tribal Gas & Cigarette Discount Locations The following gas stations Convenience Store, 9

Membership liaisons available

Enrollment announcement

are offering the discount to Sault Tribe members Tribal owned gas stations

offering gas and cigarette discounts:

- MidJim Convenience Store, 2205 Shunk Road, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 9
- MidJim Convenience Store, 304 Mack nac Trail, St. Ignace,
 - White Pine Lodge and

Three membership liaisons

office on membership issues and

concerns across the service area.

The liaisons respond to mem-

bership issues and follow up to

ensure they are resolved. Sault

Tribe members are encouraged

need help with tribal issues by

membersconcerns@saulttribe.

Up to date addresses sought

Sault Tribe members whose

addresses are not up to date have

Please check over the names

on the list and if you see a friend

Go to the tribe's website at

or relative on the list let them

"bad addresses" with the tribe's

Enrollment Department.

know.

emailing them at

to contact the liaisons when they

work with the chairperson's

M-28 Christmas, MI 9 Tribal owned gas station offering gas discount only:

• University BP, 301 W. Fair Ave., Marqe tte, MI 95

Not Tribal owned stations offering gas discounts only:

- Kinross BP, 4 Tone Road,
- Kincheloe, MI 9 • Cedar Pantry, \$9 W M-3,4
- Cedarville, MI 9 • Sunoco, 39

net or contacting them indi-

vidually at: Clarence Hudak,

Lambert Center, St. Ignace,

Mich., (906) 643-2124, chu-

dak@saulttribe.net. Mary

Center, (906) 341-8469;

Jenerou, Manistique Tribal

Munising Centers, (906) 450-

7011 or (906) 450-7011, mjen-

erou@saulttribe.net. Michelle

saulttribe.net and scroll down

Membership Services to Trib-

al Enrollment. Then go to the

select "Up to date addresses

sought."

tribe.net.

Information column on the left

side of the Enrollment page and

Call 800-251-6597 or email

Stacey Synett at ssynett@sault-

Moore at (906) 635-6050,

mmoore@saulttribe.net.

Narcan dispensaries placed

FAN of Chippewa County is pleased to announce the placement of three Narcan dispensaries in our area. One will be located in Kincheloe at the Sault Tribal Housing Authority office; one will be at the Avery Center near the HD entrance; and one will be at Midjim, across from Kewadin

Substance Use Disorder (SUD) is a disease that sometimes threatens the life of the individual. Narcan is a life saving tool which can offer the individual another day to get his/her life back on track by mak ng healthier choices going forward.

We are so thank ul to those individuals willing to support our Safe Needle Exchange programs); Sault Tribe EDC and Sault parent group); and MyMichigan

Health for mak ng this latest project a reality in our communities.

Thank you to all the individuals, organizations, and businesses that have helped support our efforts this year: Pick ord Lion's Club, BPO ELKS \$52 (and the MANY places and individuals who donated to and purchased items from the silent auction), MyMichigan Health, McKechnie Family (Kasey and Chris McKee, Bob and Peggy McKechnie family, and Dana Hillock, JBS Foundation, Bay Mills Indian Community, Precision Edge, MCM Marine, Central Savings Bank Sault Police Auxiliary, Soo Co-op Credit Union, Chippewa County Credit Union, SSCU Insurance Agency, The Palace Restaurant and Saloon, Rudyard Lion's Club, Family Life Funeral Homes, Rodenroth Motors, Well Digger's, Lifesaver UP, Algonqi n United Methodist Church, Meijer, Hardwood Properties, Heidi Wituck, First Church of Christ and Sault Wesleyan Church, and the France Law Firm.

businesses, organizations, and efforts in the community. Special thank to our Chippewa County Health Department (CTC and Tribal Housing Authority; CLM Community Action; FAN Central (our Families Against Narcotics

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

nounced "Win Oh-weh-nin Nis-toe-

See our full, online edition at

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

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 Email: slucas@saulttribe.net or idale-burton@saulttribe.net

Win Awenen **Nisitotung**

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

> January 24, 2024 **Spirit Moon** Manidoo Giizis

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

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

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

Win Awenen Nisitotung is funded by the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of members. Win Awenen Nisitotung, in Anishinaabemowin, means, "One who understands," and is pro-

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100th Anniversary of Clarence "Taffy"



Photo courtesy of George Jones

Clarence "Taffy" Abel carries the U.S. Flag, the first Indigineous Olympic athlete to carry this honor in Chamonix, France on Jan. 25, 1924. For more information about his storied past both as a member of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians and native of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. visit www.taffyabel.com.

The **0**0t h Anniversary of Clarence "Taffy" Abel serving as the U.S. flag bearer for the Winter Olympics mark a significant day in history for the City of Sault Ste. Marie and all Indigenous people throughout North America.

On Jan. 25, 94 Abel carried the United States flag, bearing **8** stars, into the opening ceremony in Chamonix, France. Born May 28 90, to John Abel and Charlotte (Gurnoe) Abel, whose father John Gurnoe was a Chippewa (Anishinaabe) from Sault Sate. Marie, Abel reportedly earned his nick ame "Taffy" for sneak ng the sugary treat as a lad.

Taffy received a hero's wel-

come on Feb. \$ 24 to Sault Ste. Marie with a silver medal.

His on-ice exploits did not end with the Winter Olympics. Abel became the first Native American to enter the National Hock y league when he signed with the New York Rangers in **2**6. The Society of International Hock y Research (SHIR) confirms that Abel was the first Native American Player to break the NHL color barrier on Nov., 6, **2**6, when he suited up against the Montreal Maroons. He would play 333 total games in the NHL for both the Rangers and the Chicago Blacka wk winning two Stanley Cups along the way.

Brown returns to Michigan Arts and Culture Council

On Dec. 21, Governor Gretchen Whitmer appointed Sault Tribe member Darryl Brown to the Michigan Arts and Culture Council.

Brown, of St. Ignace, is retired from the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians where he served in a communications role until 2008. Brown has worked for countless grant funded projects and organizations. He is a lifelong artist, writer, public speaker, and event marketer. In the past, Brown has served as a curator for the Fort De Buade Museum in St. Ignace.

He currently helps coordinate for the Rendezvous at the Straits Powwow of St. Ignace. Brown has helped bring the Indigenous Art Exhibit to St. Ignace, worked as a volunteer with Michigan State University Extension, helped raise funds for local the chamber of commerce, and worked with MSU and Northern Michigan University on the World Peace Art Project.

Brown is reappointed for a term commencing Dec. 21, 2023, and expiring Sept. 1, 2026.



ROLLIN' IN THE SNOW All Sites I Saturdays in January

MONEY MANIA MONDAYS Christmas | Mondays in January

PENALTY BUCKS

St. Ignace | Fridays in January

CABIN FEVER SLOT TOURNAMENT

St. Ignace | Thursdays in February

30,000 Bonus Points Prize Pool with Random Credit Draws

CANINE CASH

Sault Ste. Marie | Fridays in February

Win Your Share of Over to \$19,000 CASH!

55TH ANNUAL I-500

Sault Ste. Marie | February 3

Win Your Share of Over \$3,300 CASH and Credits!

KEWADIN REWARDS SLOT TOURNAMENT

Sault Ste. Marie | Mondays & Tuesdays | February 5 - March 19

Daily \$200 CASH and 30,000 Bonus Points Prize Pool

SNOWSFEST 2024

Hessel | February 10

Win up to \$100 Kewadin Credits or \$100 CASH

THE BIG GAME

All Sites | February 11

Win up to \$100 Kewadin Credits

\$22,500 MEGA BINGO

Sault Ste Marie | February 17

13 games plus a Mega Bingo Jackpot game worth \$7,500!

DreamCatchers and Horseshoe Bay Restaurants | February Feature

Lobster Macaroni & Cheese, Super Cole Slaw, House Made Biscuits

Valentine's Day Dining

Join us for a Valentine's Day dining experience with your special someone. Find information at kewadin.com/dining

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



KEWADIN EVENTS



KEWADIN DINING

1-800-KEWADIN | KEWADIN.COM

MANISTIQUE-ST.IGNACE-SAULT # MARIE-HESSEL-CHRISTMAS

Human trafficking - anyone can be a victim

By Sault Tribe Advocacy Resource Center

Aanii and Happy New Year!
January offers us a fresh start to focus on our goals and objectives and give way to new opportunities. The Advocacy Resource Center aims to educate our communities about the topics plaguing Indian country. January commences with two critical issues that significantly affect our people. Even if you are not directly affected by these issues, your awareness and ability to recognize the signs of either matter could save someone's life.

Human Trafficking is often referred to as modern-day slavery. It involves the exploitation of a person for labor, services, or commercial sex. Human trafficking is the business of moving and trading people, often women and children, in exchange for money for forced labor, services, or sexual exploitation. The two most common forms of Human Trafficking is often referred to as modern-day slavery.

Sex trafficking is "the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, obtaining, patronizing, or soliciting of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such act has not attained 18 years of age." (https://www.justice.gov/human-trafficking)

Forced labor is defined as "the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery." (https://www.justice.gov/humantrafficking)

Anyone can be a victim of human trafficking. However, traffickers' prey on those who are vulnerable or in situations that make it easy for traffickers to lure them in with false promises. Individuals who live in poverty, have sustained historical trauma and homelessness, have high rates of involvement with child welfare and foster care, exposure to domestic violence, and struggle with substance abuse issues are the targets of most traffickers. Many Native Americans experience the factors mentioned above, making them enticing targets for traffickers. A report from humantrafficking.org states that human traffickers victimize Native Americans at rates higher than that of the general popula-

It is encouraged for everyone to be able to recognize the red flags or signs of human trafficking. Casino employees, truck drivers, hotel employees, and other service industry employees where human trafficking transactions may take place should pay particular attention to the red flags of human trafficking as many times these actions take place right under our noses.

These red flags include but are not limited to physical and environmental indicators, such as visible bruising, signs of physical abuse, no identification, appearing to be deprived of food and water, not allowed to

Visit the Advocacy Resource Center's website at www.arcsaulttribe.com or call the Advocacy Resource Center at (906) 632-1808.

The National Human Trafficking Resource Center can be contacted by calling 1-888-373-7888, and StrongHearts Native Helpline at 1-844-7NATIVE (762-8483).

be unsupervised, scars, mutilation, having a branded tattoo, chronic runaway/truancy/homeless youth, excessive amounts of cash, having goods or services they cannot typically afford, having multiple hotel keys, scripted or restricted communication.

Behavioral Indicators: Acting submissive, appearing anxious, having a lack of free will, not being able to look at others, looking down, not being able to speak for themselves, appearing disoriented, under the influence, confused, depressed, nervous, paranoid, or being treated poorly.

Additional Indicators: Having several visitors to a hotel room, a young person with a much older boyfriend or girlfriend, language barriers, clothing not appropriate for weather conditions.

Again, these are not the only red flags but can be critical indicators that trafficking may be occurring. Therefore, reporting to the proper authority is essential if something appears "off" in a particular situation. Your report can often remain anonymous with a phone call to the police or security. Your report may save someone's life.

If you or someone you know is being trafficked, please reach out to local law enforcement or the National Human Trafficking Resource Center at 1-888-373-7888. Contact an advocate at the Sault Tribe Advocacy Resource Center at (906) 632-1808 for support. The StrongHearts Native Helpline can be reached at 1-844-7NATIVE (762-8483) and has a 24/7 chat line

January also calls attention to Stalking Awareness. Some may say that stalking is harmless. Stalking is indeed harmful to the victim. Stalking is "a pattern of behavior directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to feel fear." According to the SPARC (Stalking, Prevention, Awareness, and Resource Center), a pattern is defined as two or more incidents, though it varies in each state."

Stalking has many forms, and behaviors are not always the same in each case. Stalking behaviors include but are not limited to: Unwanted or unsolicited phone calls, photos, text

messages, emails, social media contacts/creating a fake account to contact the victim, unwanted gifts placed on vehicles or delivered to the victim's home or job, showing up or approaching the victim or family/friends of the victim, monitoring/spying or tracking the victim in person or via technology (hidden cameras, tracking devices); following the victim and learning the victim's routine, damage to the victim's personal property and threats to the victim or their family/ friends/pets.

Anyone can be a victim of stalking. Stalking is not limited to specific ethnicities, races, cultures, education levels, or status. Nearly half of Native American women and one in ten men have been stalked in their lifetime, according to the Michigan Victim Advocacy Network (miVAN). Stalkers do not fit one identifiable profile and come from many different backgrounds. Stalkers implement different strategies and reasons for choosing their victims, which led researchers to create a "Stalking Risk Profile," which has been narrowed down to the following types:

The Rejected Stalker is characterized as pursuing a former intimate partner, desiring reconciliation and revenge, typically has a criminal assault history, and personality disorders are generally predominant.

The Intimacy Seeking Stalker tends to desire a relationship with their "true love;" they are oblivious to the victim's response, and most have erotomaniac delusions (an uncommon form of delusional disorder in which an individual has an unfounded belief that another is in love with them) and endows the victim with unique qualities.

The Incompetent Stalker

actually acknowledges the victim's disinterest yet pursues them anyway, hopes the behavior leads to intimacy, does not endow the victim with unique qualities, has a low IQ, is socially inept, or feels entitled.

The Resentful Stalker feels persecuted and desires retribution. They intend to frighten or cause distress, focus on a specific or general grievance, and may have paranoid diagnoses.

The Predatory Stalker is preparing for a sexual attack, stalks their victim to study and observe them, and typically has paraphilia (emotional disorders defined as sexually arousing fantasies, urges, or behaviors that are recurrent, intense, occur over at least six months, and cause significant distress or interfere with important areas of functioning), having prior sex offenses are common, offers no warning before the attack.

Many victims of stalking are stalked by someone they already know, most often a current or former spouse, acquaintance, friend, or family member.

Strangers are also known to stalk someone they've never met or have had a brief encounter with. Strangers make up nineteen percent of stalking cases in the United States, according to SPARC

Stalking is now a punishable crime in all fifty states. However, extensive documentation of stalking events is required of the victim to help with the prosecution of the stalker. Victims of stalking are encouraged to maintain a "stalking log," found on the SPARC website at https:// www.stalkingawareness.org/ documentation-log/. This log will help record the stalking behaviors once the victim recognizes the behaviors, as many victims are unaware they are being stalked at all. Keep the log updated with dates, times, locations, and photos (if possible) of the stalker in the act to help prosecute the stalker. Develop a safety plan, alter your daily routine, notify close friends, family, and neighbors of your situation, and ask them not to provide the stalker with information about your routine or plans if he contacts them. Contact the local police, notify them of the situation, and explain your fear. If you are a stalking victim, the Advocacy Resource Center can assist you with a safety plan and Personal Protection Orders if necessary.

For more information about Human Trafficking and Stalking, visit the Advocacy Resource Center's website at www. arcsaulttribe.com or call the Advocacy Resource Center at (906) 632-1808, National Human Trafficking Resource Center at 1-888-373-7888, StrongHearts Native Helpline 1-844-7NA-TIVE (762-8483).





Anishinaabemowin 2024

Welcome to the language of your People! Using even a little of it will give you strength and pride. Go slow. Learn the comments that fit your life. Have fun! Those are your keys to success. So glad you're here!

N'wii mino-bimaadiz maanda bboon.

I will live a good life this year.

1. Weweni n'wii wiisin.

2. N'wii bimigtaa mishkooziiyaanh.

3. N'wii naagidowendis.

4. N'wii naagidowenim jichaak, ge'ii.

5. N'wii maajiishkaa-yendam

6. N'wii g'chi-nendam.

7. N'wii minwendaagwas.

Gaawiin n'wii boontaa-sii.

I will eat in a good way.

I will move my body so I'll be strong.

I will take care of myself.

I will take care of my spirit too.

I will think positively.

I will be happy.

I will have fun.

I will not give up.

Traditionally we measured out time by the 7 days between each quarter of the the moon. Europeans brought week-day names when they came, based on Christian traditions. Today, many Anishinaabek name the days by number.

Until next month's issue of this paper, try telling yourself (or anyone else) what day it is. It's a fine place to start!

It is Monday today. Ntam giizhigat nangwa. Niizho-giizhigat nangwa. It is Tuesday today. Nso-giizhigat nangwa. It is Wednesday today. Niiwo-giizhigat nangwa. It is Thursday today. Naano-giizhigat nangwa. It is Friday today. Ngodwaaso giizhigat nangwa. It is Saturday today. Niizhwaaso-giizhigat nangwa. It is Sunday today.

Pronouncing the words:

gii-zhi-gat (this says 'day') <u>nan</u>-gwa (this says 'today')

n-tam (first) *nii*-zho (second) n-<u>so</u> (third) *nii*-wo (fourth)

n-god-<u>waa</u>-so (sixth) *naa*-no (fifth)

nii-zh-*waa*-so (seventh)

N'gii bakinaage nangwa! I won today! n-gii <u>ba</u>-ki-naa-<u>ge</u> <u>nan</u>-gwa

Nahaaw dash! N'wii kwejii miinwaa.

na-<u>haaw</u> dash n-<u>wii kwe-jii miin</u>-waa

OK then! I'll try again.

Pronunciation?

You'll find the Anishinaabemowin words in this lesson pronounced at this FaceBook link:

www.facebook.com/SaultTribeLanguageAndCulture.

You can also use the guide below!

Making our Sounds Most letters sound like

they do 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

We underlined the syllables that get the emphasis. Pronounce all the letters. Big deal: 'nh' in a word has no sound! 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.

Manidoo Giizis Spirit Moon

by Susan Askwith

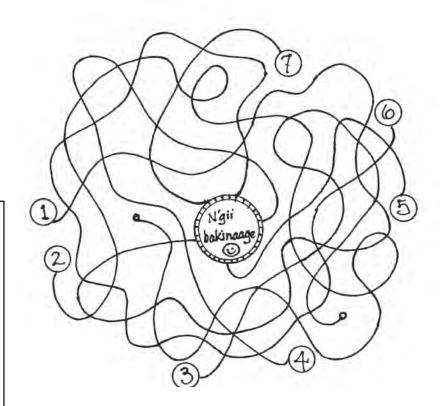


Be sure to look at the pronunciation guide below, and the audio site.

Counting: The number words of the weekdays vary slightly from the normal way we count. Here is the way we count up seven of anything:

bezhik (<u>be</u> -zhik)	one
niizh (<i>nii</i> -zh)	two
nswi (n- <i>swi</i>)	three
niiwin (nii-win)	four
naanan (<i>naa</i> -nan)	five
ngodwaaswi (n-god-waa-swi)	six
niizhwaaswi (<i>niizh</i> -waa-swi)	seven

Untangle the threads associated with the seven resolutions above, to see which ones you won in this game, and where you will try again! You can play the game in real life each day with your own goals.



What New Year's resolution should a basketball player never make? *Travel more!*

My resolution was to read more, so I turned on the subtitles on my TV and iPad.

BIRTHDAY'S @THE BEAR Packages

Lil' Bear Court Party Skating Party I Activity Party Cart

4 Adult Tables, 20 Chairs 4 Kids Tables, 20 Kids Chairs 3 Tables for Food/Cake/Presents 1 Hour Ice Time

All Skate Rentals \$140 15 Tables Adult Tables, 50 Chairs 3 Tables for Food/Cake/Presents
NO SUBSTITIONS

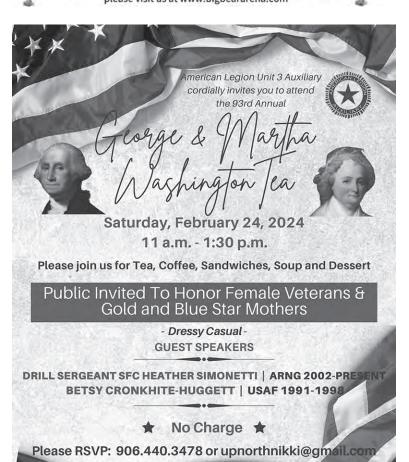
Big Bear Court Party

3 Hour Court Rental 1 Bounce House 1 Activity Party Cart 8 Adult Tables, 40 Chairs 3 Tables for Food/Cake/Presents \$20 - Up to 50 Additional chairs

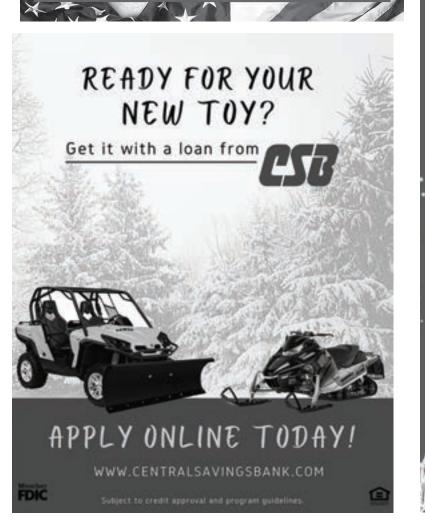
\$2/Table - Additional Tables 30" x 72"

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For more information on availability, pricing, and how to book, please visit us at www.bigbeararena.com



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Sault Tribe Traditional Medicine Program

2024 February Healer Clinic Hours Gerard Sagassige

<u>February 5,6,12,13,19,20,26,27</u> Sault Ste. Marie Health Center (906)632-0236 Lori Gambardella

Wednesday, February 7th St. Ignace Health Center (906)643-8689 or (877)256-0135

Wednesday, February 14th **Manistique Health Center** (906)341-8469 or (866) 401-0043

Wednesday, February 21st **Hessel Community Center** (906)484-2727

Wednesday, February 28th **Munising Health Center** (906)387-4721 or (800)236-4705

<u>George Goggleye</u>

<u>February 1,2,7,8,9,14,15,16,21,22,23,28,29</u> 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

Aadizookewag Baawiting

Sharing Sacred Legends & Staying Active in the Sault

January 13th

Mary Moose & Abe Sutherland Nigaanagiizhik Building, 11 Ice Circle 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

February 14th

Migizi Mike Sullivan

Dreammakers Theatre, Sault Ste. Marie Kewadin Casino 7 PM - 9 PM

February 29th

Snowshoeing & refreshments Big Bear Trail, 2 Ice Circle 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

5 PM - 7 PM

Anishinaabemowin, & Refreshments

anuary 25th

Big Bear Trail, 2 Ice Circle

February 28th Waagosh Anton Treuer JKL Bahweting School TIME TBD

More Events On The Way!

Co-sponsored by Sault Tribe Language & Culture, Traditional Medicine, Wildlife, Community Health; Intertribal Council of Michigan; JKL Bahweting School; and Simon Fraser University



Honoring Our Veterans Powwow held at casino

Honoring Our Veterans Powwow was held at Kewadin Casinos DreamMakers Theater in Sault Ste. Marie on Nov. 11. Grand Entry was at 1 p.m. with a community feast at 5:30 p.m. at the Niigaanagiizhik Ceremonial Building. The powwow resumed at 7 p.m. with spot dances, a pop up dance contest, kids specials and giveaways.



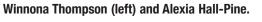


Photos by Jamie VerWiebe

Male dancer enjoying the powwow. Right: Daniel Malloy enjoys his food.









Isis Howell (left), Melissa Causley, and Meredith Jones (front).

How providing race and ethnicity data helps all customers

By HILLARY HATCH, SOCIAL SECURITY PUBLIC AFFAIRS SPECIALIST

We are continuously working to better understand how Social Security's programs serve the public. Collecting race and ethnicity data for research and statistical purposes is one way for us to determine whether we are equitably serving the public. Applicants and customers may voluntarily provide this information. It does not affect decisions on benefit applications.

Why does it matter if people provide race and ethnicity data? When customers choose to provide race and ethnicity information, it lets us know: Who our benefit payments and programs are helping and who may be left

What unintended barriers may impact benefits and services. Where to expand outreach efforts. How to increase awareness of eligibility for programs and benefits.

In other words, race and ethnicity data can help expand access to our programs, which is one of the objectives in our Equity Action Plan at blog.ssa.gov/social-securitys-equity-action-plan. Examples of how we use this information can be found on our Racial Equity Resources webpage at www.ssa. gov/policy/about/racial-equity-resources.html.

Currently, we collect race and ethnicity information on applications for new or replacement Social Security number (SSN) cards. These applications can be completed: Online at www.ssa.

gov/number-card.

At one of our local offices or card centers.

Soon, parents may voluntarily provide this information when requesting their newborn's SSN at the hospital. The option to provide this data will be available in participating states.

We encourage you to provide your race and ethnicity information on your or your child's application for a new or replacement SSN card. This information will help us better understand and serve all our current and future customers.

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Photos by Deb Pine

Alexia Hall-Pine and a little dancer take a break



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Letter from the Tribal Action Plan coordinator

PATRICK MCCOY MA, BS SAULT TRIBE TAP COORDINA-TOR

Is court-ordered therapy as effective as voluntary therapy? Yes.

While there may be cases in which an offender misrepresents their progress and stance following court-ordered therapy, research generally finds that court-ordered therapy can be as effective as voluntary therapy, if an individual receives therapy in a modality that suits them, and if the program and professionals

involved are effective. As attendance is mandatory, a therapist is assured of seeing the client for a set period and can tailor their approach to that window of time. Research also suggests that whether a person chooses to attend therapy is less of a factor in their treatment's effectiveness than whether their therapist has used the best approach for that person.

Today we see proof of mandated treatment to be effective and sometimes its even more effective then voluntary. As many have said in the 12 step rooms"the Judge had to be their first higher power." because they were incapable of maing the right decisions themselves. The motivation to be free from incarceration becomes a strong factor that makes a person realize they need to try something new to live their life and many times periods of incarceration become the needed time that an addict or alcoholic need to reflect on the decisions in their life.

Treatment is a process that teaches an addict or alcoholic

about the true nature of their malady. It shows the person about the disease concept which again helps to become aware of their own faulty thinking and where they learn new ideas on how to cope with life without self-medicating with drugs or alcohol.

Although using the disease concept teaches an addict how to stay away from the first pill or first drink in order to maintain true recovery and today we have found that many of our members have chemical imbalances

and medication is needed as a part of their treatment process. Treatment is based on each individual diagnosis and each individual person. There are many solutions for recovery and treatment options. It is not a one size fits all it's always based on the individual and their diagnosis.

An important thing to always remember is recovery from addiction is a life long process those that succeed in recovery are people that have learned how to take their own personal recovery one day at a time.

Aghmar earns her certification in public healt

The National Board of Public Health Examiners (NBPHE) has recognized Korina Aghmar as certified in Public Health (CPH). With this accomplishment, Aghmar demonstrates not only a mastery of the core sciences of public health, but also a strong commitment to staying on the cutting-edge of public health issues. The public served by Aghmar can be assured that she has a fundamental breadth and depth of core public health knowledge and will continue her professional development



through the NBPHE's maintenance of certification process.

Aghmar graduated with a Bachelor's of Science in Nursing in 2016, and is a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. After completing her Bachelor's degree, Aghmar pursued her Public Health career working in a variety of Public Health nursing roles, and recently attained her Master's in Public Administration, with a focus on Public Management.

Currently, Aghmar is the

Director and Health Officer for the Manitowoc County Health Department in Manitowoc, Wisc. "I am passionate about addressing the root causes of health issues, and enjoy learning about other perspectives and collaborating to achieve shared goals," she said. "Embracing a mindset of continuous learning is important for agencies to provide quality services, and becoming certified in Public Health is an example of my commitment to role modeling this within my team."

Dr. Richard Kurz, NBPHE chair and former dean of the University of North Texas Health Science Center School of Public Health, said, "By obtaining the CPH, the entire field is elevated to new standards and the health of the public can continue to be enhanced. The CPH process raises the bar for public health workers by highlighting the need for a standard benchmark for public health personnel, students and graduates and a certified dedication to the field."

Nurturing Parenting and Adolescent Parenting Programs available, voluntary or court-ordered

FROM ACFS

Did you know that
Anishnaabek Community and
Family Services (ACFS) offers
a comprehensive parenting program for families within the
seven-county service area? The
program covers essential topics
such as child development, establishing family routines, effective
communication, discipline strategies, empathy building, and
fostering self-worth for parenting
teens

The program includes a structured family and child interaction component, allowing facilitators to model learned lessons and provide real-time coaching for parents in handling their children's behaviors. The program is approximately 14 sessions long, caters to both voluntary participants and those court-ordered, emphasizing practical skills and knowledge applicable to real-life situations. To gauge progress, pre and post assessments measure the acquired knowledge throughout

the program.

Clients have the ability to refer themselves, ensuring accessible and proactive engagement. The program aims not only to equip families with essential tools but also to provide hands-on guidance within the family, promoting a safer, nurturing environment for children and teens.

ACFS also offers a range of other vital family support programs within the seven-county service area, all aimed at ensuring the safety, protection, and well-being of Native children. These programs are designed to assist parents by providing an array of resources and support.

— Child Protective Services (CPS): Dedicated to the safety, permanency, and well-being of children and their families. ACFS delivers child protective services to children and their families residing on trust land, who are either eligible or enrolled with a federally recognized tribe. CPS aims to ensure the well-being of

children by preventing abuse and neglect, promoting family stability, and upholding the integrity of the family structure.

Prevention Programs: A voluntary program that supports the family in addressing needs identified by client and family such as school issues, legal issues, housing issues, medical issues or anything identified as a need by the family. Clients have

the ability to refer themselves.

— In-Home Care Services:
In cases following the substantiated investigation of child abuse or neglect where the decision is made that children can be maintained safely in the home, ACFS will provide In Home Care services that focus on the safety and risk issues identified during the CPS investigation. Services are targeted to individual child and family needs.

— Family Continuity
Support: A voluntary intensive
home-based program designed to
prevent the removal of children

from the parental home or to help facilitate reunification. Referrals come from DHHS or ACFS CPS. The program assists with various issues facing the family including employment, housing, housekeeping, budgeting, transportation, etc.

— Adolescent In-Home
Assistance: The AIHA program
is designed to identify and provide services to adolescents who
are engaging in at-risk behaviors.
The program is voluntary or court
ordered and provides culturally
appropriate advocacy, support,
and connections with community-based services that enables
families to remain together or
reunites the family with the ado-

lescent that is in an out of home placement due to delinquency issues. Clients have the ability to refer themselves.

— Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) Monitoring: ACFS provides monitoring of child welfare cases throughout the United States involving children either enrolled in or eligible for membership in the tribe to ensure that the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) is followed.

For information on available programs, addressing specific needs, or seeking assistance for yourself or a family member, reach out to ACFS at 1-800-726-0093 or (906) 632-5250.

Robin Clark named to Natural Resources Commission

On Dec. 13, Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer appointed Sault Tribe member Robin Michigiizhigookwe Clark, of Sault Ste. Marie, to the Natural Resource Commission. Clark will represent Democrats on the NRC from Jan. 1, 2024, to Dec. 31, 2027.

Clark is a research associate at Michigan Tech, where she is currently working on a Northern white cedar regeneration project. She holds a

bachelor of science with honors in environmental studies and applications and a master of science in community, agriculture, recreation, and resource studies, both from Michigan State University. She received her doctor of philosophy in forest science from Michigan Tech and has published in a variety of natural resource-related journals. She previously worked in a variety of science and research positions with

the Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan, Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians.

The Michigan Natural Resources Commission has exclusive authority to regulate the taking of game and sportfish and is authorized to designate game species and authorize the establishment of the first open season for animals through the issuance of orders.



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Unit IV elders Christmas party December 13



Brenda and Ron Nelson



Eleanore Artley and Ann Viau.



Heather Jarvis, the elder liaison for the west end of the tribe's service area and Tess Brazeau, the elders chair for Escanaba.



Above: Pam and Ernest Demmon. Below: Friends enjoy their lunch.



Sault Tribe elders from Unit IV held their annual Christmas party Dec. 13 at the Island Resort Casino. Elder Chair for Escanaba, Tess L Brazeau, says the smiles say it all!

Photos by Brenda Kinnart





Joseph K. Lumsden Bahweting Anishnabe School is holding Kindergarten Round Up for the upcoming 2024-2025 School Year. Only those who complete and turn in an enrollment application during the open enrollment period will be considered for the lottery. The open enrollment dates are from Monday, January 29, 2024 through Wednesday, February 14, 2024, with extended hours from 4:30-5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 13th.

Applications may be picked up from the school office, school administration building, or printed from the school website at www.jklschool.org beginning Monday, January 29, 2024. All applications must be received by the school office by 4:00 p.m. (eastern time zone) on Wednesday, February 14, 2024.

The lottery will be held in the school administration building conference room at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, February 21, 2024 for those wishing to attend. Attendance at the lottery is not mandatory.

The parents of those children selected from the lottery will be notified by phone to set up the appointment for Round Up. The dates of Kindergarten Round are set for Wednesday, March 13, 2024 and Thursday, March 14, 2024.

JOSEPH K. LUMSDEN BAHWETING ANISHNABE SCHOOL

2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR OPEN ENROLLMENT AND PUBLIC LOTTERY INFORMATION

Joseph K. Lumsden Bahweting Anishnabe Public Public School Academy (JKL) will start accepting enrollment applications for the 2024-25 school year on Monday, January 29, 2024 through February 14, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. For the public's convenience, the main school office is open until 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 13, 2024.

All applications submitted by February 14, 2024 will be entered into the enrollment lottery for an opportunity to be randomly chosen for an opportunity to attend JKL. As a Michigan Public School Academy, students attend JKL free of charge; However, enrollment spots are limited. The names of all applicants are placed in a lottery and chosen randomly in public. Applicant names are pulled and placed in open seats until they are filled. Attendance at the public lottery is not required.

After all of the seats are filled, students are placed on a waiting list in the order drawn. Parents will be notified after the lottery and have three (3) school days to accept the seat. After three days, the seat will go to the next applicant on the lottery list.

The lottery will be held on Wednesday, February 21, 2024 at 9:30 a.m. in the JKL Administration Building (across from the main school building).

Applications will be available for picked up starting January 29, 2024 from the JKL school office, administration building or printed from the school website: www.jklschool.org.

Attention tribal members! Are you registered to vote?

Unsure if you are registered to vote? You can check with Tribal Enrollment at (906) 635-3396 or (800) 251-6597.

If you need to register to vote, you can go to www.saulttribe. com/government/tribal-elections to get a voter registration card, or you can clip the form on this page and mail it in to the Tribal Election Committee, P.O. Box 102, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783.

If you live INSIDE the

tribe's seven-county service area: When you live within the seven-county service area you are automatically registered to vote in the unit you live. If you do not know your unit, check the unit listing on this page.

If you live OUTSIDE the service area: You can choose which unit to be registered in. Select the unit where you have the closest ties.

Registration is permanent

unless you move in or out of an election unit. You must be at least 18 on election day, June 27, 2024, to vote. You must be registered by March 29, 2024, to vote in this year's tribal election.

Any questions about voter registration? Please contact the Enrollment Department at (906) 635-3396 or (800) 251-6597, or Lona Strewart or Ashlee Mielke at (906) 635-6050 or (800) 793-0660.

PLEASE CHECK TRIBAL ENROLLMENT'S "BAD ADDRESS LIST"

On pages 20 through 23 is a list of Sault Tribe members who currently have bad addresses on file with the Sault Tribe Enrollment Department.

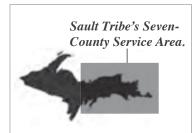
To update your mailing address so you don't miss out

on any important mailings please call the Enrollment Department at (800) 251-6597.

To view the list of bad addresses online, please visit the Sault Tribe website at www. saulttribe.com.

Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Units





Sault Tribe's service area is divided into five units covering seven counties in the eastern Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

Information for prospective tribal election candidates

The following is a copy of the letter being sent out to new candidates as they receive their election packets:

Dear Prospective Tribal Election Candidate:

For this election, the list of eligible candidates is due out Friday, April 25, after which the candidates will be placed on the Primary Election ballot for a seat on the Sault Tribe Board of Directors.

This letter is to ensure you have enough time to write and submit your 500 words for the Candidates' Forum in the April issue of the tribal newspaper. This and your photo constitute the quarter page space you are being given by the newspaper as a primary candidate. Your piece is due by 5 p.m. on Friday, April 19.

If for some reason you are not placed on the ballot, we won't publish your forum piece. In order to make press and have the paper published and mailed before the primary ballots are mailed, we must have your pieces by April 19.

Please include a photo if we don't already have it. Call us in advance of the deadline if you need a photo taken. If you email your submission, the text format must be a word processing file such as Microsoft Word, or text in the email window. The photo must be a separate image file. We will not accept PDFs or Publisher documents for your 500 words.

For the General Election, unofficial primary results will be announced Thursday, May 23. Winners of this election must have their free half-page ad at the newspaper office Friday, May 24, by 5 p.m. This letter constitutes your notice to do so. The newspaper staff can design your ad and furnish you a proof via email. We encourage you to have your ad in early in anticipation of winning.

Candidates are also welcome

to purchase additional paid ad space in the February, March, April, and May issues. Call us at 906-632-6398 or email jdale-burton@saulttribe.net. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to email or call any time

Attached is a schedule of the newspaper deadlines and a adver-

tising rate card for your convenience.

Respectfully, Jennifer Dale-Burton, editor Win Awenen Nisitotung 531 Ashmun St., Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

jdale-burton@saulttribe.net (906) 632-6398, ext. 26073

Tribal election unit listing by city and zip code

- 1							_	
	UNIT I		Germfask	49836	Champion	49814	Traunik	49890
١	Barbeau	49710	Goetzville	49736	Cooks	49817	Trenary	49891
١	Bay Mills	49715	Gould City	49838	Cornell	49818	Wells	49819
١	Brimley	49715	Gulliver	49840	Escanaba	49829		
	Dafter	49724	Hessel	49745	Fayette	49835	UNIT V	
١	Eckerman	49728	McMillan	49853	Garden	49835	Arnold	49819
١	Hulbert	49748	Naubinway	49762	Gladstone	49837	Autrain	49806
	Kincheloe	49788	Newberry	49868	Gwinn	49841	Beaver Grove	49855
١	Kincheloe	49886	Pickford	49774	Ishpeming	49849	Big Bay	49808
	Kinross	49752	Rexton	49794	KI Sawyer	49843	Chatham	49816
١	Neebish Island	49710	Rudyard	49780	Limestone	49816	Christmas	49862
	Paradise	49768	Stalwart	49736	Little Lake	49833	Deerton	49822
١	Raco	49715	Trout Lake	49793	Manistique	49854	Eben Junction	49825
	Sault Ste. Marie	49783			Nahma	49864	Forrest Lake	49832
١	Strongs	49790	UNIT III		Negaunee	49866	Grand Marais	49839
	Sugar Island	49783	Brevort	49760	Northland	49869	Harvey	49855
			Mackinac Island	49757	Perkins	49872	Marquette	49855
١	UNIT II		Moran	49760	Princeton	49841	Michigamme	49861
	Cedarville	49719	Pointe Aux Pins	49775	Rapid River	49878	Munising	49862
	Curtis	49820	St. Ignace	49781	Republic	49879	Palmer	49871
	DeTour Village	49725			Rock	49880	Rumley	49826
	Engadine	49827	UNIT IV		Skandia	49885	Seney	49883
	Epoufette	49762	Bark River	49807	Thompson	49889	Shingleton	49884
١	Fibre	49780	Brampton	49837	THOMPSON	1 7007	Wetmore	49895

SAULT STE. MARIE TRIBE OF CHIPPEWA INDIANS VOTER REGISTRATION FORM

Non-resident Members must choose one of the five election units in order to vote in Tribal Elections. They should consider selecting the unit in which they have the closest ties and indicate below the unit they select. Registration is permanent unless you move in/out of an election unit. This form must be received by the Tribal Election Committee ninety (90) days prior to a general election in order for the registration to be valid. The address to which my ballot should be sent is:

Please 1	Print
----------	-------

NAME	MAILING ADDRESS
STREET (PHYSICAL) ADDR	ESS
CITY & STATE	ZIP CODE
	de last four numbers of your social security: registration card must be completed and received at least 90 days prior to a general in Tribal Elections.
I register to vote in Unit	SIGNATURE (Must have signature to be Valid.)

Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Notice of Election January 26, 2024

The Election Commission of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians would like to inform you that a tribal election will be held for the Tribal Chairperson and Board of Directors this year; with a primary held in spring (if required) and the general election held this summer. Below are important dates and information pertaining to the election.

The timetable for the election process is as follows: (All deadlines are 5:00 p.m. EST).

	April 18 th	Nominating petition	n deadline.			
	April 25 th l	List of eligible can	didates available.			
	April 29 th l	Deadline for contest	sts relating to nominations a	and voter registration.		
	May 2 nd	Deadline to mail bl	lank primary ballots to vote	rs.		
	May 23 rd	Primary Election D	Day.			
	May 27 th Deadline for contests relating to vote count.					
	June 6 th l	Deadline to mail bl	lank ballots for general elec	tion to voters.		
June 27 th	General Election Day.					
July 1 st	Deadline for contest relating	g to vote count.				
			OFFICERS TO B	E ELECTED		
TJ:4 1.	2 mombons	II:4 2.	Tribal Chai	rperson		
Unit 1:	-3 members-	Unit 3:	-1 member-			

VOTER REGISTRATION

The term of all officers will be four years

Tribal members who will be eighteen (18) years of age or older on the date of the general election are automatically registered to vote. The Tribal Election Ordinance states all Resident Members in an election unit shall automatically be registered within the unit they reside and Non-resident Members must designate one of the five election units in order to vote in unit Director elections. Registration is permanent unless you move in/out of an election unit. Unit Registration forms must be received by the Tribal Registrar, ninety (90) days prior to the general election, in order to vote in the upcoming elections. Voter registration is open and tribal members who need to register (all previously registered members are considered permanently registered) can contact the Tribal Registrar at the address given below or call the Tribal Registrar's Office. In order to register, you must complete and return a voter registration form to: P.O. Box 102, Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan 49783, before 5:00 p.m. on March 29, 2024. Non-Resident registration forms that do not designate a specific unit will be considered incomplete and that member shall only be eligible to vote for the Chairperson.

VOTING PROCEDURE

All ballots will be mailed to registered voters by first class mail. In order to be counted, ballots must be received by the Tribal Election Commission by 5:00 p.m. at the United States Post Office-Sault Ste. Marie location on May 23, 2024 for the Primary Election and on June 27, 2024 for the General Election. A Post Office Box is provided by the United States Post Office for return of the ballots. The address of the post office box will be included on the ballot.

Address Correction Requested: The election will be conducted by mail to the address shown in the Tribal Registrar's records. It is the responsibility of the tribal member to ensure that the address shown for him or her is correct. Please contact the Tribal Registrar's Office for any changes: Tribal Registrar's Office, 2076 Shunk Road, Mailing address: P.O. Box 1628, Sault Ste. Marie, MI, 49783 or by phone: (906) 635-3396 or (800) 251-6597.

NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES

Any tribal member who meets the requirements detailed in the Tribal Election Ordinance is eligible for election to office. A candidate for nomination must be eighteen (18) years of age or older by June 27, 2024, a qualified voter, and have established one year residency within the Election Unit which they seek to represent. Any person elected shall voluntarily resign employment position and/or surrender any rights under any contract with the Tribe prior to assuming office. To be nominated, a candidate must file a letter of intent, nominating petitions, campaign financing forms, etc. with the Tribal Election Commission in accordance with the Election Ordinance. A nomination petition must bear the original signatures of the proper number of registered voters from the unit to be represented. A voter may sign only as many petitions as there are offices to be filled from their unit. Petitions must be submitted on the forms provided by the Election Commission obtained at the designated offices.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Finance Reporting: The Election Commission requires candidates <u>and</u> others who expend money on the election to file reports on campaign fundraising and spending. If you plan to spend money on the election, you must contact the Election Commission to obtain the proper forms before doing so. Failure to comply with this requirement may result in criminal prosecution.

Election Contests & Complaints: Any tribal member may raise election disputes before the Election Commission. All disputes must be stated in writing, addressed to the Chairperson of the Election Commission, contain the original signature and be received under procedures provided in the Election Ordinance. The Election Commission will review disputes according to the Election Ordinance.

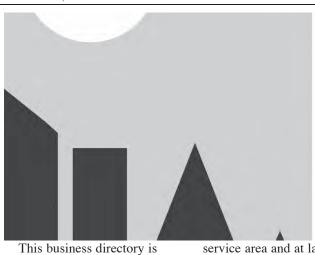
Election Ordinance: This Notice is a narrative statement of the requirements of the Election Ordinance and the Constitution. If there are any discrepancies in the timelines contained within this Notice of Election, the Election Ordinance and Constitution are controlling and superlative. Questions regarding the election should be directed to the Tribal Election Commission.

Designated Offices: Designated Offices are the tribal offices as to which additional election material is available and for delivery of correspondence. Designated Tribal offices

- Unit 1: Tribal Court Office, George K. Nolan Judicial Building, 2175 Shunk Road, Sault Ste. Marie, MI
- Unit 2: Hessel Tribal Center, 3355 Nopaming Drive, Hessel, MI

are as follows:

- Unit 3: Human Resource Office, 3015 Mackinac Trail (Kewadin Shores Casino Building), St. Ignace, MI
- Unit 4: Manistique Tribal Center, 5698 W. Hwy. US-2, Manistique, MI
- Unit 5: Munising Tribal Center, 622 West Superior Street, Munising, MI



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.saulttribethrive.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 citzen-owned businesses through outreach, advocacy, and business consultation initiatives.

SAULTTRIBE

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!

Pennzoil

Transportation

Brimley 49715

Innes Welding & Repair David Innes Brimley, MI 49715 (906) 440-5364 thepropmaster@hotmail.com Manufacturing

Dafter 49724

NMK Consulting Charlee Brissette Dafter, MI 49724 (906) 630-3082 cnbrissette@gmail.com Consulting

Floor Masters Art Derry Dafter, MI 49724 (906) 322-0252 art.derry@yahoo.com Construction

Kincheloe 49788

Anchor Systems
Frederick Carr
Kincheloe, MI 49788
(906) 240-1180
advantage@anchorsystems.tech
anchorsystems.tech
InformationTechnology

DeMawating Development Theresa Germain Kincheloe, MI 49788 (906) 498-9800 tgermain@saulttribe.net demawatingdevelopment.com Other

Jenerou Sewer & Drain Jace Jenerou Kincheloe, MI 49788 (906) 322-2044 jenerousewer@gmail.com Facebook: Jenerou Sewer & Drain

Red Sky Woman Designs Helen Wilkins Kincheloe, MI 49788 (906) 322-9597 redskywomandesigns@gmail.com facebook.com/Red-Sky-Woman-Designs-179306729328391 Arts/Culture

Sault Ste Marie 49783

APB Tree Service Andrew Biszant Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (976) 623-9937 andrewbizant@gmail.com Environmental

Ashmun Creek Apartments Randy McGahey Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 632-4470 ashmuncreek@sbcglobal.net ashmuncreek.com Real Estate

Bloom Co. David Lockhart Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 201-0861 shop@bloomcosault.com bloomcosault.com Retail

Bonacci Contracting Carmine Bonacci Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 632-1425 bonacci10@gmail.com Construction

C.H. Marine Service Chris Hank Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 203-6396 chmarineservices@gmail.com facebook.com/CHMarineServices Transportation

Caster Construction Ed Caster Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 635-3550 elcasterconstruction@gmail.com casterconstruction.com Construction

Castle of Wood Nick Deplonty Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 748-0739 nickdeplonty@gmail.com facebook.com/CastleofWood Hospitality

Contain A Pet of Eastern Upper Peninsula Melinda Menard Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 290-0478 capofeup@yahoo.com containapetofeup.com Recreation

Creative Memories
Janet Hess
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783
(906) 630-3878
jhess4cm@hotmail.com
creativememories.com/user/
JanetHess
Arts/Culture

Crooked Music
Zack Crook
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783
(906) 259-7400
crookedmusicstore@gmail.com
facebook.com/
CrookedMusicStore
Arts/Culture

D & S Custom Upholstery

Dwayne Lehn Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 748-1047 dwaynel91@gmail.com facebook.com/D-S-Custom-Upholstery-143701853133290 Retail

Flowers Automotive James Flowers Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 632-8074 flowersautoservice@gmail.com Transportation

Franks Place Dawn Bumstead Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 440-4457 dawn@franksplace.biz Food & Beverage

Gitchi Enterprises Todd Olmstead Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 203-4491 tolmstead@saulttribe.net gitchiauto.com Transportation

Great Lakes Roofing & Insulation Systems Craig Miller Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 647-2916 info@greatlakesroofing.com greatlakesroofing.com Construction

Hilltop Bar & Restaurant Brandon McKerchie Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 259-2621 mckerchiebrandon@yahoo.com facebook.com/sugarislandhilltop Food & Beverage

Hunt's Maintenance & Services Tyson Hunt Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 748-1920 tysonhunt2019@gmail.com Janitorial Services

Kewadin Casinos Allen Kerridge Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 1-800-539-2346 akerridge@saulttribe.net kewadin.com Hospitality

Kristi Harwood-Causley State Farm Insurance Kristi Harwood-Causley Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 635 5377 kristi@teamkristi.com teamkristi.com Insurance LaJoie Truck Service & Fabrication
Marty Lajoie
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783
(906) 647-3209
ltsf1@yahoo.com
facebook.com/profile.
php?id=100088037838388
Transportation

Lockview Restaurant Amy Goetz Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 632-2772 lockview2019@gmail.com thelockviewrestaurant.net Food & Beverage

Long Ships Motel Scott Albon Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 632-2422 scotty_joce@yahoo.com Hospitality

McGahey Construction Randall McGahey Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 440-6305 ashmuncreek@sbcglobal.net kyle-mcgahey-g7ez.squarespace. com Construction

MCS Flooring Sonja McLeod Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 440-7702 mcsflooringsm@gmail.com Construction

Medical Arts Optical Melanie Cook Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 632-2289 melaniebea@aol.com melaniecookhearingaids.com

Midjim Convenience Stores Jamie MacDonald Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 635-4782 jmacdonald@saulttribe.net saulttribe.com/enterprises/midjim Retail

Mikes Garage Mike Cook Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 635-5755 mikemike1962@hotmail.com mikes-garage-sault-ste-marie. edan.io Transportation

National Painting Contractors (MBE) James McClusky Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (828) 989-1395 nationalpaintingcontractors@ gmail.com nationalpaintingcontractors.business.site Construction

Tracy Smart Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 635-3018 admin@pennzoilsaultstemarie. com facebook.com/Pennzoilssm

Prescription Oxygen Ron Gordon Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 632 3772 ron@prescriptionoxygen.com facebook.com/ PrescriptionOxygen Healthcare

Proline Auto Mike Pages Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 259-0809 mpages73@gmail.com facebook.com/ProLine-Auto-408518942632829 Transportation

Regal Home Care Breana McCoy Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (620) 308-0277 regalhomecare@outlook.com regal-homecare-906-live.com Healthcare

Roy Electric
Jeff Roy
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783
(906) 632-8878
royelectric@lighthouse.net
royelectriccompany.com/home
Utilities

Sabatine Appraisals Stephanie Sabatine Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 322-2960 stephsabatine@gmail.com Real Estate

Salon C Cathy McClellan Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 635-3964 cathyann906@gmail.com saloncssm.com/ Personal Care Services

Saulteur Scott Lavictor Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (313) 244-9793

See "Directory," page 14

Consulting

From "Directory," page 13 scott@saulteur.com saulteur.com

Sault Printing Ron Maleport Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 635-3369 ron@saultprinting.com saultprinting.com Marketing/Advertising

Sault Tribe Incorporated Joel Schultz Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 203-5343 joel.schultz@saulttribeinc.com saulttribeinc.com Public Sector

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

Sugar Island Shores David Menard Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 440-7644 sugarislandshores@yahoo.com Food & Beverage

Superior Insurance Agency of Sault Ste Marie LLC Ben Schultz Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 632-3337 Benjamins@SuperiorSault.com SuperiorSault.com

Superior Custom Blinds Jennnifer Hatfield Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 630-6939 jennlroy209@gmail.com superiorcustomblinds.com Retail

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

Total Outlook Hair Care and Tanning Connie Payment Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 632-6936 totaloutlooksalon@gmail.com totaloutlookhairandtanning.com Personal Care Services

Tribal Voices Cressandra Thibideaux Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (310) 880-3907 cressandra@mac.com Media/Entertainment

TRUCOR USA Mike DiAngelo Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 michael.diangelo@trucorusa. comtrucorusa.com Construction

U.P. Auto Group Gerald Jackson Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 630-5361 gjackson@upautosales.com upautosales.com Transportation

U.P. Carpet Mart Don McKerchie Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 635-1026 eitrem@sbcglobal.net upcarpetmart.business.site Retail We Care Home Care Lisa Switzer Sault Ste Marie, MI 49783 (906) 379-8070 lhoopswitzer@gmail.com Home Healthcare / Cleaning

Wholistic Energy Healing Shelly Kucharczyk Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 440-2224 s.kucharczyk@yahoo.com facebook.com/wholisticwellnesssolutions Healthcare

Willis Pest Control Willard Willis Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 322 7445 batman_will@hotmail.com willispestcontrol.com Environmental

Woody's One Stop Nick Lourcias Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 632-7361 nlouricas@hotmail.com

Y & R Complete Outdoor Services Ron Baird Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 203-7388 yolandanolanbaird@gmail.com Environmental

Cedarville 49719

Hakola Porta John Service and Rental Tony Hakola Cedarville, MI 49719 (906) 430-8058 tonyhakola@hotmail.com Hakolaportajohn.com Environmental

The Ice Cream Shoppe
Jill McLeod
Cedarville, MI 49719
(906) 484-5525
jmcleod@eupschools.org
facebook.com/The-Ice-CreamShoppe-175540842574683
Food & Beverage

Curtis 49820

Above The Bridge Outdoors Morgan Gelinas Curtis, MI 49820 (906) 287-0903 abovethebridgeoutdoors@gmail. com abovethebridgeoutdoors.com

DeTour Village 49725

Barbeaux Fisheries Paul Barbeaux DeTour Village, MI 49725 (906) 297-5969 barbeauxfish@gmail.com Farming/Fishing

Timberdoodle
Janelle Gross Dudeck
DeTour, MI 49725
(906) 297-1011
timberdoodle.mercantile@gmail.
com
facebook.com/shoptimberdoodle
Retail

Germfask 49836

Superior Satellite Solutions Gary Talarico Germfask, MI 49836 (906) 450-7675 chieffishfinder1@att.net Telecommunications

Mattson's U.P. Feeds Casey Mattson (906) 586-9969 7476 County Line Rd Germfask, MI 49836 Gould City 49838

DIRECTORY

Peninsula Shores Gallery Eirnella O Neil Gould City, MI 49838 (906) 477-6303 eirnella.oneil@gmail.com Arts/Culture

Hessel 49745
Burnside Creations
Lisa Burnside
Hessel, MI 49745
(906) 430-7323
burnsidecreations1@gmail.com
Retail

McMillian 49853

Thermal Kernels
Cathy Baker
McMillian, MI 49853
(231) 675 1060
lovethermalkernels@gmail.com
facebook.com/cornybusiness
Personal Care Services

Naubinway 49762

Kings Fish Market Sally Schultz Naubinway, MI 49762 (906) 477-6311 benschultz3134@gmail.com Farming/Fishing

Moofinfries Laura Flatt Naubinway, MI 49762 (906) 630-6932 moofinfries@gmail.com facebook.com/moofinfries Food & Beverage

Newberry 49868

Gitche Gumee Handcrafted Jewelry Gina Harman Newberry, MI 49868 (906)293-3625 ginavgc@gmail.com lakesuperiorpendants.com/index. php?page=Home Arts/Culture

Northern Wings David Goudreau Newberry, MI 49868-8170 (906) 477-6176 Ext. 101 dave@northernwings.com northernwings.com Aerospace & Defense

Superior Web Gina Harman Newberry, MI 49868 (906) 293-3625 ginavgc@gmail.com superiorweb.net Media/Entertainment

Rudyard 49780

Hakola Logging
Tate Hakola
Rudyard, MI 49780
(906) 440-0842
hakolaj@michigan.gov
Environmental

Hucks Pub Tate Hakola Rudyard, MI 49780 (906) 442-1042 hakolaj@michigan.gov hucks-pub-grill.business.site Food & Beverage

Surface Tech Applicators Nathan Cremeans Rudyard, MI 49780 (906) 203-9397 nscremeans@gmail.com surface-tech-applicators.com Construction

The Brickyard Bar and Grill Tate Hakola Rudyard, MI 49780 (906) 442-1099 hakolaj@michigan.gov facebook.com/pages/category/Bar/The-Brickyard-Bar-Grill-1017733485083023 Food & Beverage

Moran 49760

Native Steel Welding & Fab Trystan Ferris Moran, MI 49760 (906) 430-7816 nativesteelwelding@gmail.com Manufacturing

T & K King Fisheries
Theron King
Moran, MI 49760
(906) 643-1068
kingsfishmarket@gmail.com
facebook.com/kingsfishmarketandrestaurant
Farming/Fishing

St. Ignace 49781
Bay Pharmacy
Douglas Goudreau
St. Ignace, MI 49781
(906) 643-7725
bayrxsi@gmail.com
mygnp.com/pharmacies/bay-pharmacy-st-ignace-mi-49781
Healthcare

Belonga's Plumbing and Heating Steven Paquin St. Ignace, MI 49781 (906) 643-9595 spaquinbph18@gmail.com Utilities

Cottage UP Thomas Clark St. Ignace, MI 49781 (906) 298-2298 cottageup@outlook.com www.cottageup.org Retail

Eversons Furnishings Jimmy Everson St. Ignace, MI 49781 (906) 643-7751 info@eversonsfurniture.com eversonsfurniture.com Retail

Horn's Odds & Ends Irene Horn St. Ignace, MI 49781 (906) 984-2189 mhorn517@gmail.com facebook.com/hornsoddsnends Retail

Jose's Cantina Allecia Gallo St. Ignace, MI 49781 (906) 984-2212 galloscantina906@gmail.com joses-cantina.business.site Food & Beverage

M&M Fisheries Lynn Rickley St. Ignace, MI 49781 (734) 516-6536 lynnrickley63@gmail.com Farming/Fishing

Manleys Famous Smoked Fish Don Wright St. Ignace, MI 49781 (906) 643-8930 dwright@clmcaa.com facebook.com/Manleysfishmarket Farming/Fishing

Mark & Sons Plumbing and Heating Lewis Mullins St. Ignace, MI 49781 (906) 643-9597 markandsonsph@gmail.com Utilities

Massey Fish Company Jamie Massey Sr. St. Ignace, MI 49781 (906) 984-2148 masseysfish@gmail.com masseyfish.com Farming/Fishing

Molly's Nest Robin Pavia St. Ignace, MI 49781 (906) 298-1633 gardensbymollysnest@yahoo.com Farming/Fishing

Ron's Birchbark Studio Ron Paquin St. Igance, MI 49781 (231) 420-3518 mollyronpaquin@gmail.com Arts/Culture

Ruddles Native Painting Carol Ruddle Mackinac Island, MI 49781 (906) 430-1728 nativepaintingmack@gmail.com Arts/Culture

St. Ignace in Bloom Alex Belonga St. Ignace, MI 49781 (616) 644-4214 greenhouse@stignaceinbloom. com stignaceinbloom.com Retail

Weddings By Judy in Northern Michigan Judy St. Louis-Scott St. Ignace, MI 49781 (906) 643-7064 stlouis92@yahoo.com facebook.com/weddingsbyjudyinnorthernmichigan Hospitality

Zodiac Party Store/Taste of the Upper Penisula Keith Massaway St. Ignace, MI 49781 (906) 643-8643 kmassaway@msn.com facebook.com/zodiacpartystore Retail

Escanaba 49829-49837
Benoit's Glass and Lock
Rick Benoit
Escanaba, MI 49829
(906) 786-5281
benoitglass@gmail.com
facebook.com/pages/BenoitsGlass-Lock/126579080731438

Dress up and Tuxedo Jody Bugay Escanaba, MI 49829 (906) 789-9796 jody@dressup906.com dressup906.com Retail

Construction

Feathers Upholstery Emily McGeary Escanaba, MI 49829 (906) 446-3406 mcemily451@gmail.com Apparel

Ojibwe Hazardous Abatement Rob Arndt Escanaba, MI 49829 (906) 786-3001 robarndt95@gmail.com ojibwehazardous.com Environmental

Pink Giraffe Beauty Products Maddi Lynch Escanaba, MI 49837 (906) 280-6994 pinkgiraffebeautyproducts@gmail.com pinkgiraffeproducts.com Retail

Rock Road Masonry & Construction Brandon Deno

See "Directory," page 19

JKL Bahweting to display donated quilts

BY SCOTT BRAND

On Jan. 16, the JKL
Bahweting School Board of
Education officially accepted a
pair of donated quilts, from two
Michigan seamstresses working
independently, commemorating
the historical injustices associated with 19th Century practice
where Native American children
were taken from their parents
and homes to be shipped off to
boarding schools both in the
United States and Canada.

JKL Bahweting Principal Carolyn Dale, Ph.D., expressed some surprise at the timing and similarity between the two quilts.

"How could it be that these two quilters made such similar quilts and also donated them to the school?," she asked, before adding these gifts hold tremendous meaning. "We can't express how deeply we have been affected by the quilts."

Diane Pederson-Ufer, who currently resides in the Sault Ste. Marie area, said she had pondered her creation for a couple of months, going on line to look up various Native American symbols and their meaning. She incorporated more than a half-dozen symbols in her completed work.

"These kids were warriors in my mind," said Pederson-Ufer of one of the main inspirations



Quilt donated by Diane Pederson-Ufer.

she took from the past. "I lived in Alaska for 25 years and I know how it devastated families up there."

The second quilt, from Theresa Stokes of Kalamazoo, Mich. was delivered by her daughter, Molly Davie, who works at JKL Bahweting.

"When they found the mass graves up in Canada, I called

my mom in tears and said those would have been my students this happened to," said Davie. "I couldn't imagine it."

As an avid quilter, Stokes took to her needle and thread to document this tragic moment in history.

"We're thinking of hanging the big one in the commons' area," said Dale after receiving the donations, "and the smaller one in the main office."



From left to right: JKL Board President Norma Castro, Molly Davie making donation on behalf of her mother, Theresa Stokes, JKL Board Secretary Fred Carr, local quilter, Diane Pederson-Ufer, and JKL Board Trustee Elizabeth Eidenier pose with the donated quilts at the Jan. 16 school board meeting.



Quilt donated by Theresa Stokes.

Tribal Youth Council makes blankets for dialysis center



From left, Titus Causley, Kamryn Corbiere, Melissa Nolan, and Cruz Carr. By Toren Clark, Tribal Couth Council

The Tribal Youth Council has been working hard to create blankets to show some love and respect to our elders. We hope this hard work will keep a few warm this winter and let them know they are loved. As our latest community service project, the council has completed five tie blankets, and we plan to donate them to the dialysis center at the MyMichigan Health Hospital. We delivered them on Dec. 21. We hope these blankets will make someone's day a little brighter because we see the hardships people experience while going through dialysis. The Tribal Youth Council wants to show how much we care and our dedication to our community.



Odenaang Homes Tribal Enterprise (OHTE) Lease to Purchase

Homeownership Program

Administered by Sault Tribe Housing Authority

Are you ready to become a homebuyer?

The Lease to Purchase Homeownership Program provides the opportunity for eligible tribal members to purchase a new home utilizing a lease to purchase-option. The homebuyer is a lessee during the term of the Agreement and acquires no equitable interest in the home until the option to purchase is exercised. Once the home is paid in full the home is conveyed to the member with a land lease.

Income Guidelines:

Tribal member households cannot exceed the income guidelines listed below according to family size.

No. of People 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

Annual Income \$43,740 \$59,160 \$74,580 \$90,000 \$105,420 \$120,840 \$136,260 \$151,680

There are 20 newly constructed 2 and 3 bedrooms homes available at the Odenaang Housing Community that will be ready for occupancy Spring/Summer 2024

For more information, or to request an application call: 800-794-4072 or 906-495-1450 or Email: OHTEprograms@saulttribe.net

Applications are now being accepted!!

"This project is being supported, in whole or in part, by United States Department Treasury Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF), a part of American Rescue Plan, awarded to state, local, and tribal governments across the country in response to and recovery from COVID-19 Pandemic.

Celebrating birthday's at the Sault elder center Howell enters Young Tribal Leaders Art Contest



December elder birthdays were celebrated by (L-R) Jolene Nertoli, Frank Marble, Jeanette



January elder birthdays were celebrated by Chelsie Aikens, George Soorus and Kurt White.

Beauty Empire Salon and Tanning, LLC, opens

By Brenda Austin

Sault Ste. Marie welcomes one of its newest businesses located downtown at 1115 Ashmun Street – Beauty Empire Salon and Tanning, LLC.

Sault Tribe member Elly Armentrout is the owner and has been in the beauty industry for eight years. "I've been passionate about hair for as long as I can remember. When I was younger, I would always be the one to dress up my friends and family for events because it brought me so much joy making them feel good about themselves,"

In order to keep up with the latest trends and techniques, Armentrout takes yearly training courses and is constantly on the lookout for new services to offer her clients. "This industry never gets boring," she said. "It's constantly evolving. That was the main reason I bought my own business - to have more room for more exciting develop-

Beauty Empire offers cuts, color, styling, hair extensions, tanning, waxing, and hair

Sault Tribe member Brittany Cunningham, who has also been in the beauty industry for eight years, moved with Armentrout to the new location. Cunningham specializes in men's fades and hair extensions. Armentrout said their goal is to make people feel confident and beautiful and to offer a comfortable atmosphere that makes clients feel welcomed and

Beauty Empire has two new tanning beds with new bulbs, one stand up and one lay down. Walk ins are welcome, or you can call for an appointment. They stay open after 5 p.m. three nights a week for tanning bed appointments. "We post spe-

tell everyone to keep an eye out for that," Armentrout said

The salon currently has three chairs and is hiring booth rental stylists by the day, or by the year. They also have a private room for rent that would be great for a lash tech or spray tans.

You can find them on Instagram at: beautyempire906, or on Facebook by doing a search for Beauty Empire Salon and Tanning. To make an appointment or talk to Elly or Brittany, call (906) 259-1197.





The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Division of Environmental Services and Cultural Resources Management (DESCRM) put a call out online to all tribal artists, ages 14 to 30, to submit artwork to the Young Tribal Leaders Art Contest and have a chance to showcase their talent in an online art gallery.

Winners will be announced in February 2024 and will also receive funding to attend the 2024 National Tribal and Indigenous Climate Conference and have their art featured in Washington, D.C.

The contest showcases the perspectives and creativity of Native youth and young professionals across the nation within the themes of culture, environment, and climate.

Sault Tribe member Isis Howell (18), entered one of her paintings into the contest Howell said that growing up and going to powwows and other cultural events was an exciting experience for her. "Seeing all the beautiful regalia, floral work, beadwork and art was inspirational," she said.

Learning about her culture and the teachings of the seven grandfathers was important to her and she represented that in her painting in the form of spirit animals. "I also used the medicine wheel as well. To me all of these things combined fit the themes of the contest," she said. "I put dots on all the floral to make it look like beadwork.

The seven grandfather teachings of truth, respect, honesty, humility, wisdom, courage, and love are represented. I included mountains and trees for the climate, I also put teepees in the background. I wanted to include more than just things local to my tribe and area; I wanted it to include things that could relate to any tribe or clan. That way if others saw it they could see culture, climate, and environment in it as well."

Howell was a member of the Sault Tribe Tribal Youth Council and participated in their events and activities when she was

Howell is a 2023 graduate of Malcolm High School where she was speaker of her class. She likes working with different art mediums; including painting, sculpting, beading, and is learning the art of theater makeup. She is currently working and saving her money to attend the Multimedia Makeup Academy of Esthetics, Cosmetology, and Special Effects in Trov. Mich. Isis said she would love to work in the entertainment industry doing makeup and special effects.

She is the daughter of Melissa Causley and Nathan Jones of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., and Clayton Howell of Palmer, Alaska; and the granddaughter of Jeff Causley and Connie Benoit, and Beverly Benner-Shannon and Bill Shannon of Sault



Isis Howell holding the painting she entered in the BIA Young Tribal Leaders Art Contest as she stands on the snow-covered shore of the St. Marys River. To her right is a freighter getting

Tribal youth learn the traditional arts of drum making and winter storytelling from elders

More than a dozen children from the Rudvard, Hessel and Sault Ste. Marie YEA programs converged at Niigaanagiizhik on Dec.28 for lunch, story-telling and drum-mak ng featuring two prominent presenters who are passionate about speak ng and teaching the traditional language.

Barbara Nolan, a vibrant first-speak r of Nishnaabemwin explains she "has spent several decades work ng with a variety of

organizations to revitalize our language.'

Barbara, who often partners with other first-speak rs by team-teaching immersion classes was accompanied by family member Mabel Lewis-Hill. Both women were born on the Wike emiking Reservation and still reside in Canada, Barbara in Garden River and Mabel in Sault Sate. Marie, Ont.

Barbara opened with multiple Christmas Carols including "Up on the Rooftop,"

sang in the traditional language while the children clapped along. This was followed by a lengthy story, also in the traditional language from Mabel about a mouse outsmarting an owl waiting for it to leave an underground hiding spot unaware that the mouse had another exit.

The duo also brought sinew, darning needles and leather circles allowing each participant to craft their own miniature drum.

"We need patience to do this," instructed Barbara as the materials were passed out observing it might not be easy. "This is just lik learning our language.'

Her message for this project and other endeavors was simple: "Never give up."

Barbara and Mabel had a second presentation in the evening catering to adults interested in learning more about the traditional



Barbara Nolan and Mabel Lewis-Hill lead the assembled children



Jackie Robinson assists her son Henry, 4, and niece Olivia, 7, during the intricate crafting process.



Paisley Holmes, 6, stretches her sinew and darning needle taking out all the slack with assistance from Kelley Paquin while Sophia Williams, 9, toils away.



Left: Barbara Nolan demonstrates the proper way to tie a knot with sinew. Above: Bella Fisher, Sophia Huffman and Kelley Paquin work Piper Bernier, 13 and Camryn Schmit, 10, shared a



Photos by Scott Brand table at this event.

Sault Ste. Marie welcomes one of its newest businesses located downtown at 1115 Ashmun Street - Beauty Empire Salon and Tanning, LLC. Owner Elly Armentrout (left) and Brittany Cunningham welcome clients to stop by and see their new location and products.

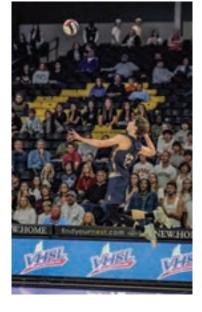
JANUARY 26, 2024 + WIN AWENEN NISITOTUNG

Max Law named Player of the Year for 2023 season

Max Law, son of Brett and Carolyn Law of Midlothian, Va., grandson of Joan Law of St. Ignace, Mich., and member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, was named the Class 5-6 Virginia State Boys Volleyball Player of the Year for the 2023 season. As an opposite hitter, Max lead his team to the Class 5-6 Virginia State Championship game where the Midlothian Trojans won the title in a thrilling 3-2 match. He also received All Region First Team, Region 5C Player of the Year, and All State First Team honors. A current senior at Midlothian

High School, Law plans on studying mechanical engineering next year in college.





Father and son attend powwow

Hannahville's first competition powwwow, was held Nov. 18-19, 2023 at the **Island Resort and** Casino Convention Center. Mike and Arrow Hatch, 7, attended. Arrow is a junior boys traditional dancer and Mike is a mens traditional round bustle and a horse dancer.

Photo by Jamie VerWiebe



Walking

THOMAS W. HOWICK

Thomas W. Howick of Hazel Park, Mich., passed away on Oct. 27, 2023 of

heart complications.

Born on June 2, 1945 to parents James E. Howick and Maxine M. Howick



member of the Sault Ste Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. Tom was a great bass fisherman and also spent his years of retirement selling collectors items at the Flea Market.

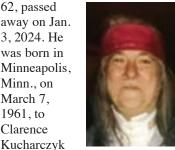
He was preceded in death by both of his parents and older brother James F. Howick. He is survived by his two sisters, Mary VandenBosch and Cathy Bittrick (Barry) and younger brother Patrick Howick (Lyn). Tom will be dearly missed by his three beautiful daughters, Dawn Bianchini (Mark), Tracy Winn (Mike) and Kristi Howick, and grandchildren, Christopher, Antoinette, Jaide, Mariah, Tabitha, Steven and several greatgrandchildren. Tom will also be sadly missed by special friend, Tina Conklin.

A private memorial service was held at Mercy Funeral Home in Hazel Park, Mich., for family members and close friends.

KELVIN JOHN KUCHARCZYK

Kelvin John Kucharczyk, age

62, passed away on Jan. 3, 2024. He was born in Minneapolis, Minn., on March 7, 1961, to Clarence



and Norma Jean (Joseph) Ross. Kelvin was a lifetime laborer. Kelvin enjoyed time collecting antiques, fishing, playing his guitar, and spending time with his dear family and friends.

Kelvin was the beloved brother of Steve (Loretta) Merideth of Munfordville, Ky., Debbie (John) Ranieri of Fayetteville, Tenn., David (Shelly) Kucharczyk of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. His stepbrothers Ray (Jen) Ross,

Mark (Holly) Mott and stepsister Michelle Mott. Kelvin was uncle to Tammy (Tony) Clement, Johnny (Rachel) Merideth, Brian (Ashley) Merideth, Johnathan Ranieri, Heather (Brian) McKee, Nicky Kucharczyk, Mathew Kucharczyk and many great nieces and nephews. He is also survived by his aunt Mary Lou Washburn of Louisville, Ky. His beloved cousins from Michigan, Minnesota, and Kentucky, his dear friends Barb Masters and Mike Neuman.

Preceding Kelvin in death are his parents, his brothers Kevin and Gary Kucharczyk and his aunt Christina (Cookie) Lehn of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. and Uncle John Joseph of Louisville.

JOHN RALPH **LACOURSIERE**

John Ralph LaCoursiere, 83,

of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., entered eternal rest on Jan. 11, 2024. A tribal elder of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians, Ralph was born on



Dec. 3, 1940, in Sault Ste. Marie to parents Walter and Marie (Menard) LaCoursiere.

Ralph grew up between Sault Ste. Marie and his parents' cottage on Sugar Island. He attended Loretto Catholic Central High School graduating with the class of 1958. He married his childhood sweetheart, Mary JoAnn (Znamierowski) on Aug. 6, 1960, and they began a family together.

After high school, Ralph attended college for a short time before deciding his time was better spent deer hunting on opening day. He found success in helping run his father's business, Soo Gravel & Asphalt, and later took over ownership. He retired from the Operating Engineers Local 139 in Wisconsin and was also a member of Local 324 in Michigan. Ralph was a founding member of the International 500 Snowmobile Race in Sault Ste. Marie and served in many leadership capacities, including as Race Chairman, over the years. He was very active in the sport and enjoyed race season with his children, family, and friends. Ralph took great pride in being an

active member of his community where he was a longtime member of the Elks Lodge, Moose Lodge, Christopher Columbus Italian Society, and Knights of Columbus.

Ralph was an avid outdoorsman and enjoyed getting out hunting on opening day. He was known affectionally as grandpa to many members of the community and will be dearly missed.

Ralph is survived by his wife, JoAnn; children, Julie LaCoursiere, Stephen (Denise) LaCoursiere and Scott (Tammy) LaCoursiere; grandchildren, Jeffrey, Joshua, Justin, Austin, Loni, Jillian, Paul, Randy, Alicia, and Bridgett along with five great grandchildren; sister, Julie (Larry) Peterman; sister-in Law, Mary Lou LaCoursiere; Cousin, James (Sue) Menard; and nephews, Michael (Sandy) LaCoursiere, Walter (Gretchen) Walsh, Daniel (Denise) Walsh, and Thomas Walsh, as well as many other beloved family members and friends.

Ralph is preceded in death by his parents, Walter and Marie; and brother, Joseph LaCoursiere and grandson, Brian.

A Memorial Gathering was held at Family Life Funeral Homes, 4951 M-129, in Sault Ste. Marie, on Jan. 16, 2024, followed by a Rosary Prayer Service. On Jan. 17, 2024, a service was held at St. Mary's Catholic Church with a luncheon following at the Sault Tribe Niigaanagiizhik Cultural Center.

Memorial Donations in Ralph's honor may be made out to the I-500 Race Committee.

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

PATRICIA MARY **LANGENDORF**

Patricia "Patti" Mary (Carr) Langendorf, 83, of Sugar Island, Mich., died on Dec. 24, 2023. She was born on July 3, 1940, in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., to John and Emma (Smith) Carr.

Patti grew up in Sault Ste. Marie and graduated with the Sault High School Class of 1958. After graduation, she moved to Tucson, Ariz., to live with her uncle and his family. She attended Kress Nursing School where

she graduated with her LPN Certification. After graduation, Patti moved back to Sault Ste. Marie and worked as a nurse for War

Memorial Hospital. When Dr. Dale T. Scott opened his private practice, he invited Patti to join him and they became a popular medical team at "Medical Arts," along with several other local practitioners.

Patti met her future husband, James B. Langendorf, in early 1963 and by September 1963 they planned to marry before the end of the year, but Uncle Sam interfered. Jim was drafted on Oct. 31, 1963, and was sent to basic training for six weeks. He came home on Christmas leave and they were married on Dec. 28, 1963. They were separated again until Jim was stationed at Fort Rucker, Ala., and they were together again, living in Enterprise, Ala. It wasn't long before Patti took a nursing job in a community nursing facility until they returned to Sault Ste. Marie, when Patti rejoined Dr. Scott until his retirement. Patti then became a check out clerk for years at the Soo Co-op Grocery store where she loved her customers, and they loved her! She worked there up until the store closed.

Patti enjoyed visiting with friends and going to the casino.

Patti is survived by her husband, James "Jim" Langendorf of Sugar Island; sons, James (Maria) Langendorf of Franklin, Ohio, and Michael Langendorf of Sault Ste. Marie; daughter, Abby Langendorf-Haarala of Omaha, Neb.; grandchildren, Carrie, Michael, Conner (Kelsey), Darren, Sydney (Hunter), Pyper, and Jack; brothers, Fred (Joanne) Carr, Brian (Gail) Carr, and Terry Carr all of Sault Ste. Marie; sisters, Janice (Tony) Mauretic of Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., Colleen Carr of Sault Ste. Marie, and Candace Blocher of Dafter, Mich.; and her "other sister," aunt Francine Buechler of Sault Ste.

Patti was preceded in death by her parents, John and Emma; and brother, Johnny Carr.

A Celebration of Life was held

on Dec. 30, 2023, at the Sault Tribe Cultural Center in Sault Ste. Marie.

The final resting place will be at the Wil Walk Cemetery on Sugar Island, Michigan.

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

ALFRED J. SEYMOUR

Alfred J. "Uncle Al" Seymour, 84, of Escanaba, Mich. passed away on Thursday, Jan. 4, 2024 at OSF St. Francis Hospital.

He was born on July 19, 1939, son of Alex and Elsie Seymour of Nahma, Mich.

Al worked on highway con-

struction and excavating. He loved country music and played the guitar and sang most of his life. He loved the Lions, Tigers, and the



Green Bay Packers. He enjoyed playing pool, softball, bowling, and going to the casino.

Al was very outgoing and loved all of his family and friends. He was always proud to be a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

Among survivors include his wife Janice of 51 years; sons, Mark Wearing of Wisconsin and Ron Bonneau of Munising, Mich.; and daughter, Laura Seymour of Alabama. He is also survived by a large family of numerous and beloved grandchildren and great grandchildren; and many special nieces and neph-

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his daughter, Patti Jo Nelson; brothers, Lawrence, Elmer, Kenny, and Donnie; and sisters, Sodie and

A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

Special thanks to Dr. John Bednar from OSF St. Francis Hospital and Rev. Tim Ferguson from St. Joseph and St. Patrick

The Crawford Funeral Homes are assisting the family.

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Sault Tribe Thrive - beyond Michigan's border

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If your name is on this list, please contact the Sault Tribe Enrollment Department with your current address by calling: (800) 251-6597, or (906) 632-3396.

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Storey Jr, Kenneth J

Stiles, Dawn M

Strickland, Abigayle L Sturm, Christian A Styskal, Zachary R Summerfield, Chelsye M Summers Jr, John P Summers Jr, Wilfred G Sweeney, Keegan D Swinehart, Scott E Swisher Jr, Terry A Sydow, Brian P Sylvester, Susie Tadgerson, Steven C Taig, Patricia L Talbot, D'edie R Tallman III, Edward L Tallman, Jeremy C Tanguay, Jaeden T Tanguay, Timothy A Taurianen, Andrew L Taurianen, Jacquelyne M Taylor, Ashley N Teague, Bryan A Techmeier, Derek S Teeple, Helen M Teeple, Jeffrey R Tell, Nicholas R Terrian, Kristen J Terry, Brandon M Tervo, Andrew P Tess, Anne M Thayer, Angela M Theel, Travis D Theel, Tyler T Thelen, Marylou E Therault, Cole M Therault, David T Therrien, Francis F Therrien, Joseph C Therrien, Samantha J Thibodeau, Marilyn R Thomas, Derrick P Thomas, Robert R Thompson, Christoph C Thompson, Francis R Thrasher, Danelle J Tierson, Dustin J Tipton, Bradford R Tobin, Lucas A Tolliver, Claude Tolliver, Jeffrey Tolliver, Sylvia Tracy, Bryon L Tracy, Charles O Tracy, Christopher A Tracy, Kimberly N Tracy, Melissa A Trapp, Jessica M Treleaven, Peter A Tromblay, Darren D Tromblay, Dustin D Tromblay, Jeananne M Trombley, Amy L Trudeau Jr, Roger R Trudell, Candice R Truitt, Susan M Trumbley, Alexandria R Turman, Diane M Turner, Michelle M Vagts, Blaine W Vagts, Christopher S Vallier, Jamie J Vallier, Robert J Van Doorne, Sonja S Van Hoose, Jon R Van Horn, Eddie J Van Putten, Regina L Vanassche, Lauren E Vanatta, Kelly M Vandenbrooks, Laura A VanGinkle, Dylan M VanGinkle, Erik D Vanier, Tina M Vaningan, Dawn M Vanluven, Seth M VanSickle, Alexandra Z Vanzile, Sherri L Vargas, Cassandra M

Vassar, Amber C

Vertz, Guy V Vertz, Peter J

Vieau, Gary D

Vigil, Garrett A

Vermillion, Amanda J

Vincamp, Lisa A Vincamp, Ryan S Vincent, Ashlee M Vincent, Emily J Vincent Jr, Raymond K Visnaw III, Charles A Visnaw, Christina M Visnaw, Justin L Visnaw, Michael A Vizineau II, Brian N Vogel, Jacob A Vogel, Sarah M Vore, Joseph M Vore, Taralynn A Waara, Kai W Wabanimkee, Cinthia J Wachter, Brent W Wachter, Olivia C Waddell, Caden J Wagner, Sherrie R Walker, Katrina J Walters, Timothy R Wambach, Leigha N Ward, Anthony W Ward, Jonathan E Warmbier, Wendy J Warner, Michael J

Watson, Daniel L Watson, Katlyn S Watson, Michelle D Waybrant, Kortnee L Weatherly, Mary H Weber, Daniel B Wegener, Percilla M Weger, Margie L Weissgerber, Julia A Welch, Michael L Welchner, Brittany A Welchner, Jennifer M Welchner, Johnathon E Welchner, Nancy A Weller, Fox M Weller, Jason B Weller, Tatum L West, Michael J Weston, Charmaine T Westphal, Daniel N Westveld, Holly J Whalen, Patrick T Wheeler, Henry A Whisenant, Albert T White III, Daniel White Jr, Gerald R White, Julian M

White, Katherine M White, Kurt A White, Michael J White, Nicholas A White, Randy P Wicketts, Betty M Wiese, Laura A Wiggs, Marissa R Wilcox, David R Wilkins, Barbara A Willi, Christy L Williams, Anthony H Williams, Jeremy J Williams, Joshua C Williams, Lisa J Williams, Ralph J Williams Jr, Raymond H Williams, Troy A Willis, Jennifer M Willis, Kristina M Willis, Melissa A Willis, Stephanie L Willson, Jennifer L Willson, Susan M Wilson, Adam R Winemiller, Leslie C Wingett, Andrew J

Wiseley, Patricia L Witgen, Rebecca E Woiderski, Chelsea L Wolfe, Erica J Wolfinger, Joseph M Wolfinger, Shyla J Wood, Daniel J Wood, Eavon M Wood, Michael T Woodworth, Tami L Working, Levi R Wozniak, Joshua D Wright, Amelia H Wronikowski, Preston S Yancy, Pamela J Yanda, Jamie L Yaroch, Benjamin J Yell III, Francis H Young, Cameron D Young, Laurie A Young, Michael D Zastrow, Daniel E Zatorski, Todd R Zeedyk, Logan R Zimmerman, Joan P Zolling, Kimberly M Zulski, Jennifer L



The Sault Tribe Housing Authority is currently accepting applications for our Low-Income Rental program.

We currently have vacancies on our Marquette housing site ready for occupancy. These are 3-bedroom, 2-bathroom townhouse units.

If interested, please contact our Occupancy Department for more information.

Danyelle Clement, Occupancy Specialist 906-495-1450 ext. 49505 dclement@saulttribe.net

or

Francie SanAngelo, Occupancy Specialist 906-495-1450 ext. 49530 fsangelo@saulttribe.net

Applications are available at:
Sault Tribe Housing Authority
154 Parkside, Kincheloe, MI 49788
or online at www.saulttribehousing.com

INCOME GUIDELINES

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Person	Persons						
\$53,850	\$61,550	\$69,250	\$77,000	\$83,100	\$89,250	\$95,450	\$101,600

PLEASE NOTE THAT WE DO NOT ACCEPT FAXED APPLICATIONS

Strangulation emerges as major concern in Michigan

BY ANNA LIZ NICHOLS, MICHIGAN ADVANCE

"We've had a victim who's probably been strangled close to 20 times," Hannah Gottschalk, a domestic violence service provider in mid-Michigan, said. "The non-fatal impacts this has had on that victim are numerous: Brain damage, mental and emotional and physical impacts."

It's a story that is becoming more common, Gottschalk said, as strangulation is increasingly a reason why people come into SafeCenter in Shiawassee and Clinton counties. Gottschalk, the organization's executive director, said in recent months, someone comes nearly weekly in after being strangled.

"Cases of strangulation and assaults with dangerous weapons including knives and guns ... and even things such as kidnapping and being held hostage. It's mind-blowing," Gottschalk said.

Strangulation is widely regarded by advocates and law enforcement as one of the most lethal forms of domestic violence. And it is on the rise in Michigan, according to the Michigan State Police data.

Strangulation is a "very easy quick method for displaying that power and control on a victim," said Kimberly Hurst, executive director for Avalon Healing Center in Wayne County who's also a sexual assault forensic examiner.

"It only takes 10 seconds in order to completely occlude the oxygen to the brain and also the blood's ability to get to where it needs to go and the ability for people to take a breath," Hurst said. "Less than 30 seconds, somebody can be dead."

Lack of blood flow and oxygen can quickly and easily become lethal, Hurst said, noting that 11 pounds of pressure — less than what it takes to open the tab on a can of pop — can cut off blood flow to the brain, causing a victim to be rendered unconscious. If the strangulation continues, a person can be dead in seconds.

"A lot of times, then, perpetrators will continue to use that, whether it's with the same partner or with different partners to kind of control the situation. But what we see in DV [domestic violence] relationships, in particular, is that this often becomes something that happens more than once," Hurst said.

The repeated physical trauma of depriving the brain of oxygen can cause an array of health issues, including injury to neck and facial nerves and damage to the brain. If repeated long term, symptoms can arise similar to dementia.

"In chronic DV cases where somebody really can't get out of the relationship, and it happens over the years ... they might have mood swings, personality changes, memory issues — things that you would potentially see after somebody's had a stroke," Hurst said. "The brain, they actually start to look like MRIs of patients who have had mini strokes."

Multiple organizations, including the Training Institute on Strangulation Prevention

agree with research published in the National Library of Medicine that says that women who have been strangled by their partner are seven times more likely to be killed by that partner than other women in abusive relationships who have not been strangled.

"I don't think people realize just how deadly it is," former Ann Arbor Judge Libby Pollard Hines said.

Hines chairs the Michigan Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention and Treatment Board. The governor-appointed board members advise on policies pertaining to domestic and sexual violence.

One goal of the board is to see an expansion of Michigan's "assault with intent to do great bodily harm less than murder" criminal charge, specifically a new definition for "strangulation or suffocation."

"We want to amend the strangulation statute to include suffocation by chest compression because abusers and sexual assault perpetrators unfortunately all too common, sit or lie on the victim's chest and that can be easily lethal," Hines said. "It doesn't take much pressure and only a few seconds."

The Michigan State Police (MSP) has steadily recorded an increase in asphyxiation used as a weapon in its annual crime data on domestic violence incident reports. Michigan State Police defines asphyxiation to include, "drowning, strangulation, suffocation, gas, etc."

Asphyxiation was listed as a weapon used in 47 domestic violence incidents reported in 2012, rising by nearly 300% to 182 in 2019, in annual reports from Michigan State Police.

In 2020, the Michigan State Police began attributing weap-on counts in domestic violence incident reports to the number of victims, not by offense. In 2020, asphyxiation was listed as a weapon used against 234 victims in domestic violence incident reports. And by 2022, the number jumped to 326 victims, nearly a 600% increase since 2012.

Any reports of increases in strangulations in domestic violence could or could not be indicative of an actual increase in occurrences, former Marquette County Prosecutor Matthew J. Wiese said. But they could also show how law enforcement and emergency medicine providers are becoming more aware of the signs of strangulation.

"The level of violence, I've seen a distinct rise in and I don't know if it's always occurred or just because we're now looking for it more. But there has been an increase in the level of violence in intimate partner relationships, a lot more allegations of strangulation," Weise said. "If you have a community where your community based advocacy program works hand in hand with law enforcement and prosecution, I think it sets a tone and a climate for survivors to be more confident to report."

Injuries caused by strangulation can, at times, leave no physical bruising or lacerations and so there's been a history of underreporting of strangulation, Hurst said, simply because law enforcement and even emergency medical providers haven't known to look deeper.

Weise noted that things are improving and in the last decade, at least in Michigan, there has been a lot of intensive training for law enforcement to screen for strangulation when investigating domestic violence complaints.

"We didn't ask before; we didn't know the level and the depth of the severity that strangulation was before," said Lori Kitchen-Buschel, executive director of First Step resource center in Wayne County.

However, in Wayne County, she said all agencies involved with domestic violence reporting have been taking steps to better understand strangulation and how to help.

But things have gotten worse for survivors since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, Kitchen-Buschel said.

Many care providers in Michigan worried early in the pandemic about the welfare of victims who were locked in with their abusers during at home orders, and research indicates there may have been heightened violence for victims during the pandemic.

Members of First Step's community response program, embedded into many of the police and court systems throughout Wayne County have been saying since the pandemic started, "mention of strangu-

lation and the use of weapons has been significant," Kitchen-Buschel said.

The lifelong problems a person can face due to strangulation make it an important topic to bring attention to, Kitchen-Buschel said. But strangulation is also one of the main indicators providers look for in determining possible lethality of a survivor's situation.

Domestic and sexual violence are traumatic and reporting isn't always easy for people, Hurst said. Additionally, if a person survives strangulation, they may not be aware of what happened because it can impact their memory or they don't know what "counts" as strangulation.

"It is kind of on us to explain what happened to you was strangulation; it is life-threatening. It could have caused severe damage and you could have been seconds away from death," Hurst said. "This was a potentially life-threatening injury. This could cause injuries to your vessels in your neck. This

could cause a stroke. This could cause death and I don't want that for you."

It takes courage for someone to seek help after abuse, Gottschalk said. And the most important thing for those looking to help is to believe someone when they say they've been hurt.

"Violence takes many shapes and forms and it often doesn't look like we think it looks and victims are not going to look like we think they're going to look. Most often we're going to be surprised to find out that the person who's reporting to us is a victim." Gottschalk said.

"It's just so important that we believe them because that first response that we provide to somebody who reports to us, is going to be crucial to their healing and their ability to get the resources and support they need from that moment."

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Tribal Chairman proud of tribe's accomplishments



AUSTIN LOWES
TRIBAL CHAIRMAN

I would like to begin my unit report by wishing everyone a happy New Year. I hope everyone enjoyed the holiday season and had a good Christmas with their family. I have many new year resolutions, but the one I will focus on this year is moving our tribe in a positive direction. When I use the word positive, I'm referring to the business ventures we involve ourselves in, how we treat each other, and how we advocate for our members- no matter where they live.

There are many updates I am proud of, but I will start with our latest homeownership opportunity. This is located in the Odenaang (Place of Many Hearts) Community just outside of Sault Ste. Marie. The tribe purchased 20 homes with ARPA funds, which are now located in this community. These homes will be available to members through a lease to own program. Unlike other tribal housing opportunities, individuals without children will have an equal opportunity to be selected for these homes. These 20 homes, coupled with the 22 trailers that were given to low-income members, represent new homeownership opportunities that will benefit over 40 tribal families. If you have questions about this program, along with how to apply, please contact the Sault Tribe Housing Authority at (906)

495-1450.

As was previously announced, the tribe is working with Blue Stone, which is a consulting firm that advises tribes on how to improve their healthcare services. The tribe will be having a series of townhall meetings, along with focus groups, to gather membership input on their experiences with our services and how we can improve them. Gift cards will be raffled at these town halls and snacks and beverages will be provided. Healthcare is a treaty right, and we have a responsibility to improve it for our tribal citizens. Since so many of our elders rely on our healthcare services, improving them is essential for our aging population.

On the topic of healthcare, I'm excited to announce the budget for the Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Clinic passed, and the positions have been posted on our tribe's website. This clinic will treat individuals diagnosed with alcohol and opioid use disorders. MAT Clinics are now the standard of care for treating these deadly diseases, and are the recommended treatment model by the World Health Organization. Along with providing medication, this clinic will also employ a masters level clinical social worker who will connect patients to resources, facilitate group therapy, and make referrals to important services within our community. As a master's level clinical social worker, I am a strong proponent for harm reduction services like this. When operational, I believe this clinic will be an asset for our tribal community to will be a valuable tool in preventing deadly fentanyl overdoses.

Under my leadership the tribe purchased 560 acres on Sugar Island, which includes several thousands of feet of St. Mary's River shoreline. A personal goal of mine in 2024 is to make this important piece of our homeland

accessible for tribal members to use and enjoy. I hope that this could include walking, hunting, and mountain biking trails, as well as kayak and boat landings. Connecting with land through movement is important medicine, and preserving this piece of our homelands will benefit the next seven generations.

The casino renovation continues to go well. This renovation was necessary because the property was in severe disrepair, with chunks of siding falling off the building, and issues with water and mold damage. We are currently renovating the exterior of the Kewadin Casino, along with every hotel room in the property. We recently had a multi-day giveaway in the Dream Maker's Theater with the old items from the hotel including beds, dressers, end tables, mirrors, and wall art. As the renovation progresses, we will continue to offer these items to the membership free of charge

as items are available. This renovation is extremely important as it will increase revenue, attract new customers, and allow us to charge more for our updated hotel rooms. This increased revenue will be used to pay for tribal services, which will benefit our tribal citizens.

To conclude, I would like to thank the membership for the opportunity to lead our tribe as chairman. Along with being a father, it has been the honor of my life. I have great pride in all that we have accomplished in the time I have been chairman. That includes repairing our tribe's reputation, settling the JLLJ lawsuit that threatened to bankrupt our tribe, increasing our land base, and repairing our casino and other properties. I look forward to continuing to lead our tribe in a positive direction.

Miigwech! Austin Lowes, Chairman



Director Borowicz reports on tribe and Unit III



SHAWN BOROWICZ, DIRECTOR, UNIT III Boozhoo,

Well the holidays are over and all went well in Unit 3. The children's indoor Christmas party was a huge success as always with 366 children attending and receiving gifts. Upon arriving at the Shores Event Center, families were greeting by live reindeer which the children had the opportunity to feed and pet. Once inside, they were greeted by numerous costumed characters, elves, Mr. and Mrs. Clause and the train conductor from the polar express and they were able to watch the movie and have popcorn, hot dogs, chips and drinks. Every child was given the opportunity to sit with the Claus's and receive their gift. This great annual event was spearheaded by Mr. Tim Ryerse and all his helpers at the Shores, some from other tribal operations and several students from LaSalle High School. A big thank you to all involved and all who

The new years celebration at the Shores was attended by many. The party favors, the complimentary hors d'oeuvres, champagne and live entertainment was spectacular. The staff that made this possible did an outstanding job as they always do go above and beyond.

Several upgrades to the St. Ignace casino are in the works and should be completed by spring time with several more in the planning phase to be completed later. I know I've said it before but this casino and property is the gem of the Kewadin enterprise, with its location on Lake Huron shore, Mackinac Island, the bridge, Lake Michigan and being the gateway to the Upper Peninsula makes it the ideal spot to invest to generate more revenue for our tribal operations. I've been trying to get the marketing team to realize this and will continue to do so until they see it and act upon it with more promotions, which in turn brings in more customers.

The upcoming election is days away with the Legal staff scrambling to get a committee together to make it happen. I hope it goes off as planned and there is no so-called controversy as in past elections. More work needs to be done with the process, which we will continue to work on after this election.

Any questions or concerns, I can be reached at sborowicz@ saulttribe.net or (906) 379-8511.



Parents Phil and Hailey Smith hold Wilder while Grace is on Mrs. Claus's lap next to Santa. (Shawn and his wife, Tammy).

Director LaPlaunt reports to Unit 5 members



TYLER LAPLAUNT DIRECTOR, UNIT V

Aanii, Boozhoo!

Greetings everyone! I hope you all have a very Happy New Year and can begin again fresh with new ideas and goals for the year. It's important to set goals for ourselves both personally and professionally so that we can continue to move forward in a good way and have something to strive towards. Always start small and as our initial goals begin to come to fruition, adapt and revise to make them bigger. My personal goal for this year is to spend more time with my family and make time for meaningful dinners whenever I'm home. My professional goal for the Tribe this year is to solidify Unit 5 ARPA projects and ensure they are contracted out by the budget obligation deadline.

A lot has happened in the past month, but let's start with the Marquette Children's Christmas party. It started a little later than the rest so it didn't make last months paper. I want to thank both my family for helping me shop and wrap presents and the Elders for assisting with the present giveaway. I also want to thank the Teal Lake Singers for making the Christmas party one

to remember. Now that we have a handle on things in the new world post COVID, we hope to continue to improve the Unit 5 parties in both Munising and Marquette. A lot of lessons were learned this year, but I've heard nothing but good feedback from both communities.

The biggest news heading into the New Year are the election code changes recently passed by the Board of Directors. We worked together to come to compromises to strengthen our election code and make elections more transparent for both candidates and the citizens. Thanks to Director Kim Lee, we also put a step in between the selection of the Election Commission and the Board. Previously, the Board selected the 13 member Election Committee without any input from the membership.

Director Lee offered an amendment to have the 5-member Election Commission applications be reviewed by the Elder Advisory Committee and send their recommendations to the Board for final approval. Yes, the Board still ultimately approves all Committee appointments, but this is a huge step forward in taking recommendations from our membership and committees in existence. If all goes as planned, by the time you are reading this article, the Elder Advisory Committee should have made their recommendations to the Board and the Board should have approved the new Election Commission with no questions asked. Fingers crossed.

As far as transparency, there were many changes that benefit the membership in this regard. The biggest change is that Election Commission meetings will be available for Tribal citizens to watch as long as they are

not discussing private information. In which case, they will go to closed session. These meetings will be available via zoom and links will be provided to membership similar to how we announce Board Meetings and now Board Workshops. This will give citizens an inside view as to what happens behind closed doors and how decisions are made by the Election Commission. This will benefit both the candidates and the voters.

Additionally, all complaints will be made public on our Tribal website as well as if they are valid or invalid and any evidence that was submitted with them. This will allow membership and candidates to see the accusations and whether or not they are legitimate or illegitimate. This offers a new layer of transparency instead of allowing rumors to take hold on whether or not someone was accused of something and whether or not the accusation was valid and penalized or dismissed. Both the candidate and the accuser will be listed for full transparency.

On top of that, we've also worked with legal to create a fee and penalty schedule for election infractions. This will give the Election Commission precedence to follow. Civil penalties will be handled by the Commission following the penalty schedule and Criminal penalties will be sent directly to the Courts. The Election Commission will no longer be able to decide on random amounts of penalties based on a candidates last name. It will be fair and equal across the board and all decisions will be posted on our website.

Changes are never easy and we are anticipating quite a few bumps in the road. However, we believe this is a solid direction forward to strengthen our



Teal Lake Singers

electoral process and bring back some trust in the system. Both by membership and those of us on the Board of Directors. With the election being announced at the end of January, we, the Board, are now to be completely hands off of any changes and discussions. It is in the Election Commissions hands now. Good luck to all the candidates and may you all be well intentioned for the betterment of this great Sault Tribe.

The next Unit 5 Elder Meeting and Meal in Munising will be held on Thursday, February 1, 2024 at the Munising Tribal Health Center from 11 am – 1 pm. All you need to do to participate is be a Unit 5 Elder aged 60±

The next Unit 5 Elder Meeting and Meal in Marquette has been moved to Thursday, February 8, 2024 at the Holiday Inn in Marquette from 6 pm to 8 pm. The Unit 5 Marquette meeting is open to Elders 60+ in Unit 5 and surrounding Unit 4 areas. I'd like to also announce that the March Meeting and Meal for Marquette has been canceled due to scheduling issues.

Looking for Cultural activities? Marquette Culture night is still going strong on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month throughout 2024. All are welcome! We meet at the Lakeview Arena Citizens Forum from 5:30 pm – 8 pm. Our scheduled night for February are on the 8th and 22nd. The Teal Lake Singers host drum group practice and we are open to anyone who is interested in learning. There are also many who work on crafts, some teach language, some assist with sewing and other crafts, and everyone eats, chats, and has a great time. Come check it out. Again, this is open to everyone!

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

Chi Miigwech,

Tyler Migizii Migwan LaPlaunt

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

Remember our grandfather teachings, be better



MICHAEL MCKERCHIE, DIRECTOR, UNIT I

As winter is finally upon us, many of will engage in story-telling as this is the time of year we historically shared our teachings. Many of our communities have events already planned, be sure to check out our "Sault Tribe Language and Culture" Facebook page for up to date information. And I'd like to thank all those that keep our traditions and language alive. I am thankful that we still have the teachings and those willing to pass it on to others.

As many of you know, my family suffered a loss a couple months ago as my father-in-law

made his journey. This was a huge impact on us, and as such I haven't been on social media as much and my family is a little more appreciative of our time together. He did not grow up with access to our traditions as his family moved away to avoid Boarding Schools and in search of a better life- but he was however very grounded in our ways by the way he treated people and the love he shared with his family.

I had made the decision to cut my long hair and am in the process of re-growing it. Every one grieves in their own way, but cutting my hair was my way to honor him and to let others know our family was mourning his loss. I don't share this information lightly but felt I should share where I've been and that I'm slowly getting back in the groove of things. I also share this because he was a great story-teller and he always spent time with us in the winters and would always share his stories; a gift he has passed on to his grandson. Speaking of story-telling and beginning a new year, our tribe will be moving into an Election Cycle shortly (the end of this month marks the beginning of

the election cycle). As with all story-telling, take what you hear with a grain of salt, remember who you're hearing it from, and finally, above all else, learn something from the story. You might learn a valuable lesson about one of our teachings, you might learn some new insight and thought-provoking information, or you might learn the story-teller isn't a very good source of information. So, keep your ears and mind open, but don't get caught up in the negativity that often plagues our tribal politics.

Our tribe is bigger than "this side" versus "that side" and as Anishinabek, remember our grandfather teachings and be better than national or state politics. We can disagree on topics and what directions our tribe is headed but "how" we get there matters. No matter what amount of "bad" our tribe will get into, I believe we have enough members that will always be there to help build our tribe back up. As always, please reach out to me to discuss any of these or any issues, I can be reached at (906) 440-7768.

Chi Miigwech.
Michael McKerchie



Director Hampton reports to Unit II members



KIMBERLY HAMPTON, DIRECTOR, UNIT IV

Aniin kina waya (hello everybody). Happy New Year everyone!! May 2024 bring you all peace and happiness.

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 myself 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, at 7 p.m. EST; Meeting ID: 906 440 8138; Password: KimHampton

Thursday, Feb. 22, at 7 p.m.

EST; Meeting ID: 906 440 8138; Password: KimHampton

Powwow 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.

There will be a meeting on Monday, Feb. 19, at 5 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, MI.

Maamawi (together) Craft **Night**

The next Maamawi Craft Night is scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 15, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. EST at the Manistique Tribal Health Center, 5698W US Highway 2, Manistique, MI. We are tentatively expected to have a guest present who will give a story and teaching on how to make dreamcatchers. 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 or 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, Feb. 8, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. EST at the Holiday Inn in Marquette

The next meeting in Manistique will be held Feb. 14, 2024 at 12:00 p.m. EST at the Manistique Tribal

The next meeting in Escanaba will be held Feb. 14, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. EST at the Delta County Chamber Building.

December/January Activities:

Tribal Homeland Security Advisory Council (THSAC): Myself 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. The first set of report briefings were presented to Secretary of Homeland Security on Jan. 10, 2024. Most of the THSAC traveled to Washington, D.C. to present findings in person. However, I attended and presented virtually as I was diagnosed with Covid and was quarantined at home that week. The Secretary has assured us that our next set of taskings will be announced soon.

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 December 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 to 2 months.

Community Events December and January

Unit 4 Children's Christmas Parties:

The Escanaba Christmas party was held on Friday, Dec. 15, and was a great success. It was reported that there were 119 children, and many adults, who attended. I was unable to attend due to a family emergency so much thanks goes to the all Sault Tribe staff and community volunteers who volunteered their time. Chi miigwech for every-

The Manistique Christmas party was held on Saturday, Dec. 16, and was also a great success. There were 152 children who attended the party as well as many adults. Chi miigwech again to all Sault Tribe staff and community volunteers who helped.

These children's Christmas parties would not be possible without all the assistance received from so many individuals. Chi miigwech for all you do.

Authority meeting; Board workshop; Board Special Meeting

Dec. 19: Kewading Gaming

Dec. 21: Progress meeting for Manistique Fitness Center and

Escanaba Community Center; Attended a bid opening for an environmental assessment on the Manistique building formerly known as the USDA forestry building; Maamawi Craft Night

Jan. 2: Board Workshop; Board Meeting

Jan. 3: THSAC Meeting Jan. 9: Board Workshop Jan. 10: THSAC Briefing

Jan. 11: Meeting to discuss plans regarding expanding the Manistique Dental Department and Pharmacy

Jan. 12: Started collaborating with community regarding traditional funeral availability and plans to expand

Looking Forward

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

Dir. Causley-Smith reports to Unit II members



LANA CAUSLEY-SMITH, DIRECTOR, UNIT II

I would like to begin my report stating a very sincere congratulations and Chi Miigwech to an amazing nurse, team member and friend that we have had the honor of having for over three decades. Tami Duncan has



worked for our tribe and the dedication and caring nature that she has showed all our communities is beyond measure. I would like to recognize and thank her once again for all she has done for our families and our tribe. Best wishes to you Tami — hope you enjoy all your family and retirement it's well deserved.

I would also like to remind

the Drummond Island residents as well as Mackinac Island that during the winter months you are available to seek urgent care at the clinic on the island and go through purchase referred care for that service. You must call and speak with your respective client manager at PRC — look for details on flyers posted — if you have questions please call our Health division for assistance.

We have been working on the final steps to bring a resolution to the board to support a location for our units new community/ recreation center. This will come with many factors being vetted for location, infrastructure, and land availability. Our unit is very large in geography and the needs of each area la clinics and centers are taken. I'm looking forward to placing a shovel in the ground in the spring and moving toward a place that can accommodate our members with youth, medical and elders increased space and ser-

We have been asked to make changes once again to our Election Code. I opted not to support the changes and have many reasons for this. I would like to say that our staff worked

hard to bring a draft to the board for consideration — after board input I feel the timing and the changes did not reflect what past boards had worked toward for many years and that was always the attempt in the past to keep the board out of the mix as much as possible. I feel like we have went back some steps and some changes I simply didn't agree with. I am hoping after this next election there will be much more work on the code for real reform.

Elders checks this year will be \$390 per each elder across the tribe — to date we have 7.181 elders to distribute the funds to. I recognize that this amount is lower than previous years and there are factors tied to this including the increased number of elders. We distribute 100% of the interest earned on the Land Claims funds and I have been part in adding additional funds to the cost center and will always support adding more to increase the fund in the future. I hope we can identify additional increase as our number of elders within the tribe steadily increases. I would to also state it was very nice seeing everyone that could make it to our Elders Christmas Luncheon/Parties. It was good heartfelt gatherings and thank you to everyone that took part.

In closing I would like to say remain steadfast on my positions on the board for our unit -Director Lee and I are building priorities and goals that will advance our communities. Please remember that there are committee appointments open and if

you are interested please gather your information and submit to become part — all openings are listed here in the paper. If you would like to meet or discuss any ideas or need me please contact

me at (906) 322-3818 Or lcausley@saulttribe.net. Baamaapii.

Lana Causley-Smith Sault Ste Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Board of Directors

to Unit II Reporting



KIMBERLY LEE, DIRECTOR, UNIT II

Aanii,

The blanket of snow and grey skies has reared upon us. It becomes all too easy to stay inside as cold weather is not always welcoming and can lead to a season of depression. It is a time for nature to humble us, reminding us that it is a privilege to exist and that times can be challenging. A different state of mind becomes necessary for winter survival. For some, that isn't easy. Keep a close eye on your loved ones who struggle. We all need kindness, compassion, and to find sunshine in one another, even if we can't find it in the sky.

The rolls will open on Feb. 1, 2024. Applications for enrollment are a \$25 fee. Applicants must

submit copies of documentation to their direct lineal descendant. Applications can be found on the tribal website. Please be patient, as the enrollment team will be diligently processing these applications and responding to applicants.

Unit 1, 2, and 3 Elder Christmas parties were held on Dec. 12. It was pleasant. These events take many staff and volunteers to execute—a big thank vou to all involved in its success. Unit 2 Elders from Newberry and Hessel had parties on Dec. 15. As well as the children's Christmas parties. It was great seeing so many of you, and I wish you a happy holiday. Miigwech to all for the invitations and hard work that makes these gatherings possible. I spoke about the significant

issue with the proposed update to the election code last month. I am happy to report that with discussion and compromise, the ElderAdvisory Committee has been offered and taken the responsibility of appointing the five commission members for those seats. The code still requires attention, but compromise and respect for the members are a great start.

Miigwech, for your time Unit 2 Director Kimberly Lee Klee@saulttribe.net (906)379-8965

Pushing resolutions to benefit all members



BETTY FREIHEIT, DIRECTOR, UNIT I

I attended the Tribal Self-Governance Conference to learn more about how our tribe can operate more independently of the federal government while fully retaining treaty funding for which our ancestors pre-paid. I enjoy sharing all about our tribe with federal officials and advocating for our members. It's the best way to ensure they think about us when they are appropriating funds

This month, I wanted to list out a number of efforts that Austin Lowes and I have pushed to benefit you, the members. The following is just a partial list of resolutions we intro-

Unfortunately, our previous Board+4 voted to table everything without so much as a discussion. Their arrogance is likely why all six incumbents were sent packing in 2022. Fortunately some of the following items have been approved with the help of our new board.

All four of the remaining board members from pre-2022 voted to table these items - in some cases up to four times. I am only listing out 14 items. There were many more.

Remember that I was first elected by a Special Advisory election to fill the late Denny McKelvie's seat. I was then re-elected in 2020 along with Austin in the #1 and #2 spots. We honored your vote by introducing a number of resolutions. Many of our efforts surrounded ensuring members had critically needed resources during the world wide pandemic. We also introduced general subject items. I list out the general ones first then focus in on pandemic relief.

Resolutions:

- End Board Pension/ Retirement for Those Not Currently Retired.
- Board Participation in Federal Social Security Retirement rather than Board Pension.
- Re-Opening the ST Rolls to Eligible Individuals: Rescind 1998 roll closure.
- Election Code Strict Adherence & Conformity with the ST Constitution: Automatic Voter Registration for both inside and outside of the service area.
- Authorize Direct Mailing of Tribal Voter Registration to all un-registered ST Citizens.
- Expand ST Purchase & Referred Service Area (Contract Health) to Include Emmet, Cheboygan, MI counties (as a 1st step).
- Set a Tribal Minimum Wage: Set a minimum and

address pay compression.

Even through we had the then tribal chair, the future chair and I advocating these items, Board Members McKerchie, Causley, Morrow and Sorenson voted to table each time. With 100% new board members in 2022, we have retired the board pension for those not yet drawing on it. We re-opened the rolls for those who met the exact same criteria as you and me. We did not vote to have strict adherence to the Constitution regarding the Election Code. But, made up criteria for denying tribal voters from running for office was eliminated. We also automatically registered all members to vote in chairperson elections and urged at large members to register in the unit of their choice. We have not yet expanded Purchase and Referred Services, which is shortsighted as we see many of our members from Emmet and Cheboygan counties at our clinics but do not receive any funding for them. Adding these counties would increase health funding. Before he passed, Denny McKelvie sponsored a resolution to guarantee any increases in federal minimum wage to automatically increase it for our team members. However, we should not wait for other governments to

Next, without sharing too much, something serious happened in mid-2021 that precipitated the following resolutions. This information will eventually come to light. For now, please understand that following the expenditure of millions on election night in 2004, the board voted to require a monthly check registry for review by the board. What we found was checks to individual vendors were broken up into several checks to be cut below \$50,000, presumably to avoid board detection. At the time, Chairperson Payment brought this to our attention. An administrative review was conducted by the executive director, general counsel and chief financial officer, who concluded there were gross policy violations. Unfortunately, the old board took no action. So, the former chair, Austin, and I sponsored the following resolutions: Conduct a forensic audit and public report any... disbursement vouchers in violation of the tribe's lawful signature authority; and approving financial policies and procedures.

Following the report that policies were violated, nothing was done. I am sick of the nagging excuse that maybe they didn't understand the policy. Next, the executive director, chief financial officer and general counsel spent nearly a year drafting a new set of financial policies. But these were not passed by the old board the same board that was complicit with findings of gross violations of signature authority policy. To be clear, the new board elected in 2022, Austin and I were not part of this complicity. Not addressing these issues invites further violations.

During the lawsuit that led to the developers winning and our tribe having to pay out \$25 million, many board members long suspected a board member

in particular leaking proprietary information to developers to benefit them at our expense. Former Chairperson Payment, (then) Board Member Lowes and I introduced the following resolution to get to the bottom of this suspected relationship once and for all: Independent Forensic Audit of any Board Member Relationship or Non-Authorized Communications with Casino Developers and/or Litigants & Public Report.

Unfortunately, this resolution too was tabled. When it appeared the law firm (hired to defend us against the developer lawsuit) was honing in on this unethical (possibly illegal) relationship, a successful concerted effort was launched to terminate the legal contract with the law firm. I believe this as well as repeated efforts which appeared to be advocacy for the developer over the tribe likely disadvantaged us, which resulted in a \$25 million liability. I realize some would rather brush these things under the carpet, but as long as I am a board member, that will never be my approach.

The next series of resolutions dealt with trying to provide for all of our tribal members during the world wide pandemic. Our total relief package is estimated to have been nearly \$0.5 billion. Just months into the pandemic, our former chair, Aaron Payment, fought for and estimated the relief amount we might receive. Then, he, Austin and I then introduced the following resolution to benefit our people: As you might guess, this resolution introduced in March 2020 was tabled by the old Board +4. Sault Tribe members in the service area would have to wait nearly a year and at large members 1.5 years before any pandemic relief funds (which we had already received) would make its way to those who needed it the most. De-bunked arguments were made that we were prohibited by law from distributing funds equally when tribes all across the county shared funds equally with their people inside and outside of their service area. When in 2022 tribal voters got the opportunity to express their dissatisfaction with the inequities voted on by the old Board+4, the members took action and 100% of the incumbents were replaced!



Betty Freiheit with Morgan Rodman, Executive Director of the White House Council on Indian Affairs at the Tribal Self-**Governance conference.**

Again, Aaron, Austin and I sponsored the following resolutions but again faced the dreaded board tabling:

Appropriations Across the Rescue Act and Impending Infra-structure Bill to Meet Sault Tribe Health Access Established Long Term Priorities: \$24 million for recovery campus; \$5 million for Sault Tribe Health Expansion, \$9 million for health facilities in outlying areas; \$3 million clinic upgrades.

Distribution to Members American Rescue Act: \$77.5 million for distribution as follows — \$1K to each service area member (total to \$2K); \$2K to members outside of service area; \$1K to casino and tribal team members; \$600 recruitment/ retention during pandemic.

Sault Tribe Elder Covid-19 Rescue Act Supplement **Dividend Bringing 2022 Elder** Dividend Amount to \$1,000 per Elder

Commercial Fishers, Helpers, and Traditional, Cultural, Subsistence, **Commerce NOAA Relief Distribution:** Distribute the full \$1,163,812 amount.

There is always room for improvement, but with our new board and positive majority of 7 to 8, the four remaining habitual-votes-to- table have become inconsequential. Still, we deserve and should expect more.

Special Advisory Election Corruption Exposed

Recall that the board voted to

void the special advisory election last year and the referendum failed to overturn the board's decision. Several tribal citizens filed election complaints regarding an immediate family member of a Unit 1 candidate handing her sister's ballots and participating in decisions. When the Election Committee ignorantly dismissed claims, these tribal citizens filed appeals. In disregarding our laws, the Election Committee stipulated

1. Election Committee member Carol Pages-Montie is the sister of Special Advisory Election candidate Joanne Pavlat-Carr and, therefore, is an "immediate family member," as defined by Section 10.103 of the Election Ordinance.

2. Pages-Montie DID participate in the Special Advisory Election held on March 20, 2023, in the following manner: (i) Pages-Montie opened ballot envelopes and (ii) Pages-Montie sat at the table where ballots were inserted into the electronic ballot counter and did monitor the tabulation process.

3. Pages-Montie's participation in the Special Advisory Election DID VIOLATE Section 10.108 of the Election Ordinance.

Despite the above, the Election Committee found that ...the actions of the Election Committee member Carol Pages-Montie at the ballot count on March 20, 2023, did not corrupt the Special Advisory Election and does not warrant nullifying the Special Advisory Election or otherwise redoing the Special Advisory.

Recently, the Appeals Court overturned the Election Committee's above decision. The Appellate Courts decision is consistent and reaffirms the board vote to void the election. Recently, it was reported to me that the candidate noted in the appeal made repeated attempts (at the time) to contact an Election Committee member by email. This warrants further investigation. If evidence exists, all involved should be prosecuted.

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

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Tribal Board of Directors Approves the following with the first five items based on 500% of poverty as the only criteria with implementation through Tribal Programs and Services which already substantively supply these types of services but for which this supplement is yet to be established:

- \$500 K for Emergency Needs Funds (broadly defined)
- \$500 K for Food Cards like a Bridge Card
- \$500 K for Heating & Cooling Assistance \$500 K for Enhanced Elder Meals on Wheels
- \$500 K for Housing Rental Subsidy for on & off Rez
- \$500 K for Feed America Trucks
- \$500 K for Treaty Fishers' Relief
- \$500 K for ST Business Alliance Members forgivable loans relief
- \$1,000,000 Elder Medicare Supplement Plan Enrollment
- \$500 K Back Pay for Hazard Pay for Tribal, Kewadin, and Enterprise Team Members who worked during the Tribal State of Emergency
- \$500 K for Tribal Dress Down to Benefit All Team Members
- \$500 K Tribal Citizen Loans with loan forgiveness for extreme impacts of the pandemic (broadly defined).

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the source of funds shall be out Cares Act Funds leaving a balance of \$43,785,975.52 to cover other tribal priorities as identified by the Tribal Covid19 Taskforce.

REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS LCKechnie discusses accomplishments, issues



ISAAC MCKECHNIE DIRECTOR, UNIT I

Dear Citizens,

I hope you've all have had a positive start to 2024! I believe whether we want them or not, the New Year will bring new challenges; whether we seize them or not, the New Year will bring new opportunities, so please share your thoughts with your unit representatives and help our community in formulating these ideas together for you and your families

Land Claim Fund

The number of elderly checks continues to climb on an annual basis. The latest distribution for this year included 7,614 eligible elders, an increase of 370 over last year. The amount of interest distributed is approximately \$2,900,000 on an annual basis. The primary reason for this sustained amount is the \$2,400,000 interest received annually from tribal loans with an interest rate of 12%, which is better than any money market account. Just think if we had placed the monies that we lost in our gaming ventures (Greektown, Mississippi Barge, Bates Garage, New Boston/ Lansing Casinos, NorthStar Neon, Special Plastics, etc.) into the Land Claims Fund. Please see the attached spreadsheet and if you have any questions please feel free to contact me at your

Kewadin Casinos Back on

The consolidated net slot revenue month to date through Dec. 31 is up 33.1% when compared to the same days December 2022. I would like to note that we were ahead of 2019 by 31.3%. So, in a nut shell, the casinos are doing very well coming out of COVID, but please keep in mind that our overhead keeps growing from year to year with less monies going into governmental services. The New Year's Eve event was one of the best days in over 10 years when compared to previous New Year events.

Sacred Heart Property/ Sugar Island

We will be finalizing the purchase of the Sacred Heart Church the end of the January. The property consists of two different parcels on Sugar Island. The first parcel consists of 10-acres where Willwalk Cemetery is currently located and where many of our relatives are buried. The second parcel consists of 120-acres and is used for the Sugar Island Music Festival and Pow\wow events each year.

Constitutional Reform

Many of our people are frustrated with our current board of directors and rightly so. It appears to our citizens that all we do is fight and that we are not working for the citizens. I, too, am frustrated with dysfunctional board members who are constantly squabbling over minor issues, where instead we should be working together for the best interests of our citizens. It is time for that to change and change once and for all.

What is the root cause of all of this arguing? In my humble opinion, it's probable that the root cause of our problems lies in the very structure of our government, which breeds corruption and creates internal dysfunction. I'm urging my fellow board members to step back for a minute and realize that we must put an end to this by fortifying a new constitution for the betterment of all of our people. If you search the Internet, you will find that other tribes have the same dysfunctional constitutions. A lot of these tribes utilize the same "boilerplate" constitutions they received from the Bureau of Indian Affairs and were adopted by tribes when they first gained federal recognition.

Sovereignty means choice and I choose to let our citizens decide if they want a new form of government. We are never going to provide stability or a working government unless we address the underlying issues now. The fundamental elements for a more stable government must be addressed in the new constitution and include items such as separation of powers, a bill of rights, an independent judiciary system and broader representation for all of our citizens.

Elections are soon coming and whoever is elected or re-elected to fill these seats won't change the internal disputes within our tribe. The flaws of the present constitution will always be there no matter who is sitting on the board. As a sitting board member, one of the few powers I have is to place items on the agenda.

My plan is to fulfill my campaign promises and before my term of office is over, I hope to trigger a vote by the entire board to send a new constitution to the citizens for their approval or rejection. Each board member will have to stand and let their vote be counted as I stand ready to make mine be counted to force these board

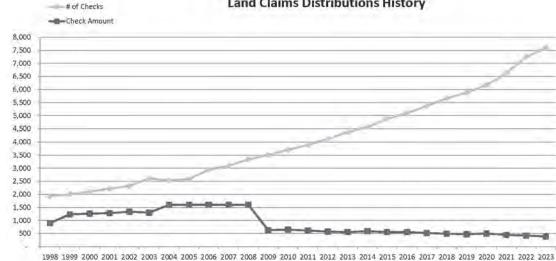
members to take a public stand on these constitutional issues that we have been plagued with.

If you have any further questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at:

Respectfully, Isaac Mckechnie imckechnie@saulttribe.net (906) 440-6661.

Fiscal Year	Check Date	# of Checks	Che	eck Amount	To	tal Distribution
1998	Jan-99	1,926	\$	900.00	\$	1,733,400.00
1999	Jan-00	2,002	\$	1,232.78	\$	2,468,025.56
2000	Jan-01	2,100	\$	1,263.79	\$	2,653,959.00
2001	Jan-02	2,222	\$	1,280.14	\$	2,844,471.08
2002	Jan-03	2,315	\$	1,339.00	5	3,099,785.00
2003	Jan-04	2,610	\$	1,300.00	\$	3,393,000.00
2004	Jan-05	2,535	\$	1,600.00	\$	4,056,000.00
2005	Jan-06	2,584	\$	1,600.00	\$	4,134,400.00
2006	Jan-07	2,938	\$	1,600.00	\$	4,700,800.00
2007	Jan-08	3,098	\$	1,600.00	\$	4,956,800.00
2008	Jan-09	3,333	\$	1,600.00	\$	5,332,800.00
2009	Jan-10	3,515	\$	630.00	\$	2,214,450.00
2010	Jan-11	3,704	\$	649.00	5	2,403,896.00
2011	Jan-12	3,889	\$	614.00	5	2,387,846.00
2012	Jan-13	4,130	\$	575.00	\$	2,374,750.00
2013	Jan-14	4,370	\$	553.00	\$	2,416,610.00
2014	Jan-15	4,562	\$	591.00	\$	2,696,142.00
2015	Jan-16	4,888	\$	557.00	\$.	2,722,616.00
2016	Jan-17	5,096	\$	552.00	\$	2,812,992.00
2017	Jan-18	5,375	\$	520.00	\$	2,795,000.00
2018	Jan-19	5,664	\$	493.00	\$	2,792,352.00
2019	Jan-20	5,881	\$	477.00	\$	2,805,237.00
2020	Jan-21	6,172	\$	503.00	\$	3,104,516.00
2021	Jan-22	6,626	\$	445.00	\$	2,948,570.00
2022	Jan-23	7,244	\$	425.00	\$	3,078,700.00
2023	Jan-24	7,614	\$	390.00	\$	2,969,460.00
Totals		106,393	5	750,96	Š	79,896,577.64

Land Claims Distributions History



Iorrow discusses to the Election Code



earliest convenience.

DARCY MORROW, DIRECTOR, UNIT IV

The new crew is continuing to make Election Code changes right up until the cutoff date.

Some of the Election Code changes the new crew has made are that felons are now allowed to run, no more background checks, and the Election Committee went from 12 people down to five. I have and will continue to vote "no" on all these changes that have come forward. I did not agree with our 12-member Election Committee going down to five members. These

are the people who oversee and run our elections. Members have complained for years about not trusting our process and now they went down to five people overseeing our elections. The new crew will say nobody applied for the current Election Committee seats so that was why they had to go down to five members.

The real reason no one wanted to sign up for our Election Committee is because the past committee members who have integrity from the 2022 elections got ridiculed and lied on by board members constantly. I see this change as one of the worst changes possible. The new crew control our attorneys and that means they will control the committee. I have no faith in our election process anymore!

The new crew has also revised Chapter 82 Appeals - Subchapter II: Appeals from the Election Commission. I asked at the workshop if the appellate judge had input or agreed with the changes. The judge did not agree with the changes. This is taking away what little rights members have in Tribal Court. Currently, members have five days to file

an appeal after the Election Committee makes its ruling. The new crew wants to decrease it down to three days. And the Court of Appeals shall not grant extensions to the three-day time period. They also want to decrease the time it takes for the appellate judge to make decisions on cases!

They have added that if the court determines at any stage in the proceedings that the appellant claim is frivolous or not based on merit, they may be civilly liable for damages to the Election Commission and/or to any candidates affected by said claims, if a party to the proceeding, and/or any damages sustained, including reasonable attorney fees and all reasonable and proper court costs of conducting such contests or complaints.

In the 12 years I have been on this board, we have NEVER interfered with the court! Believe me, this is just the start to what will happen to our court system. These changes will detour members from filing an appeal or challenging anything. Who can afford to take the chance in court that their case be ruled frivolous

or not based on merit and they have to pay an enormous amount of money back to the tribe.

The three of us senior kwe board members are continually ridiculed, talked down to or ignored when we give input, and it is getting old. There is no one at the table with a backbone to try and stop it either. If members could see a tenth of what happens in closed sessions, you would be shocked! In the past when someone got out of line the old board would stop it and not encourage it. It is terrible how our tribe is turning out and I only see it getting worse not better.

I encourage each Sault Tribe member to please start attending board workshops and meetings either in person or via zoom. Here is the link: https://fs29. formsite.com/SaultT/q1aksnvjv3/ index.html to attend via Zoom. You just need to fill out the form and verify you are a Sault Tribe member, and they will email you the meeting link. You can use the same link each time to attend the workshops and meetings. I think if more members were aware of what is really going on you would be more vocal and start asking

hard questions. To sign up to participate go to the Sault Tribe's website at saulttribe.com and sign up for the Zoom link, and then you will receive the invite to board workshops and meetings.

As always, if you have any questions, or just want to chat feel free to call me.

Thank you, Darcy Morrow Unit IV Representative dmorrow@saulttribe.net (906) 298-1888





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

Setting new 2024 goals to create tribal growth



ROBERT MCRORIE DIRECTOR, UNIT I

Aaniin, Boozhoo, to all my fellow members of the Sault Tribe

I hope my report finds you well. I hope you enjoyed the holiday season with family, friends, and loved ones. I pray the holiday season and new year brought you peace and rejuvenation.

This is a perfect time to set some new goals to create growth and wellness physically, spiritually and mentally. I encourage all of our members to be bold and reach for higher potential. We are all capable of making some changes that can help us and the loved ones around us, as well as our communities. I pray for a Happy New Year for every one of our amazing members.

In light of the new year, I have decided to dedicate this report to setting some goals to achieve in 2024. Together, we have accomplished a lot in the past year. There were many great moments and some very trying times in our government. We successfully abolished the Board of Directors Pension Plan that no other employee received. Made massive investments to upgrade our Kewadin Casinos that will bring revenue and sustain services for our members for many years and generations. We nearly doubled our land mass, which was a major goal coming into office. We established our EDC and are aggressively seeking to diversify our business portfolio. We have created new housing opportunities for our members. We have established the first tribally-owned homeless shelter to address the growing housing crisis. Our casinos have made a successful rebound after COVID and are now performing better than pre-COVID 2019, which previously was our best year in over a decade. Although we still had to pay out \$25 million in the JLLJ lawsuit case, this was successfully negotiated down from an \$88 million judgment, essentially saving the tribe \$63 million.

Although we have had to overcome some outstanding adversities in the past couple of years, I am very confident that we have set ourselves up to move forward in a very positive and hopeful way. This has been a team effort from the ground up, and I could not be more proud of our members and staff for stepping up and digging in their heals when it mattered most. From the front-line workers all the way up to executive staff, I've witnessed many put our tribe before themselves and make sacrifices to ensure that we would keep moving forward towards more prosperous days. Your selflessness did not go unnoticed, and your tribe is extremely thankful each of you have chosen to dedicate your time and effort toward making Sault Tribe a stronger nation.

Our ancestors would be proud. We simply have the best employ-

Now that the foundation has been laid and we are now in a much better position to move forward, we must continue to be bold and believe, that together, we are capable of all things. We must reach higher and set bigger goals with achievable benchmarks to ensure our sovereign nation is consistently in a state of progress.

A few major goals I have as

a director in 2024 is to enhance members' rights within government by drafting and promoting Tribal Code changes that focus on protecting members' ability to challenge and participate in the governing process, eliminating codes that were established by previous boards to restrict the free will of members and favor incumbent board members by limiting competition by imposing on constitutional rights, and most importantly to initiate constitutional reform, starting with a true separation of powers.

Nearly every newly elected Board Member campaigned on a separation of powers, so there's is no reason we cannot start this process. This must be done by constitutional amendment via secretarial election, so it cannot be tampered with by any future board. Our members deserve to have their constitutional rights protected and upheld by an independent court without a possibility of board interference.

I have tried very hard to be open and transparent with members on every issue that has been brought forward within our government. We may not always agree, but members will never have to wonder where I stand and why. I have done my best to protect the individual rights of members; however, I do feel that I can publish more to inform members.

One of my goals this year will be to seek more membership input to assist me in making decisions that better represents the will of our membership.

I believe we must continue to focus on increasing our land base. This is essential to enhancing how we care for our members in a healthy way and can be used for food sovereignty initiatives, culture and ceremonies, and providing our members with land to hunt and gather healthy wild meats and produce to feed many families.

I encourage all members to reach out to me to discuss what you believe our goals as a sovereign nation should be this year. I always take into consideration what our members identify as important issues. The more feedback I receive, the better I can represent at the board table.

Please feel free to reach out to me and share any areas of concern you may have or ideas that you believe would help move us forward. I am excited to start this new year with a positive view on our potential as a sovereign nation. It is truly an honor to serve our members and advocate on your behalf.

Chi Miigwech, Niijiis!

Sorenson discusses the board meetings, issues



BRIDGETT SORENSON, DIRECTOR, UNIT III

At the Jan. 2 meeting, the board decided to add to the agenda without a vote of nine to amend the agenda an enrollment request. The majority of the board voted to give someone a tribal card ahead of those that have to wait until February to apply. I did not support this because its not fair to the hundreds if not thousands that will be waiting come February. Betty said it was a friend of hers and that she was going to hospice after the meeting to present the family the card. I do not want hard feelings with the family because it was not personal, I just did not feel it was fair.

This was the last agenda item and as usual Betty was making demands and threats about supporting it. When the meeting ended, I was in my chair and she came behind me and ran her mouth. I exchanged words with her and she came back and got in my face. I at no time left my chair or lunged at her, but did say do you want to go outside. There were two officers in the room who did not escort me out or talk to me at all. I packed up my stuff and left. I never let Betty get to

me because she loves to taunt people and then when a person reacts, she plays victim. This is exactly what she did, she put on Facebook that I wanted to physically fight with her. Saying to her "let's go outside" does not mean physical harm.

She also claims that I am just mad at her because she voted for my mom's side of the family to get their tribal cards taken away. The majority of the board voted on it and it is what it is. This opened it up to members questioning my eligibility, which I have from my dad's side. My mom's family is descended from Chief Buffalo, so she is a tribal member but until they can trace to Sault Tribe, they are not in our tribe. I can tell you that her family would never be brought for disenrollment because of the threats and fear of retaliation from staff and board.

Also on the agenda was an interim appointment of a staff member, which per policy comes with a 5% increase in salary. Betty motioned to make it 15%. I suggested that we either stick with policy or table it to review the policy. I do think people deserve more than 5% but we had recently approved someone else for 5%, so this becomes a game of pick and choose if you don't follow policy. The board would not table it and passed it for 15%. This is just a shame for the previous team member. I would consider 50% of the midrange since people are doing us a favor and we are saving money while the position is vacant. We have since workshopped this and we will see what the board approves to change the policy.

There was a special Elder Advisory meeting called for Friday, Jan. 13, for them to vote on five people to be on the Election Commission. The board will vote on Tuesday, Jan. 16, on those recommendations from the Elder Advisory Committee. Ideally, we would have had a member from each unit and could have been any member, not only an elder. The sad reality is that members were not knocking down our door after the way our previous committee members

were treated. The Notice of Election should be out on the last Friday of the month. I am still not sure how it is going to work with open enrollment and now members can vote without choosing a unit. Not sure how the ballots will be organized with these changes. I still believe that the board should never changed the Election Code within six months of an election. Candidates will no longer need background checks, but team members do, it is ludicrous!

Elder checks are going to be mailed on Tuesday, Jan. 16, and will be \$390. There were 7,181 qualified elders with an increase of 357 more elders this year. I know this is very frustrating for our elders but it sure doesn't make it any better when people try make promises, tell lies and use it for political gain. The elder checks are based solely on the interest on the Land's Claim Fund divided by the number of elders that completed the form. Check amounts over the years were larger based on less elders, using the general fund to increase the amount for political gain that then makes the money taxable.

I really hope and look forward to the day when there are not people that consistently want to divide and conquer the membership as a whole. Some people's entire political career was based

on these accusations and promis-

es by preying on members' emotions and desires. I see the same person is already planting seeds to do it again.

YEA Coordinator Sue St. Onge is also the St. Ignace Drama Club teacher and the group will be putting on a murder mystery dinner theater called, "Drop Dead Disco." The shows will be Saturday, Jan. 27 at 6 p.m. and Sunday, Jan. 28 at 3 p.m. at the Moose Lodge. Tickets include dinner and can be purchased for \$25 per person by calling (906) 440-7667.

There will be a Feeding America truck on Wednesday, Jan. 24, from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Little Bear East Arena in St. Ignace.

The Soo is hosting a health town hall meeting in January and I am hoping in the upcoming months that all of our areas get the opportunity to voice their concerns with Blue Stone Consulting.

The Sault Tribe Housing Authority has contracted with Blue Stone Consulting as well as our Health Division. Housing is hoping to get a final report in March. I am hoping that shortly after this, we can look at our housing plan for houses in St. Ignace. I know it has been a long time and we need houses badly, but we are working on a plan. Infrastructure will be an issue in some areas as well.

A huge shout out to Sault Tribe member Kristi Marie Hoffman on her first time assistant costume design nomination for the Killers of the Flower Moon movie.

Ron Paquin will be doing a workshop on birch bark wall pockets at the McCann School on Tuesday, Feb. 13, from 3 to 7 p.m. for the first 10 members of Unit 3 or those who are at-large.

We are also doing a community canoe build at the McCann School with Ron Paquin and Adam Avery beginning Friday, Feb. 23, through Tuesday, Feb. 27 (unless finished on Monday). Community members are welcome to attend and be a part of history. Food and beverages will be provided. Please contact me for specific times as we are working on times to be flexible with people's schedules. All Unit 3 and at-large members are also welcome. If you are a Mackinac Island resident and would like to come but transportation is an issue, please contact me.

Please remember if you find yourself in a situation in which you may need to be seen outside of clinic hours, please call the normal St. Ignace Health Center line, (906) 643-8689, to be triaged before you go to the walk-in clinic or emergency department, which may save you from being

Another reminder: please make sure you change your address with Enrollment and the tax office when you move. If you have a child that will be working this summer for the first time and they live in the agreement area, you need to notify the tax office and fill out a card. The tribal administration building number is (906) 635-6050 and they can transfer your call to specific departments.

I was fortunate enough to attend our local wellbriety group last week for a teaching and talking circle. The group is very inviting and sincere. They meet every Wednesday at the McCann School at 7 p.m.

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

Grand Island-Presque Isle Learning to Walk together Powwow held December 2 at NMU







Photos by Rosemary Larson and Ruth Tsuda Kitch-iti-Kipi youth drum from Manistique. Rosemary Larson (left) and Rita Boulley during grand entry.

Head dancers Lorraina Thompson and Tyson Webster.



Above: Opening honor guard. The powwow was held at Northern Michigan University in Marquette.



Three generations from left, Larissa Beun, Rosemary Larson, Anne and Rori Daughtery.



Marquette drum group the Teal Lake Singers.





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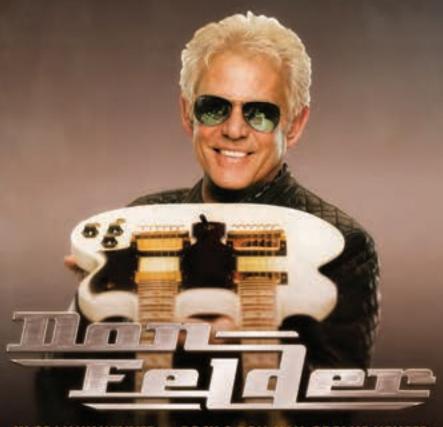
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