



Win Awenen Nisitotung

May 1, 2024
Sucker Moon • Namebin Giizis
Vol. 45 • No. 4



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

Tribal advocate and retired Unit I director Cathy Abramson walks on March 19, 2024

Cathy Abramson's last unit report was full of grace and happiness, with some really good advice. — Editor

Well, this is my last unit report, and, as usual, I am writing at the 11th hour to get it done. It's the way I've been rolling for years! I would like take this time to reflect on my 20 years of service to you as a tribal board member. Being an elected tribal official is a role that I have always taken very seriously and I have tried to lead our people by example.

I don't know how much wisdom that I have learned in the past 20 years but one thing I do know about life on the board – it ain't easy! From the beginning it was made evident. I recall the then long-term County Commissioner Len Pianosi advising me, "Cathy, if you don't make it the first time, don't feel bad because you will eventually." I am happy to say that I did make it the first time, but not without controversy. Quite honestly, I worked hard to burst through the finish line, feeling the thrill of success, only to be told that there may be a new election. Thank God it didn't go that way. Life, the way we plan it, does not always follow a smooth path.

I swear for the first year that I came home crying not so much because I was hurt but more so out of frustration. I learned to rely more on prayer. I listened to you, our tribal members, my family, my friends, youth, elders, the far left, the far right, the hard core
See "Report," page 21

Cathy Marie (McCoy) Abramson, 67, of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., passed away on March 19, 2024, at her home with family by her side. She was born on Sept. 9, 1956, in Sault Ste. Marie, to Kenneth and Helen Marie (Gurnoe) McCoy.

Cathy grew up in Sault Ste. Marie and graduated from Sault High School in 1974. Cathy was crowned Homecoming Queen and was the first Native American in Sault Ste. Marie to be crowned. She was a light everywhere she went and everyone loved her spirit.

She attended Lake Superior State University (LSSU) and graduated with an associate degree. She met Anthony Abramson at the pool while in college and fell head over heels. They married on Dec. 23, 1978, at the Immanuel Lutheran Church in Sault Ste Marie. They started their family and Cathy worked at the Bureau of Indian Affairs and Sault Tribe Administration as their family grew. Cathy worked for the Sault Tribe Elder Program while returning to college to obtain her bachelor's degree in business administration and marketing. While attending LSSU she was an active participant in Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) and was honored with the Izaak Walton SIFE Award.

She loved her tribal elders and assisted in the development of an elder language advisory team to promote revitalization of Anishinaabemowin. Cathy

YEA, she was elected to serve her tribal community as a Unit One Board of Director. This was her passion as she followed in the footsteps of her father and older

to the National Indian Health Board (NIHB) in 2009 as a representative of the Bemidji Region and was elected as NIHB chairperson in 2013. She was diagnosed with Breast Cancer right after first being elected chair of NIHB. In 2015, Cathy received the highest-level award; the Jake White Crow Award, which recognizes an individual with outstanding lifetime achievements in elevating health care, advocacy, raising awareness, or effecting change for American Indian and Alaskan Native Healthcare. She also received the Indian Health Service Director's Special Recognition Award in tribal leadership and partnership in 2013. Additionally, Cathy served as an inaugural committee member of the Health and Human Services Secretary Tribal Advisory Council (HHS STAC). She became the first female chair of HHS STAC by unanimous vote. Cathy also served on the Center for Disease Control and Preventions Tribal Advisory Board, and on the Tribal Leaders Diabetes Committee. Even when her own health started challenging her, she did not let that stop her and she continued to support others and share her tremendous knowledge
See "Obituary," Page 21



Cathy Abramson signs the 2007 Inland Decree.

worked for the Youth Education & Activities (YEA) program with the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and was instrumental in the development of the first Tribal Youth Council and the Chi-Nodin Running Club.

Following her service for

sister, Bonnie McKerchie, in this role of serving her tribe. She dedicated 20 years (five terms) of service in this role and retired in 2016.

Cathy was passionate about the health and wellbeing of our people. She was appointed

2024 primary election candidates

BY SCOTT BRAND
SAULT STE. MARIE —
The Sault Tribe Election Commission released the official list of candidates for the 2024 election cycle after verify-

ing signatures and certifying the candidate list.

Per Tribal Code Chapter 10.119 (2) any contest or complaint related to the nominating petitions and/or rolls of registered voters must be submitted within three days establishing 5 p.m. Thursday, April 25 as the deadline. The Election

Committee will have until April 29 to consider any challenges to the official list.

As things stood at press time, there will be Primary Races for tribal chairperson and in Unit I, Unit II and Unit III.

Under the Tribal Code Election Ordinance "in the event that the number of eligible nom-

inated Candidates for any office exceeds twice the number of offices to be filled, the Election Commission shall conduct a Primary Election for that office. The purpose of the Primary Election shall be to reduce the number of Candidates so that the number of Candidates for
See "Primary," page 4

www.saulttribe.com

Sault Tribe appeals Great Lakes Fishing Decree

SAULT STE. MARIE, Mich. – The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians has filed its opening U.S. Court of Appeals brief against the state of Michigan, arguing that a court-imposed 2023 Great Lakes Fishing Decree violates the tribe's treaty rights and its right to due process.

The 2023 decree had been under intense negotiation since 2020 after the previous document expired. It attempts to create a regulatory framework guiding

commercial and sport fishing rights in the Michigan waters of parts of lakes Michigan, Huron and Superior, where five tribes reserve fishing rights per the 1836 Treaty of Washington. U.S. District Court Judge Paul Maloney imposed the decree after negotiations failed, despite objections to numerous egregious provisions called out by the Sault Tribe.

"We are deeply disappointed in how the other consent decree parties and the court have

attempted to silence the Sault Tribe's voice in regard to this decree, which restricts our rights as a sovereign nation, affects the livelihood of our citizens, and limits the ability of our people to feed themselves," said Sault Tribe Chairman Austin Lowes. "Our members represent the largest commercial fishing operation in Michigan and the largest number of subsistence fishers among the tribes. We also invest more than any other Michigan tribe in
See "Decree," page 22

PRSR STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 30
Gaylord, MI
49735

Win Awenen Nisitotung
531 Ashmun St.
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

Sault Tribe Fisheries Department welcomes Ryan Grow to its staff

BY SCOTT BRAND

The Sault Tribe Fisheries Department's newest member, Fisheries Assessment Biologist Ryan Grow, brought a wealth of knowledge when he arrived in March.

Ryan Grow, a 2012 graduate of Centennial High School in Circle Pines, Minn. just north of Minneapolis-St. Paul earned his bachelor's degree in science and biology from the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul. In pursuing his master's degree at the University of Minnesota-Duluth his undergraduate work took him out into Lake Superior studying the underwater movements of cisco using revolutionary new acoustic sonar technology.

Grow explained that an underwater sled allowed researchers to see the whole water column not only finding fish that were in the upper levels of the water column, but also staying far enough away from the schools to prevent their movements from being influenced by the research vessel.

"We saw two times the amount of fish," said Grow of the information gathered with the new technique before graduating with his master's in integrated bio-science.

Essentially, piggy-backing on that research, Grow went on to earn his PhD from Lakehead University in Thunder Bay, Ontario. He was once again back out on Lake Superior studying



Fisheries Assessment Biologist Ryan Grow.

cisco, this time, however, with stationary devices recording the natural movements of fish.

"We deployed the equipment across Lake Superior," said Grow tracking the cisco, smelt and lake trout. "This survey was geared for the upper water column."

In his new role with Sault Tribe Fisheries Grow's immediate focus has shifted from the research side of things joining the rest of the crew as it procured male and female walleyes from Munsocong and Potagannising bays for the Barbeau Hatchery. Millions of fertilized eggs are currently being held at that facility awaiting the

right conditions in the nearby ponds. Once hatched, the young walleyes will find ideal water temperature and adequate food propelling them to rapid growth resulting in their subsequent release at various locations throughout the region once they reach approximately two inches in length.

"I'm now helping to lead the commercial fisheries program," said Grow of his regular duties and he expressed some eagerness to get back out on the Great Lakes and further explore the St. Mary's River system. "I'm super excited to continue my fisheries research here."

SUGAR ISLAND POWWOW COMMITTEE PRESENTS

MOTHER'S DAY BRUNCH

SUNDAY MAY 12TH 2024

ALL PROCEEDS GOING TO SUGAR ISLAND POWWOW

MOTHERS OVER 60 EAT FREE

FOOD SILENT AUCTION BAKE SALE

\$8 PER PLATE
\$5 FOR 5 & UNDER
Pancakes, breakfast meat, eggs, potatoes & fruit

10 AM - 1 PM Dine-in, take out or delivery

For delivery orders call (906) 203-6382

Niigaanagizhik Cultural Building 11 Ice Circle, Sault, MI
Follow 'SUGAR ISLAND POWWOW' on Facebook



SaultTribeGuardian.com

You know you're from MICHIGAN when ...

You fill out the FAFSA to see if your '24 grad qualifies for up to \$27,500 in scholarships!

From the Mitten to the U.P., the Class of 2024 is getting a helping hand paying tuition at eligible tribal colleges, community colleges and public or private universities. 7 out of 10 Michigan high school seniors may qualify for the Michigan Achievement Scholarship, no matter their GPA. Don't miss out! Fill out the simplified FAFSA. It's only 36 questions and could be worth thousands!

LEARN MORE.

mi.gov/ACHIEVEMENT



MICHIGAN ACHIEVEMENT SCHOLARSHIP



Committee vacancies — volunteers needed!

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

Anishinaabe Cultural Committee - Ten vacancies - five males (4-year term), five females (4-year term)

Child Welfare Committee - Two vacancies (4-year term); One vacancy - term expires November 2026

Conservation Committee
Commercial Fishers - Two vacancies (4-year term)

Non-Commercial Fishers - Three vacancies (4-year term)

Health Advisory Board - Two vacancies (4-year term); One vacancy - term expires April 2027

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

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

Unit I - Two vacancies

Unit II - Two vacancies

Unit III - Two vacancies

Unit IV - One vacancy

Elder Advisory Committee

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

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

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

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

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

Elder Subcommittees

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

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

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

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

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

February 2027

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

WIOA funding available

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

The program may be able to provide tuition assistance for skills training if it leads to an industry-recognized certification or under OJT, it may reimburse

Membership liaisons available to help answer questions

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

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

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

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

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

Summer Youth Employment Program currently accepting applications

The Sault Tribe WIOA Department is accepting applications for the Summer Youth Employment Program.

This program is for Native American youth ages 14 to 24

that reside within the seven-county service area (Marquette, Alger, Chippewa, Luce, Mackinaw, Delta and Schoolcraft counties).

Applications may be picked up at the WIOA office, located on

the second floor of the Big Bear, 2 Ice Circle, in Sault Ste. Marie or by contacting Brenda Cadreau at (906) 635-4767 or BCadreau@saulttribe.net.

Deadline to apply is May 24.

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

In an effort to maintain the Sault Tribe MMIP database for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons (MMIP), the Advocacy Resource Center is seeking information regarding missing and murdered individuals who are members of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians. Please message or call the ARC at 906-632-1805 with information that can be entered into the database. The information provided does not have to be current information. The ARC is seeking information for ALL missing or murdered tribal members including the seven-county service areas and tribal members across the world. Please ask for Community Educator Jess Gilmore-Sing (extension 73366) when calling the ARC. If messaging the ARC Facebook page, please leave the following information:

First/Middle/Last Name
Date of Birth
Date of Death
Murdered/Went/Where
Perpetrator Name (if known)

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

Any information would be appreciated.
Thank you for your participation in this effort. Please feel free to share this information. #WIOA

Avery Square Craft Show

The annual Avery Square Craft Show is being held May 3 & 4 from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Vendors are wanted.

Call Sharon for information and to register at: (906) 253-1399.

Avery Square is located at 510 Ashmun St. in Sault Ste. Marie.

Please come out and support your local crafters. We hope to see you there!

Wequayoc Cemetery spring clean-up and potluck

The annual Wequayoc Cemetery spring clean-up and potluck is being held May 18, at 11 a.m. (potluck at 12 p.m.)

Needed: Rakes, trash bags, work gloves, and any other items for cleaning the graves and tidying up the general cemetery area. Please label items with your

name to reduce chances of getting mixed up with others' items.

Any questions or for more information contact Russ Rickley at (906) 440-5696 or Dell Powers at (906) 984-2055.

Cemetery address: 2354 E. Hwy M-134, Hessel, MI 49745.

Enrollment announcement

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

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

Go to the tribe's website at

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

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

Tribal gas and cigarette discount locations

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

Tribal owned gas stations offering gas and cigarette discounts:

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

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

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

Tribal owned gas station offering gas discount only:

- University BP, 301 W. Fair Ave., Marquette, MI 49855

Not tribal owned stations that are offering gas discounts only:

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

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

- Sunoco, 13975 M-28, Newberry, MI 49868

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

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

Win Awenen Nisitotung

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

May 1, 2024
Sucker Moon
Namebin Giizis

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Submission and Subscriptions:
Win Awenen Nisitotung
Attn: Communications Dept.
531 Ashmun St., Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783; (906) 632-6398
Email: slucas@saulttribe.net or jdale-burton@saulttribe.net

"For All Your Tire Needs"



U.P. TIRE

Complete Tire Sales & Service



(906) 632-6661
1-800-635-6661

1129 E. Easterday Ave., Sault, MI 49783

Official Sault Tribe candidate list is released

From "Primary," page 1
each office shall be no more than twice the number of offices to be filled."

Tribal Chairman Austin Lowes will face challengers DJ Hoffman and Lorrie Jump.

Ballots for this primary will be mailed out on May 2 with votes tallied on May 23. The top

two candidates in the primary will move on to June's General Election.

Ten candidates were approved in the Unit I Race where incumbents Betty Freiheit and Michael McKerchie will attempt to fend off challengers Frederick Carr III, Kimberle Gravelle, Lorrie Jump, Chloe

Kannan, Michael J. Lumsden, Mary McLean, Joanne Pavlat-Carr and Aaron Payment.

The six candidates who receive the highest vote totals in May will punch their tickets for the general election in June where the top three will earn the right to serve on the Sault Tribe's Board of Directors.

In Unit II, incumbent Lana Causley-Smith will be challenged by Monica Cady and Dean Hyslop, Sr. The top two candidates will face-off in June.

In Unit III, incumbent Bridgett Sorenson will face challenges from Todd Preseau II, and John Rickley. The top

two candidates in this primary will square-off in June.

In Unit IV, incumbent Darcy Morrow faces a challenge in the general election in June from Larry Barbeau.

Read the Candidates' Forum starting on page 13.

Law Enforcement hires dispatcher/permit coordinator

It's been 20 years since Susie Alexander worked for the Sault Tribe and she's happy to be back. "I look forward to coming here every day," she said. "I never thought I'd say that about a job."

Hired as the emergency dispatcher/permit coordinator in January, Susie says she enjoys seeing all the familiar faces and meeting new ones.

"It's been a great place to work, we are super busy and the days go by so fast," she said adding her fellow employees at Sault Tribe Law Enforcement are wonderful. "It's a very supportive group of people and everyone has each other's back."

The Sault High graduate went on to earn her Business Administration degree from Lake Superior State University. She was an administrative assistant at Sault Tribal Housing until 2004 before taking on other job duties with the City of Sault Ste. Marie and the Chippewa County Health

Department.

In her dispatch capacity, Susie handles non-emergency calls and sends the responding officers out to handle them. In her permit coordinator capacity she handles all of the applications for inland and subsistence fishing permits.

"We have issued 1,500 since the beginning of March," she said anticipating another major run come April 29 when the department begins accepting bear and elk applications in preparation for the upcoming hunting seasons.

"Every day is different, not

one day is the same as the other," said Susie.

Another major benefit in her new job comes from the close proximity to her home.

"I'm literally like three blocks away, I'm probably the only person in the world who can leave the house at 7:59 and make it to work for 8," she said. "I can make a tank of gas last a month now."

Susie has three daughters, Eryn, Audrie and Riley, a son Nathan, and two granddaughters, Evelyn and Klaire along with her long-time partner, Lance Rolison.



It's been 20 years since Susie Alexander worked for the Sault Tribe and she's happy to be back.

Home • Auto • Life • Boat
Motorcycle • RV • Motor Homes
Business • Snowmobile

NuStar
INSURANCE AGENCY, INC.
"We Cover Your Assets"
INSURANCE

906-253-1904
Bouschor & Sherman
Agents

Email: bbouschor@nustarinsurance.net
www.NuStarInsurance.net

2681 Ashmun St.
Sault Sainte Marie, MI

Roy Electric Co. Inc.
INDUSTRIAL - COMMERCIAL - RESIDENTIAL

Don't get caught without power again!
Generators: Sales, Installation, Maintenance
by a Trained Licensed Electrician
Visit our website for a list of services!

(906) 632-8878 www.royelectriccompany.com

Saturdays in May - Excluding St. Ignace May 25

**MONEY BEES
A BUZZIN'**

Win your share of over
\$57,000 CASH and Credits

Hot Seat Draws Starting at 5 p.m.
Win up to **\$100 Kewadin Credits**

Punch-a-Bunch Starts at 8:30 p.m.
Win up to **\$400 Kewadin Credits**
OR **\$500 CASH**

Kewadin CASINOS

See Northern Rewards Club to register and for more details. Must earn 50 base points to qualify for promotion.
MANISTIQUE ST.IGNACE CHRISTMAS SAULT STE. MARIE HESSEL

HUNT FOR CASH AND CREDITS
All Sites | Saturdays in April
Win Your Share of up to \$50,000 CASH and Credits

CLASSIC CAR GIVEAWAY
St. Ignace | May 1 - June 29
Earn Entries for Award Winning 1965 Dodge Coronet Convertible

MOTHER'S DAY
All Sites | May 12
Women Receive \$10 in Kewadin Credits
After earning 5 base points

MEMORIAL DAY
All Sites | May 27
Valor Card Holders Receive \$10 in Kewadin Credits

SPRING FEVER SLOT TOURNAMENT
Sault Ste. Marie | Mondays and Tuesdays until May 7
Daily Prize Pool 22,500 Bonus Points

YOOPER SLOT TOURNAMENTS
Christmas & Hessel | Mondays & Tuesdays | April 1 - Sept 3, 5 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Manistique | Wednesdays & Thursdays | April 3 - Sept 5, 5 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Daily Prize Pool of 25,000 Bonus Points

SPIN TO WIN
Sault Ste. Marie | June 21 - 23
Up to \$15,000 CASH/Bonus Points

MOTHER'S DAY DINING SPECIALS
DreamCatchers Restaurant | Brunch Buffet
Horseshoe Bay Restaurant | Bruschetta Chicken
Mariner's Cove Restaurant | Chicken Cordon Bleu
Frosty's Pub 'n Grub | Chicken Cordon Bleu

Celebrate the wonderful women in your life with a special meal.
Go to kewadin.com for hours and more details.

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

KEWADIN EVENTS **KEWADIN DINING** 1-800-KEWADIN | KEWADIN.COM

Tribe welcomes Video Producer Joseph Street

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

The Sault Tribe Communications Department recently welcomed Joseph Street as the new video producer. Street has a strong background in production and as a video producer, director, cinematographer, editor, motion graphics artist and sound designer.

As the video producer for the Sault Tribe, he is working to build the Video Production Department and will be producing and shooting the tribe's board of director meetings, including implementing a livestream setup and procedure for the online broadcast of tribal and government events.

Street said he is excited to be a part of the tribal community and is looking forward to working with the board of directors and internal tribal departments.

"I'm thrilled to be part of this amazing community with such a great organization. Much of my past experience has prepared me well to take on this huge role and I'm excited to be here doing something meaningful, something I have a passion for," he said. "With creative know-how and a diverse background of industry training, my department doors are open for all types of productions and projects."

Street attended the College for Creative Studies (2008-2012) for film and digital media and prior to being accepted into that program he studied graphics and media art at Henry Ford Community College (2004-2006).

His past work experience includes time spent as a video segment producer for WDIV Local 4 ClickOnDetroit where he produced, shot and edited video segments for nightly news programming and provided camera support for their crews during live broadcast events.

He also worked for GP Strategies Corporation in Troy, Mich., as a video production and media specialist where he produced tutorials for consumers and training videos for employees within the General Motors Corporation. His accomplishments



Photo by Leo Street

The Sault Tribe Communications Department recently welcomed Joseph Street as the new video producer.

there included shooting commercials at the GM proving grounds that later aired on national television.

Passing on his knowledge to future generations, he spent some time as a video and music production teacher at Clintondale Community Schools in Oak Park Mich., where he managed a classroom of 20 to 30 high school level (freshman to senior) pupils. Students directed and produced a class video and sound projects, learned about audio engineering, equipment setup and workflow, photography, lighting, cinematography and editing, how to use a green screen and do special effects. During his time there, Street produced and directed video yearbooks for graduates; managed, produced, and printed school IDs for the student body and staff; produced school commercials, news broadcasts and graphics; and taught and tutored video and sound trade.

His most recent employment was as a corporate videographer for Target Steel, Inc., in Gibraltar, Mich. He worked with a team on cinematography and production planning of corporate media and the production and editing of company safety and training videos. Street used artificial intelligence for narration and shot video using a drone.



Joseph Street started his own company, StreetWise Entertainment, LLC, just over 15 years ago.

Street started his own company, StreetWise Entertainment, LLC, just over 15 years ago. "It was a way to link my name and my work to the many different types of projects I had been producing, and really just showcase everything I do as a whole in order to translate my experience into some form of exposure," he said.

"Things started picking up in mid 2010's and recently I decided on registering my business at the state and federal level as full LLC status," he added.

Street said he has done everything from crewed on movie sets, to producing and shooting events, educational and news media, music videos, and producing commercial and promotional content

for local organizations and businesses in the greater Detroit area. "With myself and my business now being located in the Sault, my hope is to build my brand, my talent network and my clientele database in the area offering all forms of video projects. Whether on location events or full-on studio productions for everything from regular content plans to individual projects, it's my duty to take your vision and make it a visual experience," he said.

"Every bit of what makes our world so amazing and full of wonder is visual captivation. The gift of sight. The ability to see what is unseen. So many people do not take time to appreciate the abundance of little details that

make us human by nature. My passion originates from capturing the visuals that tend to be overlooked, things taken for granted, the microcosm of finer details, that, without their very existence, things like culture and society would be lost. Being a video producer gives me the ability to present art in real time in the form of moving images and highlight new perspectives, new viewpoints with an experience that is visually pleasing and mentally stimulating. It can be like opening your eyes for the first time," he said.

Joseph Street can be contacted by calling the Sault Tribe Communications/Video Production Department at (906) 632-6398, ext. 26023.



Northern Michigan University Charter School is accepting applications for an open board position at JKL Bahweting Anishinabe Public School Academy with term lengths of one year or two years.

Application link can be found on the JKL School website: www.jklschool.com > click on school board tab > select Link to Apply for JKL Board Membership which will redirect you to the NMU site.

Please send completed applications electronically to Lisa Lackland: lackland@nmu.edu (or call 906-227-6602)

Application Deadline: May 6, 2024

MISSION STATEMENT :

JKL Bahweting Anishnabe School, in cooperation with parents and community, provides an educational program that develops each student's individual abilities. We are committed to providing educational excellence through rigorous and relevant programs within a safe, nurturing, and culturally rich environment with specific emphasis on the Anishinaabe traditions and language.

THINKING ABOUT BUYING?
COME SEE US FIRST!

CENTRAL SAVINGS BANK

Member FDIC
NOT A COMMITMENT TO LEND.
SUBJECT TO CREDIT APPROVAL AND PROGRAM GUIDELINES.

Anishinaabemowin 2024

Akinoomaagiziya gda nawewinaa gdoo nsastaan

Learning our language is to understand

wi kina goji ezhi digwaabiiseyin maanpii gitkamig.

how you are connected to everything/everywhere on earth.

— Jacob Wemigwans, Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory

Waaskoone Giizis

Flower Moon

by Susan Askwith

Though we have less focus here on the plants (zaakiichiganan), they are of course vitally important and powerful. They begin nearly every food chain and can bring healing to body and spirit.

Write the Anishinaabe name of each relative in the circle below. **Each sentence will then say “I am called _____.”**

Bne	Partridge
Godaashiinh	Bluegill
Makwa	Bear
G'nookomis	your Grandmother
Odemin zaakiichigan	Strawberry plant
Pakine	Grasshopper
Waabiganoojiinh	Mouse
Waabooz	Rabbit
Waagosh	Fox

Every animal and plant has a particular work or role to play in the grand circle of life. They can also show us how we could live well, if we pay attention.

N'sayenh makwa n'kinoomoo'ig nbwaakaawin.

My older brother bear teaches me wisdom.

N'misenh bne n'kinoomoo'ig bzaanenemowin.

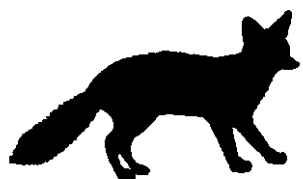
My older sister partridge teaches me patience.

N'da niitaawisenhs waabiganoojiinh n'kinoomoo'ig aakdewin.

My little cousin mouse teaches me bravery and courage.

Nookomis n'kinoomoo'ig zaagidwin.

My grandmother teaches me love.



_____ n'di-zhinikaaz.



_____ n'di-zhinikaaz.



_____ n'di-zhinikaaz.

Kina n'da nawendaaganak gonda aawiwag.

All of these are my relatives

Ezhi-ngodweyaangiziyaang bangii maanda.

This is a small part our of family.



_____ n'di-zhinikaaz.



_____ n'di-zhinikaaz.



_____ n'di-zhinikaaz.



_____ n'di-zhinikaaz.



_____ n'di-zhinikaaz.



_____ n'di-zhinikaaz.

Traditionally we have referred to these creatures as brother, sister, or cousin. Here are the words we need to show our respect. Since the ancestors of all these groups of beings are older than those of humans, that's reflected in our words.

N'sayenh My older brother

N'misenh My older sister

N'da niitaawisenhs My little cousin.

Singing (**Nagamo-daa** let's all sing) is a good way to get inspired. You might like to watch the YouTube video on today's theme that Jacob Wemigwans spoke of at the top of this page. So go to YouTube and type in "Makem & Clancy A place in the Choir". Scroll down till you see the version from UISTMAN59. It's fun and lively. The other versions you'll find there are also delightful. It would be nice to have the words in our language.

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.*

Pronunciation??

You'll find the Anishinaabemowin words used here pronounced at our FaceBook link:

www.facebook.com/SaultTribeLanguageAndCulture.

You can also use the guide shown here!

Possession of eagle feathers and parts by Native Americans

From the USFWS

Eagles are directly protected under two federal laws: the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. These laws generally prohibit the possession, use, and sale of eagle feathers and parts as well as a number of other activities.

Such restrictions help ensure the future viability of eagles in the wild. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, however, has long recognized the religious and cultural significance of eagles to Native Americans and works to accommodate these special needs.

The Service operates the National Eagle Repository as a clearinghouse for eagles and eagle parts to provide Native Americans with eagle feathers for religious use. The Repository collects dead eagles salvaged by federal and state agencies, zoos, and other organizations. Enrolled members of federally recognized tribes may obtain a permit from the Service authorizing them to receive and possess eagle feathers and parts from the Repository. Permit applications must include certification of tribal enrollment. Because demand is high, waiting periods exist.

Native Americans may also legally possess eagle feathers and parts acquired through certain other means. Such items include any owned before eagles were first protected by federal law (1940 for bald eagles, and 1962 for golden eagles) and feathers and parts passed down within a family or received as gifts from other Native Americans.

Native Americans may wear feathers legally in their possession or make them into religious or cultural items for their own or tribal use. They may transfer feathers to tribal craftsmen to be fashioned into such objects; no money may be received for the feathers, but craftsmen may be compensated for their work.

Native Americans may give feathers or other eagle items as gifts to other Native Americans and may hand them down within their families. They may not, however, give them to non-Native Americans.

No person — including Native Americans — may kill or capture eagles without a permit from the Service. Nor may anyone buy, sell, barter, trade, import, or export eagle feathers or items made from them. These prohibitions cover all feathers and parts, including those that “pre-date” federal protections and others that are legally possessed. (Native Americans, however, can obtain permits to travel overseas with eagle items for religious use.)

Service law enforcement efforts focus on the illegal take and commercial exploitation of eagles by anyone attempt-

ing to profit at the expense of these birds. Service officers who encounter individuals with noncommercial quantities of eagle feathers that are being used as personal or religious items will generally take no action if the individuals possess a valid Service permit or reasonably demonstrate that they are enrolled members of a federally recognized tribe. The production of a certificate of enrollment card would be one way for individuals to easily document their tribal affiliation, but this is not a legal requirement. An individual’s possession of such a card would, of course, tend to facilitate the resolution of any questions about the legality of his or her ownership and personal use of eagle feathers.

If you have questions about possession and use of eagle feathers and parts, contact: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Office of Law Enforcement, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, MS-3000 Arlington, Virginia 22203, (703) 358-1949, lawenforcement@fws.gov.

Sault Tribe's Language and Culture Invites All To:

2024 Spring Ceremony



Saturday, May 18th, 2024
Nigaanagiizhik Building,
11 Ice Circle

Sunrise Ceremony: 6:00 AM • Spring Ceremony: 10:00 AM
Lunch Provided

FOR MORE INFO PLEASE CONTACT TYLLR BOUSCHOR @ TBOUSCHOR@SAULTTRIBE.NET OR 906-203-6382

SAULT TRIBE TRADITIONAL MEDICINE PROGRAM

2024 May Healer's Clinic Hours

Gerard Sagassige

May 6, 7, 14, 20, 21, 28
Sault Ste. Marie Health Center
(906) 632-0236

Wednesday, May 1st
St. Ignace Health Center
(906) 643-8689 or (877) 256-0135

Wednesday, May 8th
Manistique Health Center
(906) 341-8469 or (866) 401-0043

Wednesday, May 15th
Hessel Community Center
(906) 484-2727

Wednesday, May 22nd
Munising Health Center
(906) 387-4721 or (800) 236-4705










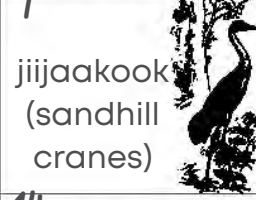



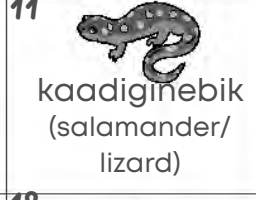

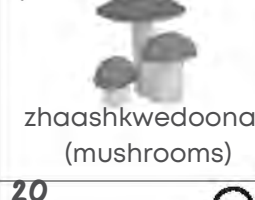

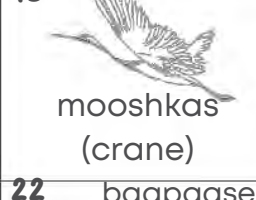

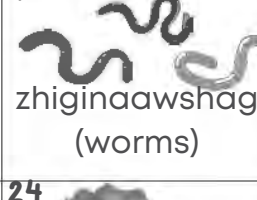


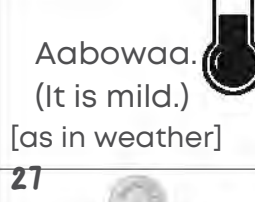


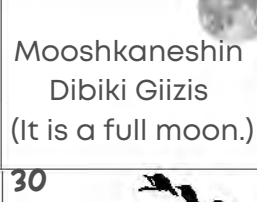
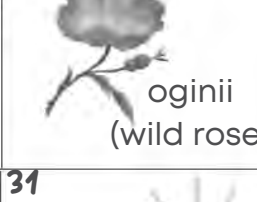
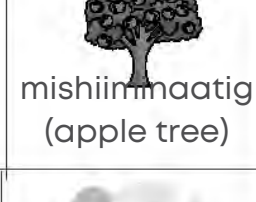
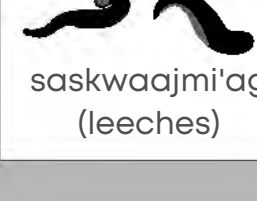




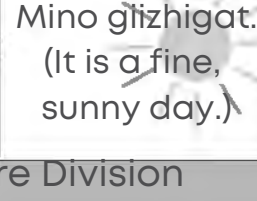

Wednesday, May 29th
Newberry Health Center
(906) 293-8181

George Goggleye

May 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17, 22, 23, 24, 29, 30, 31
Sault Ste. Marie Health Center
(906) 632-0236

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

WAASKOONE GIIZIS - FLOWER MOON - MAY 2024

SUNDAY (the 7th day)	MONDAY (the 1st day)	TUESDAY (the 2nd day)	WEDNESDAY (the 3rd day)	THURSDAY (the 4th day)	FRIDAY (the 5th day)	SATURDAY (the 6th day)
NIIZHWAASO GIIZHIGAD	NTAM GIIZHIGAD	NIIZHO GIIZHIGAD	NSWO GIIZHIGAD	NIIWO GIIZHIGAD	NAANO GIIZHIGAD	NGODWAASWO GIIZHIGAD
			1  miishkoonhsan (grass)	2  magakiinhsag (spring peepers)	3  maang (loon)	4  wiikenh (sweetflag root)
5  Gitige. (S/he is planting.)	6  gyaashk (seagull)	7  jiijaakook (sandhill cranes)	8  pakiinooon (blooming)	9  Zhishkiiaaboo (It is muddy.)	10  biipiige (nuthatch/warbler)	11  kaadiginebik (salamander/ lizard)
12  Gashi Giizhigak (Mother's Day)	13  zhaashkwedoonan (mushrooms)	14  zigimeg (mosquitoes)	15  mooshkas (crane)	16  shki-niibiishan (new leaves)	17  zhiginaawshag (worms)	18  namebagoniin (trout lily)
19  ojji (house fly)	20  Aabowaa. (It is mild.) [as in weather]	21  zhiishiib (duck)	22  baapaase (woodpecker)	23  Mooshkaneshin Dibiki Giizis (It is a full moon.)	24  oginii (wild rose)	25  mishiinmaatig (apple tree)
26  saskwaajmi'ag (leeches)	27  Makwenmagaazook Giizhigak (Memorial Day)	28  nka (Canadian goose)	29  jidamoozowan (yarrow)	30  bineshiinhang (birds)	31  Mino glizhigat. (It is a fine, sunny day.)	

Calendar created by Sault Tribe Language & Culture Division

Gray wolf found in Michigan's Calhoun County

According to a Michigan DNR press release, genetic tests by the MDNR showed that a gray wolf was taken in Calhoun County in January during a coyote hunt. Southwest of Lansing, Calhoun County includes Battle Creek.

According to the release, the department continues to search for wolves in the Lower Peninsula but has found "only a few signs" of wolf presence in that part of Michigan since the state's wolf population became reestablished in the 1980s.

The DNR is investigating the wolf's presence in Calhoun County, and does not suspect the animal was part of an established population in the southern Lower Peninsula, according to the release. "The public does not need to be concerned about broader wolf presence in the county or the Lower Peninsula. Data collected on collared wolves in Michigan have shown the animals can travel thousands of miles, in some cases far beyond their known range," said the

release.

"This is an unusual case, and the DNR is actively delving into the matter to learn more about this particular animal's origin," Brian Roell, large carnivore specialist for the DNR, said in the release. "While rare, instances of wolves traversing vast distances have been documented, including signs of wolves in recent decades in Michigan's Lower Peninsula."

Wolves and wolf sign have occasionally been found in the Lower Peninsula. In 2004, a wolf

was killed by a coyote trapper in Presque Isle County. In 2011 and 2015, wolflike tracks were found in Cheboygan and Emmet Counties. In 2014, Little Traverse Bay Bands of Ottawa Indians caught a wolf on camera during an eagle survey. But, the DNR said targeted winter track surveys in the northern Lower Peninsula in 2019 showed no evidence of wolves in that part of Michigan.

Wolves are protected by federal law under the Endangered Species Act and can only be

killed if a direct and immediate threat to human life.

There is a substantial difference between wolves and coyotes. Wolves are light gray to black in color, weigh 80-120 pounds, are about 2.5 feet tall and 5-6 feet in length. Coyotes are light gray to brown in color, weigh 20-50 pounds, are about 1.5 feet tall and 4 feet in length.

Wolves have round ears and a broad snout, and coyotes have tall pointed ears and a narrow snout.

Landmark revision made to eagle retention policy in 2019

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service revised its policy in 2019 regarding the retention of eagle remains on lands within Indian Country.

Federally recognized tribes are able to retain bald and golden eagle remains found on these lands under certain conditions and with the proper permits.

In 2017, the Service hosted numerous in-person and telephone consultation opportunities for federally recognized tribes in the United States. During these

consultation sessions, tribal members requested the ability to retain bald and golden eagle remains found on their lands. The Service has revised its policy to accommodate this request.

The updated policy has three goals: authorize the retention of eagles found by a tribe's members in Indian Country, enhance eagle conservation on these lands and avoid unnecessary human health or safety challenges that some deceased eagles pose.

Under the updated policy, a

federally recognized tribe must receive a permit prior to possessing eagle remains found within Indian Country. When a tribal member or an employee of a federally recognized tribe discovers eagle remains, he or she must report it immediately to tribal or Service law enforcement officials.

Eagle remains found and reported may be eligible for return to the federally recognized tribe for religious purposes after the Service completes any

activities it deems necessary for law enforcement or for scientific management reasons.

If the Service or a tribal law enforcement officer designated by the Service determines that the eagle was not taken intentionally and human health risks aren't suspected or known, it may be transferred directly to the respective federally recognized tribe as long as the proper permits are in place.

Bald and golden eagles are protected under the Bald and

Golden Eagle Protection Act, the Lacey Act and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Certain activities like harassing, killing or selling these species are strictly prohibited.

Eagles that are unlawfully taken, diseased, poisoned or part of an ongoing investigation will not be eligible for distribution.

More information regarding the Service's eagle retention policy update can be found here: <https://www.fws.gov/nativeamerican/eagle-retention-policy.html>.

Ringling in spring with a peep - getting to know the spring peeper

BY MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

Don't be fooled by its small stature—Michigan's smallest frog also happens to be the loudest.

When male spring peepers call, they inflate a speckled brown or greenish vocal sac under their chin into a large round ball.

Amphibians are a fascinating group of critters that become active as the weather warms in spring. Amphibians include sal-

amanders and frogs/toads. We have 10 salamander species and 13 frog/toad species in Michigan. One of the characteristics that make amphibians so interesting is their two-phase life cycle—shifting from water as babies to land as adults—at least for most species! This change means they are important for both water and land food webs. Another unique characteristic is their permeable skin. They are thus sensitive to chemicals or pollutants in their

environment because their skin isn't much of a barrier, making amphibians important indicator species of healthy habitats.

But how do amphibians even make it through winter? In colder months, some species survive by producing a sugar-based antifreeze, preventing ice from forming in their cells. Other species go underwater or underground to stay warm, with leaf litter and snow layers helping to insulate them.

A sure sign of spring is hearing "PEEP! PEEP! PEEP!" near ponds, marshes, and other flooded areas. The chorus you hear is the mating call of the spring peeper (*Pseudacris crucifer*). At only 1 to 1.5 inches, they are Michigan's smallest frog species. Their scientific name "crucifer" refers to the dark "X" shape on their backs. The rest of their body is brownish gray allowing them to easily camouflage in leaf litter where they are normally found.

They are often hard to see due to their small, camouflaged bodies and because they are most active at night. But they are definitely easy to hear when they call!

Most spring peepers breed in April and females lay around 1,000 eggs in small clusters, usually in rows that are attached to twigs or other aquatic plants. It takes approximately 100 days for the tadpoles to transform into

See "spring peeper," page 9



Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians 2024 Elk Application

The 2024 elk application period will run from May 1, 2024 to May 31, 2024. **All applications must be received by Sault Tribe Law Enforcement before 5:00 pm on May 31, 2024.** Applications received after 5:00 pm on May 31, 2024 **will NOT be accepted.** A lottery will be conducted at the June Conservation Committee Meeting. Tribal members **MUST** possess an Inland Hunting Harvest license and be at least 10 years of age to hunt bear and elk.

Name: _____
Last First Middle

Mailing Address: _____
Street City State Zip

Male Tribal File #: _____ STS #: _____
 Female Date of Birth: _____ Phone #: _____

Email Address: _____

There is a \$4 application fee for each application. Each application must be accompanied by a check or money order (you may write one check for multiple applications). Checks and money orders can be made out to "Sault Tribe". Sault Tribe Elders (60 & older) and youth (10-16) are not required to pay application fees.

Please send all bear and elk applications to:

**Sault Tribe Law Enforcement
Bear & Elk Applications
P.O. Box 925
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783**

For any questions, please contact Sault Tribe Natural Resource Department at 906-632-6132.

STLE Office Use ONLY

Elder Pymt Method: _____
 Youth Date _____



Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians 2024 Bear Application

The 2024 bear application period will run from May 1, 2024 to May 31, 2024. **All applications must be received by Sault Tribe Law Enforcement before 5:00 pm on May 31, 2024.** Applications received after 5:00 pm on May 31, 2024 **will NOT be accepted.** A lottery will be held at the June Conservation Committee Meeting. Tribal members **MUST** possess an Inland Hunting Harvest license and be at least 10 years of age to hunt bear.

Name: _____
Last First Middle

Mailing Address: _____
Street City State Zip

Male Tribal File #: _____ STS #: _____
 Female Date of Birth: _____ Phone #: _____

Email Address: _____

Please select only **ONE** of the following Bear Management Units (BMU). Please note that all Sault Tribe bear permits are only valid within the 1836 Ceded Territory. Please see the map below for generalized boundaries of each BMU.

- Upper Peninsula**
 - Drummond
 - Baraga
 - Gwinn
 - Newberry
- Lower Peninsula**
 - Baldwin
 - Gladwin
 - Red Oak



There is a \$4 application fee for each application. Each application must be accompanied by a check or money order (you may write one check for multiple applications). Checks and money orders can be made out to "Sault Tribe". Sault Tribe Elders (60 & older) and youth (10-16) are not required to pay application fees.

Please send all bear and elk applications to:

**Sault Tribe Law Enforcement
Bear & Elk Applications P.O. Box 925 Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783**

For any questions, please contact Sault Tribe Natural Resource Department at 906-632-6132.

STLE Office Use ONLY

Elder Pymt Method: _____ Date: _____
 Youth

Getting to know the spring peeper continued

From “spring peepers,” page 8
frogs. After the breeding season they move into woodlands, fields, and other shrubby areas but stay relatively close to water.

Their diet consists of any animal small enough to fit into their mouth such as ants, beetles, flies, caterpillars, and spiders. They are also a food source for many other animals such as fish, birds, snakes, and larger frogs.

Tips to keep Michigan’s frogs healthy:

- Handle them with care. If you have insect repellent, sunscreen, hand sanitizer or soap on your hands, do not handle frogs or other amphibians. They can be harmed or killed by chemicals we consider safe due to their sensitive skin. It’s best to look at them and admire their beauty from afar.

- Report them. Because frogs



Spring peeper (*Pseudacris crucifer*)

are important indicators of healthy natural areas their presence or absence is important to environmental managers. You can report sightings of spring peepers to the Michigan Herp

Atlas (<https://miherpatlas.org/>) and iNaturalist (<https://www.inaturalist.org/>). If you’d like to contribute to regular tracking of amphibians and their habitats, consider joining the

Michigan Vernal Pool Patrol (<https://vernal-pool-patrol-mnfi.hub.arcgis.com/>).

- Keep pet frogs and native frogs apart. Never release a pet frog into the wild. Chytrid fungus causes a deadly disease that affects amphibians around the globe and is easily spread from pet frogs to wild ones. You should also avoid capturing wild frogs and keeping them as pets.

- Create a frog friendly yard. Use a diverse mix of native plant species that can provide ample food and protection. You can also maintain natural wetlands or add water features. Minimizing the use of chemicals, such as applying fertilizers and pesticides on non-windy and dry days, mowing from the inside out, and controlling rainwater runoff are all simple ways to help protect frogs.

Learn more from Michigan State University Extension in the “Smart Shorelands: Keep it Clean to Protect Frogs and Toads.”

- Drive carefully on rainy nights. Amphibians often cross roadways on rainy evenings to reach wetlands for breeding. Avoid driving on rainy nights or drive more cautiously if you can do so safely. You can even join a volunteer group to help move them safely across roads—called amphibian crossing brigades—on certain nights in spring for areas known to have lots of amphibian movement.

This article was written by Paige Filice and Alexa Warwick, Michigan State University Extension. For more information, visit <https://extension.msu.edu>.

The Woolly Adelgids: Two threats to our forests

BY HADLEY REED, SAULT TRIBE ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM

If you have hemlock or fir trees on your property you may want to check them for woolly adelgids.

In 2006 the first confirmed infestation of Hemlock Woolly Adelgids (HWA) was found in Emmet County. Since then, HWA infestations have been found in eight counties, with three of them being eradicated. The current HWA infestations range from Saugatuck at the south end to Frankfort in the north, all of which are near the Lake Michigan shoreline. More recently Balsam Woolly Adelgid (BSA) infestations have been confirmed in three counties. The severity of a woolly adelgid infestation and potential to spread is extremely concerning when you consider the value of Michigan’s eastern hemlock and fir tree stands.

Woolly adelgids are a family of tiny insects that suck sap and nutrients from evergreen trees causing damage to the trees and eventually the death of the tree. During their mobile stage, adelgids look like tiny brown or black beetles, only about one-sixteenth of an inch across. While they are immobile, inside their ovisacs producing eggs, they are wrapped in a waxy, wool-like substance. These ovisacs will be on the underside of the branches along the stems of the individual needles.

A hemlock tree that has been infested with woolly adelgids will begin to lose its color and the needles will change from bright green to a pale green with a grey or silver tint. After the tree begins to fade, the needles will fall off and the branches begin to die as well.

Fir trees will experience the same symptoms of infestation in addition to gouting, which is a clubbing or large growth on the end of branches and along the tree trunk. Once a tree begins experiencing mass needle and branch loss, there are only two ways to save the infested tree. First, there are several pesticides that have proven effective against adelgid infestations, most of which require several applications over multiple years. The other option is to remove



Above: Balsam Woolly Adelgid with eggs. Right: An example of gouting.

the infected branches, or the entire tree if necessary, and destroy them to prevent further spread. The most effective way to prevent spread after removal is to burn the infested limbs and trees. Other ways to prevent the spread of woolly adelgids is to avoid transporting hemlock and fir trees, especially from areas of known infestations and quarantine zones.

For more information, contact the Sault Tribe Environmental



Program at (906) 632-5575 or hreed@saulttribe.net.

Save the Date July 1st - 3rd, 2022
Sault Ste. Marie, MI

Look for the full event flyer to be released soon!
Free & Open to the Public
NO drugs - NO alcohol - NO politics

Questions? Please call the Language & Culture Division at 906-635-6050 or email us at culture@saulttribe.net

Mobile Wallet for SCCU
VISA® Credit Cards and Debit Cards.

TAP. PAY. BE ON YOUR WAY!

Apple Pay | SAMSUNG Pay | G Pay

Sault Ste. Marie • Brimley • Bay Mills
Kinross • Cedarville

www.soocoop.com NCUA Insured

“Serving Main Street with Independent Advice.”

NICHOLAS J. KIBBLE, AAMS®, CPFA®
Financial Advisor
812 Ashmun St.
Sault Ste. Marie MI 49783

“The highest compliment we can receive is an introduction to friends and family.”

Phone: 906-635-1111
Toll Free: 800-421-5701
Fax: 517-292-0259
nicholas.kibble@lpl.com
www.dscott-lplfinancial.com

Securities and Advisory Services offered through LPL Financial, a Registered Investment Advisor, FINRA/SIPC

How to protect yourself from QR code fraud

BY HILLARY HATCH, SOCIAL SECURITY PUBLIC AFFAIRS SPECIALIST

Quick Response codes, better known as QR codes, are a very popular way to get information. QR codes are scannable barcodes that will direct you to a website. However, scammers can create QR codes to trick people into visiting a fraudulent website or downloading malware that compromises their personal information.

For example, scammers may: Cover official QR codes with fake ones on parking meters, menus, or magazines.

Send QR codes via email or text message pretending to be from delivery companies.

Request that you confirm your information due to suspicious activity on your account using imposter QR codes.

Place harmful codes on social media advertisements.

Here are some tips to avoid related scams.

Verify the Source

Before scanning a QR code, make sure it comes from a trusted and reliable source. Legitimate QR codes from Social Security will always send you to a safe and secure webpage at www.ssa.gov.

Inspect the Code

Scammers may use tactics that mirror a legitimate QR code. Take a moment to examine the QR code closely. Look for any signs of tampering, unusual colors, or

Garden kits distributed to 400 tribal households

Gitigaan (Garden) Kits are Back!

Spring has sprung! The days are getting longer, the sunshine is warming the Earth, the birds are chirping, and it's time to start planting our Gitigaan seeds!

Sault Tribe Community Health Education is once again collaborating with Michigan State University Extension, bringing Gitigaan (garden) seed kits to Sault Tribe members. This year, Sault Tribe members and employees were able to apply for two types of kits. The first option was the salsa kit, which consisted of jalapenos, tomatoes, cilantro, bell pepper, and onion, and the second option was the Four Sisters kit, which offered corn, beans, squash, and sunflowers.

Registration was limited to the first 400 households, with participants being able to pick up their kits from one of the seven distribution locations across the seven-county service area in the Upper Peninsula in May. The Gitigaan kits also include planting information, educational materials, and a cookbook. Sault Tribe Health Education Staff is requesting participants to photograph their salsa and Four Sisters gardens throughout the spring, summer, and fall and to share their pictures and success stories.

The staff is excited to hear about the memories made, meals cooked, and time spent with family and friends on Mother Earth!

misspellings. If something seems suspicious, it's best to avoid scanning the QR code.

Be Cautious of Unsolicited QR Codes

Avoid scanning unsolicited QR codes received via email or text message. Be aware of codes from unknown sources.

Be Aware of Urgent Requests Using QR Codes

Fraudsters often pretend to be government officials and use fake QR codes to defraud people. For example, a scammer may pose as a Social Security employee claiming that you have an outstanding debt or there's a problem with your account and demanding immediate payment. A scammer may send fake QR codes via text or email requesting the payment. Remember, Social Security will never request any form of payment using a QR code.

Stay Informed

Stay up to date on the latest QR code fraud and scams. Follow trusted sources such as cybersecurity blogs, news outlets, and official government websites for updates.

- Solid, Stable, Experienced Leadership
- Constitutional Amendments — Separation of Powers
- Fiscal Responsibility — Continue Diverse Economic Development
- Understanding our Needs in Unit 2

Vote Lana Causley-Smith



This ad is endorsed by Lana Causley-Smith

I humbly ask for your continued trust to represent our Tribe & our Anishinaabe Families in Unit 2



- Protect treaty rights and promote, enhance and honor our sacred our way of life.
- Protection of the land claims fund (Elder fund) and implement 5-year plan to grow the fund.
- Introduce legislation to protect team members from hostile work environment, including the board.

ELECT DARCY MORROW



UNIT 4 – SAULT TRIBE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

TRUSTWORTHY - CARING - STRAIGHTFORWARD

I would like to announce I am running for re-election in the Sault Tribe Election.

Goals that have been Met – for Unit 4

- *New Community Center being built on our Escanaba reservation!
- *New 24-hour exercise facility being built next to our Manistique Tribal Center.
- **Watch for the grand openings for both of these new facilities.**
- *Property purchased with an established building in Gladstone to have our own permanent Health Center and 24-hour exercise facility.
- *Free transportation (Manistique & Delta Transit) to & from our Health Centers.
- *24-hour Urgent Care Access in Manistique, Escanaba & Marquette County.
- *Expansion to Elder meal program – home delivery offered to homebound elders.
- *Pushed for the new Elder Outreach Worker positions to help our elders.
- *16 acres were purchased adjacent to the Escanaba reservation for an expansion of housing, etc.
- *10 acres have been purchased adjacent to our Manistique reservation for an expansion of housing.
- *Increased the Youth Development Fund from \$150.00 to \$250.00 per student.

The above list is a start, we have a lot more to accomplish.

I would like to Thank You, the Unit 4 members for allowing me to serve and represent you. I will continue to work hard to represent your needs.

I would appreciate your vote in the Election.

Darcy Morrow endorses this ad.

CONTACT INFORMATION: Darcymorrowforunit4@yahoo.com

PHONE: (906) 298-1888

Harm reduction kits offered in tribe's service area

FROM SAULT TRIBE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

What is harm reduction? Harm reduction is a way for people who use drugs to make healthier choices and to prevent overdoses. Even if you do not use drugs, harm reduction services are available to anyone to help decrease fatal overdoses in our community. In addition, there are many different places to access free harm-reduction supplies.

According to NEXT Distro, "Naloxone is a medication designed to reverse an opioid overdose. Opioids slow down the activity of the central nervous system. One effect of this is slowed or stopped breathing which could lead to death. Naloxone knocks the opioids out of the opioid receptors in the brain which allows the person who is experiencing an opioid overdose to begin breathing normally." Carrying Narcan can save someone's life.

Sault Tribe Behavioral Health (STBH) partnered with Harm Reduction MI in June 2023 and has provided our community with many resources to help battle and overcome the opioid crisis. They offer free monthly Naloxone administration training to prevent overdose and learn how

to respond to overdoses in the community. Inter-tribal Council of Michigan also provides onsite and online training and access to free harm reduction supplies. There is an online resource for free naloxone access if you visit nextdistro.org/itcmi. When you watch ITC's informational video to help identify and reverse an opioid overdose, you will receive free Naloxone in the mail in less than a week.

Native American populations face a much higher rate of overdose deaths in Michigan, which have only increased since COVID-19. STBH recently started providing free harm reduction kits around the seven-county service area in August 2023, in numerous locations including Escanaba Community Health Center, Hessel Community Center, Manistique Tribal Community Center, Marquette Community Health Center, Grand Island Chippewa Community Center, Newberry Community Health Center, Sault Ste. Marie Health Center, and the St. Ignace Tribal Health Center.

These harm reduction kits include Narcan (Naloxone), Fentanyl and Xylazine Test Strips, and RX Destroyers/ Medication Disposals. These

tools are used to reverse the effects of an overdose, reduce the risk of overdose, and provide options for destroying high-risk medications like fentanyl and opioids.

STBH has collectively provided 766 boxes of Narcan to our community since August 2023. STBH offers prevention, education, and consultation for individuals struggling with substance misuse

disorders.

For more information on harm reduction resources and access to free harm reduction supplies, please call (906) 635-6075 or contact csaint@saulttribe.net.



STBH has collectively provided 766 boxes of Narcan to our community since August 2023.

VOTE WAUBISHKEE-GOG-KWAY

MONICA CADY

UNIT 2

#NoTunnel
#ShutDownLine5

THIS IS INDIAN LAND

- Food Sovereignty
- Land Back
- Economic Transformation with Hemp & Cannabis.
- Environmental Restoration with Hemp Bioremediation.
- Assert Treaty Rights
- Enhancing Tribal Services and Tax Agreement area.

Meet Monica Cady

A Trailblazer for Transparency and Environmental Justice!

With a heart for community and a dedication to preserving our planet, Monica stands tall as a beacon of integrity and accountability. Join her movement for a greener, fairer future today! #CadyForChange

LIKE

Instagram

#ServeThePeople&ProtectTheLands

mcady11@gmail.com

(906) 430-7189

BRIDGETT SORENSON

Community Driven

- ✓ President of the Moose Lodge 999
- ✓ 2023 Chapter Member of the Year-Women of the Moose
- ✓ President of St. Ignace Hockey Association from 2015-2023
- ✓ Chair of the St. Ignace Recreation Board
- ✓ Chair of the Sault Tribe Housing Commission
- ✓ Sault Tribe Head Start Advisory Board
- ✓ Community Action Grant Committee
- ✓ Title 6 Indian Education Committee
- ✓ Past Mackinac County Relay for Life Leader
- ✓ American Red Cross Blood Drive Organizer for 5 years
- ✓ Started St. Ignace Pink in the Rink Cancer Fundraiser
- ✓ Started St. Ignace Camo Hockey Veteran Fundraiser
- ✓ Chipper Huskey Scholarship Committee
- ✓ LaSalle High School CTE Advisory Committee
- ✓ Member of the HUD Tribal Interagency Committee (12 Tribal Leaders)

- ✓ MSHDA Equity Advisory Committee member (only tribal member)
- ✓ Past Communities that Care Committee
- ✓ Past St. Ignace Kiwanis Club Member
- ✓ Past Sault Tribe Head Start Policy Committee Member
- ✓ Past Sault Tribe Head Start Chair of Parent Committee
- ✓ Organize and Facilitate Major Events in St. Ignace

PLEASE VOTE SORENSON FOR UNIT 3

Bridgett Sorenson Unit 3
Sault Tribe Board of Directors

Please contact me at bridgett91@yahoo.com or 906-430-0536.

Paid for and endorsed by Bridgett Sorenson.



"I will fight for you like I always have" ~ Betty

Paid & Endorsed by Aaron Payment & Betty Freiheit. Reference to Chair Lowes is Endorsed by Chairman Lowes

BETTY Freiheit

~ Unit 1 Sault Tribe Board of Directors ~

Some forget where they come from. As long as we have Members in need, our work is not done and we can't rest. I've introduced countless resolutions to improve our Tribal Members' lives only to have these tabled by the *Old Board*. I fight hard for you at the Board table but, it is always to get things moving and always to benefit our Members.

Let's send a strong message this election to elect an Active Board and to undo the political coup that occurred. I humbly ask for your Support and Vote. Thank you, ~Betty Freiheit

OUR TOP TRIBAL PRIORITIES FOR OUR FUTURE:

- Replenish & Grow Elder Fund to Increase Back to \$2,000+**
As net revenues increase, we pledge to pass a resolution to invest 10% into the Elder Fund and vote on this by referendum so it becomes mandatory.
- Push for National Level Tribal Health Insurance Card**
As a national leader, Aaron was close to achieving this under the ACA Given the treaty/ trust obligation, we deserve the same as VA Health Care Portability. Cathy Abramson used to say, we "Pre-Paid" for our health care.
- Unify Sault Tribe Membership (Inside & At Large)**
The old Board including **McKerchie and Gravelle lied** about not being able to share Cares Act Funds with Members living outside of the service area. We will push to ensure At Large Members are part of a long term strategic plan.
- Elder Mail Order Scripts & Medicare Supplements**
This can be achieved by paying for Medicare supplements. Our pharmacy can, in turn, supply these meds and ship them to Tribal members starting with Elders then expanding to include all Tribal Members Everywhere.
- Increase/Expand Benefits for ALL Sault Tribe Members**
In addition to At Large Members, Kincheloe, Brimley & Sugar Island need to benefit too with program expansion for the Sault area. Read on for specifics.
- Tribal, Inter-Tribal & National Fight against Opiate Crisis**
This is an epidemic. Aaron is a national level leader here and if returned to office he will play a direct role here once again. It is a matter of life and death. Our members who are afflicted, deserve our compassion and care and not judgement. There for the Grace of God Go I. Let's heal our people.
- We Will "Work With" Chairman Lowes & Whole Board**
Real change began when Betty and Austin joined Aaron on the Board. Betty does not vote lock step with anyone and shares in disagreements. But, collaboration with the whole Board can only improve our Tribe.
- Child Care Subsidy for Working Class Members**
A little bit of support goes a long way. Let's increase eligibility by no less than 300% over the poverty level to support our middle class working families.
- Mentor & Share Knowledge & Skills with New Board**
The experience of National level leadership is something to share. Aaron has pledged to coach Board Members and will continue to support Betty and Austin's leadership to share the weight of this awesome responsibility.
- Treaty & Tribal Membership Rights Enforced**
The fiasco of Hoffman at the Consent Decree negotiations table and denigrating negative inter-tribal relations led to a forced decree. We need to continue to litigate but work to bring other tribes back to the table.
- Attend ALL Conservation/ Treaty Fishing Meetings**
- 3 Branch Government ~ Real Separation of Powers**
This is steeped in our Indian Ways. Time to stop making excuses.
- Return Unit 1 Monthly Member Meetings/ Video Calls**
When done right, these are enjoyable, increase communications and build community. A potluck style of sharing food would be fun. Zoom will expand our reach to Unit 1 voters everywhere.
- Standing in Tribal Court to Protect Your Tribal Rights**
A separation of powers and standing in Tribal Court are fundamental. We need a separation of powers.
- Restore Positive National Tribal Reputation**
The political coup excised on the Office of Chairperson was a national embarrassment. It made us look like a 3rd world *Banana Republic*. Let's return to national level leadership and show our resilience to overcome.
- Codify Tribal Preference in Hiring/ Set Goals**
Our Constitution says we exist to perpetuate our way of life. Give members a job and it will reduce a need for services.
- Base MI Tuition Waiver on Tribal Enrollment Not 1/4 Blood**
The State's use of blood quantum is discrimination. It is time once and for all to correct this and qualify 2/3 more of our Members for free college tuition. This would provide fee college tuition to 2/3 more of our Members in MI at a \$8 million annual value.
- Increase Casino/ Enterprise / Govt Team Members' Pay**
It's time to live up to this promise.
- Increase Tribal Higher Ed & Vocational Funding**
The \$1,000 amount was set 24 years ago and has not increased. This should increase to at least \$3,000 to give a hand up to our college students. Pay for this with a reduction in Board pay.
- Administrative Law Judge to Protect Your Tribal Job**
A right to your job should include the right to have a judge hear employment termination appeals.
- Create a Respectful Tribal Government *We can Trust***

My entire career has been in service to Our Sault Tribe People and to benefit all Indian people. I am prepared to work hard to support a team effort with Chairman Austin Lowes and Board Member Betty Freiheit to move our Tribe forward. We have so much work to do and I am good at it. Please ignore the negative campaigning by my opponents and focus on our building our positive future forward.

Please return me to the Board so we can get back to work. ~ Chi McQuitch, Aaron A. Payment

~ Unit 1 Sault Tribe Board of Directors ~

PAYMENT

For Strong Local, Regional, Inter-Tribal & National Leadership



Betty, Aaron & Austin worked as a team in 2022 to get elected. With Austin seeking re-election to the Chairman's seat, at least one Unit 1 seat is open. You get to cast three votes. Please do not vote for anyone who met in secret to appoint Hoffman or throw out the 2020 election.

Please view scan this QR Code with your phone to see for yourself.



Community Health Medical Fitness Program

Since 2018, the Sault Tribe Community Health Education division has provided services within the Physical Activity Referral Program located in Big Bear Arena.

In that span, the program has served over 100 individuals, providing individualized fitness programming designed to use exercise to help patients better manage their chronic medical conditions.

In 2021, the Sault Tribe Diabetes Program established the Diabetes Home Fitness Program. Their goal was to offer fitness programming to home-bound

diabetic patients to help them manage their diabetes through exercise.

In February of 2024, the two programs were combined under a new title, the Community Health Medical Fitness Program. Eric Stallmann, the Diabetes Fitness Trainer, is now housed out of Big Bear Arena, along with Health Educators Tina Robinson and Josh Firack. All three are certified through the American College of Sports Medicine and follow the ACSM Exercise is Medicine guidelines for working with patients with chronic conditions.

While Eric will continue to provide an in-home service for home-bound diabetic patients, he is also available to see patients at the Big Bear office along with Tina and Josh.

The Medical Fitness Program takes patients through a 15-week bi-weekly intervention, during which three fitness assessments are performed: at the beginning, middle, and end stages of the Program. A fitness assessment measures a patient's cardiovascular endurance, musculoskeletal strength and endurance, flexibility, balance, and anthropometry or

physical measurements.

The assessments are the baseline of the medical fitness specialist's individualized exercise prescription for the patient, which they continue to modify and adjust for the patient to continue to positively progress through the Program.

The main goal of the Program is to provide patients with the tools necessary to maintain healthy physical activity and behavior modification throughout their lifetime. Our fitness professionals work with each patient one-on-one to ensure they feel

confident in their individual fitness prescription and comfortable with performing the exercises correctly. Patients are referred into the Community Health Medical Fitness Program through their Sault Tribe medical provider. To be eligible, patients must be over the age of 18, a member of a federally recognized tribe, and have a qualifying chronic condition such as diabetes, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, obesity, etc.

For more information on the Medical Fitness Program, please contact Sault Tribe Community Health at (906) 632-5210.

People showing personal pride in being recovering addicts

BY TAP COORDINATOR PATRICK MCCOY

Recovery today is a lot different than it was in the old days.

Alcoholics Anonymous is not so anonymous. Today they have meetings online and people are constantly sharing their struggles in zoom meetings, through threads, and on recovery pages like "Sober Indianz" The motto today "We are Recovering out loud for those that suffer in silence" and you know what its

working! People are showing personal pride in being recovering alcoholics and addicts.

This is working to bring change and a paradigm shift in thinking. The stigmas of alcoholics or addicts being ignorant-lazy derelicts are being shown untrue.

Today we can see that we have medal winning athletes, movie stars, platinum singers, doctors, and lawyers to name a few that have been diagnosed as addicts that have found the path of recovery.

People are sharing their recovery dates as a sense of personal pride coming back from a seemingly hopeless state of mind and body to recovery. They are sharing their success stories all over. It's really a beautiful sight to see especially when you watch a person that was once an outcast in society change into a high achiever and an asset to their community.

Today's motto is "We do recover" and from this we learn that recovery is a process and that

people need to keep their recovery as a priority because without it there is no good life for an addict.

Recovery tools are evolving and showing that we always can make progress through new ideas.

There are many online meetings. Do they work? The answer is yes they do! Online recovery meetings can be used as a strong recovery tool and they work especially when addicts are in isolated areas.

There are tribal members

throughout the United States and Canada and each individual's path of recovery whether it be through AA, NA, traditional teachings, or through Christianity, everyone can choose their path and its always supported and encouraged.

There are many roads to the high place, but once you get there the view is the same.

Patrick A McCoy MA, BS, CAC1, can be contacted by calling (906) 632-5211 or by email at: PMcCoy@Saulttribe.net.

Tribal primary election candidates speak out in forum

Unit I Candidate



MARY MCLEAN

Boozhoo! Members of the Sault Tribe Community,

I am Mary McLean, and it is with great honor that I announce my candidacy for the Sault Tribe Board of Directors Unit One. With your support, I am dedicated to uplifting, empowering, and uniting our community for a brighter tomorrow.

Having spent the last two

decades primarily in Human Resources, currently as a Recruiter in the Health Division, I bring a steadfast commitment to excellence to this role. Beyond my professional journey, my upbringing as a military child has instilled in me the values of service, adaptability, and community, shaping my character profoundly. The unwavering love and support of my family further fuel my passion and purpose.

My path has been marked by challenges; as a high school dropout and teen mother, I encountered adversity. Yet, through perseverance and determination, I pursued further education, earning an MBA from Central Michigan University.

I am not here to offer empty promises. My advocacy springs from a genuine desire to enact tangible changes that will uplift

and empower every member of the Sault Tribe, now and in the future.

Priorities for a Brighter Future: Fair Compensation for All: Every member of our tribe deserves fair compensation for their contributions. I am committed to ensuring that no one is overlooked or undervalued, advocating for equitable compensation across the board.

Education for All Tribal Members: Education is the cornerstone of progress and prosperity. As your representative, I will tirelessly advocate for equitable access to education for all tribal members, ensuring that no one is left behind.

Strong, Accountable Leadership: Transparent and accountable leadership is essential for effective governance. I

pledge to lead with integrity, putting the interests of our tribe first and listening to the voices of our community to address their needs decisively.

Protecting Fishing Rights: Our fishing rights are not just a privilege but a sacred tradition. I will vigorously defend and protect these rights, ensuring they are upheld and respected for the benefit of our community and future generations.

Expanded Elder Services: Our elders are the foundation of our community, and they deserve our utmost respect and support. I will work to expand elder services, honoring their contributions and ensuring they receive the care and support they deserve.

Promoting Economic Prosperity: A thriving economy is vital for our community's

well-being. I will champion economic development initiatives that create jobs, support tribal businesses, and provide opportunities for growth and prosperity for all tribal members.

Join Me in Building a Brighter Future: Together, let us rise above challenges, embrace our heritage, and build a brighter future for the Sault Tribe. Your support is invaluable, and I am committed to serving you with dedication, passion, and integrity. Join me on this journey towards a stronger, more prosperous Sault Tribe. Together, we can uplift, empower, and unite our community for generations to come.

Vote Mary McLean for the Sault Tribe Board of Directors. Together, we will build a brighter future

See "Candidates," pae 14

ONE CANDIDATE = 30 YEARS TRIBAL BOARD EXPERIENCE

AANII! I AM ASKING FOR YOUR SUPPORT AS UNIT 1 REPRESENTATIVE

Culture and Traditions: Know and practice the teachings of the Seven Grandfathers throughout the whole of our Tribe. Respect, Truth, Honesty, Humility, Love, Wisdom and Bravery.

Separation of Powers: Elect Tribal judges and take the Board of Directors out of the judicial system. This has been promised for too long.

Tribal Board Salaries: No more automatic salary for board members. Physical attendance must be mandatory and No More Zoom meetings for board members.

Rental Assistance/Home Ownership for all Tribal members no matter where you live.

Tribal Community Foundation Program for all Tribal members no matter where you live. Everyone needs help from time to time, one time a year assistance.

Expanded Health Care: Tribal members deserve continuity of care. We need long-term healthcare professionals: doctors and dentists.

Application Procedure Review: The Tribe has over 100 job openings and a complicated online application system that prohibits Tribal member access. Many Tribal members do not have access to the internet and can't apply. We need to simplify the process!



Joanne Pavlat Carr, Unit 1
SAULT TRIBE BOARD OF DIRECTORS CANDIDATE



Joanne Pavlat Carr endorses this advertisement

Transparency. Accountability. Self-Sufficiency. We can achieve it all.

Tribal election candidates speak in forum

From "Candidates," page 13
Chairperson Candidates



DJ HOFFMAN

Hello, my name is DJ Hoffman. I am the son of Lauri (nee McCoy) Henry and Donald "Joe" Hoffman, both tribal members. My grandfather, Ken McCoy (a past board member), and my grandmother, Helen (Gurnoe) McCoy (a direct descendant on the Durant Roll), were both born and raised on Sugar Island. Herman and Arbutus Kempf (Biron), tribal member, were my grandparents on my father's side. I have one sister, Kristi Hoffman, and one brother, Bob. My wife, Tan-A, and I are blessed to be the parents of two sons, Thalen and Keenan Hoffman. My mother raised us to know and be proud of who we are, to be true to ourselves, give to others within our abilities, and appreciate the richness of our heritage and to strive to give back to our community. Through her self-determination, I was encouraged to follow the path to college graduating from MSU with a bachelor's in HR and from LSSU with a degree in business. I have continued my graduate education by completing my master's degree from NMU's MPA program, as well as an MBA from CMU.

I am an outspoken advocate for economic development and diversification, education, healthcare, culture and accountability. I have a track record of working with fellow elected leaders to move the tribe forward and get results.

I have been fortunate to have served for 12 non-consecutive terms as a board member, vice-chairman, and chairman. During that time our tribe ensured our staff and community was put first during a global pandemic, expanded and diversified our tribe's economic development progressing into new business opportunities, including our tribe's first 8(a) certified company. Our corporate charter (STI) provided its first dividend in 2021 of \$3.2 million, and an additional \$7 million in the following fiscal years. During that time the tribe also:

Established and continued COLA increases for our employees, increased 401k contributions, permanently added a \$3 increase to all positions.

Enhanced educational/cultural opportunities for our membership with new tribal tax revenues invested into our tribe by building a new child care center and state-of-the-art dental facility.

Expanded the Joseph K. Lumsden Bahweting School.

Increased the tribe's land base (hundreds of acres).

These accomplishments were achieved by the board of directors working collectively to achieve results. The board climate is currently consumed by political attacks on members, employees, and volunteers. This needs to stop. We need to return to focusing on RESULTS, and ensuring that the board conducts itself in a RESPECTFUL and PROFESSIONAL manner for the betterment of the TRIBE.

Finally, I understand our tribe's most valuable assets are our children and elders. Our elders are the foundation of our tribe, and our children are our future. We need to make sure the tribe prioritizes both.

Please consider casting your vote for chairperson for a candidate that will deliver positive change based upon experience, results, and active involvement, not political promises.

Sincerely,

DJ Hoffman, (906) 203-0510, djwhoffman@hotmail.com, www.djhoffman.com.



LORRIE JUMP

Aanii! As a candidate for the Sault Tribe Board of Directors, I am asking for your vote for both chair and Unit One representative. This is allowed under the tribe's Election Code. After the primary, I will decide which seat provides the best opportunity to represent you, the citizens of the Sault Tribe.

Early Life: Born and raised by Cecil and Edna (Gurnoe) Pavlat with 10 siblings in the west end of Sault Ste. Marie where I have lived and worked most of my life. I am the proud mother of three sons, grandmother to four and Gigi to one.

27 Years Sault Tribe Work Experience: I've worked as dispatcher for Sault Tribe police, court clerk, probation officer, advocate and program manager. In the early years, I learned how to write and administer grant funding. Our tribe was a training ground for the future.

As program manager, my work revolved around building the Advocacy Resource Center (ARC), which provides services to tribal citizens including emergency shelter, peer support, civil legal representation and transitional housing. We started with a staff of one and a budget of \$27,000. When I left we had a staff of 15 and nearly \$1 million annual budget.

In 2013, I became the executive director of Uniting Three Fires Against Violence (UTFAV), a non profit that I founded in 2009. As a statewide

coalition, UTFAV provides training and technical assistance to Michigan tribes to improve their response to domestic/sexual violence.

StrongHearts Native

Helpline: In 2017, recruited for the position of assistant director for StrongHearts, I have since become the Chief Executive Officer. As CEO, I supervise staff, write and administer an annual budget of \$5 million that supports the operations of the hotline. We employ 50 people in 15 states — 95% are Native.

Volunteerism: Election Committee, Constitutional Revision Committee and Child Welfare Committee. There were more committees, I am most proud of those that protected the rights of tribal members and most importantly, tribal children. I know how our systems work.

Appellate Tribal Court

Judge: I spent 16 years navigating the tribe's judicial system and brought the lived experience of our community to the court. This is one of the most important roles that I've had and though it was difficult to walk away from it, I believe it is time to serve our people at the board level.

I support a new Constitution that provides representation for ALL tribal citizens, increased access to health care with telemedicine for at large, and absolute transparency about what the tribe and representatives are doing. For more about my political platform, please find and read my advertisements and visit my Facebook page, Lorrie Jump, Tribal Citizen.

With your support, I will respect and maintain the integrity of our tribal laws and codes — much more than the current administration who have trampled on our tribe's Constitution. We have 50 years of history built upon the backs of our ancestors and people who are now elders. Moving forward, we must honor them.



AUSTIN LOWES, INCUMBENT

Aanii, my name is Austin Lowes, and I am humbly requesting to be re-elected as the chairman of the Sault Tribe. I am the grandson of John Nolan, Shirley Nolan, Nancy Lowes, and Wayne Lowes. I was raised in Sault Ste. Marie and lived in Montana for several years. This provided me with the experience of living outside of our service area, which made me a life-long advocate for at-large members.

Experience:

I have a bachelor's degree in political science from Lake

Superior State University and a master's degree in clinical social work from Michigan State University. I received a Graduate Health Fellowship from the National Congress of American Indians.

Prior to becoming a tribal leader, I worked as a caseworker on the Sault Tribe Reservation, the Bay Mills Indian Community and the Flathead Indian Reservation in Montana. While in Montana, I was awarded the Governor's Award for Excellence. I have also worked as a behavioral health therapist and as a medical social worker. In the latter position, I helped pilot an MAT program that provided life saving harm reduction services to individuals diagnosed with Opioid and Alcohol Use Disorder.

I was first elected to the Sault Tribe Board of Directors in 2020. While a board member, I advocated for at-large members to receive an equal portion of direct payments from CARE and ARPA funding. This allowed members to receive \$1,000 and \$2,000 checks. Roughly \$100 million in payments were provided to members, with the majority going to at-large citizens. I also supported expanding our rental assistance program to at-large members, which provided millions in housing assistance to members throughout the country. I also helped eliminate the board of director pension, which provided more lucrative retirement benefits to board members compared to tribal employees.

While chairman, I was part of the negotiation team that successfully reduced the JLLJ lawsuit, which threatened to bankrupt our Tribe, from \$88 million to \$25 million. This represents a 71% reduction, and it was accomplished without laying off a single employee. I also created the Lodge of Hope, which is the only tribally-owned homeless shelter in the state of Michigan.

Platform:

-Economic Development- promote economic development initiatives that create jobs, stimulate growth, and increase revenue to provide additional Tribal services.

-Improve Healthcare- increase provider productivity and expand healthcare services to meet the needs of our membership.

- Education and Youth

Empowerment- increase funding for educational programs, scholarships, and mentorship opportunities for tribal youth.

-Elder Services- improve healthcare, home health services, our meal program, and elder checks.

-At Large Services- expand services to members living outside of the services area whenever possible.

- Governmental Change- I support three branches of government with each having checks and balances over the others. I also support term limits. Being elected should be about services, not a career paycheck. Finally, our codes and Constitution require modernization and updating.

Moving Forward:

I would appreciate your vote

to continue the forward progress as tribe has made under my Chairmanship. Miigwetch!

Unit I Candidates



FREDERICK CARR III

Aanii,

I am Frederick (Freddie) Carr III, Waabshkaande Mashkiki Maa'ingan (white medicine wolf). Our family is a military family — one of service and just like other tribal families; we too are spread across the country. The Sault area has always been our home - our direct connection to family, tradition, culture, our past, and our future.

Graduated from Sault High in 2017, met my wife (Erin) while attending Lake Superior State University (LSSU), started our family — now with two young boys, graduated with multiple bachelor's degrees in business and for the last two years have been working in the defense technology sector in Kinross/ Kincheloe area.

I have long been committed to serving the Tribe, be it interning while in school at the Tribal Health Center and the Vegas Kewadin, where I listened, learned, heard the complaints, worries, fears — but also the history, hopes and ideas from some of the most amazing people in our Tribe — its members.

Our elders are far too often forgotten about but have such incredible wisdom to share — if we just listen. The Tribe has an incredible workforce who operate our most vital investments and infrastructure; we need to listen — their frustrations, stories, ideas, they know what is needed because they are in the trenches every day. I currently serve on the Sault Tribe Child Welfare Committee, where I am witness to the tremendous dedication of our ACFS staff, but also — the generational trauma faced by our people.

My platform is simple — solutions not sides; earning your trust through action not words.

- Build a better Tribal economy. An economy that delivers prosperity to our entire membership. Certainly, easier said than done, but within the membership there is expertise and solutions that can generate real impact today; we must seek and enable ways to reinforce our infrastructure, become more self-sufficient — generate jobs, new skillsets, careers and enable new business growth.
- Strengthen our Tribal healthcare system: Investing in solutions that connect our member

See Candidates' Forum, pg 15

2024 Sault Tribe election candidates speak

From Candidates' Forum, pg 14
ship with advanced and quality medical services; providing our healthcare staff with competitive compensation, a work environment to be proud of, and a sense of respect – that retains, attracts, and grows our very best and brightest talent.

- Invest in Tribal youth, families, our future. Improving youth programs, sports, investments in science, education, and technology for our youth – while simultaneously expanding opportunities for our culture, traditions, and our language. Increasing support for tribal children in foster care, raising awareness, while incentivizing foster parenting.

My focus is on generating real solutions to the very real challenges our Tribal members face in Unit 1, but also those across our entire Tribal membership. Although young, many know me to have an 'old soul'; to listen and seek out wisdom. I bring energy, new ideas, passion, respect, a deep commitment to our traditions and culture; and determination to ensure a brighter future for our members.

I humbly ask for your vote – to serve as a representative of Unit 1 on the Sault Tribe Board of Directors.

Miigwech!



**BETTY FREIHEIT,
INCUMBENT**

By now, Unit 1 Tribal voters know me well. You know that I have and will continue to fight for you and advocate for all tribal members no matter where you live. I was so grateful in 2019 when you first elected me to fill Denny McKelvie's vacated seat when he passed. I focused my efforts to follow through with Denny's agenda. Months later, I had to run again to earn my own seat on the board. I was grateful that Unit 1 voters elected me with 75% of the votes cast and nearly 25% of the votes ahead of last place winner Mike McKerchie who secured just over 50% of the vote.

I am running for re-election to continue to push to bring back a sense of tribal community to our tribe. We have been through a lot in the last few years. It's time to heal. I am committed to working with our new board to move even faster to accomplish needed reforms like a real separation of powers with a three-branch government, expanding services both inside and outside of the service area, and moving our tribe and our people to prosperity.

We must never forget where we came from in order to effectively advocate for our people. I am fighting for all of our workers, families, children, elders and

grandchildren until all benefit from our membership. As a former casino team member, I recognize the value of our of front-line workers who drive revenues. During the pandemic, I voted to shut our doors to keep everyone safe and pay all team members their regular salaries unless they chose to go on unemployment.

The next big step is to enact tribal labor laws to ensure termination appeals reach an administrative law judge rather than politicians. I have long fought to protect our tribal employees' rights and was the first lay advocate in tribal court. I have advocated for your rights and to improve tribal members' lives for 25 years even before being elected. I have been much more effective from a board seat. So far, I have introduced resolutions to set term limits, a separation of powers, referendum vote on board/chair pay, to provide equal support during the pandemic, and most recently to dismantle failed economic development efforts that have led to a net loss of \$8 million. Many of my efforts were met with tabling but I will not give up.

Other critical issues we face include protection of our treaty rights and undoing the failed 2020 consent decree, increasing education and job training funding, returning in person Unit 1 member meetings and beaming in Unit 1 members no matter where you live. Please see my ad in this paper for greater detail.

As promised in 2020, I will continue to work hard for you at all levels. Please vote for me so we can build even greater momentum in bringing back community and improving our tribal members' lives.

With respect,
Betty Freiheit,
Unit 1 board candidate



KIM GRAVELLE

Aanii,
My name is Kim (Sams) Gravelle. I'm respectfully asking for your vote as a representative for Unit 1.

My parents are Carol/McGee Smith and Billy Sams. I grew up on Sugar Island. I've been married for 43 years to Buck Gravelle and we have two sons and four grandchildren. I'm the second oldest of 8 children. My grandparents are Joe/Dolly Leask, Louis/Helen Smith, and great-grandparents are Paul/Mary (Myotte) Leask and Angus/Mary Jane McCoy. I'm proud of my Sugar Island roots. Our mother taught us to respect ourselves and to respect others.

In 2013 I retired from the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). During my 31 years with the BIA I received considerable experience and tribal trainings such as: Tribal Elections, Basic Indian

Law, Tribal Enrollment, Freedom of Information and Privacy Act, Ethics, Supervisor Management Skills/Techniques, and Records Management. I've been active in the tribal and local community for over 40 years. I'm the current Vice President for the Sugar Island Historical Preservation Society, past Chairperson of the Title IX Indian Education Committee, former community member on the Native American Retention Task Force, past secretary for the American Red Cross Committee. I've acquired a vast knowledge of tribal government, history, and enrollment issues, not only locally, but throughout Michigan and the United States. These experiences are an asset to the Board of Directors.

After graduating I worked many different jobs; waitressing, cook, dishwasher, store clerk, motel maid, Sault Tribe YCC Youth Leader, a summer on a fishing tug in Lake Superior. Because of this diversified experience I understand the hard work and dedication our team members provide.

I've seen great things happen for our tribe; team members received an annual COLA, the reinstatement of our 401K Plan, a new daycare center, expansion of the JKL Bahweting Anishnabe School, Sault Tribe Inc., and much needed housing for our tribal members. I've witnessed disrespect for our team members, tribal members and board members. This needs to change. If we can't respect ourselves, how can we expect others to respect us?

When elected you are there to serve the membership not your own agenda. I will make every effort to improve our government through leadership that values your opinions and ensures your concerns are heard.

You can contact me at (906) 322-9880, kkgavelle@yahoo.com or on Facebook at Kimberle Gravelle.

I sincerely thank you for your support.

VOTE KIM GRAVELLE – UNIT 1

Kimberle Gravelle – Unit 1 Director

Early Head Start Committee
Special Needs/Enrollment Committee

Ad Hoc Health Access
Exploratory Group
JKL Fiduciary Committee
Pow Wow Committee

TAP Advisory Committee
TAP Subcommittees:

Recovery Hospital
Transportation
Drug Prevention
Sugar Island Historical Preservation Society
River of History Museum
CATS District Court
LSSU Native Advisory Committee



CHLOE KANNAN

Aanii Kina Waya! Ozaawaa Wassamo Ekwe Ndinikaaz. My Anishinaabe name is Yellow Lightning Woman and I am in the Eagle clan. My English name is Dr. Chloe Kannan. I write to ask for your vote because I believe in a kinder, more respectful tribal politics that focuses on raising each other up rather than tearing each other down.

I earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan, a master's degree from Columbia University, and a doctoral degree from the University of Pennsylvania. But my story is about more than my degrees. My story has been about bringing communities together. In the past 15 years, I have worked across the world as a middle school teacher, a union organizer, a community-based researcher, a professor, and a project manager across a diverse array of fields. In this work, I did nothing alone.

A few months before she passed away, I promised my grandma that I would find a way to get back to Bahweting.

I turned down elite job opportunities in the Northeast to drive to Sault Ste. Marie and saw how welcoming and kind our community is. Unfortunately, I also learned that our tribal politics are often petty, partisan, and out of touch. Since moving to Bahweting, I have served as an educator at JKL and Lake Superior State University, fought for sick leave for teachers during the pandemic, and created the Indigenous Education Youth Collective to work with colleges and community leaders to help Native students find their rightful cultural roles and educational pathways. I didn't do any of this alone, either. I am running because I believe in our community and that tribal politics can be better.

Community work is my passion and I have committed my entire professional career to public service. This platform is built upon those fundamental principles:

1. Pass election reform to ensure fair and transparent elections.

2. Enact constitutional and legislative reforms to ensure separation of powers and an independent judiciary.

3. Empower tribal employees, provide them with due process, and protect them from micromanagement and political interference. Provide tribal employees with a statutory right to organize.

4. Invest in Traditional Medicine, language revitalization, and cultural programming.

5. Engage and empower youth and At-Large members. Introduce legislation within my first year in office to provide improve equity for At-Large members.

6. Hold bi-weekly in-person and virtual Unit One Community Meetings to ensure community-engagement and governmental transparency.

7. Expand tribal businesses across a diverse set of industries.

8. Strive to uphold the Seven Grandfather Teachings.

9. Implement systems to bring the community into the decision-making process.

10. Facilitate network building

within and across communities.

11. Protect Aki or Mother Earth.

If you are interested in learning more about my campaign, please follow my Facebook candidate page where I have much more detailed information about my platform and campaign priorities. (Come for the politics, stay for the cat pictures!)

I humbly ask for your vote because I believe we can be better.



MICHAEL J. LUMSDEN

I am a candidate with the experience and success in Indian Country to move our tribe forward when you elect me to the board of directors. I have worked for tribes in Michigan and California in top-level executive positions working with tribal councils, state and federal officials. I have lived and worked on Indian reservations. I have effectively led management teams and helped acquire millions of dollars for tribes through successful resource development efforts and overseen successful tribal programs and businesses. Also, I have been a lead negotiator for a tribe in achieving a historic agreement. In addition, I have effectively supervised dozens of team members and managed many multi-million-dollar budgets. In addition, I have executive level tribal experience in the following positions: Interim-Chief Executive Officer, Chief Operations Officer, executive director, tribal administrator, assistant to the executive director, resource developer, Substance Abuse Treatment Program director, economic development director, Economic Development Commission member, board of directors member, Investment Committee member, and I earned a Master of Public Administration degree from Florida Gulf Coast University to build upon my leadership experience and to be able to compete for executive management positions in Indian Country.

My executive level experience in Indian Country prepared me to serve on the board of directors and I respectfully ask voters to consider me for one of their choices.

This election must be the turning point for our tribe and only the voters can save it from the financial devastation (millions of dollars lost) that was caused by weak leadership. I'm running for office to help the new board of directors turn our tribe around from many years of foolish financial decisions that brought our tribe to the point we are today where tribal members are clamoring for new leadership. Since 2010, every single off-reservation casino project and proposal has

See "Candidates," page 16

Candidates provide profiles for primary election

From "Candidates," page 15 failed, Greektown, Romulus, and Lansing, costing our tribe millions of dollars in devastating losses. Our tribe cannot afford two more decades of financial failure, and I want to use my experience to help the new board of directors launch an economic turnaround for our tribe by bringing new, strong, tribal leaders together to develop an entirely new economic development strategy for our tribe that departs from the old government model that has failed us.

We cannot keep repeating the same mistakes. The millions of dollars wasted on misguided economic development schemes should've been added to the Elder Fund or just given to the membership. Our tribe's financial history clearly shows it's time to stop the losses and failures and develop a long-term economic development strategy (plan) with input from the community, adopt the plan, and follow it. It's about the leaders helping create the vision for development for the community with input and buy-in from it. Sometimes leaders get lost, and they can't find their way to success in their roles and the time comes when they must be replaced for the greater good of the entire tribe, that time has come. I will help fix your tribe. Vote for change!



MICHAEL MCKERCHIE,
INCUMBENT

Ahneen, Bozhoo,
My name is Michael Mckerchie and I'm proud to be serving as one of your Unit 1 representatives on the board of directors. Many members already know me and what I stand for. I've had the pleasure to serve our tribe on many local committees including Child Welfare and Powwow, among others; I've represented our tribe at many state functions as one of our negotiators for our fishing treaty rights, advocated to change state laws, as well as being our delegate at various times to United Tribes and CORA (tribal fishing coalition) and many consultations with state agencies; I've also had the honor our representing our great nation on the national level with being on the Administration of Children and Families Tribal Advisory Committee, a delegate of National Congress of American Indians, and several consultations with federal programs.

Many things will be said, but ultimately, we've diversified our

economic development with Sault Tribe Inc. and it's already doing great things. The foundation has been laid for tremendous growth opportunity and it's recently landed several big government contracts bringing much needed revenue to our tribe. Please see their website's "News" section. It's exciting stuff happening now, but the full vision of Sault Tribe Inc. is building on their success and going after bigger, better contracts so the tribe can expect more lucrative deals and success. Sault Tribe, Inc. is our best pathway to successful economic diversity and increased revenue, providing an increase in funding to our programs including Elder, Youth and Cultural as well as our Lands Claim (Elder) Fund and increasing services to members regardless of zip codes and I will continue to support them.

I'm proud of the work we have done to help our team members during the pandemic and I've supported increased wages and benefits, but are still way behind. I believe our tribe is in a better position to do more for our front-line workers and I'll continue to fight for better wages, promote less board micro-managing (which is creating toxic work environments in several areas of our tribe), and help our programs thrive with less bureaucracy (have our team work with each other and not against each other). Our team members deserve better and I promise to keep fighting for better protections, better pay, and a better working environment. I fully support separation of powers and appreciate the work our Elder Committee has started toward the long process of suggesting amendments to the board after being asked to do so last year. I look forward working with them and to the much-needed outcome to protect our members from unjust board actions.

During my time on the board, we've increased our land base, tribal business holdings, expanded health services, education, and recreational facilities; but much work is still needed.

We are doing good things! Tribal members are tired of the negativity — with your continued support and vote, you can count on me for trusted, positive leadership moving forward.

I respectfully ask for your vote.



JOANNE PAVLAT-CARR
Aaniin,

I am Joanne Pavlat-Carr. I humbly seek your trust and your vote for a seat on the Sault Board

of Directors representing Unit One.

Early Life: I was born and raised in the Sault and coming from a large family, I have ties to both Sugar Island and Drummond Island. My mom was a Gurnoe and her mom a Whalen. Our surname goes back to Netamop, which is also known as "Joseph."

I met and married the love of my life, Fred Sr. We have been married 50 plus years and have raised a tribe of our own. We have four wonderful children, 14 grands and 12 great grands. My husband retired from the Navy more than 30 years ago and that's when I started my own professional journey working for the tribe.

Work: I have worked all of my life — as many of us did — I started at the age of 14. It wasn't until my husband retired that we moved back to our hometown in the Sault. I worked as the tribe's board secretary for 30 years before I retired. It was an honor for me to learn and grow with my tribe. I am very proud to have worked beside many brave and wise tribal members.

After retiring in 2022, I decided to run for the vacant seat in Unit I in the 2023 Special Election. I felt that my knowledge and experience with our tribal government, Constitution, Tribal Codes and Rules of Parliamentary procedures would be an asset and provide the new administration with stability.

2024 General Election Priorities: Culture and tradition are of utmost importance because it is so important to remember who we are and where we came from as a tribe and as a people. Our tribal board needs to practice the Teachings of the Seven Grandfathers: Respect, Truth, Honesty, Humility, Love, Wisdom and Bravery. These teachings must be sustained in every branch of tribal government as well as in all of our tribal member services.

Separation of Powers: If we are to hold our tribal board of directors accountable for their actions, we must separate them from the tribe's judicial system. We need to elect judges instead of appoint them. Right now, a judge appointed by the board makes decisions ranging from child welfare to fishing rights — not to mention sexual harassment in the workplace. To make matters worse, the judge must travel to 10 housing sites or our people must travel to a housing site for tribal court.

Tribal board Salaries should not be automatic! If you do not attend the workshops or meetings, you should not automatically receive pay. This automatic salary has resulted in a dereliction of duty on behalf of many tribal board members. I would propose that if board members attend workshops and meetings, they would receive a stipend for every meeting they attend. This would ensure optimal board participation.

With your vote, I will serve my tribe and constituents with respect and honor.



AARON PAYMENT

Ahneen, Boozho, Negee
(Hello my friends):

When I first ran as a Unit 1 Tribal Board seat, I was working on my doctorate at MSU and working full time as a college instructor. Despite being a high school dropout at 15, I believed I could achieve and always planned to contribute to benefit our people. I was delighted when you first elected me with a 20% margin and 122% more votes in my first re-election.

Four years later, I was elected as the third tribal chair in our Sault Tribe history. While I did not get re-elected four years later, Tribal voters returned me to office in 2012, 2016, and 2020 with growing margins. I appreciated serving you as Chair, but my first love was to serve as a Unit 1 Board Member representing, "All Members Everywhere". I still believe and I'm still dedicated to achieving our Tribal vision for all of us to benefit from our Membership.

I am not too proud to admit I cried the night I resigned from office on May 10, 2022. I believed removal from office was imminent not for cause, but due to politics. Despite the censure and investigation not resulting in any criminal, civil or removable offenses, I still faced removal. Unfortunately, I am not at liberty to discuss this further. I can assure you, however, that if anything existed that impacted my ability to run and serve, I would not have been certified to run.

We have work left to do. I believe our new Board and Chair are doing an excellent job. I believe, however, my institutional knowledge and my skills at advocating at the highest levels can benefit our new tribal government to make them that much more successful. I'm running to work as a team with our new Board and Chair to ensure our Tribe's success. At 58, one more term could be valuable to helping to set our direction and to build up and support our new Board and Chair.

After leaving office, I helped secure Advance Appropriations for Indian Health Service Funding to insulate tribes from an interruption of funding during government shutdowns. Please see my accompanying ad in this paper for my full platform. During my tenure, I created a level of respect and admiration for our Tribe's contributions at the highest levels. I served for nearly 10 years on the National Congress of American Indians Executive Committee including as 1st VP and in 2021 was unanimously elected yet again. Returning me

to office, will allow me to repair our Tribe's reputation.

I have a continued contribution to make, and I am offering to dedicate four more years to help our new Board and Chair achieve our Tribal goals so each and every member can be part of the Tribal and American Dream.

It would be an honor to have your support and vote as one of your three picks for Unit 1 Tribal Board of Directors.

Chi McGwitch Negee,
Dr. Aaron A. Payment
(BiiWaagajiig)

Unit II Candidates



MONICA CADY

Waubishkee-gog-Kway (Monica Cady), a beacon of dedication and transparency, emerges as a formidable candidate for public office. With a commitment to her board duties and unwavering pledge to uphold complete transparency, Cady embodies the essence of trustworthy leadership. With a track record of grassroots activism and community engagement, Cady brings a promise of accountability and integrity.

A subsistence wild edible forager and avid gardener, Monica Cady's passion for sustainable living extends beyond her political aspirations. With a Bachelor's in environmental studies: sustainable community development with indigenous perspective, she brings a unique perspective to the table. Her hands-on experience with nature has instilled in her a profound respect for the environment and a commitment to preserving its resources for future generations. Advocating for policies that promote renewable energy, combat climate change, and prioritize the health of our ecosystems, Cady recognizes the urgent need to address environmental challenges head-on.

Central to Cady's environmental platform is the protection of our Great Lakes, invaluable sources of freshwater and vital ecosystems brimming with biodiversity. Cady pledges efforts to prevent pollution, organically combat invasive species, and preserve their ecological integrity. As a water protector, she views the preservation of our waterways as a sacred duty and will stand against any threats to their health and well-being, in honor of Aki. She stands firm on opposing the Line 5 Tunnel.

Cady's platform includes a commitment to pro-cannabis and hemp policies, recognizing their potential to drive green economic growth and benefit Aki. Moreover, as an advocate for economic prosperity, Cady supports initiatives that bolster the econ-

See "Candidates," Page 17

2024 Sault Tribe election candidates forum

from "Candidates," Page 16
 omy and create jobs, while also addressing housing and economic inequality issues. Investing in cannabis and hemp fosters local industries, creates jobs, and promotes sustainable practices, all in harmony with Aki.

Cady supports traditional medicine practices within our tribe, recognizing their cultural significance and role in holistic community well-being. Upholding the traditions of our ancestors, she advocates for the integration of traditional healing methods into modern healthcare systems, ensuring our community members have access to culturally relevant and effective treatments, guided by Aki's wisdom.

Cady advocates for the expansion of sweat lodge ceremonies within our community, recognizing their importance as spiritual and healing practices that connect us to our cultural heritage and promote wellness.

Cady pledges to assist elders with food insecurity through community food plots and natural food harvesting, ensuring that our most vulnerable community members have access to nutritious meals. She also supports restructuring health centers to increase third-party revenue, recognizing the importance of sustainable funding sources for essential healthcare services. Moreover, Cady is dedicated to supporting youth education with environmental programming projects, aiming to inspire the next generation of environmental stewards.

She also aims to recruit graduates to come back to our communities.

Cady pledges to bring professionalism and cooperation to the boardroom. She commits to being prepared for meetings by reviewing resolutions and financials, ensuring informed decision-making. Additionally, she will continue code reviews and updates, prioritizing the efficient and effective operation of our community's systems and services.



LANA CAUSLEY, INCUMBENT

Dear Unit 2 Tribal Members, I am again respectfully asking for your continued support and trust to represent our families in Unit 2.

I have been committed to the well being of our people and our Tribe my entire life — along the way turning into a Nokomis/ Grandmother to three beautiful Granddaughters. It's with immense support from you we have been able to steer our unit (commenting on this last term) with increased health clinic hours and the reopening of the DeTour

location, increased youth activities and students staff, additional Elder services — van to transport Elders to medical appointments, increased rentals on the east and west end of our unit, increased land base — close to 200 additional acres, additional funding for culture and education, and a strong respected group of members that gather, participate, help plan, teach and give of themselves for our cultural and community gathering all across our unit.

There have been many perils that we have faced and I have learned from all the paths taken — decisions made one way or another that have impacted our Tribe for increased growth and have improved life for members and also truly recognizing some that have not benefited us in ways that were presented or factual for positive outcome. Politics have a way of playing out and hurting us tremendously — this is why I can say that you can count on and trust my experience always as I can quickly see through the politics with steady experience and fierce commitment to our people. I have demonstrated my willingness to work with individuals at the table, working with many through the years to help us with self sufficient with economic diversity. I will always have the true priority to improve the lives of Tribal Families that I represent.

My work and decisions are transparent and can help you in

your choice for representation for us. I ask that you look to my past and present stable, solid leadership — I will be committed to our people and the protection and preservation of our tribe.

I will always tell you the truth, advocate for our large geographic unit inside and outside the service area and respect and uphold our strong culture and sacred history of Anishinaabe people. I humble ask for your families continued trust to represent our unit and tribe.



DEAN HYSLOP SR. CHANGE CHANGE CHANGE

We need a change! Here is the time to do it. VOTE for "Big Dean" for Unit 2 Board of Directors and that change will be made. Anything you want heard, tell me and I will make sure you are heard. My priority is the people of my unit and my tribe. I will speak for any tribal member like I have been all my life.

My name is Dean Hyslop Sr. I am a commercial fisher by trade and by heart. I was born and raised in St. Ignace, Mich., until 2002 when I moved to Rudyard.

I worked for Sault Tribe Construction (called Chi Chuck) as plowing supervisor for the St. Ignace area, which included plowing all our tribal enterprises such as the Lambert Center, Kewadin Shores Casino, MidJim and four motels (two in St. Ignace and two in Mackinaw City). I plowed and cut firewood for the disabled and elderly in Sault Ste. Marie and St. Ignace. I also worked for Lenny Adams Construction building the tribal homes in St. Ignace. I ran the Alcoholics Anonymous program in St. Ignace for several years, helping all conquer their addiction.

Here are a few issues I plan to work on:

Bring back our ceremonial pipe and make our tribe whole again. I was at the board meeting when it was taken away from us, and I will work hard to have her returned.

Increase services to accommodate new members without impacting existing members. We need to ensure services are accommodating all members.

Expand elder services to provide necessary food and shelter regardless of income. There are many elders who make a little more than requirements and need help. No elder should want for food, water or shelter.

Expand services to provide commodities regardless of age and income. There are also many younger members who make a little more than requirements who are also suffering. Let's get them help, too.

Increase yearly elder checks.

It goes without saying, the amount elders receive is a disgrace and embarrassment.

Provide support to members outside of the service area. Many members outside the service area face the same issues as those within the area. We need to remove this barrier and provide services and support to all members regardless of where they live.

Provide safe, barrier-free facilities. Let's reduce the backlog of deferred maintenance.

Establish a Commercial Fisher Retirement Fund. Since fishers do not receive Social Security, they need support through retirement.

Grow self-sustaining tribal businesses that provide financial support back to tribal services. Our tribal businesses should be contributing money to the tribe, not taking it from the tribe.

This is just a small list of items I feel we need for our tribe to grow. We are the largest tribe east of the Mississippi, but we lack so much for our people. Vote for me and let's make change!

Miigwech,
 Big Dean
 (906) 322-8470

Unit III Candidates



TODD PRESEAU II'

Sault Tribe members,

After years of thought and consideration, I've decided to run for the Sault Tribe Board of Directors - Unit Three. I have lived in St. Ignace for most of my life and graduated from LaSalle High School in 2009. I've been a Sault Tribe commercial fisherman for the last 15 years working together with my father.

I would advocate for protection of treaty rights, finding new ways to generate revenue, and an increase in elders' checks. I would also support affordable tribal housing, at large representation and increased benefits, improved healthcare, increased wages for tribal employees, and separation of powers. Currently, the board holds all the authority and I believe this is a situation we need to address.

If elected, I would be interested in exploring new methods to generate revenue. Also, I would like to introduce a resolution that a percentage of any new revenue go back into the Land Claims Fund to increase the elders checks. The cost of living is increasing significantly, and our elder checks are getting smaller. With open enrollment, we will have a large increase in elders, and we need to start taking preemptive action to support them.

While gathering signatures, I spent a lot of time talking

See "Candidates," Page 20

Fall Prevention Class

- ◆ **Open to Sault Tribe Members 55 years and older**
- ◆ **Wednesdays from 10 – 11 am**
- ◆ **6-Week Class meeting Wednesdays, May 15 to June 19**
- ◆ **Location: Big Bear Hospitality Room (Upstairs)**
- ◆ **Please wear loose comfortable clothing and athletic style shoes**
- ◆ **Class Size: 10 individuals maximum**
- ◆ **To Sign-up: Please call Sault Tribe Community Health at 632-5210**
- ◆ **Deadline to Sign-up: Monday, May 13**

Brought to you by :

Sault Tribe Community Health Medical Fitness Program

Sault Tribal Fisheries stocking efforts build local walleye population



It was all hands on deck on April 7, as the Sault Tribe Fisheries Department launched two boats into Potagannissing Bay hoping to catch up to 60 pairs of walleye to provide the Barbeau Hatchery with enough eggs for the 2024 season. While this was a few more walleye than required, Hatchery Manager Russel "Rusty" Aikens explained that the extra females would allow fisheries to pick and choose the egg donors in an attempt collect all of the eggs from walleyes that were at peak ripeness. An earlier foray on the Munuscong River had produced some fish, but an inside tip revealed there was likely more fish on Drummond Island.



D.J. Smith with one of many 6-8 pound walleyes captured on April 7.



Left, Aikens piloted one of the electrofishing boats across the bay. Above, Ty Norris, Matt Allard and Richard Reining are poised to capture any stunned walleyes affected by the electric field. The shock temporarily disables fish allowing them to be netted without injury. In addition to the targeted walleye, the crew saw suckers, perch, bullheads, carp, bowfin and northern pike in the bay's shallow waters during the collection process.



Above, the business end of the electrofishing boat. Right, a suitable walleye is netted while other affected fish quickly recover and swim away.



Photos by Brenda Austin & Scott Brand

Left, Chris Wech nets walleyes from the large holding tanks on the boat to be conveyed to the hatchery truck. The captured fish were taken to the Barbeau Hatchery awaiting peak egg ripeness a few days later on April 9.



Richard Reining and Matt Allard begin the process of harvesting eggs and milt from the captured walleyes resulting in upwards of five million fertilized eggs for the Barbeau Hatchery. In controlling the temperature within the facility, biologists can essentially manipulate the hatch to coincide with the optimum time for water levels and available food in the nearby ponds. The adult walleyes have already been released back into the St. Mary's River system near the capture site, while the fertilized eggs will grow to approximately two-inch fingerlings before being released at designated locations this summer. Most of them are in the Eastern Upper Peninsula but some are transported to Cheboygan County.



The mature female walleyes produce hundreds of thousands of eggs depending on their size. This technique provides ideal spawning conditions in a controlled setting greatly increasing the chances that the eggs will be fertilized. A similar technique is employed to capture milt from the males.



Above, Kate Bentgen prepares to add tannic acid to the eggs prior to fertilization to neutralize the sticky coating which is only advantageous in natural spawning. Below, the four minute bath is stirred with a goose feather.



Left, D.J. Smith prepping eggs before fertilization. Right, the fertilized eggs sit in a temperature controlled environment inside the hatchery and although that does not mean "mission accomplished" for the hatchery, it's a critical step allowing the team to move on to other projects. Aikens explained there has been decades of trial and error related to hatchery-reared walleye allowing biologists the opportunity to learn from their mistakes and avoid those made by other hatcheries in the past. Last year the Sault Tribe raised and released millions of walleyes when they approached the two-inch mark, bolstering fish populations in the St. Mary's River and beyond.



Sault Tribe 2024 election candidates' forum

From "Candidates," Page 17
with the at large members and a majority feel detached from their Tribe. The Tribe uses their numbers to obtain resources but does not allow them to benefit from the resources. An example is the COVID relief checks. Service area members received two checks while at large members only received one. This is also an especially important issue for me as most of my family are at large members. I know many past candidates have made false promises to gain votes, but this is something I truly care about.

Another area I would like to focus on is increased wages for Tribal employees, especially casino workers. At the time of writing this article, there are twenty-two job openings at the St. Ignace Kewadin Casino location alone. As a Tribe, we need to offer competitive wages and start retaining the hardworking employees, instead of a constant revolving door.

I've been attending all the board meetings in person or on zoom when I could not be there in person. I have been attending these meetings well before I decided to run for the Sault Tribe Board of Directors.

I will take a membership first approach. I will not choose sides and I will always vote in the Tribe's best interests. Nothing can be done single-handedly, but with persistence and a majority of like minded individuals, I believe we can work together so all Tribal members have equal rights. I respectfully ask for your consideration for the Sault Tribe Board of Directors Unit Three.

Miigwetch,
Todd Preseau II



JOHN RICKLEY

As Indigenous people, we are continually faced with adversity. My family and upbringing in the Straits of Mackinac were similar to many other tribal families living in Unit 3. While there was an appreciation for our culture that we practiced through ghost feasts, powwows, exercising our treaty rights, and connection with our tribal community, there was also struggle. Our struggles were sometimes invisible to the non-tribal community, but often they were apparent. We were reliant upon the services provided to us by the tribe, especially after the early passing of my father, leaving behind seven children, five quite young. If not for commodities, our home would not have had food security. If not for tribal health care, we would have been unable to afford doctor

visits and medicines. Even with these vital services, the struggle remained.

I don't want to see tribal families struggle as mine once did. We would benefit from economic prosperity in our tribe through enterprise streams unrelated to gaming that provide careers for our people to grow within and fully reach their potential, earning wages that are representative of their skill and contributions. I want to work towards economic growth by demonstrating leadership and relying on valuable and capable talent who can help us grow and prosper. This allows for better care of all members, especially our elders who deserve security in this season of their lives.

Our tribe would benefit from food sovereignty through various forms of tribal owned agriculture and production that supports our members but can also serve as an economic stream outside of our community.

Our treaty rights have helped us to rise against adversity, allowing us to provide for our families through commercial fishing and subsistence hunting and harvesting. These were critical in my family and they remain core values in my way of life today. I want to protect and preserve our natural resources so that we may continue to exercise our subsistence treaty rights that so many of us rely on to feed and provide for our families, be it food or medicines.

I have spent my life dedicated to hunting, fishing, and harvesting and have my finger on the pulse of what is happening in our forests with all species. Outside of my family, this is my greatest passion. I previously served on our conservation committee and have been dedicated for many years now to the responsible stewardship of our resources. I am eager to have the opportunity to serve our tribe and work towards positive changes. I have a strong work history in the trades ranging from bridge sandblasting and painting across the county, Journeyman Plumber, building roads as an operating engineer in numerous states, commercial fishing, and managing a commercial fishery that has provided experience in different arenas that lends itself to understanding the value of hard work, collaboration and seeing projects through from the ground up, start to finish.

I encourage and welcome you to reach out to me with conversation.

Chi miigwetch,
John Rickley



BRIDGETT SORENSON, INCUMBENT

I am seeking re-election in

Unit 3. I have raised two hard-working, young men who both work in the trades.

After my first son was born, I returned to school to get my bachelor's degree in business administration from LSSU while working seasonally. I then applied to be a chairperson's intern in 2002 and was placed in the EDC division. That fall, I started working in the HR Department in St. Ignace as an employment representative. When we started to build the new casino, I went to work for casino administration until I was elected to the board in 2012.

I was able to hit the ground running with the experience of working for the tribe for 10 years as well as attending meetings. Without this experience, it can take years for people to understand policies, procedures, government structure, etc. I was also beginning to really get involved in the community.

Since being elected, I try to attend many local government meetings and be involved in groups and organizations. I have developed many valuable relationships with these people and was even able to get the St. Ignace City Council to approve Indigenous People's Day, which is the only unit to have done this.

Since being on the board, I have been appointed to a HUD TIAC committee with other tribal leaders and was also recently appointed to MSHDA EAC committee, which helps with my role as the current chair of the

Housing Commission.

My next four years are going to be focused on more access to culture and language workshops, continuing to diversify our businesses, constitutional amendments, build more housing and services expansion.

Without our culture and language, we fail to exist as a tribe. Many of our people were not allowed to practice our traditions and culture so we need to do more to educate in our communities and tribal wide.

The casinos prior to COVID were able to give the government \$17 million and last year gave \$5 million, so we need to continue to buy and expand our business operations. We cannot continue to count on government support.

We need to put forth a vote for some constitutional amendments. There definitely needs to be a separation of the courts. Our tribe has grown to over 50,000 members so we need to account for that as well.

All units need more housing to fill the local need as well as our members who want to move home. Not everyone qualifies for low income so we need to have more home ownership opportunities as well as elder and single housing.

In August 2023, I brought forward a resolution to explore the possibility to expand our current service area. This needs to be taken seriously and explored.

I take this responsibility very seriously and have been honored to be a voice of our members. I

have dedicated my career to our tribe and I would appreciate your support to continue.

Vote for Integrity, Compassion and Experience!

UNIT IV Candidates



LARRY BARBEAU

Aaniin. I would like to introduce myself as a Unit 4 Candidate for the Sault Tribe Board of Directors. My name is Larry Barbeau. My Anishinaabe name is Bizhew "Badger". I am part of the Bear Clan. I am a Native American commercial fisherman and have owned and operated my own commercial fishing business for the last 20 years. I pride myself on the fact that I have operated my own commercial fishing business while mentoring individuals in Native Treaty Rights as well as how to tie and repair nets. I have been a member of the Sault Tribe Conservation Committee for the last 6 years. I am asking for your support during the 2024 Tribal election with the promise to bring

See "Candidates," Page 21



TELEMEDICINE SERVICES

Hessel Tribal Community Health Center

Hypertension
Diabetes
Depression/Anxiety
ADHD
Weight Management
Medication Reviews
& more

(please call to see if you qualify or discuss with your provider)



To schedule a visit call:
Hessel Community Center at 906-484-2727
or
Tribal Health & Human Services at St. Ignace at 906-643-8689 and follow prompts for Medical Reception

Community leader Cathy Abramson walks on

From "Obituary," page 1

with those that would sit with her and listen. Cathy is credited with being the first one to say, "American Indians and Alaska Natives have the World's first prepaid health system, and we paid for it with our lives, our land, and our way of life."

Throughout all of her great accomplishments, the greatest was her love of her children, grandchildren, husband Tony, and her nieces and nephews. Cathy enjoyed fishing, being with her children and grandchildren and showed her love of cooking to everyone. Cathy had a servant heart and would do anything for the people of Sault Ste. Marie and the Sault Ste. Marie tribal community.

Cathy is survived by her husband, Anthony Abramson; daughters; Lisa (Dan) Martin (Helen Kerfoot, Joy Kerfoot, Alyssa Martin, Kaiden Martin, Cruz Martin, and Ezra Martin); Laura (Justin) Fisher (Maddison Collins, Julia Collins, Eva Collins, Anna Collins, Skye Downwind, Dylan Fisher, and Gabriella Fisher); son, Anthony (Brienne) Abramson Jr (Anthony Abramson III and Nelly Abramson); siblings, Paul "Chip" McCoy, Daniel McCoy, Laurie Henry, Michael (Kim) McCoy, Sherri McCoy, Patrick (Betsy) McCoy, Russ (Linda) Mckerchie; many nieces, nephews, and cousins; and her kids at heart, Lisa Coonrod, Jenny Slough, Michael McKerchie, James McKerchie, Russell "Joey" McKerchie, DJ Hoffman, Kenny McCoy.

Cathy was preceded in death by her parents, Kenneth and Helen McCoy; sisters, Carol McCoy, Bonnie McKerchie-



Cathy Abramson at her home in 2024.

Spring, and Janice Wojcik; sisters-in-law, Ruth McCoy and Barb McCoy.

Services were held March 20, 2024, at the Niigaanagizhik Ceremonial Building in Sault Ste. Marie, with visitation held from March 20 through March 22, when a Christian Ceremony was held March 22 at 10 a.m. followed by the funeral service and a traditional tribal ceremony.

Her final resting place will be

at Wilwalk Cemetery on Sugar Island, Mich. Burial date will be determined at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made in Cathy's name to Hospice of the EUP, 308 W. 12th Avenue, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783.

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



Cathy holding one of her granddaughters in 2006 at a tribal event.

Cathy Abramson's last unit report —

From "Report," page 1

militant and the laid back passive. I heard you and your voices mattered AND I GREW.

It doesn't matter what walk of life that you come from — people are people. I've been taught to never let anyone treat you less than what you are and you should never try to make anyone feel less either. If you really get this concept, people will no longer be so intimidating to you. Once I

learned this, I was able to confidently go head to head with congressmen and senators. I could lead national boards. I carried with me all of your voices and the voices of our ancestors. I was proud to do so and I think that I will miss that the most. We all have special gifts and that is what we need to celebrate. We need to let our people know how much we appreciate them and their talents. We need to build their confi-

dence so that they may represent us to the best of their ability.

So life on the board ain't easy and you know how to counter that? You learn to forgive. Forgiveness is freeing because you learn to let go of your anger and put your ego aside so that you can focus on the real issues. That's one of the hardest lessons that I have had to learn. Extreme emotion and logic can't exist in the same space at the same time.

Forgiveness helps you separate the two.

So how do we change things? It doesn't start with the tribal board. It starts with you. In each and every one of us is the power to make change happen. Big sweeping gestures get a lot of attention but it's the small everyday things that keep our tribe alive. It's families that help prepare for our funerals, our ceremonies, our pow wows, our gatherings, passing on our language (even just speaking a word or two to our children), gathering and making our medicines, hunting, growing, gathering and cooking our traditional foods. Sharing is one of the oldest traditions whether it be sharing your time, your harvest, a meal. Use your life to save our place in this world.

I would like to give recognition for the supreme sacrifices that my family has made over the years. No, it ain't easy being a tribal board member but it was even harder on my family. However, in the 20 years, my children graduated from high school, college and now have beautiful families of their own. They all give back to our tribe and are passing on our culture and traditions to their children. I couldn't be any prouder! My Finlander husband, Tony, has put with my antics and stubbornness and my lateness. I wouldn't have any of this without your love and support. My cup runneth over.

It ain't easy being on the board, but some days (and there are many) when you hit it just right — IT'S AMAZING. Being able to serve my tribe in this capacity has been one of the most rewarding experiences in my life. No, it hasn't been easy but it's been worth it!

Chi Miigwech for this journey we have shared together. I will still be around and if you need any help or advice or a great pot of waboose nabob, I am and always will be happy to serve you!

2024 election candidates platforms

From "Candidates," Page 20

positive change back to our tribe. I promise to fight for hunting, fishing and gathering rights in accordance with our treaty obligations. I promise to prioritize the needs and preferences of our tribal Elders. I promise to represent all Sault Tribe members whether they reside within the service area or reside outside of the service area. I promise to provide outlets to all tribal members to have open dialogue with myself, regardless of unit or service area. I promise to advocate for separation of powers to ensure a stronger system of checks and balances. I promise to further opioid treatment efforts including support groups and expansion of outpatient treatment. I promise to promote the healing of intergenerational trauma caused by the Indian Boarding School Era. I promise to expand health care services and accessibility throughout the service area as well as out of the service area. I promise to advocate for accessible and affordable tribal child care. I promise to secure additional funding for youth education programs including expanding availability of YEA programs and accessibility of post graduate trade programs. I promise to support economic opportunities to help build self sustainability. I promise to work together with all board of directors to develop positive working relationships.

I kindly ask for your support in moving the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians forward toward a sustainable and prosperous next seven generations. If you are ready for positive change within our tribe, vote for me. The change YOU need; the voice YOU deserve.

You are welcome to call anytime at (906) 450-6087.

Chi Miigwech.



DARCY MORROW, INCUMBENT

Aaniin. I am seeking reelection in Unit 4. I would like to thank everyone for the outpouring of support I have received. I greatly appreciate it! I have always been a full-time board member. I do not have another job our tribe and members have always been my life!

I live in Manistique, Mich., with my husband and son. We love living in the U.P. We enjoy being outdoors hunting, fishing, and gathering. I enjoy making

different dream catchers and doing beadwork.

At 14 years old I started as a student worker with the tribes ACFS social services program, my supervisor was Marty (Martha) Snyder. Through working with Marty and the other team members in our old tribal center I found my passion in life our people. After graduating high school, I attended NMU and worked on campus in the Dean of College office during the school year. I worked for the Sault Tribe from 1987 to 2008. I was a CHT for the tribe from 1994 to 1999. I then was hired in 1999 as the market representative for Manistique and Christmas Kewadin Casinos. In 2000, I was hired as the Asst. Casino Manager for the Christmas Casino. In 2004 I was hired as the Assistant Casino Manager for our St. Ignace Kewadin Casino and in 2006 I was hired as the general manager of our Shores St. Ignace Kewadin Casino.

I was involved with the construction of both our new facilities at Christmas and St. Ignace Casinos. I loved working at our casinos because every day we were making money to help the tribe pay for the services our members needed.

I have helped take care of our ancestors at the Indian Point Cemetery in Nahma for 20 years. I was a member of the Gathering of the Clans powwow committee

for 30 years. I helped organize and shop for our children's Christmas parties in Manistique and Escanaba for 30 years.

I am a member of the Sault Tribe's Consent Decree negotiations team and I have attended all Consent Decree negotiations meetings. That included thousands of hours working on what our fishers' needs are since their devastation from the 2000 Consent Decree. I support going to court and fighting for our fishing treaty rights.

I have advocated for our unit to ensure we receive our share of services and programs.

In Gladstone we purchased a new health center with a 24-hour exercise facility to be added. With ARPA funding we constructed a new Community Center in Escanaba on our reservation. It will house some staff, elders' meetings, a weekly meal program for our elders in the future, community events, etc. In Manistique we have constructed a new 24-hour exercise facility next to our existing center. It's filled with state-of-the-art exercise equipment for members to enjoy.

I would greatly appreciate your vote and support in this election. I am trustworthy, dependable, caring, and straightforward. I will continue to be your full-time board member.

Miigwech, Darcy Morrow
(906) 298-1888

Church shares YEA's educational displays

BY TESS BRAZEAU

Each of us has, in some way, been affected by the atrocities that happened to our people over the years. We know that it is not just history; it is current history that our families deal with daily. The repercussions of generations

that experienced the violence of genocide and were unable to learn and live our culture or language are something we are attempting to heal from.

The first part of any healing is acknowledging and accepting what happened and ensuring that it does not happen again in future generations.

Recently, I was approached by my neighbor Brenda Balenger on behalf of her church, the Memorial United Methodist Church in Gladstone, Mich. They wanted something to use regarding our Anishinaabe culture in their Sunday service. I immediately thought of the Indian Boarding school Display that our YEA has for educational use, and we were able to loan it to them. The healing continues for all of the future generations.

I was permitted to share this Facebook post written by Andie Balenger for the church's Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/5vqxystB-jBEk2HTs/?mibextid=WC7FNe> "MUMC celebrated Native American Ministries Sunday

to raise awareness and remind United Methodists about the gifts and contributions made by Native Americans in our society. A knowledge gap has and continues to exist regarding concepts of Native American life, languages, spirit, values, current issues, and cultures. This Sunday was our chance to step back, learn from our Indigenous neighbors, and contemplate historic injustices.

Our sincerest thank you to Tess Brazeau and the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians' Youth Education and Activities (YEA) program for allowing us to display eight educational banners that outlined the history and impact of U.S. Boarding (Residential) Schools on Indigenous peoples across the country. Attached are images of our congregation learning from the banners. We commit ourselves to continuously learning, growing, and healing alongside our Indigenous neighbors."

Memorial United Methodist Church in Gladstone is located on Anishinaabe Aking, the ancestral and current-day homelands

of the Anishinaabe Three Fires Confederacy of Ojibway, Odawa, and Potawatomi Indians. Open hearts, open minds, open doors.



Sault Tribe appeals Great Lakes Fishing Decree

From "Decree," page 1 fisheries management programs. That's why the Sault Tribe Board of Directors is committed to protecting the treaty-reserved fishing right for many generations to come and will take the necessary legal steps to do so."

The tribe's legal brief details how the previous court failed to allow Sault Tribe due process by refusing the tribe's request to have a trial on the matters, a necessary step in the proceedings according to the law and precedent set by the landmark fishing rights case United States v. Michigan. The Sault Tribe had requested the trial to put forth vital expert testimony that should have been considered when drafting the 2023 decree.

The need for a trial was especially important for the tribe as the other six consent decree parties — the state of Michigan, the federal government, the Bay Mills Indian Community,

the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, and the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians -- excluded the Sault Tribe from negotiations beginning in August 2022. Despite its repeated protests to be allowed to reengage in negotiations, the Sault Tribe remained locked out and was left with no other option than to seek a trial that was ultimately denied.

"It is unfathomable to me how the other parties in this case deemed it appropriate to lock the Sault Tribe out of negotiations when this fishing decree directly affects the treaty-protected rights of Sault Tribe citizens," said Sault Tribe Attorney Ryan Mills. "It's equally incomprehensible that the District Court entered this decree, which limits the Sault Tribe's exercise of its federally-protected treaty right, without allowing a trial on the merits."

The 1836 Treaty with the Ottawa and Chippewa retained the tribe's right to hunt and fish in the areas ceded to the United States in perpetuity. From the 1930s to the 1970s, the state of Michigan continuously violated those rights by imposing state regulations and prosecuting tribal fishers. In 1979, the tribes were able to regain their treaty right to fish anywhere in the 1836 treaty waters without limitation as to the species of fish caught or the manner of taking those fish after Judge Noel Fox correctly decided in their favor in United States v. Michigan. This District Court decision led to the 1985 Consent Decree, the 2000 Consent Decree, and now the 2023 Consent Decree.

"Each decree has resulted in the state of Michigan gaining more authority over the tribes and chipped away at our sovereign rights and authority to regulate our own citizens," said

Chairman Lowes. "This is not just about our tribe, but the sovereignty of every tribe that is a signatory to the 1836 treaty — a treaty that was fought and paid for with their lives."

In the August ruling, Judge Maloney overruled all of the Sault Tribe's objections to the agreement, which the judge contends were raised without "affidavits from expert witnesses or other documentary evidence." However, the Sault Tribe's federal appeals court brief makes clear that it was denied that opportunity when the District Court refused to allow a trial and entered the decree without an evidentiary hearing.

"If the District Court had followed the law and precedent in this case, the proper procedure would have been to schedule this for a trial, but the court did not do that. We look forward to making those arguments at the Sixth Circuit," said Mills.

With more than 50,000 members, the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians is the largest federally recognized tribe east of the Mississippi River. It has long been a leader in natural resource management both with the fisheries and through its other environmental and wildlife management programs. The Sault Tribe Fisheries Program works closely with state and federal agencies, as well as university researchers, conducting invasive species monitoring and fishery health and abundance assessments. Each year, the Sault Tribe stocks nearly 1 million walleye into northern Michigan lakes and streams, and is a national leader in whitefish restoration efforts by developing pond rearing techniques for this culturally and economically important species.

More information about the Sault Tribe is available at www.saulttribe.com.

Walking on...

DAVID HAROLD BEAUDOIN

David Harold Beaudoin, 71, of McMillan, Mich., shrugged off his earthly suit on Wednesday April 17, 2024 at his home following a long battle with cancer. Not one to display his pain and discomfort, when asked how he was doing he would often reply "I'm still here."

David was born Sept. 12, 1952 in St. Ignace, Mich., son of the David Beaudoin and Nona Goldwood Fraleigh.

In 1959, after the ferries crossing the Straits were no more, his dad relocated Dave and his siblings to Rexton, Mich. His father transferred to MDOT and waited for the Engadine garage to be built before moving the family to Engadine, Mich., where he was raised and a 1971 graduate of Engadine High School.

On July 15, 1971, Dave enlisted into the United States Army serving during the Vietnam War until his honorable discharge on July 5, 1973, attaining the rank of Specialist Fourth Class.

Following his honorable discharge, Dave found employment in Pontiac, Mich., with Sam Allen junkyard, staying with his sister and brother-in-law, Linda and David. Some days it took two full showers to get off the dust from the welders that were deconstructing autos to just pieces.

Upon returning to the Upper Peninsula, he started classes to become a certified electrician, eventually working at the Louisiana Pacific Corp. for several years, retiring due to his declining health.

Dave treated himself to a Harley Davidson motorcycle which he was proud of and jokingly referred to his dad's Gold Wing motorcycle as an "old man's bike." Dave and his brother Ron could often be found on the Fox River just feeding the fish and on occasion, would reel in a few keepers. He was active with son, Brandon, on the motocross circuit, serving as Brandon's mechanic during competitions. Dave was a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

In addition to his parents, Dave is preceded in death by his maternal grandparents, Harold and Daisy Cornell, and paternal grandparents, Oliver and Amanda Beaudoin.

Survivors include his siblings Linda (David) Livermore of Garnet, Mich., Cheryl Young of Las Vegas, Nev., Diana Davis of Newberry, Mich., Ron (Sharon) Beaudoin of Newberry, Lana (Dennis) Danielson of Moran, Mich., and Teri (Roger) Sherbrook of McMillan; son Brandon and daughter Lyndee; grandchildren Ava, Alia, Weston, Stella, and Bruno; nieces Sheila Fosdick, Nona Sanders, Angela Schultz and Arianna Price; nephews Scott, Dave and Andy Livermore, John and Mike Smithson, Trenton Westfall and Tim Maki.

A memorial service celebrating the life of Dave will be held

Saturday May 4, 2024 at 2 p.m. at Rexton Christian Fellowship Church with Pastor J.D. Livermore officiating. Interment will take place at the Caffey Cemetery.

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

MARY SLIGER BENSON

Mary Sliger Benson passed away peacefully at home on Tuesday, March 5, 2024 surrounded by her family.

Mary was born in June 1959 in Laurium, Mich., to William and Doris Sliger.

She spent her early childhood in eastern Montana, living in a government camp for the engineers of Yellowtail Dam before moving to Wilbur, Wash., where William worked on the expansion of Grand Coulee Dam. She grew up with her brothers Billy, Jeff, and Doug, and her sister Suzie, and graduated from Wilbur High School in 1977.

She studied education at Whitworth University in Spokane, Wash., earned a bachelor's and a master's degree, and became an elementary school teacher. She loved teaching and was very good at it. She became a Certified Reading Specialist in 1988 and earned a "Distinguished Teacher Award" and "YMCA Teacher of the Year" in Spokane in 1989.

Mary married Brad Benson in 1989, and they enjoyed many skiing, camping, canoeing, and sea kayaking adventures. She continued to teach elementary school while she moved with him as his career took them to Pullman, Wash., where son Connor was born in 1992, Minneapolis, Minn., where son Bryce was born in 1996, San Jose, Calif., and finally to Corvallis, Ore., in 1997, where she became a reading teacher at Wilson (now Leticia Carson) Elementary School. At Wilson, she created a weekly summer reading program to provide space and guidance for children at every reading level to continue learning and growing over summer break. Through the course of her career Mary helped countless children overcome their reading struggles and turned their least favorite subject into a lifelong passion.

She organized the fundraising "Wildcat Winter Wonder Run" for the rebuilding of Wildcat Park by neighborhood volunteers in 2007 and coordinated many of the construction projects. Mary continued to grow throughout her career, continuing her education and challenging herself in new areas. She earned her elementary school administrative credentials at Portland State University in 2016 and was a literacy specialist for the Corvallis School District until her retirement in 2020.

Mary brought the same focus and enthusiasm to her hobbies. From March to September she could be found tending her flower garden, moving finicky plants

from spot to spot until they flourished. She loved preparing and sharing good food, with an eye for new takes on her favorite recipes as well as new dishes she'd never tried.

She was an avid distance runner and, rain or shine, could be found pounding pavement and treading trails. She ran so many 5k, 10k, half-marathon and marathon runs that the miles are impossible to count and she got her family to run too. She especially enjoyed the many relay-runs she did with her running friends, some of them multi-day events.

Mary raised two wonderful sons and three great dogs. She was a fantastic mother and wife and she created a home filled with fun, warmth, and love.

A celebration of Mary's life will be held at the Thompson Shelter in Avery Park in Corvallis on Sunday, June 2, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

EVERETT EAGLE JR.

Everett Eagle Jr., 90, of Sault Ste Marie, Mich., passed away peacefully on March 9, 2024, at MyMichigan Health Center - Sault. He was born on July 13, 1933, to Everett and Adelaide (Boissineau) Eagle.

Alice Aulura Stain caught his eye and he married her on Oct. 20, 1953. Together they had six children, Paul, Robert, Karen, Ken, Michael, and Ron. Everett served his country proudly and honorably with the United States Army during the Korean War as a lineman. After his service, he worked at Pingatore Cleaners before taking his position at Chippewa Country Road Commission from 1965 to 1994, plowing many roads and keeping I-75 clean and safe for travelers. Grandpa Eagle's "big county truck," was the world to his grandsons. They waited patiently at the end of their driveways for papa to pick them up and take them for a ride around the block, with one grandson informing him that one day he too would drive his own big truck for the county.

Everett's passion in life was people, doing his best to offer a kind word or deed to all he encountered. His family was top priority, with five boys keeping him on his toes, as they sometimes tried to outdo one another and the one daughter who could do no wrong and learned early to hold her own. Fishing occupied his time with the boys in their younger years. Everett was fondly remembered by his daughter and extremely appreciative of him bringing home turtles, stray kittens, lost puppies, and any other creature that needed a home.

He dearly loved his grand and great-grandchildren with a hug here, or a pat on the back there. He was supportive of all their interests and activities.

Everett was a member of the First Baptist Church, serving and volunteering wherever needed until it dissolved.

Everett is survived by his

children, Paul (Penny Kraft) Eagle, Robert (Kerrie) Eagle, Karen (George) Baldino, Ken Eagle, Michael Eagle and Ron (Stephanie) Eagle; grandchildren; Eric (Jackie Russo) Baldino, Mark (Stephanie Schulte) Baldino, Joshua (Ivanka) Eagle, Bobby Eagle, and Luke Eagle; great-grandchildren, Max Eagle, Alex Eagle, Cody Eagle, Chase Baldino, Hailey Baldino, Eric Geordan Baldino, and Keira Baldino; sisters-in-law, Phyllis (Don) Anderson, Sharon (Ed) Piroaska, Deb Wallis, Rochelle Benoit, and Sandy Stain; brother-in-law Ed (Brenda McConkey) Stain; special companion and caregiver, Ivana Jones; five special family daughters, Cindy (Allen) Rosecrans, Kathy (Allen) Peek, Lynette Ackerman, Pauline Jones, and Bobbi Sue Benoit; as well as several nieces, nephews and cousins who will all miss him very much.

Everett was preceded in death by his wife, Alice in 1995; parents, Everett and Adelaide Eagle; brother, Harold Eagle, sisters-in-law, Gloria Christenson, Thelma McGill, Beatrice Stain, Iris Stain, and Mae (Vanluven) Eagle; brothers-in-law, Orville Stain, Dave Stain, James Stain, and Steve Wallis.

The family would like to thank all staff on the second floor at MyMichigan Health who took care of our dad and went over and above their duties to make sure he had the best possible care.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Sault Wesleyan Church, 3556 Seymour Road, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783.

A graveside service will be held May 17, 2024, at Oaklawn Chapel Gardens in Bruce Township, Mich.

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

LAUREL FAYE (TEEPLE) KEENAN

Laurel Faye (Teeple) Keenan, age 77, of Brimley, Mich., passed away at MyMichigan Medical Center in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., on April 1, 2024.

Laurel was born on March 13, 1947, at home in Bay Mills, Mich., to Edgar Allen Sr. and Barbara Theresa Teeple, and was delivered by her great grandmother and midwife, Ellen Marshall.

She graduated from Brimley High School with the class of 1965. From there, she earned her nursing degree from Saginaw Valley State University and went on to work at War Memorial Hospital in Sault Ste. Marie. After years of service there, she decided to bring her passions home to her community where she became a force within the Bay Mills tribal healthcare; she worked her way up to become the very first health director for the Bay Mills Indian Community. She was instrumental in bringing to fruition the dream

of an all-encompassing health-care clinic that made services accessible to everyone. It would later become widely known as the Ellen Marshall Center.

In her personal life, Laurel loved a good laugh and enjoyed time with her family. In her day, she enjoyed cross country skiing and was an avid gardener. She loved to host dinner parties while her beloved husband, whom she fondly called, "GJK," would cook up a storm for everyone. She loved old time rock 'n roll and enjoyed nothing better than a get together with her sisters to "let down their hair."

Her son, Allen, was the light of her life and he took care of her with grace and love until her last breath.

Laurel is survived by her sons, Allen Keenan, Keith (Della) Keenan, Kevin Keenan, and Kyle (Tracie) Keenan; grandchildren, Katerina, Logan, Parker, Jonah, and Ben; brother, Mervin Teeple; and several beloved nieces and nephews.

Laurel was preceded in death by her husband, Gerald "Jerry" Joseph Keenan; parents, Edgar Sr., and Barbara; sisters, Barbara Joyce Seigal, Carolyn Teeple, Marla Teeple, and Marilyn Teeple; and brother, Edgar Teeple Jr.

Per Laurel's request, there will be no public services.

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

BERNARD PAUL MANITOWABI

Bernard Paul Manitowabi, 67, of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., died March 15, 2024, at MyMichigan Medical Center-Sault. He was born Dec. 11, 1956, in Sault Ste. Marie to Bernard and Myra (Green) Manitowabi.

Bernard grew up in Sault Ste. Marie and graduated from Sault High School in 1974. After high school he moved to Sturgeon Bay, Wisc., and worked as a welder. He returned to Sault in 1979, and worked at various jobs, maintenance at Woolworth's, mail courier for Sault Tribe, lineman, and security at Soo Locks, and more recently at Walmart.

Bernie attended Lake Superior State University and graduated with a bachelor's degree in fire science. He was a member of Wiikwemkong First Nation in Wiikwemkong, Ontario.

Bernard was a member of the Sault Pool League. He enjoyed playing hockey, playing with his brothers as a youngster and later in Senior League. Bernie loved playing pool, hunting, canoeing, and hanging out with his friends. He loved to watch most sports, Red Wing's hockey, Detroit Lion's football, Detroit Tiger's baseball.

Bernard is survived by his siblings, Lorraine Bouley of Rapid River, Mich., Virginia Hutchinson of Sault Ste. Marie,

See "Walking on," page 24



Walking on continued...

From "Walking on," page 23

Lisa (Dave) Grunske of Oshkosh, Wisc., Louis Maniwabi of Fargo, N.D.; brother-in-law, Paul Figuli of Sault Ste. Marie; sister-in-law, Jessica McCullough of Wilson, Mich.; special friends, Marty and Shelli Plumm and nephew, Ryan Maniwabi; and many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Bernard is preceded in death by his parents, Bernard and Myra Maniwabi; siblings, Mary (Rick) Steinhaus, Kenneth Green, Raymond Maniwabi, Joseph Maniwabi, Luanne Maniwabi, Roberta Maniwabi, Roger Maniwabi; brother-in-law, John Hutchinson.

A fire was lit Sunday, March 24, 2024, at 10 a.m. at the Niigaanagizhik Ceremonial Building in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. A light lunch and gathering was held until the traditional pipe ceremony.

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

MARGIE LUCILE WEGER

Margie Lucile Weger, 98, passed away Feb. 26, 2024. She lived a full life as a wife, mother, grandmother, aunt and friend who blessed others with her smile, infectious laughter, and warm hugs and will be deeply missed by all who knew her.

Margie was born on Oct. 25, 1925, in Levering Mich. She always enjoyed helping others. During WWII, she left the comfort of her home in the U.P. to stay with friends of the family in Detroit to serve her country and support the war effort. A one of a kind "Rosie Riveter." She then married her best friend, Kenneth (Bud) Weger on Dec. 31, 1945, and were later blessed with a son. Margie resided in Garnet, Mich., much of her life as a homemaker. However, she took every opportunity to serve over the years in her local community from participating on the Engadine School Board, Hudson Township Board, and Rexton's Women's Auxiliary. When needed, Margie stepped up and subbed at the local post office as postmaster for many years.

She loved people and talking to others. She showed her love best through her baking and blessing others with her delicious treats. Later in life she enjoyed spending time at the casino, playing bingo, going to the senior center and always talking with others and making new friends.

Margie is survived by her son Ron (Jackie), grandchildren Travis, Tara, and Ronnie, and many nieces and nephews. She is preceded in death by both parents, siblings and their spouses, her husband, and her granddaughter, Lindsey.

A graveside memorial service, officiated by Pastor Tim Miller, will be held for family and friends at Maplewood Cemetery in Rexton, Mich., on June 22,

2024, at 11 a.m. A luncheon and time of fellowship will immediately follow the service at the Hudson Township Hall.

NORMAN J. PRUITT SR.

Norman Pruitt, 89, of Bloomfield, Mich., passed away on Jan. 8, 2024. He was born on Sept. 7, 1934, in Detroit, Mich., to the late John T. and Loretta (Gerve) Pruitt.

Norman served in the U.S. Navy during the Korean Conflict and later worked in the automotive industry.

He is survived by his children Linda, Barbara, Norman Jr., Carolyn and Samuel. He is also survived by a brother, Gerald Pruitt and a sister, Virginia Barr and four grandchildren.

Preceding Norman in death was his wife, Christine, a brother, John Pruitt, a sister Marion Moug, and grandson Ryan Pruitt.

Cremation service was provided by Young's Funeral Home in St. Clair, Mich.

Interment will be at Great Lakes National Military Cemetery, Holly, Mich.

PAUL H. O'NEIL

Paul H. O'Neil, 82, of East Canton, Ohio, passed away after a brief illness from pulmonary fibrosis on Monday evening, Oct. 9, 2023.

Born in Portsmouth, Ohio, Paul was a graduate of East Canton High School, Class of 1959. After working 10 years for the Timken Company, Paul began his career at the East Ohio Gas Company, retiring in 1998 as a District Storage Supervisor. He was an elder of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

Paul was an avid muscle car enthusiast, having owned several corvettes, rebuilding engines including a 1940 Chevy Street Rod and participating in numerous seasonal cruises and car shows. He was a member of St. Francis of Assisi Parish, formerly known as St. Anthony/All Saints Church.

Paul was preceded in death by parents Clarence and Otta (Silvey) O'Neil, sister Shirley Van Voorhis, and brothers-in-law Bud Scott and Harold Kimball.

Paul is survived by his wife of 57 years, Rosemary (Rex), two children, Derek O'Neil of Dallas, Texas and Holly O'Neil of East Canton, one grandchild, Faryl Hoover, two sisters Marjorie Scott and Norma Kimball, and brother-in-law Wendell Van Voorhis. He is also survived by several nieces, nephews, and great-nieces and nephews.

Family and friends were received on Oct. 16, 2023 from at the Rossi Family Funeral Home. Funeral services were held on Oct. 17, 2023 at St. Francis of Assisi Parish at the former St. Anthony Church.

SAMUAL FRANK STAFFORD

Samual Frank Stafford, affectionately known to his loved ones, as "Sam, Sammy, dad, daddy, papa, and grandpa" passed from this earth and on to the after-life on April 2, 2024.



Born in Sault Ste. Marie Mich. on Dec. 30, 1929, he traveled the world with the Navy for 22 years and passed peacefully at his home with loved ones in Suffolk, Va., which he called home in his later years.

Son to the late Thomas William Stafford and Ethel Mae Stafford, he is also predeceased by his siblings Pauline Moll, Charles Stafford, Eveylen Blondeau Maebelle Brooks, Arlene Linda Sheppard, Thomas Stafford, and Clarence Stafford.

He is survived by siblings Raymond Stafford and Irene Carolyn Thiele, as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

In passing he has now joined his loving wife Lucy Romano Stafford with whom he built a robust and adoring family. Including his children Teresa (David) Frazier, Tom (Barbara) Stafford, John (Sharon) Stafford, and MaryAnn (Ray) McCarthy; his grandchildren, who were his world and who will hold fond memories of fishing and playing on the floor with him in their youth: Jennifer, Melissa, Kristina, Michael, Julie, Jessica, Sabrina, and Tabitha; and 11 great grandchildren.

A veteran of the Korean Conflict and the Vietnam War, Sam retired as a Senior Chief Fire Control Technician. He was recipient of several Navy awards including the Navy Achievement Medal Combat V Commendation from Commander USN 7th Fleet, the Vietnam Service Medal with two Bronze Stars, a Combat Action Ribbon-Vietnam, Navy Unit Commendation Bar, Republic of Vietnam Meritorious Unit Citation (Gallantry Cross with Palm) as well as numerous other medals. He also received letters of Commendation from Commanding Officer, Rear Admiral Gene LaRocoue USN Commander Cruise Destroyer Flotilla 4 Department of Naval Weapons, Washington, D.C. for his initiative and many other commendations.

Following his Navy career, he worked as an X-Ray Service Engineer for Picker Medical Corp, as plant maintenance electrician for Birmingham Steel Plant, and later continued x-ray work when he formed Stafford Medical Engineering Inc.

Sam was a lifetime member of the National Chapter of the Disabled American Veterans, a past commander of the Charlottesville, Va., DAV, Member of the USS Robert A Owens Shipmate Association, The Tin Can Sailors Association, and a lifetime member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

A visitation with the family was held on April 9, 2024 at the R.W. Baker & Co. Funeral

Home and Crematory, 5685 Lee Farm Lane, Suffolk, Va. A graveside service with Military Honors was held at the chapel at Meadowbrook Memorial Gardens, 4569 Shoulders Hill Road, Suffolk VA with Father Jim Griffin officiating.

Memorial contributions can be made to St. Jude's Children's Hospital or Shriners Children. Condolences may be registered at RWBakerfh.com.

DOROTHY SUZANNE STEVENSON

Dorothy Suzanne Stevenson, 97, passed away April 7, 2024, from an acute abdominal illness. She was under the loving care of her daughters and Hospice of the EUP at the home of her daughter, Mary Arnott. She was happy to return to the Sault from Florida for her final days, where she was surrounded by most of her family. Thoughts and prayers of many others were greatly appreciated by her and the family.

Suzanne was born March 9, 1927, in Detroit, Mich., and was fondly known as Suzanne or Sue by friends and family.

As a young child she moved to DeTour Village, Mich., where she grew up and then graduated from high school in 1945. She left home at 17 and was employed by Michigan Bell for two years before she met and married Donald Stevenson in March of 1947. Don and Suzanne had three daughters while living on Bingham Street and had one more daughter after building a home on a 20-acre parcel of land on 4 Mile Rd.

Ten years later she went to work for Sault Area Schools as a secretary and has been lovingly referred to as the "original working woman" by one of her favorite nieces.

Suzanne was a humanitarian who was involved with many volunteer activities during her lifetime. She always had an interest in helping those less fortunate, such as providing breakfast or warm clothing to the young children who showed up at school without. She was a proud and active member of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians and enjoyed the elder activities. She was also a longstanding member of the First United Presbyterian Church.

Suzanne and Don enjoyed many winters in Florida, along with fishing, camping, and traveling until Don's death in 2007. She remained extremely active with all her volunteering, traveling and family functions. She was adventurous and was willing to drop whatever she was doing to go someplace or do something. Suzanne was a 4-H leader and taught all her daughters to sew. She enjoyed cooking, gardening, cleaning, and organizing. She was a hard worker and an often repeated saying of hers was, "First we get our work done, then we play."

Suzanne is survived by daughters, Carol Metro, Janet (Christopher) Hess and Mary

Arnott; brother, Donald "Mac" (Eileen) Munro; 14 grandchildren: Jenny (Bill) Soden, Dwayne Falkenhagen, Scott Falkenhagen, Cory (Jennifer) Metro, Amy (Owen) Bell, Christian (Sara Weber) Hess, Amy (Mark) King, Kevin (Lindsey) O'Neill, Megan (Hugh Madden) Hess, Tyler Hess, Brody Hess, Jessie (Edward) Lytle, Roxie Arnott and Don Arnott; 19 great-grandchildren, 10 great-great-grandchildren; and many special nieces and nephews.

Suzanne was preceded in death by her husband of 60 years, Don; daughter, Sharyn Steinbach; parents, William "Bill" and Orline Munro; sons-in-law, John Steinbach, Max Metro and John Arnott; great-great grandson, Jett Gravedoni; and brothers, Gerald (Billie) Munro, William "Bid" Munro and Roderick Munro.

"Blessed is he who trusts in the lord" – Proverbs 16:20. She had deep faith and lived by this verse kept on her refrigerator.

A graveside service will be held on Friday, June 28, 2024, at 2:30 p.m. at Oaklawn Chapel Gardens, 15264 M-129, Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.. A meal will follow the service at the Bruce Township Hall, 3156 E 12 Mile Rd., Dafer, Mich. The public is welcome per Suzanne's wishes.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in Suzanne's memory to SAHS Class of 1965 Scholarship Fund; SAHS Class of 1969 Scholarship Fund (both through Chippewa County Community Foundation, 511 Ashmun St., #202, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783); Ball Hospice House (Hospice of EUP), 308 W 12th Ave, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783, or to a charity of your choice.

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

AMBER CHRISTINE (DOTSON) VASSAR

Amber Christine (Dotson) Vassar,

Wabanong Kwe, 39, of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., walked on April 16, 2024, at her home in Sault Ste. Marie.

She was born on May 23, 1984, in Sault Ste. Marie, to Gerald Arthur Dotson and Shelly Ann (Mastaw) Payment.

Amber grew up in Sault Ste. Marie, then earned her GED at Lake Superior State University. She attended Bay Mills Community College and worked at the movie theater and at the welcoming center for the Chamber of Commerce in Sault Ste. Marie. Amber started her family in 2009, becoming a domestic engineer, welcoming twin boys and later three more children that were the light of her life.

Amber "Eastern Sky Women" was a strong Anishinaabe Kwe. She was active in Wellbriety, Recovery Book Club, "Water is Life" supporter and a proud

See "Walking on," page 25



Walking on continued from page 24

Northern Rewards card holder. Amber loved reading, retail therapy, and salon days with her daughter. She also enjoyed family time including movie nights with her brothers (Mike and Kevin) and her mom. Entertaining and cooking holiday dinners were among favorite things to do. She liked taking Native traditional jewelry classes and going to Kewadin Casino.

Amber was a happy mother of five children; and is survived by her significant other, Matt Vassar; her father, Gerald Dotson; grandfather, Gerald Dotson Sr.; siblings of Sault Ste. Marie, Michael (Michelle) Dotson, Kevin (Amanda) Keenan, Ashley (Thomas) Waddell, and Dustin Dotson; great-aunt Mary Hill; uncles, Harvey (Lisa Dietz) Bell, Wayne (Annette) King, William I. Mastaw, Dennis Dotson, Chris (Kimberely) Dotson, Ken Savoie; aunts, Diane (Foster) Boutilier, Ronda Mastaw, Maureen Weller. A niece and nephew.

Amber is preceded in death by her mother, Shelly (Mastaw) Payment; grandparents, William Joseph and Mary Delores Mastaw, Shaunna Dotson; aunts, Linda Savoie and Cheryl Mastaw.

A gathering was held April 18, from 9 a.m. until April 19, at the Niigaanagiizhik Cultural Building in Sault Ste. Marie. Services were held April 19 with a feast following.

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

VERONICA ELAINE ROSS

Veronica Elaine Ross, 84, of Newberry, Mich., passed away peacefully at home on March 13, 2024, under the loving care of her family and North Woods hospice. Veronica was born July 11, 1939, in McMillan, Mich., to the late Alsem and Goldie (Varnes) Archambeau.



Veronica was a 1957 graduate of Newberry High School, and joined the United States Navy on Oct. 6, 1958, serving at the District Intelligence Office in Philadelphia, Pa., where she would eventually meet and marry her husband, Richard E. Ross, on July 11, 1959; she was honorably discharged on Dec. 7, 1959, when they began their family. He preceded her in death on Nov. 9, 2001.

During her husband's 20-year Navy career in submarines, Veronica traveled and re-nested with her growing family in Groton, Conn.; Falls Church, Va.; Honolulu, Hawaii; Vallejo, Calif.; back to Honolulu, Hawaii and then to Key West, Fla.; landing back in Newberry in 1973 upon his retirement. She loved Hawaii best because she never gave birth there! With that said, she loved her family unconditionally, taking care of many nieces, nephews, grandchildren and even great-grandparents throughout the years. She

had an open-door policy, and a joke within the family was that it was a requirement that every-

one had to live with grandma at least once. She helped many who needed a hand up.

Veronica was a devout Catholic with a special love for See "Walking on," page 29



VOTE
MICHAEL MCKERCHIE
 BOARD OF DIRECTORS
UNIT ONE



Let's keep moving forward in a good way. Primary ballots should be in your mailbox soon and I respectfully ask that you use one of your choices to **VOTE MCKERCHIE**.

- I am a graduate of LSSU and previously worked for the Tribe for over 20 years
- I am a full-time board member, sitting on committees, attending events and supporting our Tribe
- I lead by example, and you can be confident in me on any level or at any event
- I make informed decisions that are in the best interests of our Tribe while following our laws
- I will work with anyone who is trying to improve our Tribe and our way of life
- I will not make unobtainable, empty promises to get your vote.

In the next four years, I will focus on:

- Board accountability & preventing micromanaging
- Advocating for treaty rights and cultural growth
- Continuing to fight for higher wages and diversifying our economic growth
- Honoring and improving communications with our Elders and Youth
- Continuing to support separation of powers

MOVE FORWARD TOGETHER

I am dedicated to representing you, no matter where you live, and understand the time and effort to do so. You deserve respectful, responsible leadership. Join me in saying that these values matter.

906-748-7859
FACEBOOK.COM/VOTEMCKERCHIE

Vote Michael J. Lumsden Sault Tribe Unit 1 Board of Directors

A strong leader to protect tribal resources by stopping old guard scammers who are asking voters to re-elect them after they lost millions of tribal dollars! The voters must reject old guard Board Members to turn their tribe around! It's time for new leaders!

This election must be the turning point for our tribe and only the voters can save it from foolish old guard Board Members who have been failing our tribe for two, three, even five terms in office. As a result of incompetent, corrupt old guard board members, our tribe has suffered millions of dollars in losses, damage to its reputation, and had to endure unconstitutional governance for many years. If voters want more money and services from the tribe, they must make the choice to fire inept, old guard Board Members to stop the losses and begin the turnaround under new, competent leadership. The pattern of failure has been in place for many years and it's not going to be reversed without a change in leadership. Michael J. Lumsden, when elected, will use his years of leadership experience to stop the losses, scams, and help the Board of Directors develop profitable businesses by helping it avoid the same mistakes it's been making for two decades. The first step in that process is for voters to fire the remaining dysfunctional old guard Board Members to clear a path to pursue success.

Sault Tribe Inc. has failed to produce a profit and lost \$8-9 million, one more business debacle to add to the list; and what's astonishing is the old guard Board Members who caused the losses are asking the voters to put them back in office, that's outrageous! Voters must avoid voting for old guard political scammers who are trying to avoid responsibility for the financial damage they have caused by writing about everything except the money, the damage, the numbers (losses), the terrible results, because they failed. Let's not allow buffoons to waste millions more dollars of your money feeding their political delusions: it's lunacy!

Our tribe is currently enrolling thousands of new members and it's going to need millions more dollars to help them. The new Board of Directors needs new leaders like Michael J. Lumsden who will make responsible financial decisions that will move the tribe forward, and he will continue to expose the ridiculous scams that continue to be promoted by old guard Board Members to conceal their financial failures. After many years of failure/losses it's time to make a profit! Vote Michael J. Lumsden.

When elected, Michael J. Lumsden will push the following agenda to help our tribe recover from the financial damage caused by old guard Board Members.

1. Our tribe must abandon the current failed tribal economic development model that lost millions of dollars and invest the tribe's money in America's best public corporations and use the profits to build the Elder Fund.
2. Our tribe must explore innovative ways to generate more income by changing the tribe's healthcare model to expand services to more members in the future. Healthcare services must be protected.
3. Our tribe must allow all adult members to run for tribal office regardless of where they live.
4. A priority will be to receive community input on major financial and policy decisions.
5. Our tribe must explore the Treaty Fishery for business opportunities for tribal commercial fishers and sport fishers and support tribal fish stocking programs.
6. A priority will be stopping political scammers (save millions) from establishing failed government economic development models that most likely will result in millions of dollars in losses.
7. A priority will be financially growing the tribe through sound investments in America's public corporations to secure a brighter future for our tribe, which is projected to grow by 5,000 members within the next year.
8. A priority will be providing accurate financial reports that do not shield tribal politicians from exposing their financial failures to the membership.
9. A priority will be to receive community input on major financial and policy decisions.
10. Our tribe must remove all unconstitutional restrictions on freedom of speech/expression from the Tribal Code and amend the Election Code to make it more affordable/easier for more leaders to run for office to strengthen the Board of Directors. The tribe needs more leaders to come forward and run for office to help fix the problems caused by incompetence and lack of leadership vision.
11. The voters must elect leaders that are strong enough to contribute to creating a healthy organizational culture, and a plan to achieve financial success, not dysfunctional, toxic people that cause chaos because they lack leadership skills and don't know how to work effectively with team members/community members. The old-guard-style of dysfunctional Board Members must be replaced by skilled, effective, compassionate leaders that will act like leaders, make wise decisions to avoid millions of dollars in losses and have a positive impact on the people they serve, and give the money to the members before wasting it on foolish economic development schemes.
12. Voters can begin the financial turnaround of their tribe by rejecting incompetent, dysfunctional, unstable old guard Board Members who have been financially running their tribe into the ground for 20 years. This will protect the tribe's resources.
13. A Board of Directors bogged-down by infighting and hatred for each other has no chance of making money for the voters. Old guard Board Members must be rejected and replaced with leaders so our tribe can prosper and reach its financial potential. Members want more services and money, so that means incompetent old guard Board Members need to look for new jobs.
14. The tribe's financial history of project failures and millions of dollars in losses is overwhelming evidence for voters to replace inept old guard Board Members with competent leaders that possess the skills and vision to financially grow the tribe.
15. Tribal members are frustrated because they are constantly being lied to. They are sick and tired of incompetent old guard Board Members failing them and they know that it's time for strong leaders to come forward and lead our tribe out of this financial mess.
16. Please vote to help our new Board of Directors achieve success by replacing failed, inept, dysfunctional old guard Board Members who have lost millions of dollars from the Lansing Casino financial disaster (since 2010, every single off-reservation casino project/proposal has failed, Greentown, Romulus, Lansing) costing the tribe millions of dollars in devastating losses. Our tribe cannot afford to employ incompetent old guard Board Members to bankrupt it with foolish business decisions.
17. A priority will be allocating more dollars to educate and train our tribal members.
18. A priority will be establishing an independent Tribal Court to adjudicate complaints, prevent unconstitutional governance, abuses of power, violations of rights, political scams, and a toxic organizational culture.
19. A priority will be supporting the tribal workforce by reducing organizational toxicity by allowing employees to sue their supervisors, co-workers, and Board Members that violate their rights in Tribal Court.
20. On top of losing millions of tribal dollars, the old guard Board Members violated the rights of their political competitors by banning them from running for office for life and must be replaced by leaders that respect our rights and follow our laws. The old guard must be replaced by people who can lead our tribe.
21. Old guard Board Members abused their power by enacting an unconstitutional Election Code that prohibits candidates from criticizing them by name in the Win Awenen Nisitotung newspaper. Violating our precious right to freedom of speech in our tribe's newspaper is one more reason to replace incompetent, dysfunctional, old guard Board Members with sensible leaders that respect our rights.



Michael J. Lumsden

**VOTE MICHAEL J. LUMSDEN —
A LEADER TO HELP MAKE A PROFIT!**

Please contact the Michael J. Lumsden for Sault Tribe Unit 1 Board of Directors campaign at mlumsden2@yahoo.com. Thank you.

Sexual Assault Awareness Month observed

FROM ARC

April marks the observance of Sexual Assault Awareness Month, a crucial time for communities to come together to raise awareness, educate, and support sexual assault survivors.

It is essential to know that sexual assault affects people of all ages, genders, ethnic backgrounds, religions, and social statuses. Survivors of sexual violence have diverse experiences, and by understanding and acknowledging those experiences, we can work as a community to create inclusive and supportive environments for healing and justice.

According to the National Sexual Violence Resource Center (NSVRC), "Sexual violence is any unwanted sexual contact. This includes words and actions of a sexual nature against a person's will and without their consent. A person may use force, threats, manipulation, or coercion to commit sexual violence." The NSVRC identifies the most common forms of sexual violence as:

- Rape or sexual assault
- Child sexual assault and incest
- Sexual assault by a person's spouse or partner
- Unwanted sexual contact or touching
- Sexual harassment
- Sexual exploitation and trafficking
- Exposing one's genitals or naked body to other(s) without consent
- Masturbating in public
- Watching someone engage in private acts without their knowledge or permission
- Nonconsensual image sharing

One of the goals of community education is to make "CONSENT" a household word. Consent is an agreement between two people. Consent is essentially "getting permission" to touch someone and should always be obtained and never assumed. Teaching children and young adults about consent from a young age can create healthier dating behaviors

and relationships. Explaining to our children that NO means NO regarding touching someone else or entering the personal space can better prepare them and help them understand consent and why it is necessary.

Another vital aspect of preventing sexual assault and sexual violence is to emphasize the importance of bystander intervention. We must encourage bystanders to speak up and intervene when they witness potentially harmful situations. Most people choose not to get involved and feel it is not their business or assume someone else will say something. However, bystanders can prevent sexual assault from happening, whether it's the first incident or ongoing abuse. If a child is being abused and a bystander overhears something or suspects abuse may be happening, reporting it anonymously may prevent that child from a lifetime of repeated abuse. As always, if you see something, say something.

Victim blaming is a preju-

dice against the victim of the crime rather than the perpetrator. Victim blaming is used most often against domestic and sexual violence survivors. It is crucial to believe survivors of sexual abuse. It is not up to you to decide if someone is a victim of sexual abuse. Do not blame the victim. It is NOT the victim's fault they experienced sexual abuse.

Often, people judge the victim and place blame on their actions before choosing to believe the person was abused "for no reason." People are quick to point out that the victim may have been drinking, the way the survivor was dressed, or claimed the victim was "asking for it." Victim blaming is a large part of "rape culture," which is society's stereotypes and views on sexual abuse.

Media often makes light of rape culture by normalizing rape and excusing the objectification of women. It is essential to place the blame where it lies, in the

hands of the perpetrator. We must believe all survivors and help them receive the help and support they need to begin the healing process.

If you are a survivor of sexual assault, help is available. The Advocacy Resource Center (ARC) has advocates on hand to offer support and guidance. Anyone can use ARC services. Contact an advocate at (906) 632-1808.

If you suspect child sexual abuse, report it to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services at (855) 444-3911 (or your local DHHS if not in Michigan) and your local police department. If you see something, say something. You can remain anonymous.

Find more information about sexual violence at www.rainn.org. RAINN is the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network and has hotlines available 24/7 or a live chat option on the website. You can also visit www.arcsaulttribe.com for more information.

A LEADER You CAN TRUST
A LEADER We DESERVE

AANII! MY NAME IS LORRIE (PAVLAT) JUMP AND I AM ASKING FOR YOUR VOTE FOR TRIBAL CHAIRWOMAN AND UNIT ONE REPRESENTATIVE.

MY EXPERIENCE

- CEO, 1ST NATIONAL HELPLINE SERVING NATIVE AMERICANS
50 STAFF & \$5M BUDGET
- FOUNDED UTFAV, STATEWIDE COALITION SERVING MI TRIBES
- 27 YRS TRIBAL EMPLOYEE
- DEEP UNDERSTANDING OF SOVEREIGNTY, CONSTITUTION & TRIBAL LAWS, FEDERAL LEGISLATION, ETC. I KNOW HOW THE TRIBE WORKS!

I SUPPORT

- SEPARATION OF POWERS, INDEPENDENT JUDICIAL SYSTEM REPRESENTATION FOR AT LARGE CITIZENS
- INCREASED ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE, INCLUDING TELEMEDICINE FOR AT LARGE CITIZENS
- TRANSPARENCY - TRIBAL CITIZENS HAVE A RIGHT TO KNOW WHAT THE TRIBE AND THEIR REPS ARE DOING!
- BUSINESS DIVERSIFICATION - MORE CASINOS ARE NOT THE ANSWER


UNITE OUR BOARD AND SERVE ALL TRIBAL CITIZENS.



VOTE

LORRIE (PAVLAT) JUMP
SAULT TRIBE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Lorrie Jump endorses this advertisement



VOTE KIM GRAVELLE - UNIT 1

Together we can make a difference.

- ✓ Experienced Leadership, Professional Decisionmaking
- ✓ Respected Tribal Elder with over 30 Years of Experience at the Federal Level.

WITH THE RIGHT LEADERSHIP, WE CAN HAVE A BRIGHT FUTURE. MIIGWECH.

This ad is endorsed by Kim Gravelle

Goetz presents thesis on implications of war on terror



LSSU senior, Marine Corps veteran and Sault Tribe member Jeremy Goetz .

LSSU senior, Marine Corps veteran and Sault Tribe member Jeremy Goetz recently attended the 81st Annual Midwest Political Science Association Conference held at the

Palmer House in Chicago, Ill., to present his senior thesis research on the political implications of the War on Terror. Following graduation, Goetz, a political

science major with a concentration in pre-law and a former Marine Corps infantry squad leader, seeks to publish his research with the Journal of Critical Military Studies.

TED Grant Scholarship

TED \$1,000 Grant Scholarship – Winter/Spring semester.

Application period is now open with deadline of May 31, 2024. Open to Sault Tribe members enrolled in U.S. undergraduate, graduate, or vocational school this semester; both part-time or full-time.

Applications and required documents should be submitted via email to education@saulttribe.net.

Visit saulttribe.com/membership-services/education or email education@saulttribe.net for an application.

Ingalls bags her first Tom turkey



Olivia Ingalls, 11, shot her first Tom turkey on April 21 in Muskegon County. Olivia is a tribal member and the daughter of Adam and Megan Ingalls of Twin Lake, Mich.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS WHILE IN OFFICE



SPEARHEADED THE LODGE OF HOPE HOUSING PROGRAM



INCREASED LAND BASE BY 15% #LANDBACK



ESTABLISHED FOOD SOVERIGNTY COMMITTEE



VOTED VICE-PRESIDENT OF UNITED TRIBES OF MICHIGAN



NEGOTIATED REDUCTION OF \$88M LAWSUIT TO \$25M



ENSURED DISTRIBUTION OF ALMOST \$100M IN DIRECT PAYMENTS TO SAULT TRIBE CITIZENS, INCLUDING THOSE LIVING AT LARGE.

RE-ELECT CHAIRMAN LOWES

THIS ADVERTISEMENT IS ENDORSED BY AUSTIN LOWES
BETTY FREIHEIT ENDORSES THE USE OF HER PHOTOGRAPH IN THIS AD

VOTE

HOFFMAN

CHAIRMAN

Executive Education Management Certificate • National Indian Gaming Association Certificate • MASB Certified School Board Member • Commissioner, Sault Tribe Housing Authority • Gaming Commissioner, Gaming Authority Member • Conservation Committee Member During Last Consent Decree (1997-2001)

EXPERIENCED LEADERSHIP, REPRESENTING ALL TRIBAL MEMBERS

VISIT ME ON THE WEB AT: WWW.DJHOFFMAN.COM
BY PHONE: (906) 203-0510 OR EMAIL: DJWHOFFMAN@HOTMAIL.COM

Paid for by the committee to elect DJ Hoffman Tribal Chairman

Telemedicine at remote community health centers

BY MARLENE GLAESMANN
RN MPA, RURAL HEALTH
PROGRAM MANAGER

With the vision and support of the tribal board, tribal administration, the health division administration, as well as the dedication and expertise of the telemedicine service teams located at the tribal health centers across the Upper Peninsula, 256 medical visits were provided during year one of the Telemedicine Service Project.

With the use of modern, state-of-the-art telemedicine units located at the tribal community health centers in Hessel, Newberry, Gladstone and Marquette, tribal members who live far distances from the main ambulatory care clinics in St. Ignace, Manistique and Munising are now able to access medical care services from the remote communities where they live. This service will go live at the Sault Ste. Marie and DeTour sites within the coming months.

The telemedicine project began in January 2023 with the installation of the telemedicine equipment at the remote sites and the training of Medical/Nursing teams to operate the equipment. The direct, in-person outreach to tribal members located in the remote communities has been an integral, continuous and labor-intensive part of the project. As telemedicine teams have become more comfortable with the technolo-



Dr. Leo Chugunov,
Health Division director

gy, equipment and service, the project has now been expanded from Elders only to all ages of patients from 6 years old to 100-plus years old.

Patients eligible for this service are those that already have a tribal medical provider and have a diagnosis of heart disease, hypertension, diabetes, ADHD, weight management and depression-anxiety health conditions. Depending on the stability of the health conditions, members may or may not qualify for health care services using telemedicine. The eligibility should be discussed with your medical provider or by contacting the remote tribal site.

To maintain clinical and medical standards of care, annual physical examinations are still completed during a face-to-face clinic visit with medical providers located at



Joel Lumsden,
Assistant Health Division director

the main ambulatory care sites in St. Ignace, Manistique and Munising. Instead of traveling long distances two to four times per year to the main ambulatory care centers for follow-up visits for certain health conditions, members can now be seen by telemedicine at local tribal community health centers. As time goes on, the project continues to provide outstanding clinical standards of care across the tribe's seven-county service area. The primary focus is to address one of the long-standing barriers for Native American wellbeing, which is access to high quality health care. The telemedicine ser-

vice teams continue to provide superior health care services for patients living in remote communities and are to be commended for the commitment and dedication to the Telemedicine Project.

Contact numbers to the remote Tribal Community Health Centers:

Hessel Tribal Community Health Center — (906) 484-2727

Newberry Tribal Community Health Center — (906) 293-8181

Gladstone Tribal Community Health Center — (906) 341-1836

Marquette Tribal Community Health Center — (906) 225-1616



Newberry Community Health Center telemedicine team: April Morgan, CHT, MAII (top), Nicole Maudrie, Clerk (bottom left), and Lois Bryant, Clerk (bottom right).



Gladstone Community Health Center telemedicine team: Tara Duchene (top left), Stephanie Craddock, CHT (top right), Logan Trusty, NA (left center), Cherokee Erickson, RN (bottom left) and Denise Greff, RD (bottom right).



Marquette Community Health Center telemedicine team: Stephanie DePetro (top left), Valerie Ford, RN (top right), and Cassie Steinhoff, RD (bottom).



Hessel Community Health Center telemedicine team: Cara Kuenzer (top), Kelly Kopko (left) and Krysta Potoczak.



Marlene Glaesmann, RN, MPA, telemedicine project manager



Cheryl LaPlaunt, RN, MPA, assistant project manager



Nicole Fuson, MHA, project coordinator



Heather Nord, project coordinator



Jenni O'Dell, RN, BSN, assistant project manager



Dr. Michelle Kroupa-Kulik, project medical director



Dr. Myrth Condon, FNP, Munising medical provider



Margaret Comfort, PA, Manistique medical provider



Dr. Christine Hamilton, St. Ignace medical provider



Andrew Rife, PA, St. Ignace medical provider

Walking on continued...

From "Walking on," page 25
Our Lady and Our Lord. She was

a constant figure at St. Gregory's Catholic Church, teaching, praying and quietly working behind the scenes making sure the rhythm of the liturgical seasons went on as if they had a life of their own. When her long years of confinement started, she was still a wealth of information for those trying to follow in her footsteps. She was loved by

many in her church family, and she loved them.

Veronica was a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

Veronica is preceded in death by her parents, as well as her sisters Lucille Glenn, Kathleen Kujala, Barbara Edgar and brother, Raymond Archambeau. Sister-in-law, Julia Archambeau; and brothers-in-law Coral Edgar, Joe Glenn,

John Drefs, Tom Kujala.

Veronica is survived by her daughter Janet (Louie) Linck, of Newberry; sons Richard (Amy) Ross, of Ellenboro, N.C.; James (Lynette) Ross of Alanson, Mich.; John Ross of Naubinway, Mich. and Guy (Theresa) Ross of Alamogordo, N.M.; one sister, Laura Drefs, of Newberry, and one brother, Carl (Mary) Archambeau of East Lansing, Mich.; 18 grandchildren, 24

great-grandchildren, with two more great-grands and one great-great grandchild on the way.

Visitation was held at Beaulieu Funeral Home in Newberry on March 19, 2024. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on March 20, 2024 at St. Gregory's Catholic Church with Father Jacek Wtyklo officiating. Rite of Committal with full military rites conducted by the United States Navy Honor

Guard and the American Legion Post #74 followed at Forest Home Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. Gregory Catholic Church, 212 West Harrie Street, Newberry, Michigan or to Michigan Right to Life.

Condolences may be expressed at www.beaulieufuneralhome.com

Beaulieu Funeral in Newberry is assisting the family.

Sault Tribe Health Division proudly recognizes stellar team members of 2023

In a year marked by dedication, compassion and unwavering commitment to healthcare excellence, the Sault Tribe Health Division proudly recognizes its outstanding team members who have exemplified these values throughout 2023.

January kicked off with Appointment Programmer Clerk Tia Radle, setting the standard for excellence. Tia's meticulous attention to detail and exceptional organizational skills ensured seamless appointment scheduling, enhancing the division's operations.

February shone a spotlight on Ms. Edy Reno, a stalwart in Medical Records. Edy's dedication to accuracy and confidentiality earned her admiration

and respect among colleagues, contributing significantly to the division's success.

March brought forth a collective celebration as the Pharmacy Department at the Sault Ste. Marie Health Center emerged as the month's standout. Despite challenges, the Pharmacy team displayed resilience and selflessness, ensuring patients received vital medication amidst system difficulties.

April saw Patient Care Coordinator Nicole (Niki) McKechnie honored for her invaluable contributions. Niki's commitment to patient care and her compassionate approach garnered widespread appreciation from both patients and colleagues alike.

May welcomed Medical Records Health Assistant Anne Cromel, into the spotlight. Anne's dedication to her work, coupled with her kindness and compassion, make her an indispensable asset to the team.

June recognized Community Health Nurse Supervisor Jenni O'Dell for her exemplary leadership and dedication to public health. Jenni's steadfast commitment to community well-being earned her admiration and gratitude.

July celebrated Brittany Brock, health assistant for Registration, for her unwavering dedication and invaluable contributions to the community. Brittany's commitment to excellence and professionalism set a high standard for

her peers.

August illuminated Patient Care Coordinator Kimberly Menard for her outstanding service and deep-rooted commitment to tribal members. Kimberly's passion for helping others and her compassionate nature make her a cherished member of the team.

September spotlighted Optician Linda Hammonds for her 25 years of dedicated service. Linda's vibrant energy and passion for patient care enriched the lives of those she served.

October honored Teresa Filan, RN, for her exemplary commitment to diabetic care and her dedication to improving health outcomes for her patients.

November highlighted Security Specialist Murray

Meehan, whose deep-rooted commitment to community safety and service earned him widespread recognition and respect.

Finally, December closed the year with the well-deserved recognition of Tami Duncan, RN, whose remarkable 38-year career left a legacy of excellence and compassion.

As we reflect on the remarkable achievements of these individuals, we extend our heartfelt gratitude for their unwavering dedication and commitment to serving the community. Their exemplary contributions inspire us all and embody the spirit of the Sault Tribe Health Division's mission to provide exceptional healthcare services with compassion and integrity.

Recognizing Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives in May

BY JESS GILLOTTE-KING, ADVOCACY RESOURCE CENTER COMMUNITY EDUCATOR

In the United States, Native American women are two and a half times more susceptible to experiencing violence in their lifetime than any other demographic. The Bureau of Indian Affairs reported that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey, American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) females experienced the second highest rate of homicide in 2020. Notably, in 2020, homicide was among the top ten leading causes of death for AI/AN females aged 1-45.

The last known count of missing and murdered women was 5,712 in 2016 by the U.S. Department of Justice's federal missing persons database, according to the National Crime Information Center. However, the Bureau of Indian Affairs states the National Information Clearinghouse and Resource Center for missing, unidentified, and unclaimed person cases across the United States, called the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs), only logged 116 of those

cases. The issue remains consistent in the United States and Canada; the data is incomplete, which creates a barrier and continues our invisibility.

The United States government cannot provide a valid reason why they have been unable to protect and accurately report these missing women.

Their reasons have included: Jurisdictional issues between state and tribal land; A lack of communication between tribes and government officials; A lack of community awareness and support and insufficient services such as amber alerts and media coverage.

In November 2019, President Donald Trump formed Operation Lady Justice (OLJ) to enhance the criminal justice system and address the concerns of indigenous communities regarding missing and murdered people.

Savanna's Act was passed in 2020 and is designed to assist authorities in responding more efficiently to cases of missing and murdered. The belief is that law enforcement coordinated responses, data collection, and information sharing will improve the response to missing and murdered indigenous people.

Various initiatives have since been introduced to address the issue, such as designated task forces, increased funding for support services for MMIR families, and culturally sensitive protocols for law enforcement.

The MMIR, originally the MMIW(W=Women) movement, is finally receiving increased global attention, with advocacy groups, governments, and organizations working to raise awareness to address the crisis. Television shows, documentaries, movies, and mainstream media have also contributed to the newfound awareness of MMIR. For example, NBC's ten-episode series, "Alaska Daily," Sundance Film Festival's Murder in "Big Horn," and others such as "Highway of Tears," "Finding Dawn," "Say Her Name," and "Somebody's Daughter" have

drawn much attention to viewers who may have never know of the issue.

Please honor our missing and murdered Indigenous people by wearing red throughout May. Wearing red is a way to remember and respect our missing and murdered loved ones. In some tribes, red is known to be the only color that spirits can see. By wearing red, the voices of the missing and murdered are represented and remembered. The original creator of the Red Dress campaign, Jaime Black, of the Metis Aboriginal Group from Canada, stated that red is the lifeblood and connection to all of us.

The ARC is currently seeking information to add to the MMIR database to track the numbers of our missing and murdered Sault Tribe relatives. Relatives or

friends with information about a missing or murdered Sault Tribe member are encouraged to contact Jess Gillotte-King, Community Educator, at (906) 632-1808 with their information. The information provided does not have to be current; all relatives are significant, and every relative matters. The ARC wants to maintain an accurate count of our tribal members who have been taken from us. The ARC has also created a Missing Persons Toolkit to assist families if a loved one goes missing.

Toolkits are available at the Advocacy Resource Center by calling (906) 632-1808. For more information or ways to honor missing and murdered relatives, visit the ARC's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/saulttribeARC or the ARC official website at www.arcsaulttribe.com.

Tribal dietitians make healthy power bowls



Registered Dietitians Kylie Coffey, Mary Bunker and Jennifer Schmidgall of the Sault Tribe Health Center helped Big Bear visitors create their own power bowls on March 20. The event not only provided a learning experience for those who visited but delivered a nutrient-filled lunch.

TRIBAL MEMBER REGISTRATION IN THE TAX AGREEMENT AREA

TRIBAL MEMBERS' RESPONSIBILITIES

(Including the Issuance of Certificates of Exemptions)

INITIAL REGISTRATION AND OR CHANGE OF ADDRESS

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

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

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

CERTIFICATE OF EXEMPTIONS

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

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

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

MAT services to start up in upcoming months



AUSTIN LOWES
TRIBAL CHAIRMAN

Aaniin! I will begin my unit report by discussing something very important to me, and that topic is substance abuse services that are currently being developed by our tribe. As many know,

Native Americans are disproportionately impacted by substance abuse. This is due to generational poverty, historical trauma, environmental factors, and other social determinants. Due to the emergence of fentanyl in Indian County, which is 100 times stronger than morphine and 50 times stronger than heroin, there has been a dramatic increase in overdose deaths in tribal communities. To address this, the Sault Tribe has taken several measures, which I will discuss in this unit report.

The first is medication assisted treatment (MAT) services. This service treats individuals diagnosed with Opioid and Alcohol Use Disorder. It provides them with harm reduction medication to mitigate their withdrawal symptoms, which decreases the likelihood that they'll relapse.

This service also utilizes behavioral therapy to help patients develop insight and coping skills. MAT services are evidenced based, save lives, and have become the standard of care in treating many substance abuse disorders.

I previously announced that the tribe passed a budget to start a MAT clinic. Since then, the tribe has leased space for the clinic, which will open in the upcoming months. The tribe also recently hired an experienced provider to operate this clinic. I have no doubt that this service will be a valuable community resource that will save many lives.

In addition to MAT services, I firmly believe that the tribe should provide a permanent location for Wellbriety, Alcoholics Anonymous (AA), and Narcotics Anonymous (NA) meetings. I

support this taking place at the Church of the Nazarene building on Shunk Road, which the tribe has owned for several years. This church is currently being renovated and when finished, I believe it would be a perfect location for recovery meetings.

To financially support these services, the tribe can utilize opioid settlement funds. Several years ago, the Sault Tribe joined a class action lawsuit against the pharmaceutical industry for how they contributed to the opioid epidemic. A massive judgement was reached, with the Sault Tribe's portion amounting to several million dollars. I have been working with our program directors to develop proposals for how this money can be best spent.

The funds must be used to mitigate the impact of opioid abuse, but within this, there are

many options. Funds could be earmarked for the following: inpatient services, scholarships for students in recovery, housing assistance for those in recovery, additional resources for our Drug Court, additional resources for our Traditional Medicine program, harm reduction tools such as Narcan and fentanyl test strips, and more. I am passionate about this because like many people in our tribal community, I have witnessed so many loved one struggle with substance abuse over the years. Prior to being elected chairman of the Sault Tribe, I worked directly with this population as a social worker, which was a great passion of mine. It has been a privilege improving services and advocating for this population while serving the Sault Tribe as chairman.

Austin Lowes

Working on more and better Unit II housing



LANA CAUSLEY-SMITH,
DIRECTOR, UNIT II

I will start my report updating on the new quadplex in

Newberry and Duplex in Hessel. Last week the bids were open to complete the environmental testing on the locations (both on the existing housing sites due to the infrastructure in place). This is a first step in the process to begin moving forward for these much needed new rentals for our members.

Director Lee and I will also be sponsoring a resolution to request the ARPA dollars to fund all the applications in Unit 2 that need rehabilitation or replacement on their homes. This is for the people that have had applications in for some time — this will clearly assist members through our entire unit. We will

be placing this on the agenda for approval and discussion on May 7, 2024. I will update next month on the outcome.

Also, I have spoken to colleagues and on the tribal board and we plan to sponsor a resolution to get the process started to approve legislation to plan for a constitutional amendment for "separation of powers." This will secure rule and code that the legislature, executive and judicial branches all have distinct roles and responsibilities to carry out for checks and balances.

After many discussions, including a full Constitution Committee of members in the past to try and accomplish this,

I'm hoping we can finally move forward with this much needed amendment. And, to be very frank, with the majority vote being down to six it should pass without problem.

We have recently passed a resolution to help fund the Rudyard school pool. Together with the school, we are attempting to make it more accessible to our students and also thoughts to start swimming lessons. Reminder: We also have a contact in place with Newberry Joy Hospital to allow members to use the facility there for fitness.

Our Newberry and Hessel powwow committee meetings will be starting up real soon.

It is an honor to be part of that planning and gathering, so if you are interested in becoming a committee member or wanted to help, please reach out to Kim or I and we can get you the dates and times once they start.

In closing, I would like to say Chi Miigwech to all who are part and have been part of our Sault Tribe Inc. I feel we have had great success this far with the plan and vision and I will support continued growth in our economic development.

As always, please contact me if you would like to meet or need my help or want to discuss items: lcausley@saulttribe.net, (906) 322- 3818.

Rush of enrollment applications a daunting task



KIMBERLY LEE,
DIRECTOR, UNIT II

Aanii, May is upon us. The season for outdoor planting and gardening is almost here. Following the wisdom of my Nokomis, I always wait until after Mother's Day to start planting, and it has never failed me.

In other news, Units 1 and 2 have recently allocated 2% funding to support the maintenance, repair, and staffing retention of the Rudyard area school pool. This funding will allow tribal members' students to enjoy free swim lessons and acquire valuable life lessons and skills. Moreover, it will provide future lifeguarding opportunities for our tribal youth and parents, which can be exciting and rewarding. We'll keep you updated on when these lessons

are expected to begin.

As of April 12, the Enrollment Department has received 3,737 applications, and all have been opened and tracked. The enrollment team has already enrolled 382 members, which is a remarkable achievement, given that it's only been two months. It is a daunting task, but our department is working hard to ensure a smooth and efficient enrollment process.

Recently, I met a newly enrolled member, and it was an incredible experience. The deep connection with our ancestors was felt, and I couldn't help but say, "Welcome home." I want every member who has been waiting. I apologize that it took so long for them to be able to join us. To every newly enrolled member, I would like to extend a heartfelt "welcome home." We appreciate the hard work and commitment of the enrollment committee. "Chi miigwech" to your team.

The tribe's conversion fishermen can finally sigh with relief as the stressor that held them overwhelmed has been lifted. While the small boat captains may not be entirely satisfied with the decision, it's crucial to consider the broader perspective. These fishermen will remain subject to regulations, and the chair has the authority to shut down their operations if neces-

sary to safeguard the resource from becoming overstrained.

Epoufette Access Road Update: Sault Tribe Construction is preparing to construct the Epoufette Access Road this year, according to the latest update. Last year, the project was affected by personnel transitions, but the team now has a new manager who has inspected the site with the project surveyor. They are currently working on obtaining the necessary permits for tree removal and road construction.

Sault Tribe Inc. will likely be discussed in various directors' reports. However, several uncertainties surround the matter at the moment, and therefore, I am refraining from commenting on it.

To address the issue of speeding and ensure safety for road users, a caution light will soon be installed on 3-mile road in Hessel, close to the housing site and casino. Additionally, we are exploring the possibility of installing speed bumps at both housing locations for non-winter months only. Wendy Hoffman has been instrumental in guiding these projects, and we are grateful for her support in promoting safety-related initiatives, as well as the research that it takes.

Lastly, we would like to remind everyone of the annual curbside cleanup. This is an

excellent opportunity to declutter your yard and space. For Newberry and Hessel, the cleanup date will be Thursday, June 6, and all items should be curbside by 6 a.m. Please read the flyers carefully, as yard and hazardous waste are not accepted. Thank

you for doing your part in keeping our communities clean and safe.

I hope you are well and looking after one another and that I will see some of your friendly faces in the coming months.

Miigwech for your time.



April birthdays — Dave Nainan and Sharon Kennedy were recognized on April 24 following the Sault Tribal Elder Center luncheon. The guests sang a rousing rendition of "Happy Birthday" before cutting the cake and dipping up ice cream.

Director Hampton reports on Unit IV matters



KIMBERLY HAMPTON,
DIRECTOR, UNIT IV

Aniin kina waya (hello everybody).

Spring is now upon us and I send well wishes to you all. The winter season has a tendency to leave individuals feeling isolated and sad. As the sun begins shining I encourage you all to reach out to individuals, take a walk, get dirty in a garden, get involved in community activities. I would like to openly welcome all to keep an eye out for additional activities in the Manistique and Escanaba locations as our new fitness center and community centers begin to open. When the time is appropriate there will be grand openings for these facilities so stay tuned for those announcements.

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, May 23, 2024, at 7 p.m. EST; Meeting ID: 906 440 8138; Password: KimHampton

Pow Wow Meetings

Throughout the upcoming year there will be regularly scheduled Pow Wow meetings to keep the committee on task. **SAVE THE DATE** for the 2024 Niiwin Noodin Pow Wow scheduled for June 8, 2024.

Pow Wow Meetings are scheduled as follows:

May 6, 2024, at 5 p.m., Manistique Tribal Center, 5698W US 2, Manistique, MI 49854

May 13, 2024, at 5 p.m., Manistique Tribal Center, 5698W US 2, Manistique, MI 49854

May 20, 2024, at 5 p.m., Manistique Tribal Center, 5698W US 2, Manistique, MI 49854

June 3, 2024, at 5 p.m., Manistique Tribal Center, 5698W US 2, Manistique, MI 49854

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 open Maamawi Craft Night is scheduled for Thursday, June 20, 2024, from 5:30-7:30 p.m., EST at the Manistique Tribal Health Center, 5698W US Highway 2, Manistique, MI. There are no skills required to join. Bring a project to work on, work on a group project, or just come to socialize. There will be miscellaneous crafting supplies to get us started. Everyone is encouraged to bring their own snacks and/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 Manistique will be held May 8, 2024 at 12:00pm EST at the Manistique Tribal Center.

The next meeting in Escanaba will be held May 8, 2024 at 5:00pm EST at the Delta County Chamber Building.

March/April Activities

Collaboration with the Schoolcraft County Historical Society: The Tribe's repatriation department worked with the Schoolcraft County Historical Society in obtaining Native artifacts that were discovered during the 1920s excavation and building of the Indian Lake Golf Course. This process was completed on April 4, 2024. I want to give a huge shout out to Emma Donmyer from our Language and Culture Department, for all of her hard work in the repatriation of these items.

Tribal Homeland Security Advisory Council (THSAC)

Myself and the rest of THSAC are currently taking a breather after our first assignment and briefing.

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 March and April 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. Sault Tribe is currently actively seeking candidates for open positions at these two locations so please visit the Sault Tribe website, employment section.

Manistique Dental and Pharmacy Expansion

There are plans beginning to expand the Manistique Dental and Pharmacy departments to allow for more dental operators, update dental equipment, attain a mobile Dental unit, and expand the Pharmacy department to allow for efficiency and add a drive through Pharmacy. There are currently limited updates to provide as the team is working with the consulting firm Bluestone with budgets, plans, etc. More updates on these projects will be provided as the projects progress.

Community Events

March/April:

3/12/2024- Board workshop; board meeting

3/13/2024-Attended Manistique Elder meeting and Escanaba Elder meeting

3/14/2024-Attended an update meeting on Manistique Fitness Center and Escanaba Community Center

3/15/2024-Attended Elder Advisory Committee meeting

3/18/2024-Met with the Manistique Area Schools superintendent to being a partnership; attended Niiwin Noodin Pow Wow Committee meeting

3/19/2024-Kewadin Gaming Authority meeting, board workshop and board meeting

3/20/2024-Participated in the monthly state of Michigan and Tribal Nations meeting

3/21/2024-Maamawii Craft Night; held Katchup with Kim Zoom meeting to discuss code of ethics

3/26/2024-Board workshop

4/1/2024-Attended an indigenous research forum

4/2/2024-Board workshop and board meeting

4/3/2024-Attended Election Commission meeting

4/9/2024-JKL Fiduciary Committee meeting; board workshop

4/10/2024-Participated in Manistique Fitness Center walk

through; attended Manistique Elder Meeting and Escanaba Elder Meeting

4/11/2024-Attended progress update meeting for Manistique Fitness Center and Escanaba Community Center

4/15/2024-Niiwin Noodin Pow Wow Committee meeting

4/16/2024-Participated in the Region 1 UP quality collaborative meeting

4/17/2024-Attended Board Appeal hearing; participated in the monthly state of Michigan and Tribal Nations meeting; held Katchup with Kim

4/18/2024-Attended Election Commission meeting

4/19/2024-4/21/2024-Chaperoned two Tribal Youth Council members for the NSTEM program at MSU

down in Lansing

4/22/2024-Attended board workshop regarding opioid settlement; attended Conservation Committee meeting

Looking Forward

I look forward to re-engaging with members during Katchup with Kim sessions, attending Maamawi Craft Nights, planning 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.

Audit showed many problems with health billing



ISAAC MCKECHNIE
DIRECTOR, UNIT I

Dear Citizens,

Over the past two years, we have been focusing on health care reform, so this month I plan to address one of the major issues within our health systems.

Back in 2020, the tribal board hired Claim Care, a consultant firm to conduct a billing process audit and analysis for our health systems. They determined that we have a pervasive billing problem, which spans across the entire billing processes of our health care systems. Many

of these problems are causing complications with billing delays, collections, and compliance. In addition, it appears that we losing millions of dollars in collections each year. The Claim Care

audit was completed in 2020; they indicated that there was a clear path to rectify these problems but to my knowledge none of their recommendations were every implemented. I feel it will require changes beyond the four walls of the billing department, therefore, I am pledging to keep this in the spot light until these issues have been rectified.

After reviewing the audit, it looks like some of our providers are the biggest contributors to these billing problems. The biggest hurdle will be from within, where we hear all the time, "We have always done it this way." This mindset will be a major obstacle to overcome for the entire tribe. A key to solving any problem is first understanding WHY that problem exists. Although we our aware of the billing issues that exist with charge entry delays, eliminating that problem involves understanding the root causes of why the problem exists. I plan

to spend a fair amount of time delving into why these problems exist, because many elements of the solution become self-evident once the source of the problem is understood.

This wide span of issues leads to billing, compliance, and revenue complications. Delays in the billing issues average between three and six months, and in many cases even longer. Typically, we would expect charges to be out within two to three business days of the encounter. Many of the compliance issues result from poor documentation that leads data entry staff to make best guesses at times for billing purpose. For example, medical codes are being selected that are not always supported by the documentation, month long delays in requesting clarification make it hard for providers to remember what was done and why. These types of problems put us at risk of failing a payer audit and being required to pay back money and/or fines.

As for the revenue loss, we will need to focus on getting the older dates of service current, coupled with lack of useful

reporting, making follow-up less effective than it could be. This appears to be costing millions per year in lost collections. Lack of reporting makes patterns hard to spot. Lack of reconciliation makes it hard to spot potentially missed encounters and payments.

Some key points about potential lost revenue and denials is our billing process only leaves denials in the system that are not successfully overturned. Therefore, the total initial denials are higher than the numbers reflected in the system when you are looking back. In the future, we need to look back at so that we can see the magnitude of ACCEPTED denials, which is what is ultimately costing the practice revenue. In most medical practices this is where billing problems begin and is no exception.

Another major issue is the bad demographics, such as billing the wrong insurances, incorrect contact information, etc. If these are not obtained when required, then the claims will be denied. In many cases these cannot be obtained retroactively. This means that revenue is lost, and extra work is incurred. Bad

demographics lead to delays in being able to bill claims or result in denials that must be worked on the back end. This is never good, but it is particularly bad when there is three- to six-month delay before patients are contacted after a visit to ask for their updated information.

Another huge concern is that labs and other tests that are required to complete a claim arrive from seven different sources and are slow in making it to billing because they are submitted on paper, sent via mail and do not go directly to the billing department. These inputs are required for billing because sometimes certain tests end up not being performed by the lab. Currently, the billing department is seeing long delays in these invoices arriving to their department. When the information does arrive, it is on paper and is manually sorted and worked to complete claim creation in RPMS. The manual process is very time consuming, tedious and slow process delay before patients are contacted after a visit to ask for updated information. The documentation, and lack

See McKechnie on Page 33

Unit V director reports on tribal events, issues



TYLER LAPLAUNT
DIRECTOR, UNIT V

Aanii, Boozhoo,

We are officially in Spring and it's off to a slow start as usual. With all things, change never comes quickly or easily and the seasons, especially in the U.P., constantly remind us of that. As we head into the warmer months, I'm looking forward to beautiful sunny days, talks around campfires, harvesting in the forests, BBQs, picnics, and powwows. Speaking of powwows, I hope some of you had the chance to make it to KBIC's contest powwow in Marquette. It was truly amazing, with some of the best drummers and dancers across the country. Just a beautiful display of our culture.

Update on open enrollment. As of April 12, there have been 3,737 applications entered into the tracking system. These are adults only. They have enrolled 30 members this week. To date, they have enrolled 382 members since Feb. 1, including children, and 13 applications have been denied. This is a tenuous process for our Enrollment Department, and they will continue to do their due diligence to ensure that only those applicants who can properly trace lineage are enrolled.

Last month, I had reported on the transition of Indian Energy

(IE) from the board to our EDC. Since then, the board received an invite by IE to come and view their project and to ease any concerns we may have had by reviewing their business plan and financials. We decided to take them up on their offer to answer some questions we had and not hold up any future work, if it is indeed legitimate. Isaac McKechnie, Treasurer, Robert Schulte, CFO, Aaron Schlehner, General Counsel, and I, all traveled down to meet the IE team and review the Viejas microgrid project, and discuss the business investment our tribe made over a decade ago.

Laying our eyes on the project itself was truly amazing. The size and scope of the project is huge and the infrastructure is top of the line, and above all, exists. It's a bit different seeing it with your own eyes than reading reports and hoping the tribe will some day receive a return on our investment. While I will remain vigilant and critical of the relationship, this site visit gave us an entirely new outlook. IE answered all of the questions we asked, provided all of the documentation we needed, and put to rest some of the fears and concerns that were lingering.

I am reluctant to let my guard down on any of our investments, however, I am now a believer in this project and would like us to see it through. IE is not asking for any further investment from the tribe, just support to continue to move forward. If they are successful, the Viejas Tribe will have a full clean energy solar array and microgrid, and our tribe will see its initial return on investment. Positive energy to the IE team and that our continued relationship be successful and fruitful for the future of our tribe.

We have quite a few things moving forward with our health-

care adjustments. We have decided to move forward with a CEO of Health to oversee the business operations of the Health Division. This search could take upwards of six months from start to finish, but it is currently posted. If you or someone you know has a background in healthcare or healthcare administration, please take a look or share it out.

We are also in the final processes of selecting a new Electronic Health Record (EHR) system. Our Health Division currently operates the RPMS model that is a significantly antiquated product. We should have our selection by the beginning of June, at which point implementation can take upwards of a full year. A new EHR system will be beneficial on all fronts of our Health Division, from our Providers to our Accounting team to the patient, it's a full fix on the transmission of information and continuity of care. The best part, any new system that we go with will come with a patient portal. This will put you, the patient, front and center of your own records. I'm really looking forward to this long-needed fix. Our entire tribe will benefit from a new EHR.

We also just began the implementation of a Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) program to assist those with Substance and Opioid Use Disorder (SUD/ODU). Our tribe doesn't currently have a MAT program, and this is a huge step forward towards recovery services. The staff has been hired and the program should begin operations within the next two to three months. I'd like to give a huge shoutout to Chairman Lowes and his expertise to get this program moving forward. Again, this is just a start, and we will continue to push for the expansion of treatment services

one step at a time.

Finally, last month the board hosted our Bemidji Area IHS for negotiations on our multi-year funding agreement. Chairman Lowes and I led the negotiations on behalf of the tribe and stood firm on asks with the assistance from Bluestone in the background. I'm pleased to say that we have an all-new multi-year funding agreement and IHS conceded to all of our requests. This is a huge win for our tribe and our Health Division. It allows us to appropriately allocate our third party revenue to health-related services as we define them and allow us to operate more independently with our healthcare dollars without having to ask big brother for changes. This is exciting news and strengthens the foundation of change as we move forward to implement the Health Division changes.

I'm very excited for the Unit 5 projects that are moving forward. Below is a short update.

Munising Area: The resolution to change the use of the Wetmore property was passed unanimously by the board. This now dedicates that old health center in Wetmore and the 3 acres to be used for future housing expansion and committing \$2 million to new housing in the Munising Area. I recently had a call with Joni Talentino of Housing and she said we may be able to place three tiny homes on the existing reservation to get started, and then move forward with a site analysis of the existing Wetmore property. All good news and I hope we can get started well before winter.

Marquette Area: The RFP for the Health Center should be going out the first week of May. We are slowly but surely moving closer to having healthcare access in the Marquette community. I know it's been a long time com-

ing, but the plans are set, being approved by both us and the city, and moving forward. Our facilities team has also scoped out the community center space and will be getting that up and running as quickly as possible.

Culture night is still running strong in Marquette. We host culture night at the Lakeview Arena Citizens Forum the second and fourth Thursday of every month from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Everyone is welcome and dinner is provided. I'd like to get the same thing set up in the Munising Area; we just need someone to help take the lead. If you or anyone you know is interested, please reach out so we can get this started. We can also do a specific cultural workshop or teaching. Just let us know so that we can support our people and communities.

The next Unit 5 Elder Meeting and Meal in Munising will be held on Thursday, May 2, 2024, at the Munising Tribal Health Center from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. All you need to do to participate is be a Unit 5 Elder aged 60-plus.

The next Unit 5 Elder Meeting and Meal in Marquette will be held on Thursday, May 2, 2024, at the Holiday Inn of Marquette from 6 to 8 p.m. All you need to do to participate is be a Unit 5 or surrounding Unit 4 Elder aged 60-plus.

If you have any questions, comments, or would just like to discuss something with me, please use my contact information below.

You can also reach out to Unit 4/5 Liaison Mary Jenerou at MJenerou@saulttribe.net or (906) 450-7011 or (906) 341-8469.

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

Truth: check your sources, ask other members



MICHAEL MCKERCHIE,
DIRECTOR, UNIT I

For several months now, I've been asked why members of the "old board" haven't said more to combat the multitude of lies surrounding our tribe; from the historical tribal relief program (over two years ago) to the chairman appointment issues or to our court cases. Several of us have been trying to educate the membership on many of these lies; I have several posts on my political page designed to help the membership understand both sides of the story and why I have voted the way I

have.

But the truth is, lies are more popular. Lies are designed to make the membership "feel" a certain way and become invested in those lies; once that occurs- it is very difficult to anyone see anything else. So with all the lies out there, how is the membership suppose to know who's telling the truth and who's not? One way is to check multiple sources; don't rely on one social media alone to get your tribal information. Check other sites and our official Sault Tribe sites, but more importantly, talk to other members: call members you trust, seek advice from an elder that matters to you, call relatives that might know something about the subject.

Besides reaching out to each other, ask yourself who benefits from the lie/truth being shared? Does it make sense? Is someone purposely trying to divide our members and why? Division most times is just for political gain — no other reason. We are a tribe, and we will not always agree on how to move our tribe forward but how we treat each other and our team members matters. "How" we get to the

next steps matter.

I still urge the members to attend meetings and demand board transparency. It helps our tribe, it changes how we deal with each other when the membership is watching. I believe you would be proud of the way I represent you on and off camera. A lot can happen to the tribe during transitional times, but I always tell people that we have a lot of good people doing good

McKechnie unit report continued —

From McKechnie on Page 32 of timely provider visit sign off, coupled with the charge entry delays and lack of feedback, create a reinforcing cycle that makes fixing the core billing problems difficult.

We currently have two systems that must be used to submit a claim: RPMS and Practice Partners (PP). Claims are initially created in RPMS and then worked from a report to be manually entered into PP. After claims are created in RPMS, they are keystrokes away from being billed. Instead, a report is run, and the claims are then manually entered into PP. The main bottle-

neck currently is the creation of claims in RPMS.

The allocation of staff between this function and other functions that occur in PP is not properly balanced. The audit determined that we currently do not document these procedures for easy-to-use training material for new employees. This is made worse by the fact that the process varies between locations. This leads to the belief that new employees take more than one year to be self-sufficient.

It is difficult to manage staff when their responsibilities and tasks are not clearly documented. There are no performance metrics

or performance targets for any of the billing positions. When team members were asked what targets they were given, they said "none."

Given the lack of metrics, targets and job descriptions, it is not surprising that there are no significant good or bad ramifications based on employee performance. We are limited on how many words we can submit in our unit reports, so I will provide an additional information in my next unit report.

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

Federal pandemic funds being used for facilities



**BETTY FREIHEIT,
DIRECTOR, UNIT I**

First, I wanted to share that we are using some federal pandemic relief to spruce up our

facilities with resources we gained from the Cares Act, American Rescue Act, Jobs and Infrastructure Act and Broadband funding. In total, our federal relief was over \$450 million! Despite a press release in 2020 that violated the tribe's communications policy, our tribe has never received any direction from the federal government that would prohibit us from providing an equal share of support during the pandemic.

Austin Lowes and I as board members and Aaron Payment as chairman, introduced a resolution to provide an equal share of financial support during the pandemic to all members no matter where you live. Despite the fact that as chair, Aaron served on national planning calls and worked closely with the White House and the U.S.

Department of Treasury, several board members still insisted (falsely) that we were informed that we were not allowed to share with at large members. However, this was just not true.

Shortly after the false press release, the tribe received a formal communication from the U.S. Treasury Native Liaison Nancy Montoya that there were NO such restrictions based on where tribal members live. In fact, most tribes across the country did not restrict their members for pandemic support based on where they live. To be clear, our tribe has never received any direction from the federal government nor from legal counsel that would restrict who could benefit. If they continue to share this misinformation, insist that they show you in writing

where legal counsel or the federal government said this.

Again, our tribe received over \$450 million from federal relief, broadband and jobs and infrastructure funding.

These funds had strings attached and timelines by which they had to be spent. We were not able to invest these funds in the Elder fund. We did push out over \$150 million in direct benefits, but it remains true that we had an unequal distribution with services area members getting \$3,000 and at large getting just \$2,000. These funds did allow for a large commitment of about \$50 million to be reinvested in our enterprise and casino operations to drive revenues which generate funds for programs and services. Recall that \$17 million of our net casino revenues



is spent on programs and services so reinvesting in our revenue generators makes sense.

Finally, last month I intended urge you to see and hear for yourself the sedition efforts on June 20, 2022, where the Old Board Hoffman, Gravelle, Chase, Massey, Matson, Hollowell, plus Causley, Morrow, McKerchie and Sorenson discussed throwing out the election and appointment a Chair without an Election. Just hover your phone over this QR code to see and hear for yourself.

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

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

15-passenger handicap accessible van on its way



**BRIDGETT SORENSON,
DIRECTOR, UNIT III**

I am excited to announce that Unit 3 will finally be getting its 15-passenger handicap accessible van for our elders in the next

month or two. We have waited along time for this and it will help with transportation to events.

The old hotel property in Evergreen Shores is just waiting on approval from the state and then the fire department will hold some drills and burn down the structure so the tribe can build something for economic development.

The Unit 3 ARPA funding bids just came in for engineering and environmental review, so hopefully we can engage them to get the cost of infrastructure to build or purchase houses in St. Ignace. We probably would have had houses in this area if the project would not have been stopped in 2022.

The St. Ignace Sault Tribe Mobile Medical Unit is downstate this week for appointments with

our members in the Detroit area. Hopefully there will be many more planned clinics in many areas of the state going forward.

Enrollment is still receiving new membership applications. The process could take several months, so please be patient while they research your lineage.

I am excited as the sponsor of the fishing documentary that is being organized and filmed so we can educate people on our treaty rights as well as preserve history for future generations. Chi Miigwich to Theron King for your vision and the people that are carrying it out.

May 18 is the spring clean up at the Wequayoc Cemetery at 11 a.m. with a potluck lunch at noon. Later that day, from 2 to 6 p.m.

Cody Jodoin will hold a powwow drumstick workshop at the McCann School. Participants must be at least 14 years old and a Unit 3 or at-large member. Please contact me to sign up.

A reminder that the Native American Festival will take place at the Museum of Ojibwa Culture in St. Ignace on May 25 with grand entry at 1 p.m.

The St. Ignace Rendezvous at the Straits Powwow has been canceled for this year due to the construction of the new Heart of the Great Turtle Island powwow grounds.

May 13 is American Indian Day, so tribal government offices will be closed.

June 4 is the St. Ignace Board meeting in the Kewadin Shores

Event Center.

I would like to apologize to all the STI board members as well as Joel Schultz after what was said at the April 2 board meeting. We had our annual meeting with STI (Sault Tribe Inc.) on April 9, and aside from some proprietary information, it should have been an open workshop so the membership could have seen their report. I have yet to see a problem with STI other than a witch hunt.

The chairman is proposing to make Housing pay the \$850,000 for the homeless shelter. It would be cheaper to buy homes for these people.

If you have any questions or concerns, contact me at bsorenson@saulttribe.net, Bridgett91@yahoo.com or (906) 430-0536.

Homeless shelter budget would pay for homes



**DARCY MORROW,
DIRECTOR, UNIT IV**

I would like to announce our annual clean up at Indian Point cemetery in Nahma. It will be held on Saturday, May 18, starting at 10 a.m. The rain date is Saturday, May 25. There will be drinks and food for lunch provided. Please bring a lawn chair and a rake. Hope to see you there.

This is part of my August 2022 unit report: "Authorization to Negotiate & Purchase 3901 I-75 Business Spur, Sault Ste. Marie property (TIN:051-063-026-00) acquisition resolution for a homeless shelter was brought forward by Austin Lowes. I was the only NO vote, which really shocked me. Now Austin and Betty are on Facebook chastising me, because I was looking out for the tribe's best interest! These pet projects cannot continue without a solid plan in place. Do I support a

homeless shelter — absolutely! I also had a lot of questions that were not answered with solid answers. What program would it go under? How many team members would we need to run it? Currently we have 197 open positions throughout the tribe that we can't fill, how will these positions be filled? How would we support it financially? Will it be able to go into trust, it is not contiguous to anything we currently own in the Sault. If it's not able to go into trust, what is the yearly tax cost? Will it only be open to Sault Tribe members? When I asked questions, I got I think, or it should be; to me that is not a solid plan! I welcome a committee to be formed with all units represented. Why would we limit ourselves to one area for the cost of this purchase? We could have built a lot of homes or small homes on our own trust land."

The question from August 2022 still stands — who is going to pay for the cost of the homeless shelter? A resolution was placed on the agenda two meetings ago by Austin Lowes to make Housing pay for the cost. The motel purchased has 21 rooms and is costing the tribe over \$850,000 a year to run. A Housing commissioner stood up at that meeting during community input and stated they do not have funds to pay for this project. Their funds are obligated to expand housing and other

projects they have vetted. I think of how many homes could have been built or bought for permanent housing with the \$850,000 it is going to cost to run the shelter yearly. That is a lot of permanent homes for families that could have been spread out in the ser-

vice area.

I would like to announce the Unit 4 elders will be receiving their handicapped accessible 15-passenger van in the next month or two.

I continue to work for everyone no matter where you reside.

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

Unit III director reports on tribal news, issues



**SHAWN BOROWICZ,
DIRECTOR, UNIT III**

Boozhoo tribal members,

Now that winter is over we can get moving on the projects we worked on in workshops and meetings. The hotel renovation in the Sault is coming along on schedule. This much needed upgrade was long over due for that property and with all of us working together it will continue

to be a profitable gaming venue for the tribe. The next property that should see some upgrades is the shores with a new parking lot. All five of our gaming properties are exceeding in revenue after the COVID years and are continually gaining profits every month.

Our new tribal health center being built in St. Ignace, behind our current location is coming along nicely and should be fully operational by the fall.

Our Executive Director keeps close tabs on this project and gives us monthly updates.

Some of the health care team is traveling to our New Boston property with our mobile health van to see patients and to answer any questions

Relating to our health system. After the election is over, the tribal board and other tribal reps are going to our New Boston property to meet with tribal members who live downstate, as well as to research the future plans for

this property. I personally have ideas for this location and voiced them to the rest of the board but for now and until the entire board visits this location I will keep them for later.

I've been researching several builders of tiny homes and mid-sized homes to be placed on our property in St. Ignace and have been working on a presentation to the rest of the board for this project. We are currently waiting on the city to review the infrastructure to extend the water and sewer to this property. Once that is complete, we can begin with some improved roads, getting some foundations put in and then have some of these homes delivered. This will greatly help our members with housing in and around Unit 3.

Until next time, be safe healthy and happy.

Shawn Borowicz, (906) 379-8511, (906) 430-7612 or sborowicz@saulttribe.net

YEA INVITES YOU TO:

... Family ... Fun Day

Friday, June 7, 2024

 Big Bear - Sault Ste Marie, MI
1 pm to 3 pm

The Activities

 Bounce House | Ice Skating | Games |
Crafts | Treats
FREE

 For Questions or a Table, Contact Terri at
tlinacre@saulttribe.net

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month

FROM ACFS

April marks the nationwide observance of Child Abuse Prevention Month, a time dedicated to raising awareness about the serious issue of child abuse and neglect. Often occurring within the confines of the home and perpetrated by familiar faces such as parents, grandparents, or caregivers, child abuse manifests in various forms, including neglect, physical, sexual, and emotional abuse.

Across the United States, each state and tribe is tasked with defining and addressing child abuse and neglect to meet federal standards. These definitions typically encompass neglect, which involves the failure to provide for a child's basic needs; physical abuse, resulting from actions such as hitting or shaking; sexual abuse, encompassing various forms of exploitation; and emotional abuse, characterized by patterns of behavior detrimental to a child's emotional well-being.

Recognizing the significance of this issue, individuals are urged to take action to support children and families in their communities. Some suggestions include being a nurturing parent, offering assistance to friends or neighbors in need, taking breaks when necessary, engaging with community initiatives focused on supporting children and families, and reporting suspected abuse or neglect.

Reporting suspected cases of abuse or neglect is crucial, as it can facilitate access to essential services and interventions for affected families. By providing

support to parents, we collectively contribute to creating safer environments for children to thrive.

The consequences of child abuse and neglect extend beyond immediate physical harm, often resulting in long-term emotional and psychological trauma. Children who experience abuse or neglect are at heightened risk of encountering future adversity, including substance abuse, academic challenges, and limited employment opportunities.

Fortunately, resources and support services are available to assist families in need. Anishnaabek Community and Family Services offer various programs aimed at supporting Tribal children and families within their service area. Those seeking assistance or wishing to learn more about available programs are encouraged to reach out to ACFS by calling (906) 632-5250.

In cases of suspected abuse or neglect, individuals can make a report by calling the Michigan Department of Human Services Child Protective Services 24-hour hotline at (855) 444-3911 or Anishnaabek Community and Family Services at 1 (800) 726-0093 or (906) 632-5250. All calls are confidential and reporting sources are protected by law.

As we observe Child Abuse Prevention Month, let us reaffirm our commitment to protecting the most vulnerable members of our society. By collectively advocating for children's well-being, we pave the way for healing and resilience within our communities.


 9 am - 5 pm
(231) 947-0122
www.mils3.org

Clint Boulton

Improving the lives of Native American peoples, families, & communities through legal assistance and advocacy. Mino-Bimaadiziwin.

HOW WE CAN HELP

MILS is committed to providing legal services for those in the Native American communities throughout the state, focusing on work in the tribal courts and regarding federal-Indian law issues. For assistance, please call **231-947-0122**. Income and other grant eligibility requirements apply.

- State Court - Indian Child Welfare Act & Michigan Indian Family Preservation Act
- Tribal Court - evictions, child welfare matters, juvenile delinquency, garnishments, & criminal cases
- Treaty & Statutory Rights
- Religious & Cultural Rights
- Wills & Estate Matters
- Missing & Murdered Indigenous People

Please visit our website (www.mils3.org) for additional self-help and educational materials (e.g. ICWA-MIFPA, Tuition Waiver, Jay Treaty, Tribal Housing).



IF WE CANNOT HELP

MILS cannot help with all legal issues. MILS is a partner in a comprehensive network of legal resources. These partner programs empower Michigan residents with confidence and knowledge to address legal challenges.

For many Michigan law issues, MichiganLegalHelp.org can help you with your legal problem by providing forms and educational materials.

In addition, regional legal aid programs can potentially help low-income individuals. Call **888-783-8190** for the southern half of the state. Please visit www.lsnm.org to find the correct office to call for the northern half of the state.

For those who do not qualify for legal aid, the State Bar of Michigan offers a modest-means program at lrs.michbar.org/LRS-Info/Modest-Means-Program and a low cost referral program at (800) 968-0738.

Primary Funding Sources:

 MICHIGAN
STATE BAR
FOUNDATION **MSBF**
LSC | America's Partner
for Equal Justice
LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION



KEWADIN CASINOS ENTERTAINMENT

36TH
ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND
MAY 24
Don Felder
Formerly of The Eagles LIVE at 8 p.m.

MAY 25

WIN YOUR SHARE OF OVER \$10,000 CASH AND CREDITS

Hot Seat Draws 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.	CASH Draws 4:30 p.m. - 11 p.m.
------------------------------------	-----------------------------------

Cake, hors d'oeuvres and champagne at 8 p.m.*

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

A RENOWNED FORMER LEAD GUITARIST OF THE EAGLES



4X GRAMMY WINNER • ROCK & ROLL HALL OF FAME MEMBER

PERFORMING THE EXPLOSIVE HITS HE CO-PENNEDED OR PERFORMED FOR 27 YEARS!

EVENT CENTER | MAY 24 | 8 P.M.
TICKETS \$51.50 | \$61.50



ACE FREHLEY **Great White**
SLAUGHTER **STEVEN ADLER**
WIXEN **OF GUNS N' ROSES**

JULY 20
DOORS 4:30 P.M. | SHOW 6 P.M. TICKETS \$65 | \$85 | \$95
OUTDOOR EVENT

LEAD SINGERS OF CLASSIC ROCK
TWO GREAT SINGERS... TWO GREAT SETS OF CLASSIC ROCK...

JASON SCHEFF
LONGTIME LEAD SINGER OF Chicago

TOMMY DECARLO
A FORMER LEAD SINGER OF Boston

OCTOBER 12 | SHOW 8 P.M. EVENT CENTER TICKETS \$45 | \$55

THE AMERICAN PATRIOT TOUR 2024

FRIDAY
DECEMBER 13 AT 8 P.M.
DREAMMAKERS THEATER
TICKETS \$85 | \$75 | \$60

Aaron Lewis
NEW ALBUM THE HILL OUT 3.29

TICKETS AVAILABLE @ [TICKETS.KEWADIN.COM](https://tickets.kewadin.com)



tickets.kewadin.com
1-800-KEWADIN