



# Win Awenen Nisitotung

October 23, 2024  
Falling Leaves Moon • Bnakwe Giizis  
Vol. 45 • No. 10



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

## Chief Judge Pat Shannon hired by Sault Tribe

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

Patrick M. Shannon, JD, EdD, MPH, was recently welcomed by the Sault Tribe's Chippewa Tribal Court as its new chief judge.

He began working with Michigan tribal communities in August 1980 on the landmark fishing case US v. Michigan, which resulted in the official recognition of tribes' inherent ability to regulate themselves and have their own courts.

"Wade Teeple called me from the Bay Mills Tribal Community and wanted to know if I would be their prosecutor because they were in the midst of litigation with the state and others, and I was running for the county prosecutor at the time and I thought yeah, ok."

He was elected county prosecutor of Michigan's Chippewa County for five terms while also



working as a prosecutor for different tribal courts.

"I was elected county prosecutor and was a tribal prosecutor and testified in one hearing in US v. Michigan in front of federal

Judge Noel Fox. That's how it started. It was about sovereignty and the ability to self-regulate," he said.

On May 7, 1979, Judge Fox affirmed the treaty-guaranteed fishing rights of three Michigan tribes: Sault Tribe, Bay Mills Indian Community and Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians.

Shannon said, "We are unique here in this county – why do they call it Chippewa? You have the feds, the Canadian authorities, tribal, state, and county — there isn't another jurisdiction like this where you have this overlap. A lot of the things that were developed statewide were developed here."

Shannon served as a judge for the Saginaw Chippewa Tribe of Michigan from 1999 until 2022.

He holds his Juris Doctorate from the University of Detroit School of Law, bachelors in business and a doctorate in education from Central Michigan University, and master in public health from the University of Michigan.

Shannon also served as a special assistant United States attorney and was elected as the president of the Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan in 1992.

Currently, Shannon serves as a board member of the Michigan Association of Treatment Court Professionals and is the former chair of the Mackinac Straits Health System and a former member of the American Hospital Association Governance Committee.

He and his wife Mary Anne Shannon RN, MSN, Ph.D. reside

in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. They have two grown sons, Thomas and James. After retiring in 2022 and returning home to the Sault, Shannon said he realized he missed his friends and colleagues.

"We had an apartment in Mt. Pleasant and I was sitting on the couch watching Drew Barrymore and I'm asking myself, what's happening to me! I'm taking advice from Drew Barrymore!"

Shortly after that, he received a call from Judge Allie Maldonado saying they needed a prosecutor in Petoskey. "I was their first prosecutor in 1994 and the first prosecutor for the Grand Traverse Band. So I accepted that job and was there almost three years and just left there to come here," he said. "My family said it was time to come home."

## Tribe's 2 percent funding benefits Schoolcraft Hospital

BY SCOTT BRAND

With the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians kicking in nearly half of the expense through 2 percent funding, awarded to local units of government throughout the tribe's seven-county service area, Schoolcraft Memorial Hospital has added a key piece of equipment to its line-up.

The Terason uSmart 3200T Plus arrived this summer and has already been used on multiple occasions. These novel devices, according to the supplied literature, are more portable and less expensive than stand-alone ultrasound machines. In the anesthesiology arena, they are used in remote or off-site areas such as radiology or procedural sedation center offering great flexibility in teaching and image acquisition. "The technology has grown by



Schoolcraft Memorial Hospital has added a key piece of equipment to its line-up, thanks in part to 2 percent funding made available through the quarterly Sault Tribe payouts.

leaps and bounds," said Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA) Tom Kolinsky, singing the praises of the new device. "The quality is so much better."

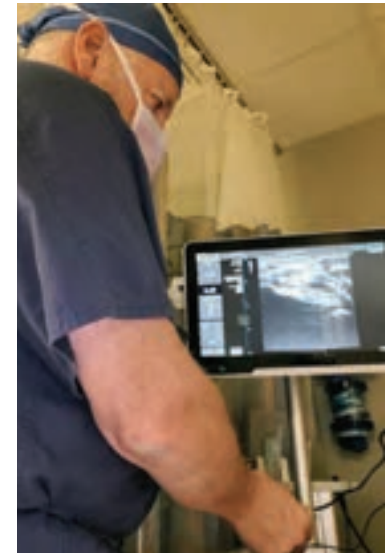
Kolinsky explained the ultrasound allows him to identify

nerve bundles inside the neck, shoulder or spine as well as enhanced needle placement providing for precise targeting.

"It reduces pain and increases patient safety," said Kolinsky. "And it allows us to block the pain so they need less medicine during surgery and post-op."

In 2023, the Sault Tribe authorized a \$ 1,197 contribution in the first wave of funding and an additional \$ ,640 in the sec-

ond wave for a total of \$8,837 towards the new ultrasound. Director of Fund Development Irma González-Hider shared how the 2 percent funding award leveraged the fundraising efforts for this purchase. In April 2024, through its annual fundraiser gala, "A Night Under the Stars," the hospital was able to raise the additional funding needed to purchase the portable ultrasound system.



Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA) Tom Kolinsky with Schoolcraft Hospital's new ultrasound machine, the Terason uSmart 3200T Plus that arrived over the summer.

The new ultrasound comes with a 3-year warranty and has a life expectancy of a decade or more with minimal anticipated future expenses for software upgrades and maintenance.

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## Annual recovery walk held on tribe's reservation



Photo by Scott Brand

Sault Tribe Behavioral Health sponsored the 14th annual Recovery Walk Sept. 26 during National Recovery Month. The walk began and ended at Big Bear Arena in Sault Ste. Marie on the tribe's reservation.

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

# Successful tribal member hunts showcased



Tribal members and sisters, Ellery Ingalls (above), 7, shot her first deer in Baldwin, Mich., on Sept. 7 and Josie Ingalls (below), 13, shot a 4-point in Muskegon County, Mich., on Sept. 29. The girls are the daughters of Adam and Megan Ingalls of Twin Lake, Mich.



Jamie Bott (above) harvested a 5x6 bull elk in Otsego county near Vanderbilt area on Sept. 15. Bott called it a thrilling hunt and stalk with bugling and lots of sweaty miles. Gratitude for the opportunity, a great guide — Denny Casselmen — the fellow hunters, and a freezer full of meat, she added. Bott also got herself a bear on Oct. 13 in the Baldwin region of Grand Traverse County.



Sault Tribe member Devan Bouley brought down a bear weighing 392 pounds on Sept. 12.

# There are enough things out there going viral.



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# 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 (forms available online or contact Lona/Ashlee) 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** - Five vacancies - three males (4-year term), two females

(4-year term)

**Child Welfare Committee** - Two vacancies (4-year term); One vacancy - term expires November 2026; One vacancy - term expires January 2027

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

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

- Unit I - One vacancy
- 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 - term expiring November 2026

Unit II - Naubinway - Two regular vacancies - both terms expiring May 2027

Unit III - St. Ignace - One regular vacancy - term expiring April 2027

Unit IV - Manistique - One regular vacancy - term expiring November 2026

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

Unit V - Munising - Two alter-

nate vacancies (4-year term)

Unit V - Marquette - Two alternate vacancies - one 4-year term, one term expiring December 2027

**Food Sovereignty Committee** - One vacancy - term expiring February 2025

**Wequayoc Cemetery**

**Committee** - Two vacancies. Only Sault Tribe members who have a family member buried in this cemetery are eligible (4-year term)

**Sault Tribe Election**

**Commission** - One vacancy - term expiring January 2026

## 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 St, Escanaba MI 49837

## Up to date addresses sought

Sault Tribe members whose addresses are not up to date have “bad addresses” with the tribe’s Enrollment Department.

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

Go to saulttribe.com 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.

## Membership liaisons help answer your 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.

## WIOA funding is 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 an employer 50 percent of your wage for a specified period.

Candidates must meet eligibility requirements and reside in the seven-county service area.

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

## Honoring Our Veterans Powwow

Honoring Our Veterans Powwow is being held Nov. 9 at Kewadin Casinos DreamMakers Theater in Sault Ste. Marie.

Grand Entries are at 1 and 7 p.m. Thanksgiving dinner at 5 p.m. Men’s and Women’s Woodland Special prize money: 1st - \$300, 2nd - \$200, 3rd - \$100.

Vendors contact Tyler at (906) 203-6382 or Email him at: tbouschor@saulttribe.net.

Questions? Contract Sault Tribe Language and Culture at (906) 635-6510 or Email to: culture@saulttribe.net.

### 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 906-632-1808 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 Gillotte-King (extension 73104) 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/When/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 matter. Please feel free to share this information. Miigwechi!

### Sault Tribe Member Newspaper Subscription Form

To receive a FREE tribal newspaper subscription in the mail, tribal members under 60 are asked to complete the form below and send it to: Win Awenen Nisitotung, 531 Ashmun St., Sault Ste. Marie MI 49783, or email it to slucas@saulttribe.net. Those 60 and over do not have to fill out this form. Those who prefer to get their newspaper online do not have to complete this form.

- new subscription
- change of address

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Email: \_\_\_\_\_

## Win Awenen Nisitotung

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

October 23, 2024  
Falling Leaves Moon  
Bnakwe 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.

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

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# ICWA's defenders rally to protect tribal children

ST. PAUL, MINN.—  
 Defenders of child welfare and tribal sovereignty filed an amicus brief on Aug. 28, 2024, urging the Minnesota Supreme Court to dismiss a baseless challenge to the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) that litigants supported by anti-sovereignty forces have attempted to insert into a Minnesota child welfare case involving children eligible for citizenship in the Red Lake Nation.

The amicus brief emphasizes the fact that ICWA's constitutionality is not a question that the Court should address in this case. Minnesota child welfare laws, not ICWA, governed when the children at issue were moved from a temporary foster placement to a relative's home. Most child welfare agencies attempt to place children with extended

family when they cannot safely remain with their family of origin.

The former foster parents challenging ICWA's constitutionality here are not a preferred placement for the children because they are not relatives. Further, their attempt to characterize ICWA as racial discrimination is grounded in fundamental misunderstandings of equal protection and federal Indian law.

"The amicus brief exposes this attempt to challenge ICWA as ungrounded in both law and logic," said Native American Rights Fund (NARF) Staff Attorney Sydney Tarzwell.

NARF, along with co-counsel Joseph Halloran and Christopher Smith from the Jacobson Law Group, filed the brief defending ICWA on behalf of the California

**ICWA's standards designed to halt the 'wholesale removal' of Native children from their homes and communities.**

Tribal Families Coalition, United South and Eastern Tribes Sovereignty Protection Fund, the Association on American Indian

Affairs, the National Congress of American Indians, the National Indian Child Welfare Association, and the Navajo Nation.

As the brief states, the Amici share a vital interest in preserving ICWA's standards, which were "designed to halt the 'wholesale removal' of Native children from their homes and communities."

"We stand united with our relatives across Indian Country in proactively defending Native families, Tribal Nations' inherent sovereignty, and the United States' ability and responsibility to deliver on its trust and treaty obligations," said Kirk Francis, President of the United South and Eastern Tribes Sovereignty Protection Fund.

ICWA, considered the gold standard in U.S. child welfare law, protects children who are

citizens of a tribal nation and children who are eligible for citizenship and have a biological parent who is a citizen.

Passed by Congress in 1978 to stop the mass removal of Native children from their families and communities, ICWA affirms the inherent right of tribal nations to protect the welfare of their children. Anti-tribal interests have raised a series of similar unprincipled challenges to ICWA and have been unsuccessful in having the law declared unconstitutional.

To learn more about ICWA and NARF's work to ensure the welfare of Native American children, visit: [icwa.narf.org](http://icwa.narf.org).

Read the amicus brief here: <https://www.narf.org/nill/documents/20240828mn-icwa-amicus-brief.pdf>

# 10th annual repatriation conference announced

The Association on American Indian Affairs (the Association) is proud to announce registration is open for its 10th Annual Repatriation Conference, themed, Igniting Change.

The theme Igniting Change reflects the Association's commitment to sparking meaningful progress in repatriation efforts. By addressing the harms of the past and pushing for accountability and collaboration, the Association aims to inspire transformative change in the way institutions engage with

Native Nations. This year's conference will focus on creating new pathways for collaboration, implementing updated laws and regulations, and ensuring the return of Ancestors, their burial belongings, and sensitive cultural heritage.

The Association expects 400 attendees at this three-day in person conference hosted by the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe in Marksville, La., at its Paragon Resort on Feb. 25-27, 2025. This year's conference will offer comprehensive interactive training on

the new Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) regulations, which went into effect in January 2024, provide strict timelines, deference to Native traditional knowledge and robust consultation. The conference will also focus on international repatriation, illicit trafficking and other issues concerning the protection of Native cultural heritage.

"This year we have changed the structure of our annual conference. By coming together in-person, we can provide engag-

ing small group trainings and workshops on the new NAGPRA regulations," said Shannon O'Loughlin, a citizen of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and the Association's CEO and Attorney. "Attendees will engage directly with the new regulations and learn best practices for implementation with the guidance of experts, ensuring they walk away with practical, actionable insights."

Native nation officials and representatives can register to attend for free. Early bird regis-

tration rates are available through Dec. 2, 2024. A limited number of exhibitor and vendor spaces are also available for the three-day conference.

There will also be a special cultural event and opportunities to visit the Tunica-Biloxi Cultural & Educational Resource Center.

Visit [Indian-Affairs.org/10th-annualrepatriationconference](http://Indian-Affairs.org/10th-annualrepatriationconference) for more information on registration, hotel room block details, sponsorship opportunities, and exhibitor and vendor registration.

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# Tel Fox retires from Hessel Kewadin Casino



Hessel Kewadin Casino General Manager Tel Fox (above center and on far right) retired Sept. 23 after 38 years with the Sault Tribe. Staff at the Hessel Casino agreed on a statement, saying, "As sad as we are to see Tel Fox leave us, we are very happy she now has the time to do all the fun things she wants to do, and of course spend time visiting and traveling with family and friends. Tel was such an asset to our Hessel property for many years - her fun nature and sense of humor will surely be missed! Happy retirement to Tel Fox from her Hessel Casino employees and customers. Our loving memories of working with Tel include: She was a very good manager, she tried to treat all employees equally. She always made time to talk to you and help you with whatever issues you were having. She was great on the microphone and was a real show woman. Any time we had a game or a birthday, she always made a show of it. Customers loved her. She always had an ear to listen, and a smudge if you needed it. She worked with us when we had personal issues too. She will be missed!"

## Ashlynn Brooklyn turning one! turning three!



Ashlynn is turning 3! Sault Tribe member Ashlynn Brown is celebrating her third birthday Oct. 28. Her proud parents are Scotty and Arianna Brown, grandma Deb Captain-McCall, and grammy Yolanda Nolan-Baird. All are Sault Tribe members.



Happy first birthday Brooklyn! Love, Nonna and Papa.



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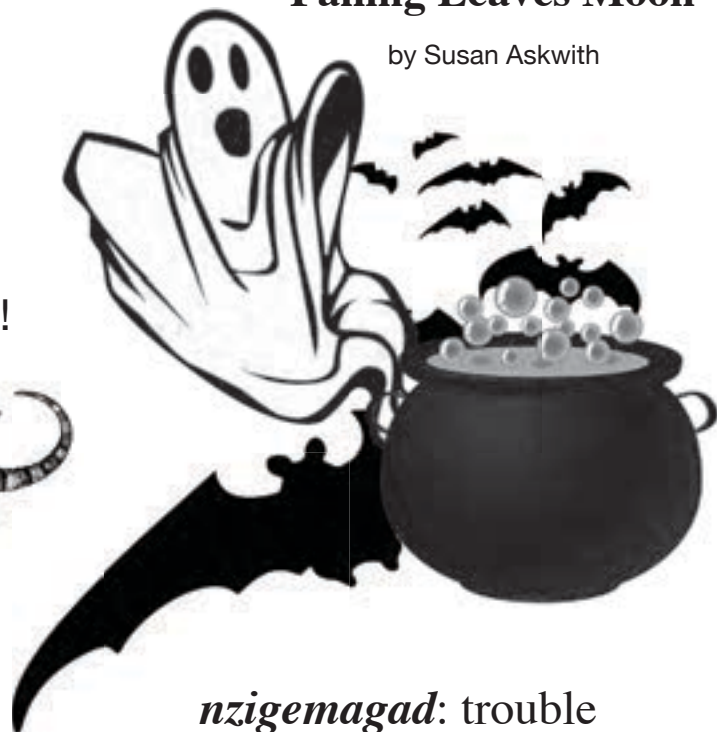
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# Anishinaabemowin 2024

“Life is about taking chances, trying new things, having fun, making mistakes and learning from it.” Try your/our language!

**Tasenhwang miinwaa!** It's Halloween again!  
(Europeans: all hallows eve...Anishinaabek: all who have walked on)

Shakespeare gave us a vision of witches that is still used today at Halloween. We've played with their brew ingredients!



## Bnakwe Giizis Falling Leaves Moon

by Susan Askwith

Double double, toil and trouble,  
Fire burn and cauldron bubble,  
Eye of newt and toe of frog,  
Wool of bat and tooth of dog,  
Spider spit and wing of tick,  
Slobber of snail, partridge tail,  
Ladle half full of lizard gizzard,  
Curly whisker of sleepy wizard,  
Stir them well, cast your spell,  
Ghosts and spirits hear it well!

*nokiiwin*: work/toil  
*ishkode*: fire  
*dawagomeg*: newt  
*bashkwaanaajinh*: bat  
*esbikenhs*: spider  
*biimskodisiinh*: snail  
*kaadi-ginebik*: lizard  
*maanjiinoo-nini*: wizard  
*weweni nandaajii'aan*: she is stirring it well  
*jiibayik*: ghosts *manidook*: spirits

*nzigemagad*: trouble  
*gchi-jiibaakwe kik*: cauldron  
*magakii*: frog  
*nimosh*: dog  
*ezigaa*: tick  
*bine*: partridge



### Nbwaakaa'okwe minikwewin minaagamik.

*Witches drink that's tasty*

2 cups milk (*doodooshaaboo*)  
1+1/2 cups pumpkin puree (*kosmaan*)  
2 Tbsp light brown sugar (*ziisbaakwat*)  
1+1/2 tsp pumpkin spice  
add whipped cream (*bimaa'igan*)  
add extra pumpkin spice if desired

*In a small sauce pan, heat milk, pumpkin, sugar and spice on medium heat until just about to boil. Stir frequently. Pour into cups and top with whipped cream. Sprinkle with extra pumpkin spice if desired. (Add to coffee for a pumpkin spice latte.)*



**Nishke! Kina binoojiinhyik gegeti  
gwa waawi-nin-aagoziwag.**

*Look! All the children are so cute!*

**Minen-daagozi-wag.**

*They are having fun.*

**Nda-wen-daan-aawaan  
waashkabang nangwa dibikak.**

*They want sweets tonight.*

**Pronunciation??** You'll find the Anishinaabemowin words used here as well as those in the calendar, pronounced at our FaceBook link:

[www.facebook.com/SaultTribeLanguageAndCulture](http://www.facebook.com/SaultTribeLanguageAndCulture).

You can also use the guide shown below!

**Making our Sounds** Most letters sound like they do in English. Here are the exceptions.

**aa** sounds like the a in *awesome*    **a** sounds like the a in *about*  
**ii** sounds like the e in *be*            **i** sounds like the i in *dip*  
**oo** sounds like the o in *go*           **o** sounds like the oo's in *book*  
**e** sounds like the e in *Ed*             **g** sounds only like it does in *go*

*We underlined the syllables that get the emphasis.*

Pronounce all the letters. Big deal: 'nh' in a word has no sound! It's only a sign to say the previous vowel nasally - as if you have



### Aambe, baapin! (Come on, laugh!)

*Only two things flat-earthers fear:*

*Sphere itself and being buried too deep.*

I have a deep-seated fear of running water  
...or any liquid with legs, really.

*My friend has a fear of pi. I keep telling him it's irrational!*

Psychiatrist: It seems you have a fear of getting married.

Do you know the symptoms?

Patient: I can't say I do.

Psychiatrist: Exactly. That's one of them.

*I'll never understand people who fear change.*

*...It's like they have no cents at all.*

I have a fear of elevators, but I'm taking steps to avoid it.

# Sault Tribe Sprirt Feast Oct. 26

Dagwaagin Manidokewin Jibay-inaakewin - Spirit Feast Fall Ceremony is Oct. 26, 2024, at the Niigaanagiizhik Ceremonial Building, 11 Ice Circle, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783. Sunrise Ceremony 8 a.m., Gathering & Pipe Ceremony 10 a.m. followed by four direction teachings, Jibay Feast at 6 p.m. Bring your feast bags. Remember that we are feeding our relatives.

When we eat for the Spirit, we do so in a respectful way, thinking of them and the goodness that they brought into our lives; giving thanks for all that we have received and will receive in the future. A Sacred Fire will be lit. For more information, contact Tyler at the Sault Tribe Language and Culture Division at (906) 203-6382 or by email [tbourchor@saulttribe.net](mailto:tbourchor@saulttribe.net).

**SAULT TRIBE TRADITIONAL MEDICINE PROGRAM**

## Gerard Sagassige

### 2024 November Healer Clinic Hours

**November 4, 5, 25, 26**  
Sault Ste. Marie Health Center  
(906) 632-0236

**Wednesday, November 6th**  
St. Ignace Health Center  
(906) 643-8689 or (877) 256-0135

**Wednesday, November 27th**  
Munising Health Center  
(906) 387-4721 or (800) 236-4705

Any Questions, or to Book an Appointment Please Call  
Traditional Medicine Program at  
906-632-0236 or 906-632-5268



# VETERANS POWWOW

**NOVEMBER 9TH**  
AT DREAM MAKERS THEATER LOCATED IN THE KEWADIN CASINO  
2186 SHUNK RD, SAULT S MARIE, MI 49783  
**GRAND ENTRIES 1PM & 7PM**  
**THANKSGIVING DINNER 5PM**

HOST DRUM	ARENA DIRECTOR	COHOST DRUM
BAHWETING SINGERS	BUD BIRON	FROG HILLS
HEAD FEMALE DANCER	EMCEE	HEAD MALE DANCER
TBD	JOSH HOMMINGA	TBD
	HEAD VETERAN	
	NICK VANALSTINE	

**COME AND SWING AND SWAY THE ANISHNAABE WAY**





















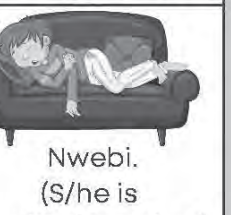
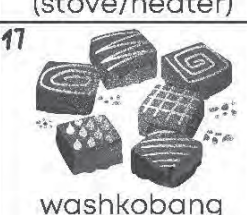





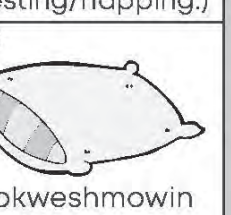
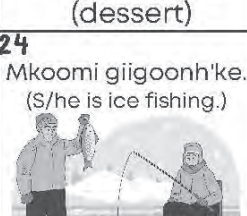

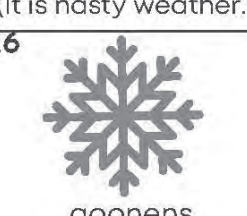




VENDORS CONTACT TYLER 906 203 6382 OR EMAIL [TBOUSCHOR@SAULTTRIBE.NET](mailto:tbourchor@saulttribe.net)

QUESTIONS? CONTRACT SAULT TRIBE LANGUAGE AND CULTURE 906 635 6510 OR EMAIL [CULTURE@SAULTTRIBE.NET](mailto:culture@saulttribe.net)

NO POLITICS, NO DOGS, NO DRUGS / ALCOHOL

# BAASHKAAKODIN GIIZIS - FROZEN MOON

## NOVEMBER 2023

NIIZHWAASO GIIZHIGAT	NTAM GIIZHIGAT	NIIZHO GIIZHIGAT	NSWO GIIZHIGAT	NIIWO GIIZHIGAT	NAANO GIIZHIGAT	NGODWAASWO GIIZHIGAT
					1 Zhiitaa. (S/he is getting ready.) 	2  ezhi-dgongeng gegoo (recipe)
3  Gibeyiing giizhigat. (Daylight savings time ends.)	4  Oodetoo. (S/he is going to town/window shopping.)	5  mkoomiins (icicle; ice cube)	6  Gsinaa. (It is cold outside.)	7  Biiskan g'bootsinan. (I am putting on my boots.)	8  waaboowaan (blanket)	9  Veterans Day Pow wow jingtamok (pow wow)
10  gzhaabkizigan (stove/heater)	11  Zhimaaganish Giizhigat (Veterans Day)	12  Waawaashkesh'ke. (S/he is hunting deer.)	13  N'segaaajige. (I am decorating.)	14  nangoonhsag (stars)	15  Mooshkaneshin Dibiki Giizis (It is a full moon.)	16  Nwebi. (S/he is resting/napping.)
17  washkobang (dessert)	18  Mishkepo. (It is wet snow.)	19  Niiskaadat. (It is nasty weather.)	20  mizise (turkey)	21  mshkiigomitig tamarack	22  manoomin (wild rice)	23  pkweshmowin (pillow)
24  Mkoomi giigoonh'ke. (S/he is ice fishing.)	25  giizhigong (in the sky)	26  goonens (snowflake)	27  aanakwat (cloud)	28  Miigwechiwe Giizhigat (Giving Thanks Day)	29  baashkaminsigan (preserves/jam)	30  N'giisaadendam. (I am sorry.)

# Sault Tribe elders benefit from partnerships

BY ELDER SERVICES DIVISION  
DIRECTOR KATIE PEABODY

The Sault Tribe Elder Services Program has been fortunate to partner with other tribal divisions and local entities to provide a variety of programs to Sault Tribe elders across the service area.

This summer, Eric Stallman, the diabetes fitness trainer for the Medical Fitness Program, developed a 10-week group exercise class and offered it at the Nokomis-Mishomis Gamik in the Sault. Tina Robinson joined him each week, and the elders enjoyed their sessions, with many of the elders attending every single class.

Stallman said, "I have been with the Sault Tribe of Chippewa

Indians for 13 months, and it has been an honor and a privilege to serve as a team member of this organization. As a diabetes fitness trainer, I hope to continue my education on indigenous culture. I also hope to continue sharing my knowledge of exercise and physical activity."

Stallman is currently working on a balance class to be provided to the elders in St. Ignace.

Elder Services Registered Nurse Tonya Robbins, was thrilled with this collaboration. "Eric reached out to me wanting to provide this service to our elders. It was just wonderful to have them here."

In August, Hadley Reed from the Natural Resources Division Environmental Program reached

out to the Elder Services Division Director, Katie Peabody, to talk about expanding on a previous partnership. Last year Reed visited the Nokomis-Mishomis Gamik and planted seeds with the elders. This summer, she wanted to offer planting sessions utilizing already started plugs of native species at the Sault, Hessel and St. Ignace meal sites. Elders were able to choose from lance leaf coreopsis, purple coneflower, spotted beebalm, wild bergamot, and sweet grass. There were plants that were also able to be shared with elders in Units 4 and 5.

Another wonderful collaboration involved partnering with the Eastern Upper Peninsula Intermediate School District. Paula Finrock, the cultural com-

petence consultant and SNAP-ED project consultant, and Carrie Bennett, Native American food facilitator, worked together to facilitate five of the 13 Moons of Anishnaabe Nutrition. The teachings introduced Anishnaabe traditions, foods and nutrition through taste-testing and storytelling. The pair were able to share these teachings with elders at the Sault, Hessel and St. Ignace meal sites. Several elders participated in the cultural teachings and were so grateful to have the opportunity to participate in the lessons. Finrock and Bennett are already planning for another round of teachings next year, and are looking to expand the area in which they can provide this training.

Lastly, the Sault Tribe Health Center sent staff to the Nokomis-Mishomis Building to offer both influenza and covid vaccines to the Elder Services team and any elders that were unable to get to one of the many health fairs held throughout the area that was also offering the vaccines. This provided an added level of protection going into flu season, and was greatly appreciated.

The Sault Tribe elders are incredibly grateful to the men and women that have shared their time and talent with them through these various partnerships.

If you would like to partner with Elder Services, please contact Katie Peabody at (906) 635-4971 or by email, kpeabody@saulttribe.net.



Above left: Paula Finrock, the cultural competence consultant and SNAP-ED project consultant, and Carrie Bennett, Native American food facilitator, worked together to facilitate five of the 13 Moons of Anishnaabe Nutrition. The teachings introduced Anishnaabe traditions, foods and nutrition through taste-testing and storytelling. The pair were able to share these teachings with elders at the Sault, Hessel and St. Ignace meal sites. Center: Elders exercise under the direction of Eric Stallman and Tina Robinson, fitness trainers for the Medical Fitness Program. Stallman developed a 10-week group exercise class and it was offered at the Nokomis-Mishomis Gamik in the Sault. Above right: Hadley Reed from the Sault Tribe Natural Resources Division Environmental Program offered planting sessions utilizing already started plugs of native species at the Sault, Hessel and St. Ignace meal sites. Elders were able to choose from lance leaf coreopsis, purple coneflower, spotted beebalm, wild bergamot, and sweet grass. There were plants that were also able to be shared with elders in Units 4 and 5. Right: Joe Harper with a plant to take home.

## Plan your holiday parties and mark your calendars!

### Marquette Thanksgiving Dinner

Dear Marquette Unit 4/5 Sault Tribal elder,

The Unit 4/5 Marquette elders will be having their family Thanksgiving dinner on Thursday Nov. 21 at 6 p.m. at the Holiday Inn of Marquette.

This family dinner event is for tribal elders age 60 and older to invite their adult children and spouses (sorry, no grandchildren) to join the elders for dinner.

Elders are always welcome to bring their spouse, significant other, or caregiver to any meal

event.

A reservation is necessary to attend. Please call one of the phone numbers below with your name and the number of guests attending with you.

The deadline for reservations is Friday Nov. 15.

Unfortunately, late reservations will not be accepted.

If you call to RSVP, but then are unable to make it, please call back to cancel your reservations. We are charged for the number of meals we reserve.

To RSVP call Kevin (906)

235-0959 or Marquette Tribal Center (906) 225-1616.

We are unable to consume alcohol at this event, and service animals will not be permitted inside the banquet room by the Holiday Inn.

We look forward to seeing you!

Note: There will be no elder meeting on Thursday, Nov. 7.

Miigwech,  
Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians  
Unit 4/5 Marquette Elder Subcommittee

### TRIBAL ELDERS 2024 HOLIDAY LUNCHEONS

#### Units 1, 2 and 3 Christmas Luncheon

Tuesday, Dec. 10, 11:30 a.m.  
Kewadin Casino Sault Ballroom  
RSVP no later than Nov. 25 by calling Elder Services at (906) 635-4971.

#### Unit 4 – Manistique Elders Christmas Dinner

Thursday, Dec. 5, 5 p.m.  
Manistique Tribal Center. RSVP no later than Nov. 21 at the tribal center, or call Jenna at (906) 259-3244.

#### Unit 4 – Escanaba Elders Christmas Dinner

Wednesday, Dec. 4, 5 p.m.  
Island Resort and Casino, Harris,

Mich RSVP no later than Nov. 13 by calling Elder Services at (906) 635-4971.

#### Unit 5 – Munising Thanksgiving Luncheon

Thursday, Nov. 21, 12 p.m.  
Munising Tribal Center. RSVP no later than Nov. 14 by calling Janae at (906) 420-1710.



### Elder Services at Sault Health Fair



Chelsea Aikens and Krissy Giffin (L-R) offer Elder Services information at the Sault Health Fair Sept. 25 at the Big Bear.



# Oak wilt discovered in Marquette County

Oak wilt infections have been confirmed in two stands of trees in southwest Marquette County, signaling additional spread of the often-fatal oak tree fungus in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Additional areas of dead or dying oak, known as "mortality pockets," may also be in the area; however, not all dead or dying oak is the result of oak wilt infection.

Oak wilt is a tree disease caused by the fungus *Bretziella fagacearum*. It spreads from tree to tree by underground root contact or through tiny, sap-feeding beetles that carry spores from fungal pads on infected trees to wounds on healthy oaks.

The fungus can kill red oaks within weeks, while white oaks are better able to withstand the disease.

"If you have oak trees, it is



**Oak wilt: An oak infected with wilt can lose its leaves starting at the top, like this tree. Leaves may be green, brown, or mottled green-and-brown.**

important to be aware of the symptoms of this disease and report them if you see them," said Simeon Wright, forest health

specialist with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

Oak wilt symptoms are most noticeable from late June through September. Affected red oak trees may rapidly shed leaves from the top down. Leaves may be green, brown or a combination of both colors. Affected trees typically appear dead within weeks of symptom development, well before natural leaf drop. Trees that die more slowly or hold onto most of the dead leaves probably died from other causes.

"Unfortunately, the mortality pockets confirmed in Marquette County suggest oak wilt has been present for several years," Wright said. The DNR's oak wilt viewer offers a map showing the approximate location of these mortality pockets.

Oak trees are limited in number between areas of previously

known infection and the new location, suggesting that movement of firewood – not natural spread across the landscape – may be responsible for the spread.

Oak wilt is fairly widespread in the Lower Peninsula. In the Upper Peninsula, it was first detected in Menominee County in 1981, and until now detection has mostly been limited to areas near the Wisconsin border in Menominee, Dickinson and Iron counties.

Because there is no cure for oak wilt, prevention is the goal. Precautions you can take include:

- Don't move firewood.
- Don't cut, prune or otherwise wound oak trees between April 15 and July 15. There is a high-risk of nitidulid beetles (sap feeding beetles) spreading the disease from infected wood and

trees to wounds on healthy trees during that period.

If you suspect a tree has oak wilt:

– Report infections using the interactive oak wilt map.

– Contact a local Forestry Assistance Program forester for more information or to ask a question. Verify oak wilt with the help of Michigan State University's Diagnostic Clinic. Find instructions online or call (517) 355-4536.

– Get help from an oak-wilt qualified specialist. Visit michigan-oakwilt.org for a listing and more information.

If a tree died of oak wilt, you can slow the spread by burning it on site, chipping it or debarking it before April 15. Once the wood has been dried for longer than a year or the bark loosens, firewood can no longer spread oak wilt.

# Sustaining small to mid-size farms in Michigan

The Great Lakes Midwest Regional Food Business Center will coordinate a network of technical assistance providers that are dedicated to the sustainable success of small to mid-sized farm and food businesses across Illinois, Indiana, Michigan and Wisconsin. With regional partners, Michigan State University Center for Regional Food Systems (CFRS) is one of twelve organizations selected by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to establish a

Regional Food Business Center.

These centers will help more farm and food businesses access new markets and navigate federal, state, and local resources. In September 2022, USDA announced \$400 million available to fund this initiative.

Between July 2023 and June 2028, the Great Lakes Midwest Regional Food Business Center will receive \$20 million to launch and coordinate this center with key partners in Illinois, Indiana,

Michigan, and Wisconsin.

For regional tribal support, the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin's Department of Agriculture and Food Systems (DAFS), in partnership with the Great Lakes Intertribal Food Coalition (GLIFC), will serve Indigenous farmers and businesses.

Over \$10 million will be distributed directly to technical assistance providers and eligible business owners.

Who Can Participate? Small- to

mid-sized farmers and historically marginalized food and farm business owners throughout Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, and Wisconsin.

CFRS will serve as the key partner for Michigan, while the others will serve as network coordinators for their respective geographic areas, and the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin will work regionally across all states.

Great Lakes Midwest Regional Food Business Center Partners include: Michigan State University Center for Regional Food Systems (Michigan); Chicago Food Policy Action Council (Illinois); Northwest Indiana Food Council (Indiana); Food Finance Institute of the University of Wisconsin System (Wisconsin);

and the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin Department of Agriculture and Food Systems (Regionally).

Support for the Great Lakes Midwest Regional Food Business Center comes from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service Regional Food Business Centers Program. The 12 USDA Regional Food Business Centers support all 50 U.S. States and Territories, and are inclusive of all types of agricultural products produced locally or regionally.

For more information, view the MSU Extension press release here: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/GLM-RFBC/index>

# Muskrat and mink carcasses needed from Munusong Bay

The Sault Tribe Wildlife Program is one of many project partners working with the Wildlife Ecology Institute on a project — evaluating the impact of wetland quality and drought on Great Lakes basin muskrat populations.

This project includes working with trappers to collect wazhashk (muskrat) and zhaagweshi (mink) carcasses from specific blocks of Munusong Bay.

These carcasses will be analyzed for health and disease in addition to other factors. The Wildlife Ecology Institute will pay \$5 per carcass for the first 30 intact muskrat carcasses and the first 10 intact mink carcasses from animals that are trapped within each of the five blocks in Munusong Bay. To learn more about the project visit Wildlife Ecology Institute's page at <https://www.wildlifeecology.org/>

[muskrat-g12.html](https://www.wildlifeecology.org/muskrat-g12.html).

If you are interested in participating, contact Sault Tribe Biologist Michael Castagne to obtain maps, trap log information and harvest status from each block. Carcass collection will be on a first come, first served basis.

You can contact Michael by email at [mcastagne@saulttribe.net](mailto:mcastagne@saulttribe.net) or on his cell at (906) 203-2007.

# Sault Tribe and Hiawatha National Forest Service receive USDA award

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

The Sault Tribe Natural Resources Department and the Hiawatha National Forest Service recently received the Tribal Accomplishment Award from the USDA Forest Service.

The award highlights the collaborative work the two agencies have completed together over the past decade.

"This award is the culmination of over a decade of collaborative work with the Hiawatha," said Eric Clark, director of Consortium for Cooperative Ecological Resilience for the Sault Tribe.

According to Clark, their collaborative work has improved and protected the habitats of over 62 species and tracked animal populations within the national forest. Their largest collaborative project has focused on the reintroduction of controlled fires into U.P.

forests. Uncontrolled fires pose a dangerous threat to forest habitat and humans, but controlled fires have been proven to have positive effects on forest health.

As an example, the Kirtland's warbler only lays its nest in jack pines that need the heat of a forest fire to release their seeds. Species such as these can be placed in danger due to lack of natural fires.

"At the U.S. Forest Service, 90

percent of their budget is going to fight wildfires and looks at how we can achieve better ecological outcomes in these fire-prone landscapes, while at the same time reducing the risk of really large wildfires," said Clark.

The tribe has been working with the forest service to create methods and schedules for controlled burns in Hiawatha Forest to help jack pines and other species flourish.

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NCUA Insured

# MSU Extension empowers home food producers

BY BECKY MCKENDRY,  
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY  
EXTENSION.

As the seasons change, farms and gardens all across the state are yielding fresh produce. But safety is key when it comes to preserving — and selling — your food.

For many participants, Michigan State University Extension's food safety and preservation programs, specifically Cottage Food Law ([https://www.canr.msu.edu/cottage\\_food\\_law/](https://www.canr.msu.edu/cottage_food_law/)) and Preserving MI Harvest, have become invaluable resources. These programs not only provide the knowledge needed to safely preserve food at home, but they can also open doors for small-scale entrepreneurs looking to turn some of their homemade goods into profitable ventures.

"Food preservation is more than just a way to save money, increase food supply, enjoy local foods or reduce waste," said Laurie Messing, MSU Extension food safety educator. "It can be about connecting with food systems and our community. Our programs provide the tools and knowledge to do that safely and successfully."

## Turning passion into profit

For aspiring food entrepreneurs, MSU Extension's Cottage Food Law program can be a lifeline. Under a 2010 law, Michigan residents can legally produce and sell some foods from their home kitchens without needing access to a licensed commercial kitchen. But the law can be difficult to understand, as many homemade goods are covered while others aren't.

MSU Extension's Cottage Food Law classes guide participants through the intricacies of the Cottage Food Law, ensuring that they understand which foods can be legally sold and how to label their products accurately. The program also offers practical tips on starting a home-based food business, from safety standards to marketing strategies.

The success of MSU Extension's Cottage Food Law training has been undeniable, with 98% of participants reporting that they better understood how to run a successful cottage food business after taking the class. Feedback from participants has also been overwhelmingly positive.

"Thank you so much,"

said one participant. "I learned so much in the class and really enjoyed it."

Another highlighted the value of how accessible the classes were, stating, "I found the class very informative, and I really appreciate that it was available for free, so thank you."

In partnership with the MSU Product Center and the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, MSU Extension offered 16 online Cottage Food Law training programs last year, attracting almost 1,500 participants.

## Preserving harvests all year

Offered weekly via Zoom, Preserving MI Harvest is taught by MSU Extension food safety educators who cover a wide array of food preservation techniques, including water bath canning, pressure canning, blanching and freezing, and dehydrating.

To ensure the safety and quality of preserved foods, MSU Extension food safety educators emphasize the importance of using current, research-based methods and recipes to ensure safety and quality.

"Knowing that all canning recipes are not created equal and

may not be safe helped me understand the importance of following a recipe," said one participant.

Topics for Preserving MI Harvest are often seasonal, covering everything from tomatoes and salsa in the fall, preserving soup safely in the winter to celebrating African American cuisine for Juneteenth.

Other popular topics have included a class on preserving venison during hunting season, making garnishes and mixers for drinks, and how to safely make food gifts during the holiday season.

"There are so many aspects to food preservation, and we want to make sure our classes reflect the variety and opportunities to preserve so many wonderful, great tasting products," said Messing. Participation in Preserving MI Harvest has been strong, continuing to grow in popularity. In 2023, MSU Extension held 149 in-person and online classes, reaching 3,226 participants. Already through August of 2024, Preserving MI Harvest has had 137 classes, reaching 2,059 participants.

Participants in Preserving MI Harvest have consistently praised

the classes for helping them feel more confident in preserving and canning food — whether canning tomatoes, freezing berries, or drying herbs.

"I am well experienced with home food preservation, but I don't know it all," said one participant. "[MSU Extension] makes research and science-based information non-threatening, logical, safe, and high quality."

"The ability to ask questions is essential," said another participant. "These sessions, and [MSU Extension's] food safety hotline, have hugely improved my preserving confidence."

As the popularity of home food preservation continues to grow, MSU Extension's programs offer the guidance you need, whether you're looking to preserve your own harvest or start a small food business. Visit MSU Extension's Safe Food & Water website ([https://www.canr.msu.edu/safe\\_food\\_water/](https://www.canr.msu.edu/safe_food_water/)) or Food Preservation website ([https://www.canr.msu.edu/food\\_preservation/](https://www.canr.msu.edu/food_preservation/)) for more information.

For more information, visit <https://extension.msu.edu>. To contact an expert in your area, call (888) 678-3464.

## Sliger earns Ph.D. in occupational therapy

Melissa Sliger, a proud member of the Sault Tribe, recently earned her doctorate in occupational therapy with highest honors from Nova Southeastern University in Tampa, Fla. She is a distinguished member of Pi Theta Epsilon Occupational Therapy Honor Society and the Alpha Eta Society, which recognizes excellence in allied health. During her doctoral studies, she completed internships at several renowned hospitals, including Sheppard Pratt in Towson, Md., The Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Md., Archbold Memorial Hospital in Thomasville, Ga., and the James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital in Tampa, Fla.



## Esme Roddy graduates from Yale

Esme Roddy is a member of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians. She graduated high school from Cranbrook Academy and was awarded a bachelor's degree from Pomona College before going to Yale, where she earned her psychiatric nurse practitioner degree.

Esme is the daughter of Juliette Roddy and granddaughter of Robert and Mollie Boynton of St. Ignace, Mich.

*Congratulations, Esme!*

Great Funding Opportunity for Sault Tribe Students!

## TED Grant Scholarship 2024 Fall Semester

Must be an Enrolled Sault Tribe Member

APPLICATION PERIOD OPEN FOR FULL AND PART-TIME COLLEGE AND/OR VOCATIONAL STUDENTS ENROLLED IN CLASSES FOR THE 2024 FALL SEMESTER

\*This Scholarship is awarded per semester. If a student received a scholarship last semester, they can still receive a scholarship again this semester as long as they are deemed eligible and submit required application materials.

Visit <https://www.saulttribe.com/membership-services/education> or email [education@saulttribe.net](mailto:education@saulttribe.net) for application



DEADLINE TO APPLY: 1/03/25 AT 11:59PM

\$1,000 SCHOLARSHIP

## More Michigan students taking career and technical education courses

LANSING, MI — A growing number of students from around Michigan are enrolling in career and technical education programs. Michigan Department of Education (MDE) officials are seeking additional legislative support for expanding the programs, which prepare students for careers in areas ranging from agriculture, to skilled trades, to public safety, to science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

Enrollment in career and technical education programs, often known as CTE programs, has not only recovered from decreases during the pandemic, but now exceeds enrollment from before COVID, Ms. Celena Mills, director of the MDE Office of Career and Technical Education, said during a presentation at a recent State Board of Education meeting. In the 2023-24 school year, 112,156 students enrolled in CTE programs, the third year of increases totaling more than 9,000 students, or 9%, since the 2020-21 school year enrollment

**A growing number of students in Michigan are enrolling in career and technical education programs. Michigan Department of Education is seeking additional legislative support for expanding the programs, which prepare students for careers in areas ranging from agriculture, to skilled trades, to public safety, to science, technology, engineering and mathematics.**

of 102,988 at the low point of the pandemic and more than the pre-pandemic, 2019-20 school year enrollment of 111,073.

CTE completers, students who finish an entire series of courses in a given career area rather than a single course or two, have also increased the last three years, a total increase of more than 8,000 students, or 19% from 44,226 in 2020-21 to 52,625 in 2023-24, and greater than not only the 2019-20 pre-pandemic number of 50,416 but also any single year pre-pandemic.

"We know that overall, students who participate in CTE have better outcomes — not just right after high school, but further

down the road," Mills said, referencing surveys of students who previously were enrolled in CTE programs. Students in the Class of 2016 who completed CTE programs reported earning higher median wages than those who did not.

"CTE programs help some children learn what they want to pursue as careers," said State Superintendent Dr. Michael F. Rice. "As importantly, CTE programs can be the inspiration that help other students realize why they are in school and why school is important to their careers and futures. For previously unengaged students, these programs can improve attendance and

graduation rates, postsecondary credential attainment rates, and life outcomes.

"We call on the legislature and governor to help us eliminate CTE deserts and reduce opportunity gaps in Michigan by expanding CTE with more funding and by encouraging additional partnerships with business and industry to support programs and offer work-based learning opportunities to students."

During the State Board of Education meeting, Ms. Diana Allard, executive director of CTE for the Genesee Intermediate School District, and Mr. Kevin Harmes, CTE instructor for the Genesee Career Institute Fire Academy, shared the positive effects the programs have on students. Through the Fire Academy, students are trained to be firefighters and emergency medical technicians (EMTs).

The intermediate school district began the Fire Academy during the 2021-22 school year. Enrollment has grown from 18

students in the first year to 41 during the current school year. Twenty-six students have earned certification through the program.

A focus has been to diversify the firefighter and EMT professions, which tend to be dominated by white males. Progress has been made, as 38% of this year's Fire Academy students are females, Allard said. However, 12.2% of students are Black, compared to 19% of all Genesee County residents who are black. "We're still looking to increase the number of students who might reflect their community," she said.

CTE programs contribute to meeting several goals in Michigan's Top 10 Strategic Education Plan, including Goal 4, to expand secondary learning opportunities for all students; Goal 5, to increase the percentage of adults with a post-secondary credential; and Goal 6, to increase the percentage of adults with a post-secondary credential.

# Stacey's Creative Crochet hits the powwow trail

BY SCOTT BRAND

Stacey's Creative Crochet is based in Manistique, Mich., but Stacey Goldi often finds herself on the road traveling to big events throughout the Central Upper Peninsula with her mother, Marsha Damer. "We enjoy crocheting, me and my mom, and you get to meet so many great people along the way and become friends with a lot of them," said Goldi. "We go to different craft shows, local markets, farmer's markets and even the Fourth of July."

Although Goldi is Native American, tracing her lineage to the Iroquois Nation, it was her crochet business that has brought her to powwows hosted by the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians in recent years.

Goldi said her mother taught her how to crochet when she was about 9 years old.

When Fibromyalgia left her unable to work, she returned to her craft.

"I got tired of sitting around doing nothing," she explained. "Now, I try to crochet every day. It's relaxing and relieves stress."

Goldi's products include potholders, wash clothes, various scrubbies and even the occasional blanket.

"We sell the scrubbies and potholders the most," she said. "We don't make a ton of money, we do it more as a hobby."

Staci added that she uses 100 percent cotton, traveling as far as Marquette to procure her favorite yarns — Sugar & Cream, Peaches & Cream and Loops & Threads to ensure her customers get high quality goods that can be safely used.

"You have to watch the different brands, some of them use polyester," she explained,

adding the 100 percent cotton is safe to microwave.

"If a wash cloth smells you can throw it in the microwave," she said.

Goldi added that her company also produces reusable water balloons, similar to a regular water balloon, that can be used in multiple water fights.

Photo by Dakota Goldi

**Right, Stacey Goldi of Manistique, Mich., has been crocheting since she was 9 years old. Her mother, Marsha Damer, taught her the craft as a young child and the pair have continued to practice the craft for many years, turning the hobby into a successful business and traveling throughout the Central Upper Peninsula to sell their hand-made items.**



# Sault Tribe elders 60 and over bad address list

Preparing for 2025 Elder checks, Sault Tribe's Enrollment Department is seeking the correct address for the Elders age 60 and over who's names appear on the list below. If you see your name there, please contact Enrollment to update your address. If you see the name of someone you know, please ask them to get in touch with Enrollment, which can be reached at 1-800-251-6597 or (906) 635-3396. Miigwech.

- Adams, Craig P
- Adams, Mark W
- Adams Jr, Donald H
- Agy, Gary M
- Alexander, Laurie J
- Alexander Jr, Fred M
- Alleyne, Doralee M
- Andrews, Tammy
- Anthony Jr, Daniel R
- Arntz, Debra E
- Arseneau, Lawrence R
- Aultman, Inez A
- Baker, Vince W
- Bard, Wilda A
- Barr, Brian J
- Beckman, Kristin A
- Beigel, Leon J
- Belanger, Jerome F
- Belanger, Lyndon B
- Belisle, Danny L
- Belonga, Francis J
- Benedict, John A
- Berkland, Karen M
- Bernard Jr, Lawrence G
- Best, Pamela
- Bicknell, Gerald L
- Bobee, Joseph F
- Bohrer, Michael G
- Bonno, Clyde A
- Boston, Julie A
- Bourasaw, Peter J
- Braley, Sharon L
- Brasseur, Bernie D
- Brauer, Edward A
- Brenchley, Frederick K
- Brewer, Karen
- Brigman, Rod R
- Brothers, Keith A
- Burke, Kevin L
- Cadreau, Paul M
- Cary, Peter M
- Cervera, Claudia E
- Clark, Robin L
- Coughlin, Francis R
- Cox, Tina M
- Crowder-Simmons, Laura J
- Cruz, Rhonda B
- Darnell, Mickie J
- David, Trudy K
- Delpriore, Cheryl L
- Derouin, Darryl P
- Dewar, Debra L
- Dietz, Mark O
- Dilworth, Lawrence M
- Doll-Bodine, Teresa A
- Doyle, Vickie S
- Eaton, Gregory A
- Edmonds, James B
- Elegeert, Thomas J

- Erickson, James S
- Erskine, Verna J
- Ettawageshik, Joel Q
- Ettawageshik, John L
- Falbe, Brian D
- Faragher, Elaine R
- Filer, Dale A
- Fischer, Dawn A
- Fischer Jr, David A
- Ford, Deborah M
- Fox, David R
- Fraser, Donald L
- Frazier, William J
- Gagnon, Lynne M
- Gale, Danny M
- Gokey, Todd S
- Gomez Jr, Jose A
- Gorny, Thomas E
- Goudreau, Richard C
- Gouine, Gerald H
- Grai, Elizabeth A
- Green, Richard G
- Green, Sheri A
- Greggs, Jason J
- Groh, Vicki J
- Grondin, Charles J
- Hallesy, James F
- Hansen, Marianne
- Hanson, Peter J
- Harned, Todd
- Harris, Bruce K
- Harris, Patricia A
- Hartrick, Tim M
- Hatch, Mark H
- Hatch, Susan
- Hennessey, Marianne E
- Henry, Susan
- Hershey, Joni
- Heximer, Larry G
- Hill, David J
- Hillman, Judy G
- Hoffman, Gina L
- Holmberg, Patti A
- Holmes, Donald J
- Hylo, Dana W
- Hylo, Lee A
- Jackson, Charles D
- Jackson, Jennie M
- Jennings, Angela J
- Keyandwy, Ronald D
- Kilstofte, Tammy K
- King, Timothy G
- Kivisto, Douglas J
- Konkel, Cynthia E
- Kopacki, Marcia L
- Krause, Sandra A
- Kravis, Valerie K
- LaCross, Donald K
- LaDrig, William T
- LaLonde, Dennis G
- LaLonde, Rene A
- LaPine, Michael T
- LaPlaut, Charles F
- Laughton, Jerry D
- Leask, Daniel J
- Lee, Rodney J
- Lewis, Anna M
- Lewis, Robin J
- Lewis, Steven M
- Lichtenberger, Rebecca M
- Lockwood, Jeffrey F
- Lucas, David L

- Malloy, James B
- Mantooth, Troy L
- Martineau, Allen R
- Mastaw, Kevin
- Mattson, Melanie A
- McCarthy, Kenneth P
- McCarthy, Richard J
- McCondra, Raymond P
- McCondra, Ronald K
- McDermott, Edward J
- McDonald, Brent S
- McDonald, Tom
- McDonald Jr, John
- McLeod, Bobby J
- Metivier, Lynette S
- Meyers, Cathy J
- Meyers Combs, Audrey A
- Michaels, Violet L
- Moffatt, April M
- Monck, Steven J
- Montague, Lark L
- Montgomery, Debra S
- Moore, Bonnie A
- Moore, Janice O
- Morris, John P
- Mullendore, Carolyn M
- Murray, Charles E
- Neal, Cathy L
- Neal, Linda A
- Nesbitt, Rebecca L
- Nichols, Bobbie J
- Nygaard, Robert W
- Osogwin, Laurie A
- Paciocco, Stephen J
- Page, Lisa A
- Paquin, Carolyn J
- Paquin, Kathleen M
- Paquin, Michelle
- Parrish, Glenn R
- Paschall, Karen L
- Paulsen, Camie A
- Payment, Stephen M
- Perry, Raymond A
- Perry, Robert F
- Pilcher, David J
- Poole, Lisa R
- Powell, Patricia S
- Pratt, Katherine A
- Pratt, William J
- Pressley, Kimberly A
- Quinn, Suzanne M
- Radford, Sharon D
- Ray, Linda S
- Rittenhouse, Bonnie K
- Rivard, Loretta J
- Rivers, John N
- Robbins, Merlin S
- Robbins, Richard L
- Roberts, Mary J
- Ruperd, James K
- Ryckman, Barbara
- Samuel, Debra E
- Sari, Jeffery M
- Schell, Debra L
- Scheuring III, James W
- Schmid, Raymond L
- Scobey, Peggy M
- Scott, Jack T
- Sepienza, Anne M
- Sepienza, Joseph
- Sepienza, Steven
- Seymour, Michael S

- Shields, Edwin R
- Simonds, Deborah S
- Skupin, Lalona I
- Smith, Alfred L
- Smith, Karan A
- Smithson, Vicky L
- Snyder, John L
- Sosnowski, Paul M
- St. Louis, Robert F
- St. Louis, Wayne A
- Stephens, Terry M
- Stewart, Cherrie J
- Sturm, Christian A
- Summers Jr, Wilfred G
- Thibodeau, Marilyn R
- Thomas, Robert R
- Trudell, Candice R
- Tudman, Collette A
- Vanier, Tina M

- Vanzile, Sherri L
- Vieau, Gary D
- Vincamp, Lisa A
- Wagner, Sherrie R
- Weatherly, Mary H
- Weber, Daniel B
- Welch, Michael L
- Weston, Charmaine T
- Westveld, Holly J
- Wheeler, Henry A
- Whisenant, Albert T
- White, Randy P
- White Jr, Gerald R
- Wicketts, Betty M
- Willson, Susan M
- Wiseley, Patricia L
- Woodworth, Tami L
- Yancy, Pamela J
- Young, Laurie A

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# Unlocking the mysteries of the Great Lakes: Contribute to participatory snail research

FROM GLANSIS

Participate in our mystery snail collection project and become a guardian of the Great Lakes. Are you passionate about the Great Lakes and eager to support scientific research aimed at preserving these bodies of water? We have just the opportunity for you! Our newly-designed webpage is your portal to aiding crucial research on mystery snails in the Great Lakes region.

## Dive Into participatory science

At the Great Lakes Aquatic Nonindigenous Species Information System (GLANSIS,) we believe groundbreaking research thrives on community involvement. Our latest initiative calls on participatory scientists to help collect, document, and ship the mystery snails *Cipangopaludina*

*chinensis* and *Cipangopaludina japonica* to support worldwide research being done by scientists with George Mason University. These non-native species could have ecological impacts on the Great Lakes. This is your chance to contribute to meaningful environmental science, while exploring the beauty of these waters.

## Why your participation matters

The introduction of mystery snails into the Great Lakes has raised concerns among ecological researchers. These snails can alter food webs, compete with native species, and introduce parasites. Understanding their distribution, abundance, and impact is vital for developing strategies to protect our lakes. Researchers at George Mason University will use the latest genetic techniques to identify

which species each mystery snail is and identify any parasites it hosts. Your active participation helps us gather the data needed to monitor and manage this species effectively.

## How it works

Getting involved is easy and rewarding:

**Visit the website:** Navigate to our Contribute Mystery Snails (<https://www.glerl.noaa.gov/glansis/contributeSnails.html>) landing page.

**Learn and equip:** Familiarize yourself with the characteristics of mystery snails through our species profiles.

**Go exploring:** Head to your local lake or stream and start hunting for mystery snails. Check out our location map to see where populations have been documented and where samples are needed.

## Collect and document

Carefully collect the snails, take photos, and note down important details such as location, date, and environmental conditions. Aim to collect a minimum of 30 adult snails from each independent water body.



A mystery snail. Photo: Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife, CC BY-SA 2.0, via Wikimedia Commons.

**Submit your specimens**  
Ship your snails following the instructions listed in the ‘Shipping’ section of our webpage. Each submission brings us closer to unraveling the mystery of these invasive snails.

**Benefits of participating**  
**Hands-on learning:** Gain practical experience in fieldwork and contribute to a better understanding of invasive species.

**Community contribution:** Join a network of concerned citizens and scientists working together towards a common goal.

**Impactful involvement:** Your efforts directly aid in preserving the ecological health of the Great Lakes, a vital resource for millions of people.

**Join the movement**

Participatory science is more than just a hobby — it’s a powerful tool for environmental stewardship. By participating in our mystery snail collection project, you become a guardian of the Great Lakes. We invite you to explore our species profiles, dive into the fascinating world of snails, and make a tangible difference in protecting our precious water resources.

Whether you’re a seasoned biologist, a curious student, or simply a nature enthusiast, your contribution is invaluable. Let’s unite our efforts and ensure the Great Lakes remain vibrant and thriving for generations to come.

Visit our Contribute Mystery Snails Landing Page and start your journey in participatory science.

For any inquiries or additional information, please contact GLANSIS at [oar.glerl.glansis@noaa.gov](mailto:oar.glerl.glansis@noaa.gov) or follow us on X. Together, we can unlock the secrets of the Great Lakes.

## National Brush Day promotes good habits

BY JESSICA A. RICKERT, DDS

Anishinaabe Dental Outreach National Brush Day encourages a healthy smile for all and promotes good tooth-brushing habits. In November, parents are encouraged to make sure their family brushes their teeth for two minutes, twice a day.

We encourage all folks to sing a favorite toothbrushing song that’s at least 2 minutes long while brushing twice a day.

Common songs can be adapted, such as “The Wheels On The Bus Go ‘Round and ‘Round’ can become “The Bristles On The Brush Go ‘Round And ‘Round!’” “So Early In The Morning” can include “this is the way we brush

our teeth, brush our teeth, brush our teeth. This is the way we brush our teeth so early in the morning!”

The American Dental Association recommends a toothbrush that has soft bristles; the ADA recommends replacing your toothbrush every 3 to 4 months. Replace it more often if bristles are in bad shape or if the toothbrush has been contaminated.

Power toothbrushes include rotating-oscillating or sonic-powered devices. For certain groups, power toothbrushes clean better than manual brushes; these groups include those patients with less manual dexterity or strength, the handicapped and the cognitively

impaired, among others.

The dentist and hygienist will customize instructions to any unique conditions and needs for individuals.

And in the future? In development are light-activated antibacterial treatments. Low-level lasers or LEDs might be incorporated into toothbrushes or in a tray-device. It is theorized that regular use of the light-activated for teeth methods can help reduce plaque buildup prevent gum disease and cavities.

Jessica A. Rickert, DDS, Anishinaabe Dental Outreach, can be contacted by emailing to: [jrickert@deltadentalmi.com](mailto:jrickert@deltadentalmi.com), or calling (231) 313-8407.

Patients were asked, “Should you wish, please provide any comment regarding this physician’s office/clinic visit.”

And you told us...

The Tribal Center does a good job caring for the patients.

Margaret Comfort Medical...The clinic is very much needed here. I don’t know what I’d do if I didn’t see Margaret. The clinic is accommodating and very easy to work with.

She is great. I give her a 12 out of 10 score...she gives excellent care!

She’s a good doctor and the pharmacy there is fantastic, too.

They’re just all very good. We’ve gone there for years.

It’s an excellent place. Friendly. Been going there for quite a few years. It’s always a good place to go. It’s a nice experience when you have to go.

This is a very good clinic. They are very helpful!



MANISTIQUE TRIBAL HEALTH CENTER

The doctors and nurses are great!!

The staff is always willing to help. If they don’t know something, they don’t hesitate to refer you out for services...Thanks for excellent care!

Dr. Muth Optical...Dr. Muth did a great job and I’m satisfied with the care I received.

He’s great...I’d like to see him stay...They have taken very good care of me.

The office staff and services are amazing.

I’m very happy with the service. They went above and beyond.

J.L. Morgan Telephone Survey of a random sample of Sault Tribe patients from 2023

# Medallion making featured at language gathering



Photos by Scott Brand  
Clockwise, starting at 9 o'clock, Henry Rothwell, 4, accompanied by his dog named Tiger, paints his medallion. Instructor Jackie Robinson observes Michael Larson as he applies acrylic paint. Yvette Pitawanakwat helps herself to some homemade chicken soup. Melissa Causley displays her intricate medallion. Katherine Carter punching holes in the birchbark. The three-day event, Anishinaabemowin Maawnjiding Language Gathering, was held Sept. 26-28 at the Niigaanagiiizhik Cultural Building and included various ceremonies, teachings, story-tellings and feasts. The medallions were crafted to be worn as necklaces in the woodland style with each participant creating their own special design.





## A pair of happy birthdays!



Photos by Nancy Lowes and Scott Brand  
The Sault Tribe Elder Program celebrates elder birthdays each month for those who utilize the meal program. In September, above, Marilyn White, Carol Eavou, Amiee Penrose, and Tim Lalonde gathered in front of their cake before it was cut and shared with all in attendance. Below, Donna was in the spotlight as the lone October birthday.





## RESIDENTS OF DRUMMOND & MACKINAC ISLANDS ENROLLED IN THE PRC PROGRAM

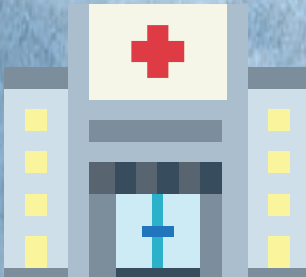
**RESIDENTS OF DRUMMOND & MACKINAC ISLANDS ENROLLED IN THE PURCHASED REFERRED CARE (PRC) PROGRAM ARE EXEMPT FROM SEEKING URGENT MEDICAL SERVICES AT A TRIBAL HEALTH FACILITY PRIOR TO SEEKING URGENT CARE FROM ANOTHER PROVIDER LOCATED ON MACKINAC & DRUMMOND ISLANDS FOR THE MONTHS OF NOVEMBER, DECEMBER, JANUARY, AND FEBRUARY.**

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# Apple cider workshop delivers fall treat and Orange Shirt Day events celebrated

**BY SCOTT BRAND**  
 The Sault Tribe Health Center grounds played host to a well-attended Apple Cider Workshop on Sept. 21.  
 Waishkey Bay Farm Manager Kat Jacques explained the process to the waiting audience.  
 “We try to choose apples that are free from major blemishes,” said Jacques dismissing the belief held by some in attendance that

fallen and bruised apples were primarily used to make cider.  
 Ginger Gold was the apple variety that starred in this particular show. Audience members were invited to select their own apples to feed into the hopper as this presentation was a hands-on activity. This first phase pulverized the apples into a juicy mash, before they were introduced to the hand press. The second phase saw individuals taking turns making sure to squeeze as much of the valuable juice out of the mash where it spilled into the collection bin.  
 After emptying the collection bin, the juice was taken inside the building where a waiting stove was activated.  
 “We bring the cider to a boil for one minute and then let it cool down,” said Jacques, as the next wave of participants began feeding

a new batch of apples into the hopper.  
 The process was repeated multiple times allowing everyone a chance to select their apples and work the press.  
 The pay-off for all the hard work came in the form of freshly-poured apple cider for sampling with enough left over for some guests to leave the event with a full gallon of cider for future consumption.  
 Jacques estimated that the boiled cider would remain good for nearly a week meaning it could be shared with friends and family unable to attend.  
 The workshop was supported by the Tribal Practices for Wellness in Indian Country Project and made possible with funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.



Participants, wearing gloves, took turns feeding the hopper with clean, unblemished Ginger Gold apples.



Kat Jacques pours cider into one gallon jugs with assistance from Avery McCluskey.



Fresh apple juice was collected after the apple mash was pressed.



Lauren Bonacci sits on Laura Campbell's lap enjoying their cider.



The Rudyard YEA Group made the trip up to the Sault to learn how to make their own apple cider.



A broken arm didn't stop Jared Norris from taking his turn on the press.



Maddy Lamma brings the apple juice to a boil the final step in producing cider.



William Falk, 4, cranks the press.



Lyndee Zigler and Skylar Lamma enjoy a sip.



Tina Robinson assists with hauling the apple mash.



Marianne and Dennis Alexander with a fresh jug.

## St. Ignace community joins orange shirt day activities



Leading the National Day of Remembrance and Reconciliation Walk.



Orange shirt day - Malcolm High students and GSRP littles wearing orange in remembrance of Indian boarding school survivors. Photo by Megan Casuley.



Left, Sault Tribal Chairman Austin Lowes joined Mukkwa Giizhik. Above, ChiChuck performs.



Left, Sault Tribal Chairman Austin Lowes joined Mukkwa Giizhik. Above, ChiChuck performs.

## Community feast held in celebration of orange shirt day in Sault Ste. Marie



Children were first in line for the feast.



More walkers departing the Museum of Ojibwa Culture grounds.



Ashley and Jeani Refruschini with Laura Bouschor, center, after feeding an estimated 175 people at the Sept. 30 Community Feast.



Francie Wyers dispensing water for a ceremony.



Ron Daniels led the Pipe Ceremony.

# Sault Tribe Health Fair held at the Big Bear



Ashley Samuelson receives a vaccine at the Sault Tribe Health Fair held at Big Bear Arena in the Sault.



CHN Roberta Hoffman helps a tribal member get ready for a vaccination.



Diabetes Fitness Trainer Eric Stallman and Health Education Supervisor Tina Robinson (L-R) chat with elders Bill and Lynnette Marsh (at right). Stallman holds a device that tests grip strength.

### Photos by Jennifer Dale-Burton Health pulls out all the stops —

The Health Fair held at the Big Bear Arena in Sault Ste. Marie had something for everyone — COVID and flu vaccinations, health education displays, elder services, smoking cessation, a fantastic cookware doorprize, Advocacy Resource Center literature, and more, with swag everywhere. Health fairs were held across the service area, in Sault Ste. Marie, Kinross, St. Ignace, DeTour, Hessel, Mansitique and Gladstone.



Health Educator Maddy Lamma shows off a healthy lung (left) versus a smokers lung (right).

## Sault Tribe Medical Social Work Program



The Sault Tribe Medical Social Work Program is designed to assist patients in finding and allocating resources and connecting patients with those programs and resources that meet their needs. Services offered by this program include but are not limited to the following:

*Services are tailored to meet the individualized needs of patients and their families. Therefore, services offered to patients are tailored to meet their individualized needs.*

- Short term mental health counseling services.
- Assisting patients and applying for Social Security disability benefits.
- Helping individuals and families apply for healthcare coverage.
- Navigating veterans' services programs.
- Finding durable medical equipment for patients.
- Assisted living care and long-term care placement.
- Work with funding sources to assist with the cost of resources or durable medical equipment.
- Assisting with transportation needs.
- EMDR for the treatment of posttraumatic stress disorder.
- Help in understanding the Purchased Referred Care Program.

Contact Lane Barber MA LPC NBCC, Medical Social Worker and Medical Case Manager:

906-632-0109

www.saulttribehealth.com

2864 Ashmun Street  
Sault Ste. Marie



Administrative Secretary Rhonda Black and CHT Sarah Fisher (L-R) man the registration table, and show off the amazing cookware door prize.

# Walking on...

## MAUREEN ELIZABETH ANDERSON

Maureen Elizabeth Anderson, 62, died on Sept. 8, 2024, at Villa at the Bay in Petoskey, Mich. She was born Nov. 9, 1961, in Ellison Bay, Wisc., to Gordon Wayne and Marylyn Jane (Payment) Anderson.



Maureen moved to DeTour, Mich., as a young child and graduated from DeTour High School with the Class of 1979. She joined the work force in 1991 when she worked as a cashier at Kewadin Casino. She then worked at Sune's IGA Market and most recently at Goodwill until she retired in 2015.

Maureen loved going camping, playing on her computer, crocheting and cross stitching. She was a member of the Cribbage League in Sault Ste. Marie.

Maureen is survived by children, Derek (Cora) Anderson of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., Matthew Berger of Kincheloe, Mich., and Kendra (Dakota) Cameron of Levering, Mich.; grandchildren, Serenity Annand, Chase Anderson, Karleigh Cameron, Bailey Cameron; step-granddaughter, Kaylee Ball; sisters, Tina Bundt of Kincheloe, and Carrie-Lynn Gillam of Kincheloe; step-brother, Donald Robertson of Beaver, Okla.; step-sister, Maria King of Berkley, Mich.; and many nieces and nephews who will all miss her dearly.

Maureen was preceded in death by her father, Gordon Wayne Anderson; mother, Marilyn Gillam; stepfather, Clifford Gillam; brother, Robert Anderson; sister, Cynthia Fountain; stepsisters, Melba (Russ) Malek and Martha Gillespie; and niece, Nicci Tackett.

A visitation was held Sept. 13, 2024, at Wilderness Tabernacle Church in DeTour Village, Mich., with a funeral service following.

Memorial contributions may be made in Maureen's memory to help the family with funeral expenses. Please make a check out to Family Life Funeral Homes and mail to 24549 S. M-129 Pickford, MI 49774.

Family Life Funeral Homes assisted the family with arrangements. Condolences may be left to the family at [www.familylifefh.com](http://www.familylifefh.com).

## ELIZABETH ELAINE ROUSH

Elizabeth Elaine Roush, 78, of Middleport, Ohio passed away Sunday, Sept. 8, 2024, at her daughters home.

Born June 23, 1946, in Sault Ste Marie, Mich., she was the daughter of the late Arnold and Amelia Romano Latour. Elizabeth was very proud of her Native American ancestry. She was a graduate of Loretto Academy in Sault Ste. Marie and worked at Ohio University. In her spare time

she enjoyed gardening and crocheting.

She is survived by her husband of 52 years, Bennett Roush; one son, Jamie Roush; two daughters, Keri (Art) La Ponsie, and Brooke (Andy) Neff; six grandchildren, Jewel, Sean, Nick, Alexis, Jacob and Gage; one great granddaughter, Serenity; one brother, Gene Latour; a half-sister, Annie Vincent and a half-brother, Perry Latour.

Private family services will be held at the family's convenience in Greenwood Cemetery in Racine, Ohio. Flowers or condolences can be sent to 188 N 3rd Avenue, Middleport, Ohio 45760.

## JOHN "COTT" FISHER JR.

John "Cott" Fisher Jr., 69, of St. Ignace, Mich., died at his home on Sept. 6, 2024. He was born Oct. 11, 1954, to John and Mary (Bodwin) Fisher of Mackinac Island, Mich.



John spent his life on Mackinac Island and was proud of his heritage as a native islander. He graduated from Mackinac Island Public Schools in 1972. After graduation, John began his career driving taxi and dray for both Mackinac Island Carriage Tours and Gough's Livery. He worked for the Murray Hotel in maintenance before starting his own business, Cott's Cottage Care, which provided maintenance and landscaping for the Little Stone Church and cottages on Mackinac Island. John formed deep relationships with beloved customers on the West Bluff and Annex of Mackinac.

John was a member of St. Anne's Catholic Church, Wawashkamo Golf Club, and Fellowship of Oak Island.

John enjoyed gardening, hunting, and fishing. He found peace hiking the trails on Mackinac with his dogs over the years.

John is survived by his wife, Barbara; daughter, Heather Fisher Ogle of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.; son, Adam (LeAndra) Fisher of Grand Rapids, Mich.; and, son, Paul Fisher of St. Ignace, Mich.; grandchildren, Colton Fisher of Mackinac Island, Aidan Ogle of St. Ignace, Cullen and Charlotte Fisher of Grand Rapids.

John was preceded in death by his parents, John Sr. and Mary "Monnie" Fisher; siblings, Melvin "Oscar" Bodwin, Wilma Fisher-Green, Anthony "Tony" Fisher, and Margaret Fisher-Fleming.

A private memorial service was held, John's final resting place is at the St. Anne's Catholic Cemetery on Mackinac Island.

Family Life Funeral Homes assisted the family.

## GRITA GIDNER

In Ojibwe culture, when a person dies, their spirit spends four days walking west to begin a new, happy life in the spirit

world. Thus, when someone passes, we commonly say that they have "walked on" or begun their "journey."

Grita Gidner, 91, of Renton, Wash., a citizen of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, began her journey on the morning of Sept. 8, 2024, following several years of declining health.

Grita was born Grita LouAnn Goerke in Topinabee, Mich., on Aug. 13, 1933, the only child of Marguerite and Lewis Goerke.

A 4-H scholarship allowed her to attend Michigan State University, where she earned a bachelor of nursing science degree, graduating in 1955.

In 1952, she met Dick Gidner at a dance in East Lansing, Mich. They were married in 1956, and moved to Dayton, Ohio, where Dick was in the Air Force. In 1958, Grita had her favorite daughter, Dawn Gidner (Kerry Hodnett), and in 1960, saving the best for last, had her favorite son Jerry ("E.G.") Gidner (Amy Sosin). In April 2024, Dick and Grita celebrated their 68th wedding anniversary.

After the family left Ohio, Grita lived, and worked as a registered nurse, in Pennsylvania, Michigan, Texas, and finally, Washington State, where Dick and Grita have lived for the past 41 years.

Over the course of a long and meaningful life, Grita was a square dancer, 4H leader, and talented craftswoman. Grita sewed, knitted, and embroidered. Later in her life, she developed a love for Brazilian embroidery, and became a well-known and much-loved practitioner and teacher of the craft. She hosted weekly "stitching" meetings at her house for the last several years, up until the time she entered the hospital in mid-August, 2024. Those meetings have continued since then, and will continue in her memory into the future.

Grita was a voracious reader. In every home she had, the bookshelves sighed under the weight of the thousands of books that lived with her. She gave both Dawn and Jerry the love of reading and the quiet curiosity that accompanies it. It is hard to think of a better gift that a mother could give her children.

More than anything, maybe, Grita loved animals. She almost always had cats and dogs or other pets in the house, and they have been a great comfort to her and she to them. Her granddaughters, Reiss Gidner (Cornell College of Veterinary Medicine, Class of 2025) and Sadie Gidner (University of Vermont, Animal Science, Class of 2025), obviously inherited this love. And not only did Grita love animals, but she was such a good person and pure soul that every animal that ever met her, loved her as well.

She was a quiet, kind, and strong woman, and the world will miss her.

In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to your favorite Brazilian embroidery group and/



or animal shelter, hug someone, pet a dog, scratch a cat's ears, or just be kind.

## BRITTANIEE "BRITT" SALLY PACKER

Brittaniee "Britt" Sally Packer, 21, of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., died at MyMichigan Medical Center Sault on Sept. 16, 2024. She was born on May 9, 2003, in Sault Ste. Marie, to Andrew Lee Packer and Chantelle Marie MacArthur.



Brittaniee grew up in Sault Ste. Marie and graduated from Malcolm High School. She was a devoted loving mother to her son, August, and stayed home to care for him.

Brittaniee enjoyed art, music and loved to spend time with family and friends. She would go shopping with her mom, even though shopping was her least favorite thing to do. Brittaniee was an animal lover with her latest dog "Pookie" and cat "Prince" being dear to her heart. Grey's Anatomy was one her favorite shows to watch, with her superhero being Batman.

Brittaniee is survived by her son, August Phillips of Sault Ste. Marie; father, Andrew Packer; mother, Chantelle MacArthur; brother, Trenton Packer of Sault Ste. Marie; great-grandpa, Donald MacArthur, grandfather, Richard Packer; grandmother, Francine Mitchell; aunt and uncles, Sue Mitchell, Calvin Mitchell, Derek and Theresa Packer with many others; and many cousins who will all miss her dearly.

Brittaniee was preceded by her grandfather, Clarence Mitchell; and grandmother, Cleda Packer.

A memorial gathering was held Friday, Sept. 20, 2024, with the memorial service following at Family Life Funeral Homes in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.

Memorial Contributions may be made in Brittaniee's memory to Chippewa County Animal Shelter, 3660 S. Mackinac Trail, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783.

Condolences may be left to the family at [www.familylifefh.com](http://www.familylifefh.com).

## LYNN ROBERT RICKLEY

Lynn Robert Rickley, 69, of St. Ignace, Mich., passed away unexpectedly the morning of Friday, Sept. 20, 2024, at Mackinac Straits Health Systems in St. Ignace. He was born on Aug. 22, 1955, in St. Ignace, the son of Francis and Mary (McLeod) Rickley.

Lynn attended St. Ignace Area Schools. For many years, he worked as a commercial fisherman through the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. He dedicated much of his life on the lake, seeing many sunrises and sunsets pulling or setting nets. Fishing kept him busy, but he wasn't the kind of man that could be still. In his retirement, he was always doing something around the house; painting, putting in new floors, rearranging furniture,

putting in new flowers. He'd sooner get the job done himself than waste his time asking for help. Lynn hardly ever asked for help if he needed it, but in that same breath he'd just about give the shirt off his back if he heard someone he knew was struggling. If he couldn't help himself, he'd do everything he could so that person would have what they needed. His pride would get in the way sometimes, but at the end of the day he couldn't be prouder of his kids and grandkids for all their accomplishments.

Those left to honor his memory are his longtime partner, Janice; daughter, Hayley (Brian); son, Aaron (Cassie); grandchildren, Hunter, Karlie (Tristan), Chloe, Ella, and Masen; sisters, Tesa (Greg) Peck, Sanky (Martin) Alkire, and Debra (Clyde) Pasterki; brothers, Richard Rickley and Patrick Rickley; former son-in-law, Scott St. Andrew; as well as many nieces, nephews, cousins, friends, and extended family.

Preceding him in death are his parents, Francis and Mary; niece, Tammy; and nephew, Bradley.

The family will hold a private graveside ceremony, and he will be laid to rest in St. Ignatius Loyola Catholic Cemetery.

Family Life Funeral Homes assisted the family with arrangements. Condolences may be left to the family at [www.familylifefh.com](http://www.familylifefh.com).

## MICHAEL J. SUMMERS SR.

Michael J. Summers Sr., 83, of Escanaba, Mich., went to be with God on Sunday, Sept. 22, 2024, at St. Mary's Hospital Medical Care Center in Green Bay, Wisc. as his family surrounded him in prayer.



He was born on Oct. 17, 1940, in Escanaba, son of Joseph and Mary (Daily) Summers.

On Oct. 9, 1965, Michael married Phyllis Sarasin in Escanaba. They shared 58 years of marriage and had six children together.

Michael worked at the Birds Eye Veneer Plant, Robinson Furniture Manufacturing, and later for the Delta County Road Commission before retiring because of medical issues.

He was a jack of all trades who enjoyed writing poetry and music. His song, "Right Road to Heaven" was successfully recorded and was played on the radio.

Michael loved listening to the news and going to the casino.

He was a very proud father, grandfather, and tribal member and elder of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

Survivors include his wife, Phyllis Summers of Escanaba; children, Diane (Mike) Buckland, Mary (Randy) Smith, Barbara (Walter) Fleury, Karen (Greg) Smith, and Michael (Janice) Summers; daughter-in-law, Laurie Summers; 13 grandchildren and 26 great grandchildren; sister, Eleanor Artley who he loved greatly; and several nieces

See "Walking on," page 18



# Carrying the burden of domestic violence

BY JESSICA GILOTTE, ARC

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. A time to raise awareness for victims and survivors of domestic violence. It is a time to demand change, provide hope, and educate others on the heavy topic that is Domestic Violence (DV).

Domestic violence, or "intimate partner violence," is a pattern of behavior in any relationship used to gain or maintain power and control over an intimate partner. Abuse can be physical, sexual, emotional, economic, or psychological actions or threats of actions that influence another person. This includes any behaviors that frighten, intimidate, terrorize, manipulate, hurt, humiliate, blame, injure, or wound someone. Domestic violence can happen to anyone of any race, age, sexual orientation, religion, or gender. Domestic violence occurs within a range of relationships, including gay or straight couples and couples who are married, living together, or dating. Domestic violence affects people of all socioeconomic status and education levels. Domestic violence is constant. It happens every day. It happens to people you know.

What you may not know about is the additional stress that goes along with domestic violence. The internal stress that a victim carries throughout the day. Those experiencing a form of violence have their own unique set of rules and worries to endure. Not only are they experiencing the abuse, but the relentless mental and emotional toll that affects their life in many ways. One of the major

contributors to that stress is living in constant fear of when it will happen next. The unpredictability of their abuser's behavior is daunting. Simple or mundane daily tasks become filled with anxiety, awaiting the next trigger.

Victims become extremely hypervigilant, paying close attention to what they say and how they say it to their abuser, second-guessing their words, actions, and tone of voice, fearing that any comment or slip-up can provoke a violent response. This ongoing pressure leaves victims feeling emotionally drained, trapped in a vicious cycle, and never truly feeling relaxed or at peace.

Additionally, victims often experience anxiety over the loss or destruction of their personal belongings. In many abusive relationships, the abuser, demonstrating their power and control, uses not only physical intimidation but also targets items they know are of importance or meaningful to their partner. The destruction of these items is a tactic to reinforce their control and induce fear. The victims are often left feeling powerless, knowing their personal space and belongings are subject to their abuser's next violent episode.

This continuous threat, along with feelings of instability and constant anticipation of confrontation or violence, can compound the already stressful state that victims face daily. While being in a domestic violence relationship is stressful itself, these factors make it exceedingly difficult to navigate day-to-day life. If you know, you know.

Domestic violence is based on

power and control over the victim. Many times, victims are unaware they are even in an abusive relationship. There are many indicators of domestic violence, and it is essential to evaluate your relationship if you feel your partner matches the criteria of an abuser.

Abuse comes in many forms, including physical and sexual abuse, emotional and psychological abuse, threats and intimidation, and stalking. The following are signs that your partner exhibits force or bullies, threatens, or controls you:

- Accuses you of having an affair
- Blames you for the abuse
- Criticizes you
- Tells you what to wear and how to look
- Threatens to kill you or someone close to you
- Throws things or punches walls when angry
- Yells at you and makes you feel inferior

Your partner may control you financially by doing the following:

- Keeping cash and credit cards from you
- Giving you an allowance and explaining every dollar you spend
- Preventing you from working at all or at specific places
- Steals money from you or your friends or family
- Will not allow you to have money for necessities like food and clothing

Your partner may control you by:

- Cutting you off from family and friends
- Makes you ask permission to see friends and family
- Embarrasses you in front of

others, causing you to want to avoid others

Your partner physically abuses you:

- Abandons you in places you don't know
- Attacks you with weapons or objects
- Keeps you from eating, sleeping, or getting medical care
- Locks you in or out of your house
- Punches, pushes, kicks, bites, pulls hair

Your partner sexually abuses you by:

- Forces you to have sex
- Makes you dress in a sexual way
- Makes you feel like you owe them sex
- Tries to give you an STD
- Refuses to use condoms or birth control
- Withholds sex and affection as a punishment

Here are some signs to look for if you feel someone you know is being abused:

- Has excuses for injuries
- Personality changes, exhibiting low self-esteem
- Constantly checking in with a partner, asking for permission, or seeming anxious while away
- Never having money on hand
- Overly worried about pleasing their partner
- Skipping work, school, or social settings for no apparent reason
- Wearing clothes that don't match the season, such as long sleeves in the summer to cover bruises

Both women and men can be victims of domestic or intimate

partner violence. The signs and actions can be the same whether the abuser is a male or female.

In the LGBTQ community, some of the signs may differ—abusers may:

- Make excuses for abuse, for example, saying, "That's just how men are" or "You know you wanted it to happen."
- Telling you that police or others won't help because of gender or orientation
- Threatening to "out" you to family, friends, and others
- Extreme jealousy of friends of the same sex

Are YOU an Abuser? Have you realized any of your behaviors here? In that case, resources may be available in your community to assist you in ending the abusive behaviors. Contact Sault Ste. Marie Tribal Court at (906) 635-4963 for assistance. Domestic abuse can result in criminal prosecution. Help is available.

The Advocacy Resource Center (ARC) has been instrumental in serving survivors since 1989. ARC is available for support and advocacy for crisis intervention and emotional support. The ARC can assist with safety planning and follow-up. The Lodge of Bravery is open 24/7 and can provide immediate safety to survivors and their children and pets seeking protection from intimate partner violence. You do not have to be a tribal member to seek ARC services. Contact the ARC at (906) 632-1808. You are not alone. Abuse is never your fault.

For more information, you may also find us at [www.Facebook.com/saulttribeARC](http://www.Facebook.com/saulttribeARC) and on our website, [www.arcsaulttribe.com](http://www.arcsaulttribe.com).

## Walking on continued...

From "Walking on," page 17 and nephews.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a son, John Summers.

A celebration of life was held on Sept. 27 at the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Escanaba Community Center.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to the family.

A message of condolence may be directed to the family by visiting [www.crawfordfuneral-homes.net](http://www.crawfordfuneral-homes.net). The Crawford Funeral Homes are assisting the family.

### JOHN ALLAN THOMAS

John Allan Thomas passed away Aug. 24, 2024, at the age of 59, with his sister by his side, after a very short battle with cancer. John was born Sept. 19, 1964, in Ashland, Wisc., to Robert and Marjorie (Miller) Thomas. John graduated in 1983 from Waukesha South High School.

John was always musically inclined. He sang in school and played viola. He also played piano and dabbled with the accordion. His all-time favorites were playing guitar and singing. He would play at school, he would sing karaoke, and sing and play for family and friends whenever he could. He was a big Elvis fan, along with many other country singers.

John spent most of his adult life cooking at various restaurants in Wisconsin, Indiana, Colorado,

and Florida. He started his career at Paul's Restaurant in Waukesha, Wisc. and worked almost right to the end at both Highland Street Café and Dora Café in Mount Dora, Fla.

John was also attending school for medical coding and billing. In April 2024, he received his associate of applied science in health information technology with honors and had also finished one semester toward his bachelor of science in technical management. We are very proud of him and his accomplishments!

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

John leaves behind his son, John R. Thomas, of Maryville, Tenn.; his mother, Marjorie Thomas of Waukesha, Wisc.; and sisters Linda (John Kerr) Widmar of Arsdale, Wisc.; Diana (Tom Pike) Thomas of Waukesha; and Jewell (Keith) Braun of Waukesha; his two cats, Stanley and Penelope, now of Waukesha; and many other relatives and friends.

John is preceded in death by his father, Robert Thomas; sister, Roberta (Birty) Thomas; grandparents; and other relatives. Arrangements entrusted to ICS Cremation and Funeral Home, in Lake City, Fla.

A celebration of John's life will be held at a later date. Please keep John alive in your heart and mind. We miss him dearly.

### JAMES LEROY VANCE JR.

James LeRoy Vance Jr., 39, of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., passed away unexpectedly late Sept. 13, 2024, at MyMichigan Medical Center in Sault Ste. Marie.

He was born Dec. 17, 1985, in Omaha, Neb., to James Sr. and Tina (Pergil) Vance.

James's early childhood in Nebraska introduced him to the value of hard work and ambition, instilling in him a certain fearlessness, a pathway of entrepreneurship and the drive for new opportunity. James's journey was by design, broad and spectacular, just like him; filled with experiences, friendships, and an uncanny ability to excel in all of his endeavors be it owning his own tattoo parlor or driving new business growth for the regional construction industry. Known for his ideas and concepts in business, construction, and technology, he was in many regards ahead of his time, never deterred and a determined force of nature. Not one to play it safe, to simply 'test the waters' was not James, he lived and loved head-first.

On April 12, 2014, James married Catherine "Maggie" Carr of Sault Ste. Marie. Soulmates (both stubborn, neither known for caution, and both inclined to live life

to the fullest) found in each other a deep and rare love that only true soulmates can understand. A love that endures and transcends beyond the stars.

Although James's treasures were many, none were so spectacular as those of his and Maggie's children, Ryder and Scarlett. In Ryder, a son to love, protect, teach, share, and watch grow into a young man capable of overcoming any challenge and adversity in life, to protect and ensure the future. Scarlett, his princess, very much the embodiment of both James and Maggie. Strong willed and much like her dad, without fear, unrelenting, and independent.

James's loved being out in the elements, be it on the water fishing for walleye with his best friend Galon or grilling and camping. He loved to be around the campfire sharing stories and laughing with family and friends.

But his greatest passion was always Maggie and the life they built together. Never one to shy away from any challenge, he was self-taught in life and lived without fear, James took on all the world had to give him. Although his journey on Earth was short-lived by mortal measure, his memory and the imprint he left on the lives of the people he loved and loved him will endure forever.

James was a deep caring and selfless soul, putting others above himself. He helped take care of

his grandparents in their later years in the Sault, and in service to his country as a Veteran during his tour of duty in Michigan's National Guard.

James is survived by his wife, Maggie (Catherine); his son, Ryder and daughter, Scarlett; his mother, Tina (Pergil) Vance; his father and stepmother, James Sr. and Beth Vance; brothers, Austin Vance, Jesse Vance, Brandon Buchholz, Ben McCaleb and his sister Ciara Vance; his wife's parents, Frederick T. Carr Sr. and Joanne P. Carr; as well as brothers-in-law, Frederick T. Carr Jr. and Christopher J. Carr and sister-in-law, Jennifer (Carr) McKerchie and countless nieces, nephews, friends, and colleagues who loved him dearly.

James was preceded in death by his grandparents, Jim and Jill Pergil of Sault Ste. Marie, and Elijah and Christine Vance of Omaha, Neb.

Funeral services were held Thursday, Sept. 19, 2024, at the Niigaanagizhik Ceremonial Building in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.

On Friday, Sept. 20, 2024, the traditional ceremony commenced at 10 a.m. with the burial afterwards. A luncheon followed in the early afternoon at Maloney's Alley in Sault Ste. Marie.

Final resting place will be Wilwalk Cemetery on Sugar Island, Mich.

Family Life Funeral Homes assisted the family with arrangements. Condolences may be left to the family at [www.familylifefh.com](http://www.familylifefh.com).



# Sextortion: A fast growing threat in Michigan

BY ANISHNAABEK COMMUNITY AND FAMILY SERVICES

In recent years, sextortion has rapidly emerged as one of the fastest-growing forms of cybercrime, particularly targeting young people across the nation. Michigan, in particular, has seen a disturbing rise in cases, prompting urgent attention from law enforcement, educators, and online safety advocates.

Sextortion is a form of blackmail where perpetrators demand money, sexual favors, or other compensation by threatening to release private, often sexually explicit, images or information. These criminals exploit their victims, who may not even know their personal photos or videos have been obtained. Victims are often coerced into sending more compromising material under the threat of exposure, resulting in

significant emotional and psychological harm.

According to recent data from the Michigan State Police, sextortion cases have sharply increased over the past few years. In 2023 alone, the state saw a 31% rise in reports compared to the previous year. Nationally, the FBI reports that 20 minors have tragically committed suicide due to sextortion since 2021, including four victims from Michigan. Law enforcement officials caution that these numbers likely underrepresent the true extent of the crime, as many victims are too afraid or ashamed to come forward.

The FBI's Detroit Field Office has also reported a 15% increase in cases involving minors in Michigan. Nationwide, the FBI received more than 29,000 sextortion-related complaints in 2023. While anyone can fall victim

to sextortion, research shows that teenagers and young adults are most frequently targeted. In Michigan, nearly 70% of cases involve victims under the age of 18, with predators often lurking on social media platforms such as Snapchat, Instagram, and TikTok. These criminals often pose as peers to gain their victims' trust, making the emotional toll even more severe. Disturbingly, victims in Michigan have been as young as 7 years old.

Sextortion isn't limited to minors. Adults, particularly those using online dating platforms, are also at risk. Michigan Cyber Command reports that over 20% of sextortion cases in the state involve adults whose personal information was misused following online interactions.

Michigan treats sextortion crimes with the utmost serious-

ness. Perpetrators convicted of sextortion can face up to 20 years in prison. In cases involving minors, where child pornography is often involved, the penalties are even more severe, including potential lifetime registration as a sex offender.

To avoid becoming a victim of sextortion, it's crucial to understand how these criminals operate and take steps to protect your online presence.

— Be cautious when sharing personal information online, particularly images or videos, as even private messages can be hacked or shared without consent.

— Avoid engaging with suspicious accounts on social media, and if you are targeted, do not comply with threats. Instead, contact law enforcement immediately.

— Parents should also main-

tain open communication with their children about the dangers of online interactions and consider using privacy controls to monitor social media usage.

Michigan law enforcement and cybercrime units are actively working to combat this growing threat. If you or someone you know is a victim of sextortion, it's important to report it to local authorities or the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children at 1-800-THE-LOST (1-800-843-5678).

Sextortion is a serious crime with potentially devastating consequences. As cases continue to rise in Michigan, education and awareness are critical in preventing future crimes. By understanding the risks and taking proactive steps to protect ourselves, we can help reduce this growing threat to online safety.

# Medical social worker reaches out to membership

BY SCOTT BRAND

Medical Social Worker and Medical Case Manager Lane Barber of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians encourages tribal members to reach out to his office.

"If you have questions, I find answers," explained Barber of his role. "They want me to be flexible, so if anyone needs anything, I can set them up. I'll work with anyone and if needed, on occasion, I can even travel off site."

Barber has been a licensed medical health counselor for 24 years, with more than two



decades at the Sault Tribe's Health Center in Sault Ste. Marie.

In this role he wears many hats, and as a result no two days on his work schedule are alike.

For those experiencing anxiety, depression, family issues or trauma, Barber will serve as the interim therapist, sort of an EMT for mental health, until the patient can be connected with an assigned therapist. For those with drug abuse or alcohol issues, Barber can assist in getting them the treatment they need to find their path to recovery.

"I can also do eye-movement and desensitization and reprocessing, what the military uses for

Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)," said Barber.

Barber is also available for folks during some of the toughest times in their lives serving those suffering from grief, loss, bereavement and even the heart-break of putting a loved one into a long-term health care facility.

He also assists the homeless community in finding shelter and helps people access durable medical equipment they need to return to their homes.

Paperwork, Barber has found, be it the actual hard-copies or just computer access, is often a major

stumbling block for those in need. With that in mind, he has found himself assisting people with accessing Medicare, insurance through the Medical Care Act, and applying for Social Security and Supplemental Social Security (SSI).

"If tribal members need something I help them figure it out," Barber concluded, "or I get them in touch with someone who can."

Barber can be reached at (906) 632-0109 or found on the third floor of the Sault tribal Health center located at 2864 Ashmun Street in Sault Ste. Marie.

# Sault Tribe's telemedicine team receives IHS Director's Award



SUBMITTED BY DR. LEO CHUGUNOV

On Aug. 16, 2024, Sault Tribe Health Division's Telemedicine Team was awarded a Bemidji Area IHS Director's Award. Attending the ceremony, posing with the Bemidji Area Acting Director, were (L-R) Rural Community Health Program Manager- South Nicole Fuson, Community Health Dietitian Cassandra Steinhoff, Bemidji Area Acting Director Asha Petoskey, Administrative Assistant Heather Nord, and Diabetes Case Coordinator Valerie Ford. Not present but also receiving the award were team members Joel Lumsden, Dr. Kroupa-Kulik, Marlene Glaesmann, Amber Perry, Margaret Comfort, Tara Duchene, Stephanie Craddock, Brenda Nelson, Phyllis Huffman, Carolyn Komejan, Renee Anderson and Jackie McLean. Traditional Healer Gerard Sagassige also received an Individual Bemidji Area IHS Director's Award, Sagassige's second IHS award this year.

# Munising Tribal Health employees fundraise for Alger County cancer patients and families



Photo by Valerie Ford

Munising Tribal Health employees participated in Stake the Lake on Saturday, Oct. 5. The event raises money for Alger County residents and their families who are going thru cancer treatments. L-R: Gabi Tyner, RN, Anne Cromell, Valerie Ford, RN, and Amanda Tyson, CHT.

# MSU expert: How adults can help prevent youth suicide - youth mental health trends

*Warning: This story talks about suicide. If you or someone you know needs help, please call, text or chat the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline at 988. You matter. You are important.*

BY MAUREEN PERIDEAUX

EAST LANSING, Mich.

— Crystal Cederna is an associate professor in the Charles Stewart Mott Department of Public Health in the Michigan State University College of Human Medicine. She has worked with more than 4,000 youth patients and families and sees a clear need for preventive mental health. Here, she shares insight about how parents and caring adults can help tweens and teens who may be at risk for suicide.

## What are the trends in youth mental health?

Surveys of U.S. high school students by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, or CDC, spanning from 2013 to 2023 show that poorer mental health is evident in almost every way. Specifically, there were increases in persistent feelings of sadness and hopelessness — to the point that these feelings were reported to negatively impact everyday life. Also, the number of youths seriously considering a suicide attempt doubled in those 10 years. In 2013, almost 10% of teens surveyed had made a suicide plan. In 2023, the rate was 20%. That's not a level we can ignore.

## What are warning signs that might indicate a young person is considering suicide?

Many teens will share with someone — either a trusted adult or a friend — that they're having thoughts of wanting to die or take their life. Those contemplating or preparing for suicide often feel hopeless about the future. This can show up as having no goals or events they're looking forward to, struggling to create future-oriented plans, or making gloomy future-outlook statements, such as, "Things will never get better." They may also think or say things that suggest they see themselves as a burden or that life is not worth living. All of these statements should be taken very seriously.

Clear changes in mood or behavior that last a couple weeks or more are also reason for concern. Does the youth appear more anxious, irritable or sad than usual? Do they show bigger mood swings or have more difficulty managing their mood?

Watch for withdrawal from social activities and activities that were once enjoyed. For example, if your child skips a dance or school event they'd usually love, this could indicate something more is going on. Also, do they spend significantly more time alone or in their room than usual?

Alternatively, a youth may start engaging in more risky or reckless behaviors, such as substance use and self-injurious

behaviors.

They may give away prized possessions or write goodbye letters to loved ones.

Another warning sign is searching the internet for ways to harm themselves or take their life. If you see a search history on a kid's device that shows they've looked up ways to self-harm or take their life, that would be very concerning.

Things that are red flags include the thoughts, behaviors and feelings above, particularly when paired with recent losses, changes or stressors — like failing an exam, a breakup with a romantic partner or a conflict with a best friend.

Research tells us that risk factors are different for each individual based on their relationships and family situation and their community or environment. Some general examples of things that might increase risk for suicidal ideation or an attempt include:

- Untreated or inadequately treated mental health conditions like anxiety or depression

- A history of hurting themselves or suicide attempt(s)

- Unaddressed stressors, exposure to extreme stress, and/or multiple ongoing stressors for the child, family or their community

- Access to potential means for self-harm; and

- Lack of access to help and professional mental health services

Also, adults need to know that sometimes warning signs are too subtle to notice or seemingly nonexistent. Not every child is prepared, comfortable or has a trusted adult with whom to share their struggles or suffering.

## How do I approach a youth whose mental health I'm worried about?

If you plan to initiate a conversation about mental health, prepare yourself. First and foremost, give yourself some grace. Having tough conversations is challenging. You're human and you're not going to say everything perfectly. That's okay. Showing you care and are there to help are the most important things.

When you start a conversation with a tween or teen, create a safe space free of interruptions and distractions. Be as free of judgment as possible. Let them know you are there to share your concern. Then listen to learn, not to change their reality or talk them out of anything. Afterward, express gratitude that they shared their experience(s) with you. Assure the youth that you want to support them in getting the help that they need.

Here are some suggestions:

- Sit down and say, "Hey. I've noticed some things are different about you lately. Not bad. Just different. How are you? Like really?"

- If nothing is shared by

your child, share what you're seeing: "I've noticed some changes that I'd like to check in with you about." Then say what you've observed. For example, "I'm seeing you not wanting to go to soccer practice. I'm seeing an F on a test in a class you love when you've gotten A's your whole life. I'm seeing your phone pinging away and you're not checking to see who's texting you when usually you'd be glued to your phone. This is not normal for you. I'm here with you. I love you. Help me understand what I'm seeing."

- As teens share, listen quietly and nonjudgmentally. Using statements like "Tell me more." or "What does that mean to you?" can help them open up

- Thank them for sharing. "It takes a lot to talk about what's bothering us, at least it does for me. Thank you so much for telling me what's going on."

- Wrap up by expressing your concern and offering to help. "I see and hear you. I would love to support you in getting help."

By resisting any temptation to deny their reality or treat their concerns as trivial, adults can show youth their reality is heard, legitimate and taken seriously. To them, whatever is troubling them, no matter how small it may appear to an adult, is a big deal.

## What if I learn that a tween or teen is seriously considering self-harm or suicide?

A child's safety is always the first priority. If you know a child is at risk of hurting or trying to kill themselves, professional mental health evaluation and treatment are needed as soon as possible.

If help is needed immediately, do the following:

- Convey a message of acknowledgment, assurance of help and love. Say something like, "I see you. I hear you. We're going to get you the help that you need. You are loved. You are important. And you are not alone."

- Call 911.

- Do not leave the child without adult supervision

- Remove any type of weapon that could be lethal if used. Exactly what you need to remove will depend on what the child tells you they've been thinking of in terms of self-harm. It could be:
  - Guns and ammunition
  - Cutting implements such as knives, razor blades or pencil sharpeners; or substances like over-the-counter medications, alcohol or illicit drugs

- Get the person safely to the nearest emergency room or behavioral health urgent care where they can be evaluated by a professional and given the care that they need

## What should I do if my child needs help but isn't in immediate danger?

If you're concerned about

possible self-harm but the child isn't in immediate danger, follow up with a professional who can help develop a treatment plan. A few options include:

- Scheduling an appointment with your child's primary care provider, specifying that you want help with mental health concerns

- Calling your county community mental health agency and asking to schedule an appointment

- Taking your child to a behavioral health urgent care provider for evaluation and treatment recommendations or

- Calling the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline at 988 for support and local mental health referral options

## What if I'm worried about the mental health of a child that isn't mine?

If you see something, say something. You can reach out to their parents or caregivers directly. Or you can talk to the child. If they confirm they're having a hard time with their mental health, encourage or help them tell a trusted adult in their life. Say, "Let's work together and share this with your [mom/dad/aunt/adult brother] so they can help you get the help you need."

As a parent or primary caregiver, it can be hard to believe that your child has a mental health issue. How can adults get past this hurdle?

First, understand that you have not failed as a parent if your child experiences mental health issues.

We are amidst a nationwide child mental health crisis. Having a child with suicidal thoughts doesn't mean there's something wrong with you or them. It means there's a need for more support, resources and help to navigate what's in front of them. This can happen to anyone. And it does.

It's not one event. It's not one person. It's not one cause.

We are living in very challenging times. Kids are multi-stressed, meaning they have stress coming from all sides and angles — from academic and athletic demands to neighborhood and school safety, and from local to global events.

In today's world, kids don't always have the skills and resources to talk about mental health difficulties, cope with them or even recognize them. All of this creates a perfect storm. As parents, we like to think we're all things to our kids. In reality, the older they get, the bigger the radius of influences on their health. Mental health difficulties and suicide don't happen in a bubble.

## What can adults do to keep kids as mentally healthy as possible?

What greatly supports kids' resiliency is having at least one unconditional source of love and support, as well as a space where

they can regularly talk and actually be heard. It does not have to be their parent — it can be any adult in their life.

The space to talk and be heard could anywhere . . . at the dinner table, in the car while driving to practice, along a walking trail or looking out at water. It could be seated on a bench watching cars or people passing. What creates safety is a place where kids feel comfortable to share and be heard — uninterrupted and without judgment.

Kids also benefit when we, as adults, talk about and demonstrate skills related to managing stress and our emotions. These are life skills that need to be taught, modeled and encouraged. They shouldn't just be something a child learns after there's a problem and they see a counselor. We need to teach youth how to handle stress and emotions as much as we're teaching them how to tie their shoes because that's the world we live in now.

Adults and youth alike can also learn to comfortably speak up when they see something concerning in another person. Let's say your child comes home from school and they have a disgruntled look on their face. That can be a cue to parents to ask what's going on. Share what you're seeing. The more we make it normal to talk about life's ups and downs and to receive support from those around you, the more normal giving and receiving support will be.

## Do phones and online influences have a role in kids' mental health?

Yes. Almost all teens (ages 13-17) interface with social media. And up to four in every 10 preteens (ages 8-12) say that they use social media too. Social media, the internet and digital apps can be both harmful and protective to kids depending on how they're used, how often and the amount of supervision in place. However, in general, the more they are used, the more risk there is for poor mental health outcomes.

Signs that a child is experiencing negative effects from phone and digital use include:

- Missing out on real-life experiences and activities due to screen interference

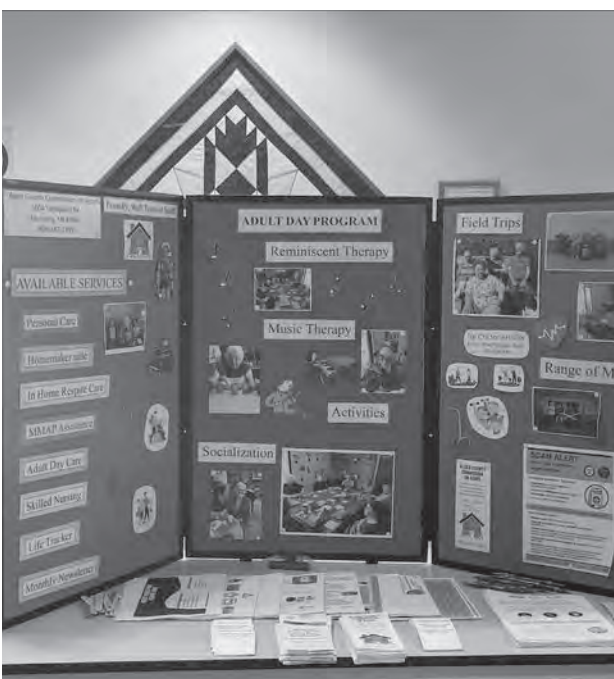
- Acting more critical of themselves and others

- Complaining of being bullied online or their posts "not being liked enough" or "as much" as others' posts

- Reporting that they feel isolated or alone, or are having difficulties concentrating; and not getting enough sleep or quality sleep because of device use

The mental health outcomes that can come with either too much screen time or unhealthy use of screen time for kids could be symptoms of depression, anxiety, lower self-esteem, poor body image and disordered eating behaviors.

# Munising Tribal Health Fair held October 1



Alger County Commission on Aging display.



Amanda Riggers, CHT taking registrations.



Community Health Nurse Valerie Ford recording vaccinations at her display for breast cancer awareness and immunity.



Entrance to Munising's tribal community space.



Health educators with a pig lung display for smoking cessation.



Jaymie Depew with the Women's Center display.

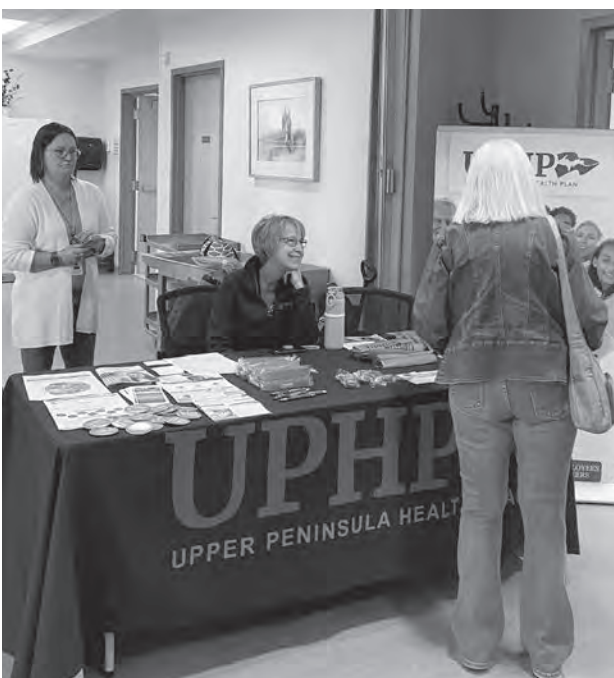


Jenaya Reque-Goudreau from Manistique's dental department with grab bags of dental supplies.



Pharmacist Sarah Seder and Alger Commission on Aging Director Kris Lindquist (L-R).

*The annual Munising Tribal Health Fair was held Oct. 1, and had 44 participants. Medical providers gave 31 shots and 27 covid shots.*



Staff from UPPH brought a wide variety of information to share with tribal members.



Vern and Susie Steinhoff (L-R) at the Elder Outreach display with Elder Outreach worker Heather Jarvis (behind).



Rural Veterans Project Manager with The Michigan Center for Rural Health Jim Yates.

# October '24: A message from Chairman Lowes



**AUSTIN LOWES**  
**TRIBAL CHAIRMAN**

Dear Sault Tribe citizens,

I hope this message finds you well. I want to take a moment to update you on several important initiatives and events happening within our community.

## Constitutional Amendments and Separation of Powers

The board of directors will soon hold a series of workshops focused on amending the Sault Tribe Constitution to establish a separation of powers within our government. If these amendments are approved by our citizens in a secretarial election, we will transition from a one-branch government—where all power is concentrated with the board of directors—to a more balanced system with checks and balances. This change would empower our members and enhance our governance. I look forward to chairing these meetings where community engagement will be provided.

## Documentary screening: Sacred Waters

The Sault Tribe will be hosting a screening of our fisheries



**Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer with heads of Michigan's United Tribes at Keweenaw Bay Indian Community.**

documentary, Sacred Waters, which delves into the tribe's ancient connection to the Great Lakes. This film highlights the efforts of our Natural Resource Department to restore whitefish populations that have been impacted by invasive species. The documentary also highlights the work of Sault Tribe commercial fishermen as they exercise their treaty rights. The screening will take place at DreamMaker's Theater on Oct. 21 at 6 p.m. Stay tuned, as the documentary will soon be available for streaming!

## Cultural Workshops

Sault Tribe is excited to continue providing cultural workshops for our citizens. A canning and preserving workshop will be held at the brand new Escanaba

Community Center on Oct. 24, Oct. 30, and Nov. 7 from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. These workshops are a great opportunity to learn and preserve our cultural practices. I would like to give a shout out to Directors Hampton and Barbeau for utilizing their center for this purpose.

## State-Tribal Summit insights

I recently attended the State-Tribal Summit hosted by the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community. This annual event brings tribal leaders together with the governor to discuss pressing tribal issues. I had the opportunity to speak with the governor directly about treaty rights, missing and murdered Indigenous people, and House Bill 5600. This bill, which I tes-

tified in support of, would create an office of the tribal legislative liaison within the legislative council, fostering a government-to-government relationship between federally recognized tribes and the state legislature. I will continue to advocate for our tribe at local, state, and federal levels.

## Upcoming Ceremony: Feast of the Dead Fall Ceremony

As we approach the end of the month, I would like to remind our citizens of the Dagwaagin Manidokewin Jiibay-inaakewin - Feast of the Dead Fall Ceremony, scheduled for Oct. 26 at the Niigaanagiizhik Building. If you have any questions regarding this ceremony, please reach out to



**Mich. Gov. Whitmer with Sault Tribe Chairman Austin Lowes (L-R). Whitmer holds Lowes' gift of art by boarding school survivor and Sault Tribe member Kim Fyke.**

Tyler Bouschor at the Sault Tribe Language and Culture Division at (906) 203-6382 or email him at [tbouschor@saulttribe.net](mailto:tbouschor@saulttribe.net). I would like to take this time to thank Tyler and the entire staff in the Language and Culture Division. This staff works tirelessly to provide cultural events and language programming to Sault Tribe citizens, and I appreciate their work so much.

Chi Miigwech for your continued support and engagement.

Austin Lowes  
Chairman  
(906) 635-6050

# Secretarial Election for Constitutional Reform



**ISAAC MCKECHNIE**  
**DIRECTOR, UNIT I**

The procedures for a secretarial election are governed by 25 CFR Part 81. Article X of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians states:

"This constitution and bylaws may be amended by a majority vote of the eligible voters of the tribe voting at an election called for that purpose by the Secretary of the Interior, provided that at least thirty (30) percent of those entitled to vote shall vote in such election, but no amendment shall become effective until it shall have been approved by the Secretary of the Interior. It shall be the duty of the Secretary of the Interior to call an election on any proposed amendment upon the receipt of a resolution passed

by a majority of the board of directors, the chairperson having the right to vote thereon. Under Article V Sec. 4 of the Constitution, any person eighteen (18) years of age or over who is a member of the tribe shall be eligible to vote in tribal elections and currently the 30% threshold is 10,500 votes."

To begin this process for a Secretarial election, a proposed Constitutional document has to be finalized by the tribe, the tribe would need to pass a resolution requesting the Secretary to call a secretarial election. From there, the BIA will review the proposed document and provide feedback.

Once the BIA approves the proposed document, the election process will begin, and a Secretarial Election Board will be established to hold that election. The Secretarial Election Board will set the election date and send out notices of the election, including registration forms to vote in the election. The Secretarial Election Board will then establish a Registered Voters List based on those who have completed and returned the registration by the deadline. Those on the Registered Voters List will then be mailed ballots to vote, and those ballots received by the deadline set by

the Secretarial Election Board will be open and counted. The Secretarial Election Board will certify the election after all ballots have been counted and forward the result to the BIA to decide on the outcome. If less than thirty (30) percent of all tribal members over the age of 18 on the date of the election, which is roughly 10,500 people, don't participate in the election, the BIA will determine that the vote failed on the proposed document.

The Secretarial Election Board conducts the secretarial election, except for challenges to the election results; all decisions of the Secretarial Election Board are not subject to administrative appeal. Each tribal member who wishes to vote in the secretarial election must complete a registration form and have it submitted and received by the Secretarial Election Board by the date stated on the notice. The Secretarial Election Board will compile a Registered Voters List to determine whether voter participation in the secretarial election satisfies the minimum requirements of the tribe's governing documents, which requires 30% percent of those entitled to vote shall vote in such election. (10,500)

A copy of the Registered

Voters List, showing only names, will be posted at the local BIA office, the tribal headquarters, and other public places the Secretarial Election Board designates. There will be an opportunity for the Registered Voters List to be challenged by a specific date and those challenged and the Secretarial Election Board will address those challenges.

If less than thirty (30) percent of tribal members register to vote in the Secretarial election, the results of the election will not meet the thirty (30) percent requirement in the Tribal Constitution and will be determined as failing by the Authorizing Official after the election is complete and certified.

The tribe may withdraw the request for a Secretarial election in the same manner in which the election was requested by passing a resolution. This is an option to keep in mind once the Registered Voters List is complete, to be considerate of the Local BIAs budget in having to continue to an election that will be determined to fail.

The Secretarial Election Board must prepare the official ballot so that it is easy for the voters to indicate the choice between no more than two

alternatives. The Secretarial Election Board must send mail-out ballots to registered voters promptly upon completion of the Registered Voters List. The ballots will be counted under the supervision of the Secretarial Election Board after the deadline established for receiving all ballots. The Secretarial Election Board will count the number of valid ballots and cast spoiled ballots to determine total voter participation. The total voter participation number will be used to determine if it meets the thirty (30) percent of those entitled to vote shall vote under the Tribal Constitution. The Secretarial Election Board will certify the results of the election. The Chair of the Secretarial Election Board will transmit all documents pertaining to the election to the Authorizing Official. The Authorizing Official must notify the tribe and the Director of the BIA of the decision on challenges, the outcome of the voting, whether the proposed document was approved, and that the decision is a final agency action. If less than thirty (30) percent of all tribal members over the age of 18 on the date of the election vote the Authorizing Official decision will be that the vote failed.

# Separation of powers amendment coming up



**ROBERT MCRORIE**  
DIRECTOR, UNIT I

Aaniin, Boozhoo, to all of my fellow Sault Tribe citizens. I hope you are well. I hope you are enjoying the last of our warm days of the season outdoors with family, friends, and loved ones.

With winter approaching, it is that time of year again that many of our people struggle with seasonal depression. Mental health is just as important as physical health. Please take the time to reach out to those who may be struggling and let them know you are there for them and there is help available if needed. If you are struggling do not hesitate to reach out, it is more courageous to reach out and confront mental health issues than it is to suffer in silence. The purpose of a tribe is to be here for one another and to come together as a community and build each other up. We are a strong sovereign nation and we are better united under common goals of providing a better life for all of our people, both present and for many generations to

come.

In my last report, I notified the members that I would be placing the Separation of Powers Amendment to our Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Constitution on the Oct. 1, 2024, board of directors meeting agenda. I am pleased to inform the members of our sovereign nation that I did place the amendment on the agenda. Although it was not voted on, as I expected it would not be, the amendment was referred to board workshops in October and November. This is a major step in the right direction. I have been criticized by some board for “jumping the gun” by placing this amendment on the agenda “without notifying them.”

I will address these statements here in my report for you, the members. First, I have been stating publicly, for months, that I would be placing this amendment on the agenda. Second, the Separation of Powers Amendment that I presented was a revision of the final draft of the new constitution, approved by the Constitutional Convention Committee in 2008. This draft was reaffirmed by the committee in 2012. The revisions made only isolated the essential articles needed to establish a true separation of powers; therefore this draft has been available for all directors and members to review for 17 years. I would say that is plenty of notice. Third, I was not elected to conform to the normalities of the governing body that our members have come to know. I was elected to bring change and bring forward legislation on

behalf of the members, not to seek approval from the rest of the board. Although I am able and willing to work with all board members on common goals, it is important for me to make clear that my direction will always come from the members, not the pleasure of the board. I am very confident in saying that I believe had I not brought this forward, we may have gone another 17 years with no action to move this amendment forward.

If I were to imagine a perfect path to move this amendment forward, I would imagine it being completely membership driven. I would believe a committee of members should be formed with individuals of all ages, of many political viewpoints, and from each of our voting units. This committee would meet regularly with legal guidance to research, discuss, and finally draft amendments to the Constitution. These amendments would then be brought to each voting unit for membership input and revised to include the input received. The draft would then be voted on and approved by the committee. At that point the draft would be brought in front of the board as a proposed amendment. The good news is, this is EXACTLY what the 2005 Constitutional Convention Committee accomplished over a two-year period. The members already did their job, it is time for the board to do ours.

Eight of the 12 sitting board members have publicly announced and campaigned on their support of the separation of

powers. It is one thing to make promises to the membership while seeking votes for election, it is another to follow through on those promises. By referring this to workshops, the board has essentially determined that it needs to be worked on; however, I do not see much room for changes as these are the essential functions of a true separation of powers. I am willing to compromise and make minor edits with membership input to ensure ease of implementation; however, this process must be done without manipulation of the core fundamentals of the separation of powers. These fundamentals include the right of members to elect judicial officials, a constitutional separation of the court giving the court the authority to interpret the Constitution and rule on constitutionality of law, the right of members to challenge board decisions in court, and the adoption of the bill of rights that guarantees all members their right to due process and a fair judicial process including an appeals process and standing in court. These fundamentals cannot be manipulated to retain any board control of these processes. The power of these functions must be turned over from the board to the membership by way of the democratic process by election of the judicial branch officials, free from any board intervention.

I am looking forward to working with the rest of the board in the months of October and November to do what it takes to make a board majority move this amendment forward to the

Department of the Interior to conduct a secretarial election. With that said, I will be on guard throughout the entire process to ensure that the intent of the 2005 Constitutional Committee remains intact through the board lead revision process. I will actively and loudly oppose any board member who proposes any revision that infringes on the rights of members, manipulates the fundamental functions of this amendment, or attempts to retain board authorities that belong in the judicial or executive branch.

I am confident that by working together and opening up the conversation to the Members, we can get the job done rather quickly as the work has already been completed by the committee.

I encourage all members to attend the membership input sessions. It is very important that members pay close attention during this process to ensure the desired outcome is achieved. Remember it is our job, as a board, to represent you, the members.

Miigwech to all of our members for your contribution to our great Sault Tribe sovereign nation. I am always excited to hear from members and gather your input to represent you to the best of my ability, so please always feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns you may have or simply to offer ideas on how to improve our nation moving forward.

Chi Miigwech,  
rmcroe@saulttribe.com  
(906) 379-8069

## Honoring our past by preparing for our future!



**AARON PAYMENT**  
DIRECTOR, UNIT I

First, I want to start out by thanking Director Rob McRorie for his leadership in putting amending the Sault Tribe Constitution on the table for Oct. 1, 2024, tribal board agenda. From 2005 to 2007, our tribe held a constitutional convention, and, in 2012, yet another review (by the Convention Committee, the official Elder Advisory, and the board) and Austin Lowes, Betty Freiheit and I repeatedly brought resolutions to move forward.

This time may be different. I am pleased that our Oct. 1 board vote to refer for a final review in October and November 2024 passed. It is now up to the board to follow through and vote to request the Secretary of the Interior to immediately schedule an election. At this point, there are no reasons, only excuses, not to proceed.

I also appreciate board members who have insisted that we use an open review process with the tribal members. I admit, I am leery that this may be used as a filibuster to never take the next step. For two full years, the Constitutional Convention Committee held open meetings all across the U.P. and downstate plus held another six months of review in 2012. For 17 years, we have had the opportunity for review. Over the years, drafts have been published in our tribal paper. Members are frustrated that some only claim to support a separation of powers as a campaign slogan. It is time to act, not stall any longer.

In the past, I have heard a separation of powers is the “white man’s ways” and is foreign to our traditional tribal ways. However, this is the historical contribution the Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) Confederacy Great Law of Peace made to democratizing the world though founding father Benjamin Franklin’s inclusion of the separation of powers in the draft U.S. Constitution, which was taken directly from our Indigenous ways. Our U.S. form of democracy with the liberties, freedoms, Bill of Rights and the real right to redress your very government did not exist prior. Standing in Tribal Court and a Bill of Rights are included in the draft proposed by Director Rob McRorie.

One of my Masters is in Public Administration and my

doctoral studies in political science prepared me to understand good governance over politics. However, my education doesn’t make me smarter. Along with common sense, it does prepare me to figure things out. Anything less than a three two branch form of government is nonsense and benefits only those in power at the expense of those without a right to redress. Not being able to challenge the actions of our government is unacceptable!

No one is fooled that over the years, some have wanted to stay in power and held a death grip on autocratic power. What amazes me is how manipulative some are to make excuses and offer up poison pills to protect the status quo and deny you the right to evolve our tribal government.

An old saying is, don’t let the perfect be the enemy of the good. The Constitutional Convention Committee worked to package a series of amendments to improve our government. Over the years, we have not been able to secure at least seven votes to move forward. So, while it would be better to do a wholesale re-write, the board is only likely to support the following amendments at this time. I applaud Director McRorie for his leadership and vision to see this opportunity. The sections to be considered at this time include:

- Revising the Preamble
- Article I: Sovereignty
- Article II: Bill of Rights

- Article III: Territory and Jurisdiction
- Article V: Separation of Powers
- Article VI: Judicial Branch
- Article VII: Legislative Branch
- Article VIII: Executive Branch
- Article XII: Sovereign Immunity

Director McRorie was just 17 and served on our Tribal Youth Council when the Constitutional Conventional Committee convened. Seventeen years later, Director McRorie is on the tribal council and has promised to ensure our tribal government is good to its word and invites us to vote on a separation of powers once and for all. The tribal board

created our youth council to have their eyes on our future. What a hollow promise if this was only meant to give us their advice but never take it.

Finally, in the next few weeks, please vote in federal elections. I have met with both Presidential candidates, and one has supported tribes while the other is a serious threat to our very existence. Please support candidates who support tribes not who proposed up to 35% cuts to Indian Country including Indian Child Welfare.

Tribal members, please take care and love yourself, your family and your tribe!

Chi miigwech,  
~ Aaron  
(906) 440-8946  
aapayment@saulttribe.net

## OCTOBER BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

**DID YOU KNOW?**

- 1 in 8 American Indian women will develop breast cancer in their lifetime.
- Native women are 7 percent more likely to get breast cancer.
- Regular Mammograms can help find breast cancer early when its most treatable.

### Early Detection Saves Lives

Schedule your 3D mammogram  
Radiology:(906) 632-5237

Committed to Giving You Our Very Best

# Director Sorenson reports on tribal, unit issues



**BRIDGETT SORENSON,  
DIRECTOR, UNIT III**

During the Sept. 17 board meeting in Munising, the board voted to ban the use of Styrofoam by Jan. 1, 2025. Departments will need to use up any supplies they have and cannot purchase any new Styrofoam supplies.

The board authorized spending \$100,000 of the opioid settlement funds to purchase Narcan dispensers for each unit. The health center will determine the locations.

Our casino executives will need to present a smoke-free plan implementation to the board within 30 days of the resolution passing. The vote was unanimous.

The EDC presented a joint venture with Tierra Realty Trust to build a housing project in Cheboygan. With the tribe's contribution, we will get 11 units for our tribal members to be able to rent. This is, I believe, the fourth project we have participated in.

On Friday, Sept. 27, Unit 3 hosted an event at the Museum of Ojibwa Culture for National Native American Day from 12 to 3 p.m. We gave out shirts to the first 200 people, had some workshops, Mukwa Giizik Drum did some songs, we had a fire and teachings by Tony Davis

and food from JR's Grill. The event was well attended as it was planned quickly. The shirts we gave out were orange so that people could wear them on Orange Shirt Day. Chi Miigwich to all that came and helped organize, including Tom and Francie Wyers.

On Monday, a local group of boarding school survivors organized an event and walk from 12 to 4 p.m. at the Museum of Ojibwa Culture. We had our left-over shirts, Mukwa Giizik was present, ceremonies were conducted, stories were shared and the walk was led by many survivors through downtown St. Ignace. The event has really started to grow in its second year and we look forward to it annually.

Oct. 1, a board meeting was held in the Soo. One of the agenda items was a medical monitoring permit that was established by the Conservation Committee, which approved the request of a fisherman. The board passed the permit and fisherman will need to get the application from law enforcement. The grantee (medical monitor) will only be able to observe and not participate in any fishing activities.

On the agenda was a request for a secretarial election for a separation of powers. The board decided to table it until we could hold workshops with the membership with open input in October and November at least. Some feel it is ready to go as the original that the committee presented in 2007. The Elder Advisory Committee has been reviewing it and a grassroots group has as well. I think everyone should work together on what will work the best for the tribe and membership. We need to do our due diligence and then educate so that when members get the opportunity to vote they

will know about it and vote. As of this print deadline, I do not know of the first workshop date. Please watch the tribe's website and Facebook page for more information.

I participated along with some Housing staff in a third toolbox training hosted by NAIHC (Native American Indian Housing Council) in Mt. Pleasant on Oct. 2 and 3. This session included tribes in Michigan, MSHDA, consultants, and lending institutions. This session was focused on developing homeownership opportunities and rental housing.

Our Housing Authority needs to conduct a needs assessment so we can get updated information on the needs in our communities, such as number of bedrooms, need based housing, supportive housing, homelessness and homeownership. We know we are not meeting our current needs but we need updated and accurate information. Hopefully, we can start this process soon.

We also took a tour of the new "A Place of Healing" supportive housing complex that Saginaw Chippewa Tribe just built. It is a beautiful 16-unit complex. There will be a staff member onsite 24 hours a day, tenants will have access to many services, be able to have a dog, have observation rooms for child reunification, etc. There are 1, 2 and 3-bedroom units. The complex will be a way for tribal members with addictions that need a space to call home and hopefully take advantage of the services to become sober and transition to other housing.

The Sault Tribe is also applying for a grant to build our own supportive housing. We were looking at 36 units that would be built in Odenaang.

We continue to meet with Housing staff and Siddock to look at possibilities and layouts

for Unit 3's housing projects. At our last meeting, we discussed the possible infrastructure costs that would be about \$4.5 million, which would leave us with about \$3 million to purchase or build houses. It is usually easier to find grants to build homes than it is to cover infrastructure costs. We meet again on Oct. 18.

The fishing documentary that has been worked on for the last couple of years is finished and the first viewing will be Monday, Oct. 21 at the DreamMakers Theatre in the Soo at 6 p.m. The film will be shown in other communities as well. I presented this idea after conversations with tribal fisherman and businessman Theron King. I wish that we had been able to interview some of the early fishermen to tell their stories.

The movie Bad River will be shown on Saturday, Oct. 26, at the Kewadin Shores Event Center at 6 p.m. At this time, I do not know if there is a cost to attend.

I attended the G2E conference in Las Vegas Oct. 7-10. I have been to this conference a few times in my tenure on the board. This conference focuses on the gaming industry including tribally-owned casinos. I spend my time mostly going to the education sessions but do spend some time at the expo, looking at all the new software, slot machines, uniforms, furniture, etc. Our staff sets up meetings with vendors that we can also attend.

I was able to talk to Ernie Stevens Jr., the chairman of the Indian Gaming Association from Oneida Nation. He offered to come visit us anytime or help with anything we may need. Fellow colleagues of mine, Denise Harvey from the HUD TIAC is also on the IGA board as a Northwest representative and Tyler Yellow Boy is an alternate for the Great Plains.

One of the sessions was on Insights from Non-Smoking Casino Initiatives. According to the presenters (BCSlots.com) there are nearly 1,000 smoke free U.S. casinos and gaming venues with 20 states and one sovereign nation (Navajo) requires smoke-free casinos. They gave out many statistics such as 85% of people are concerned with indoor breathing spaces, 60% of tribal citizens prefer smoke free, 95% of casino workers prefer to work in smoke free environments, 86% of casino players are non-smokers. Tobacco use is at an all time low with 11% of U.S. adults smoking and 5-7% using e-cigarettes. I had the opportunity to talk to a couple of people on the panel as well.

I know some players will be upset with us and some management think our play will suffer and it probably will for a little bit but smoking also does a lot of damage to our properties as well as staffs' health. I think it is time our marketing focuses on what we do have and return to giving away cars, side by sides, snowmobiles, etc. As Brian from BC Slots said, focus on the sexy! The Shores Casino has never been marketed as the gem it is, on Horseshoe Bay.

There were many other sessions on compliance, sports betting, payouts, industry performance and diversifying. Tribal casinos brought in over \$41 billion in revenue in 2023.

Reminder that the Wequayoc Cemetery will be removing the flags on Veteran's Day at 11 a.m. with a ceremony and potluck to follow. Tribal offices will also be closed on Nov. 11 in honor of JKL Day.

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

# Tribe should follow set policies and procedures



**MICHAEL MCKERCHIE,  
DIRECTOR, UNIT I**

I've been on the board for eight years now, and, as with most things, it has its ups and downs. The last two years I've spent on the board has been trying to build bridges between the old board and the new board, as well as shed light on what I and many others thought were abuses of power. The membership re-elected me this summer and I will continue to do both: build bridges where I can, and expose the abuses whenever I see it.

Our tribe won't get anywhere

constantly looking at where we've been so we must continue to move forward and look forward. But we should learn from our past and not repeat the same mistakes. We've created policies and procedures for a reason, and we should follow them. Several of our executive team routinely request breaking policies and procedures, and we allow it. In some circumstances, it may be beneficial for the organization to allow such disruptions, but the board's only authority should be to write and approve legislation, laws, policies and procedures.

We should have to vote on it in a public setting with the membership's full knowledge. If an opportunity arises that executives need to waive a policy to attract a potential team member, as in bargaining for more vacation time (a recent resolution was tabled to discuss further), then either we vote on waiving policy publicly or we change the policy by resolution. In either instance, it should only be completed with a vote of the board in a public meeting.

I realize for many members,

things look more promising as many changes are occurring. It's true, we have more housing going in, we're creating more opportunities for members to connect, more business endeavors, and we're re-investing in our infrastructure, buildings, and our team members. Many of these projects have been from years of building the foundations and we will see good things coming from several programs as a result of our team member's hard work. Much of this progress has been based on our team members doing their job without board interference. But board interference continues and you can ask almost any team member that it continues to be a problem.

Most employees just want to do their job and help their tribe and community thrive. They don't want to worry about upsetting a board member and having to deal with retaliation. That is why following policies and procedures is paramount. Having strong team member rights is crucial for a tribe to succeed. We can't just say "hands off" pub-

licly but then direct our will in closed session. Why have policies and procedures if we don't follow them or hold executives accountable when they break them, making decisions on a case-by-case basis and waive policies when they feel like it is not responsible governance and goes against our authority as dictated in our Constitution.

Constitution change discussions are and have been happening. Our Elder Advisory Committee will be meeting with the board this fall, and current plans are to have public workshops to gather members' input. Change may be messy and ugly, but is much needed. No board should have the authority to void elections, harass team members, violate the Constitution without fear of repercussions just because they have a majority vote. The Constitution, our laws, and our policies and procedures should be followed by all.

I look forward the Constitutional amendments to have a true separation of powers to prevent abuse of power. Look

to attend the workshops, provide your suggestions and feedback and participate when you can.

Our tribe has had many great events happen recently with more scheduled. Miigwech to Behavioral Health on the 14th Annual Recovery Walk. As always, it was good to hear success stories and see everyone out supporting those that are working hard on their recovery. Also, to Language and Culture and the Advocacy Resource Center for hosting a very well attended community feast on "Orange Shirt Day" in honor of our relatives who attended residential schools. It was a great event and delicious feast. Be sure to keep an eye on their Facebook pages and the Sault Tribe Facebook and website for information on upcoming events.

Finally, I want to thank our former Health Director, Dr. Leo. Chi Miigwech for your dedication to helping our community and for all your time spent helping us get through the pandemic. I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

# Directors Hampton and Barbeau make report



**KIMBERLY HAMPTON,  
DIRECTOR, UNIT IV**

Aaniin, boozhoo, kina waya. We are now into the month of October, which means fall is upon us and winter is not long behind. Just a reminder that Nov. 1 is the opening for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). Applications can be picked up in Manistique at the Tribal Center, located at 5698W US Highway 2. If you have any questions, contact the center at (906) 341-6993.

#### **Feeding America Schedule:**

Wednesday, Nov. 6, 2024, at 10 a.m. EST. Drive thru Schoolcraft Memorial Hospital, 7870W US Highway 2, Manistique, MI 49854

Wednesday, Nov. 6, 2024,



**LARRY BARBEAU,  
DIRECTOR, UNIT IV**

at 12 p.m. EST. Drive thru Munising Wesleyan Church, N6310 Knox Street, Munising, MI 49862

Thursday, Nov. 7, 2024, at 9 a.m. EST. Drive thru North Iron Church, 910 Palms Ave., Ishpeming, MI 49849

Wednesday, Nov. 13, 2024, at 10 a.m. CST. Drive Thru Tri-City Cinemas 8, W7700 US2, Quinnesec, MI 49876

Wednesday, Nov. 13, 2024, at 1 p.m. CST. Drive Thru Grace Covenant Church, 316 Jasper Street, Iron River, MI 49935

#### **Reminders:**

Niiwin Noodin Pow Wow SAVE THE DATE for the 2025 Niiwin Noodin Pow Wow scheduled for June 7, 2025. We

encourage everyone to “like” the Niiwin Noodin Pow Wow Facebook page to keep updated on events.

#### **Unit 4 Elder Meetings**

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

The next meeting in Manistique will be held Nov. 13, 2024, at 12 p.m. EST at the Manistique Tribal Center.

The next meeting in Escanaba will be held Nov. 13, 2024, at 4:30 p.m. EST at the Escanaba Community Center, 3721 Jingob Street, Escanaba, MI 49829

#### **Updates:**

**Manistique Fitness Center:** There have been a lot of members asking when the Manistique Fitness Center will be opening. We are hopeful that by the time you are reading this in the newspaper that the pump has already been installed and that we are actively planning the Grand Opening. Sault Tribe is currently actively seeking candidates for open positions at the Escanaba Community Center, so please visit the Sault Tribe website, [www.saulttribe.com](http://www.saulttribe.com), employment section.

**Looking Forward:** We both look forward to working together,

with the membership, to bring improvements in all areas including, but not limited to, community input sessions, office hours for Board of Directors within Unit 4, increasing fishing and hunting accessibility, and more.

We, Director Hampton and Director Barbeau, will continue scheduling regular office hours for both Manistique and Escanaba and will publish days and times, publicly, once they have been set. The days and times will be posted on social media, in the Sault Tribe newspaper, as well as at the Manistique Tribal Health Center and the Escanaba Community Center. These office hours seem to be welcomed by members so we will continue offering this avenue of communication. We will also be scheduling monthly community input sessions and will also be made public. Initially we will do meetings, during office hours, on a first-come, first-served basis and then will transition into scheduled meeting times for members.

#### **Schedule for November Office Hours:**

Office Hours to Meet with Board Members in Manistique: Wednesday, Nov. 13, 2024, 9-11 a.m. and Wednesday, Nov. 20, 2024, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. in the

meeting room by the dining area.

Office Hours to Meet with Board Members in Escanaba at the Community Center at 3721 Jingob Street, Escanaba: Thursday, Nov. 21, 2024, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. EST

#### **Katchup with Kim**

Katchup with Kim will be Thursday, Nov. 14, 2024, at 7 p.m. EST

Meeting ID: 906 440 8138; Password: KimHampton

Join to “Katchup” and find out what the Unit 4 board members are working on.

We both want to give our sincerest thanks for trusting us to represent Unit 4 members and Sault Tribe. We are always available for questions, comments, and ideas for growth. We encourage members to participate in Maamawi Craft Nights, office hours, community input sessions, Katchup with Kim, and all other activities and events occurring throughout Indian Country.

Our contact information is below:

Kimberly Hampton, Unit 4 Representative. Phone (906) 440-8138. Email is [khampton@saulttribe.net](mailto:khampton@saulttribe.net).

Larry Barbeau, Unit 4 Representative. Phone (906) 259-3040. Email is [lbarbeau@saulttribe.net](mailto:lbarbeau@saulttribe.net).

# Chi Miigwech to all past leaders and ancestors



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

I would like to start my report today recognizing Indigenous Peoples Day — we have finally been recognized as a people and culture on this day, Oct 14, and I want to personally say Chi Miigwech to all past leaders and ancestors who made a way for us and our ways.

It's with great pride and honor to be Indigenous — we have overcome many hardships and that will continue — commitment from community and families to carry on rich culture and traditions. I don't forget all the past ones who helped in any way to gain our tribe's recognition.

This past month I had the opportunity to attend a ceremony and oral history summit in Harbor Springs with the Native American Boarding School coalition. I was humbled and honored to represent and take part with the survivors who attended and shared their painful and personal experiences with the people workings for the NABS. These people truly take

sacred care of the many who took part in documenting the truth and history of the boarding schools in our state. It's an endeavor that will help heal many and also rewrite the history of our people and what they had to endure.

It was difficult and hurtful to hear my own family's stories and many others who attended but I truly believe that this coalition can and will document in a truthful way and the federal government should recognize and do all it can to make right with apologies to the ones affected. I am changed with what I have learned and it's just another dark part of what our people survived and had to overcome.

I would like to say chi miigwech to our own tribal members that work for NABS — Charlee Brissette and Lacey Kinnert, both woman are life changers for many and I'm grateful that you do this help with them. If you would like to know more about the movement for truth, justice and healing for the survivors impacted please go to [boardingschoolhealing.org/truth-commission/](http://boardingschoolhealing.org/truth-commission/), and chi-miigwech to Little Traverse Bands and all the humble survivors that are brave enough to speak about this.

Director Lee and I continue to work toward the new homes in Hessel and Newberry and will be seeing movement in the spring of the year for both projects. Our youth recreation and fitness center is on schedule and we look forward to this. We are working to gather input from

programs and members on these projects.

The board is currently scheduling workshops that should be open to all the membership to discuss and speak about revisions to our Constitution — I welcome and support change, including separation of powers with a three branch government, standing in court for members and fair and equal treatment to ALL members personally. We have become our own enemies in a sense and everyone having

a role with checks and balances — I believe can help our people sustain and have a voice that will have standing in all aspects of our tribal nation.

This winter I will be starting office hours in Newberry and Hessel again. I will place this info on our website as well as post on the tribe's social media site.

In closing, we have many issues that need to be addressed. I will continue to offer representation that is fair and profession-

al at the table to keep us moving forward.

If you would like to speak with me or need help with anything, please reach me at (906) 322-3818 or [lcausley@saulttribe.net](mailto:lcausley@saulttribe.net). I will always communicate back to you. Please take good care of each other. Go Lions!

Baamaapii,  
Lana Causley-Smith  
Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians  
Board of Directors, Unit II

# Unit III report by Borowicz



**SHAWN BOROWICZ,  
DIRECTOR, UNIT III**

Boozhoo,

Good day, I hope all is well in your part of this world and you are all happy, healthy getting ready for the upcoming winter.

We have been having some informal get togethers in various parts of the service area to round table the Constitution, the separation of powers with the three-branch government and to

see what is needed to get this done since it was worked on many years ago and then put on a shelf and forgotten about. Mr. Charles Forgrave got this movement going and thanks to his efforts it is now back with the board and will be workshopped and hopefully put to a member vote. I along with other board members are in favor of this type of government as it creates checks and balances with less corruption and favoritism.

The parking area at the Shores casino is finally complete. It was a long process for the paving crew to grind and shape the lot and to go around all the obstacles in their way but they did a fantastic job. The fishing area behind the casino was improved with a new gravel drive and some dead trees removed for better access. The no smoking policy should be taking effect any day at all five of our gaming facilities. This will surely make a better entertainment venue for our custom-

ers as well as a much-needed healthier environment for our employees. All our casinos are going to biodegradable eating, drinking and takeout containers as soon as the left-over supply of Styrofoam containers are depleted. This is a great improvement in how we are taking care of Mother Earth for generations to come. We will keep pushing for other needed improvements at the Shores casino so our customers can continue to enjoy their experience.

Myself, Bridgett and Housing representatives have been meeting regularly to go over plans for the Unit 3 housing project. Several styles of homes have been researched and some scaled down apartment buildings have been proposed as well as some other building opportunities.

Have a safe and happy Fall season until next time.  
[sborowicz@saulttribe.net](mailto:sborowicz@saulttribe.net)  
(906) 379-8511



# Director LaPlaunt discusses tribal, Unit V issues



**TYLER LAPLAUNT**  
DIRECTOR, UNIT V

Aanii, Boozhoo,  
Fall is finally here! With the changing of the leaves, we have many changes coming to both Unit 5 and Sault Tribe alike. I'm excited to see our progress unfold as a tribe. Slowly and steadily, we are moving forward with positive change. As a tribe, we don't change quite as quickly as the seasons do in the U.P., but we are certainly making strides and the excitement in our communities and across our tribe is starting to grow.

Our Kewadin Casino in the Sault continues to show renovation progress. The exterior is starting to look sharp and the first renovated rooms are now open to rave reviews. It's truly exciting to finally see this vision unfold. We also just announced our partnership with Blackrock Steakhouse. We will be renovating our restaurant space and they will be operating as a third-party contract within that space once renovations are complete. It'll be nice to bring high end meals to our newly renovated property.

To top off all of the remodel plans, the Kewadin Casinos are in progress of implementing a smoke-free policy at all of our locations. The board recently voted to go smoke-free and Kewadin management is expected to come to us with a transition plan in the next few weeks. This will be a great way to protect our employees, most of whom are Sault Tribe citizens. While some are not thrilled with the idea of going smoke-free, it's long overdue. In 2022, just 15.2% of Michigan's population smoked. By catering to smokers, we were hindering business from about 84% of the population as well as many people who chose not to be employed by us due to the risks to their health.

While it may seem small, we also recently voted to ban the purchase of all single use Styrofoam tribal wide. It has a huge negative impact on the environment and takes over 500 years to decompose, not to mention the chemicals that are secreted by adding hot liquids to them. This is one of many steps we will begin taking to protect our environment and minimize our impact and footprint. I would like to reiterate that this will not stop the purchase of medical products that are shipped in or protected by Styrofoam. Hopefully, some day we can come up with more sustainable packing and shipping methods for those much needed supplies.

I'd also like to take a moment to highlight Sault Tribe Inc. (STI) and all of the progress they are

beginning to make. I'm excited to announce that Rachel Heckel has recently been named as the new CEO of STI. Along with a new board, Rachel has led STI into the future of 8a government contracting.

Rachel came into her role of interim with quite the challenge as the Sault Tribe board pulled away gaming and cannabis revenue from STI and put them back under the Kewadin and EDC where they rightfully belong. Rachel has helped turn around business to solely rely on 8a contracts, which now makes STI fully sustainable and on par with beginning dividend payments to the tribe within the next four years. I'm so excited to see this new direction and the progress that Rachel is bringing us so quickly as well as the improved communication.

## UNIT 5 PROJECTS ARE UNDERWAY

I want to start with an update on the long awaited Unit 5 projects. In Munising, Housing is evaluating six lots at the current reservation to place tiny homes. Housing just had a visit to the tiny home manufacturer and were able to view them firsthand. They agreed that the tiny homes would be a perfect fit for a single adult or couple. While this won't fix the housing issue, it's a start and will be great to finally see some new property development in Unit 5.

Additionally, we are looking at the old Wetmore property where the original health clinic was located. I am speaking with EDC Director Dan Doyle and he sent an engineer back through that building. He now believes that the building can be salvaged and converted into a few apartment units. Let's keep our fingers crossed that this works out and we can continue to develop in this community to keep people from getting pushed out due to the tourism industry buying up everything that was once affordable.

In Marquette, the remodel of both the community center and the new health center are both underway. Phase 1 of the health center should provide us with clinical offices for basic health-care needs, which is long overdue for this community. The interior of the community center should be completed by early spring, with the exterior site work including the parking lot and lawn to be completed once the snow melts. I want to take a moment to thank our entire board of directors for adding additional funds to Unit 5 to help complete all of these priceless projects.

## ENROLLMENT

Update on open enrollment. As of Sept. 20, there have been 4,451 applications entered into the tracking system. These are adults only. They have enrolled 89 members this week. To date, they have enrolled 1,678 members since Feb. 1, including children, and 102 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. Chi miigwech to our entire Enrollment Department for all of their hard work.

## CULTURAL ACTIVITIES



## UPDATE

A reminder that the Unit 5 powwow is moving forward at NMU Northern Center on Nov. 23. This is now a partnership between the Sault Tribe, NMU Native American Student Association, and Keweenaw Bay Indian Community. I'm so excited to work together to bring an amazing powwow to this community. The powwow will be free of charge, open to the entire community, and have a free feast! We look forward to seeing you all there. Please review the powwow flyer for the event lineup.

The Bad River screening was a huge success. I want to thank everyone who helped make it possible. We had a full house and many folks left with a new understanding of Native history from this region.

Our partnership with NMU CNAS for Orange Shirt Day was also a huge success. I had 225 shirts printed to hand out, and we handed every single shirt out for the event. I will be having a few more printed off for those who weren't able to get one. I want to thank our entire community for the outpouring of support we had to honor all of our relatives who suffered through the traumas of boarding schools. This was a great opportunity to educate our community, and we are definitely making an impact.

Still a few seats open! We will be hosting two hand drum workshops in November. One will be in Munising on Thursday, Nov. 7, and the other will be held in Marquette on Friday, Nov. 8. Both of these classes will be held from 3 to 7 p.m., and will be limited to 15 participants. If the class is full, or you are interested in just viewing, you may come to observe. We don't want to leave anyone out, but we have a limited amount of hides and kits, and the teacher can only handle so many in the short workshop. Again, please

JOIN US FOR  
TEACHINGS WITH:  
**JENNIFER RASPOR**

Jennifer will be providing women's/moon teachings, water ceremony, and a craft teaching at each site!

MUNISING- 11/12/24 NOON TO 4P.M.  
MARQUETTE- 11/13/24 NOON TO 4P.M.  
MANISTIQUE-11/14/24 NOON TO 4P.M.  
ESACANABA-11/15/24 NOON TO 4P.M.

CALL STACIE @ (906)203-4768  
OR EMAIL @ SMATTSON1@SAULTTRIBE.NET  
EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO REGISTER

Sponsored by Unit IV and Unit V Cultural Funds

contact Stacie to register if you are interested.

NEW – We are partnering with Jennifer Raspor to provide women's teachings and moon teachings, water ceremony, and a craft. These will be held in Munising on Nov. 12 from 12 to 4 p.m. and in Marquette on Nov. 13 from 12 to 4 p.m. Please register with Stacie by calling (906) 203-4768 or email smattson1@saulttribe.net. Must register to attend.

We continue to host bi-weekly culture night every second and fourth Thursday from 5:30 to 8p.m. at the Marquette Community Center on 204 Cherry Creek Road. Everyone is welcome, whether you are an Elder knowledge keeper or someone new to our culture and taking your first steps. This is a safe space to ask questions, participate, learn, and make great friends. Dinner is always provided for everyone in attendance. People are welcome to bring a dish to pass or story to share, but absolutely nothing is expected out of those in attendance other than kindness and consideration of others.

## ELDERS

The next Unit 5 Elder Meeting

and Meal in Munising will be held on Thursday, Nov. 15, 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 Munising Elders are also hosting their Holiday Meal on Thursday, Nov. 21 from 12 to 1 p.m.

The next Unit 5 Elder Meeting and Meal in Marquette is canceled for November and instead will be holding a holiday meal for elders and their adult children on Thursday, Nov. 21, starting at 6 p.m. at the Holiday Inn of Marquette. 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 Miigwech,  
Tyler Migizii Migwan  
LaPlaunt

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

**October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month**

# Triumph Over Trauma

## Justice is Restored Holding Perpetrators Accountable

It is important to recognize that our relatives are struggling to heal from generations of trauma stemming from colonization, forced relocation, genocide, the abduction of children and babies carted off to more than 350 government-funded boarding schools and countless non-Native foster homes which caused irreparable harm to Native American and Alaska Native communities.

*“When we call attention to Domestic Violence Awareness Month, we must not forget the path Tribal nations have been on for centuries,” concluded Jump. “Until Native American history is told in truth and totality we must continue to tell our stories of triumph over trauma.”*

To read the full story “Triumph Over Trauma Justice Is Restored” visit our website at [www.strongheartshelpline.org](http://www.strongheartshelpline.org)

**StrongHearts advocates are available 24/7 and can provide:**

- Peer support and advocacy
- Information and education about domestic and sexual violence
- Personalized safety planning
- Crisis intervention
- Referrals to Native-centered service providers
- General information about jurisdiction and legal advocacy referrals
- Basic information about health options
- Support finding crisis centers trained in the care of survivors of sexual assault



**Talk or Text 1-844-7NATIVE (762-8483)**

**Chat online at [www.strongheartshelpline.org](http://www.strongheartshelpline.org)**

**We envision a return to our traditional lifeways where our relatives are safe, violence is eradicated and sacredness is restored.**



**STRONGHEARTS**  
Native Helpline

**Domestic Violence Is  
Never Okay**



# KEWADIN CASINOS ENTERTAINMENT

SATURDAY - OCTOBER 26 - ALL SITES

## SPOOKTACULAR COSTUME CONTEST



Win Your Share of **\$1,500 CASH**

- 1st Place \$150
- 2nd Place \$100
- 3rd Place \$50



Drink Specials\* ~ Live Entertainment\*

\*Available at select locations. Subject to change or cancellation at Management's discretion.  
MANISTIQUE - ST. IGNACE - SAULT STE. MARIE - HESSEL - CHRISTMAS

STARRING

WORLD-RENOWNED HYPNOTIST  
**ASAD MECCI**

INTERNATIONAL COMEDY ICON  
**COLIN MOCHRIE**



## HYPROV

IMPROV UNDER HYPNOSIS

**SATURDAY  
NOVEMBER 23**

SHOW STARTS AT 8 P.M.  
TICKETS \$40 | \$45 | \$55

**DREAMMAKERS  
THEATER**



## THE AMERICAN PATRIOT TOUR 2024



**FRIDAY  
DECEMBER 13 AT 8 P.M.  
DREAMMAKERS THEATER**  
TICKETS \$85 | \$75 | \$60



TICKETS AVAILABLE @  
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## NOVEMBER 2

Win Your Share of Over  
**\$10,000 CASH and Credits**

Champagne, Cake,  
and Hors D'oeuvres

Hot Seat & CASH Draws  
11 a.m. - 10:30 p.m.

Win up to \$250 Credits or up to \$750 CASH

\$1000 Grand Prize CASH Draws  
10:30 p.m. - 11:30 p.m.



See Northern Rewards Club to register and for more details. Must earn 50 base points to qualify for promotion.  
Earn one entry with every 50 base points for CASH draws.



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