Tribal members! For up-to-date information on membership services and other tribal matters, see www.saulttribe.com for announcements and a list of program updates and cancellations.

Sault Tribe issues public health guidance amid COVID-19 pandemic

Sault Tribe declares state of emergency

SAULT STE. MARIE, Mich. — The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Board of Directors and Gaming Authority each declared a state of emergency at special meetings on March 17, due to the spread of the novel coronavirus, or COVID-19. The state of emergency is declared throughout all reservation lands across the tribe’s seven-county service area.

Under the board of director’s resolution, the tribe’s executive director, casino CEO and EDC director are authorized to modify policies and procedures, order closures, cancel events, implement programs and other steps necessary to protect the public.

The tribe’s casino administration, tribal government, health division and law enforcement will coordinate to maximize efforts to resist the spread of COVID-19.

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EVENY CHILD deserves a HEALTHY Breakfast or Lunch Every Day

To make sure YOUR SCHOOL gets money for meals to YOUR KIDS, you must complete the 2020 CENSUS this spring.

The 2020 CENSUS is quick and EASY to fill out. Use it to count EVERYONE in your home. And by law, it is 100% CONFIDENTIAL

For more information go to www.mivoicecounts.org
Committees listed below have vacant seats. Sault Tribe members interested in filling these vacancies should submit a letter of intent and three letters of recommendation from other Sault Tribe members to Linda Gorst or Linda Grottset, 523 Ashmun St., Sault Ste. Marie MI 49783. Call (906) 635-6505 for any questions.

Women’s Cultural Committee - six vacancies – three males (4-year term), three females (4-year term)
Child Welfare Committee - two vacancies (4-year term)
Elders Council Committee - four vacancies (4-year term)
Higher Education Committee - two vacancies (4-year term)
Health Board – five vacancies

VA invites women to continue making history

IRON MOUNTAIN, Mich. — This Women’s History Month, the Oscar G. Johnson VA Medical Center invites women veterans to continue making history with the department. “For the Department of Veterans Affairs, Women’s History Month means more than just celebrating our women veterans – it means making sure they’re proud of the role we play in the remaining chapters of their story.” Chief of Staff Pam Powers. “We will continue to build on the legacy that America’s women veterans have carved out by listening and responding to their needs.” Announcing “Win Awenen Nisitotung” – Women’s History Month at the VA, Power explains what’s being planned for women veterans. "While the medical center would like to thank the generations of women veterans who have shaped our military and served our country, VA encourages women veterans currently using VA health care services to enroll and use the benefits they have earned. Call the Women Veterans Call center for information at (855) VA-Women (855-829-6866) or visit women-health.va.gov.

Youth employment program open

The Sault Tribe Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Department is accepting applications for the Summer Youth Employment Program. This program is for Native American youth aged 14 to 21 who reside in Sault Tribe’s seven-county service area (Marquette, Alger, Chippewa, Luce, Mackinaw, Delta and Schoolcraft counties). Applications may be picked up at the WIOA office on the second floor of the Big Bear, 2 Ice Circle, Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., or by contacting Brenda Cadreau at (906) 635-4767. Applicants will be required to complete and pass pre-employment drug testing and a criminal background investigation if applicable. Deadline to apply is May 15, 2020.

Tribal members: need assistance?

The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Workforce Innovation and Opportunity 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 that lead to an industry-recognized certification or under OJT, the program may reimburse an employer 50 percent of your wage for a specified training period. Candidates must meet certain eligibility requirements and be a resident of the seven-county service area.

Submit your application to the Office of the Chairperson, Sault Ste. Marie, (906) 635-6050, (800) 793-0660, sbeger@saulttribe.net

Units I and III — Clarence Hudak, Lambert Center, St. Ignace, (906) 635-2124, chudak@saulttribe.net

Units IV and V — Mary Jenerou, Manitouke Tribal Center, Newberry, 341-3469; Munsing, (906) 450-7011 or (906) 450-7011, mjenerou@saulttribe.net.
Please fill out the following application indicating all harvest tags that you would like in addition to your 2020 Harvest card. The Harvest card authorizes you to participate in activities pursuant to Chapters 21 and 23 of the Tribal Code only. Great Lakes activities require separate permits pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Tribal Code.

In 2020, the cost for each member will be $5. You must pay with a check or a money order (DO NOT SEND CASH) payable to Sault Tribe. A $36 NSF charge will be applied to all checks returned by a financial institution. Credit and debit cards can be used but ONLY in person at the Law Enforcement office. If you have questions, please contact Sault Tribe Law Enforcement (906-635-6065). Youth (16 and under) and Elders (60 and over) are not required to pay fees. New applicants must provide a copy of their Tribal card and if born after 1960, proof of hunter safety. All members who held a 2019 harvest license MUST complete a harvest report whether you had any activity at all or a license will NOT be issued.

First name [ ] Middle [ ] Last [ ]
Physical Address [ ] City [ ] State [ ] Zip [ ] County [ ]
Mailing Address if different from physical [ ]
File Number (Red# on Tribal ID) [ ] STS # (Red # on harvest card) [ ] Date of birth [ ] Sex [ ]
Phone [ ] Email address [ ]

Hunting harvest card (please select which tags you are applying for)
- Deer
- Spring Turkey
- Fall Turkey
- Fox
- Marten
- Bobcat
- River Otter
- Fisher
- Harvest Tags (Trapping)
Non-hunting harvest card (includes Inland fishing and general gathering)

Bear and Elk Applications will be available on the Sault Tribe website and the newspaper in April 2020. Walleye and steelhead permits for the specially regulated seasons will be available by contacting the Natural Resource Department, 906-632-6132 or see website for details (www.saulttribe.com).

For all other permits pursuant to chapter 21 and 23 of the Tribal Code, you must contact the Conservation Department @ 906-635-6065 (i.e. State Firewood and State Maple Sap).

Please mail completed applications to:
P.O. Box 925
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

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For Strong Local, Regional, Inter-Tribal & National Leadership - Please Vote:

**MANDATORY TRUST GAMING EXPANSION PATHWAY TO VICTORY!**

With the recent positive court ruling regarding our mandatory trust and gaming expansion in our favor, the burden is on the Department of Interior to disprove we acquired the land with interest from the fund which is at the heart of the mandatory and jurisdictional aspect of our petition. Given we 100% purchased the land with interest from the fund and submitted a certified audit, we have shown conclusively the land is eligible land and shall be held as Indian Lands are held.

A great deal is at stake. Over 30,000 of our Sault Tribe citizens live through every county in Michigan. We receive no federal funds for over 2/3 of our people. Our reservation base is artificially small due to broken treaties and failed US Indian Policy designed to exterminate our race. Our populations of Sault Tribe Members rivals other tribes in what they consider their home territories. Reservation boundaries today are artificial and inconsistent with our traditional tribal values. Still we respect other tribal territories but only wish to provide for our tribal citizens wherever they reside. The 1997 Michigan Indian Land Claims Settlement Act was written by us to provide for our people no matter where they reside.

Still, with the consent of our Board, I have played a direct leadership role here. This is precisely why the Chairperson’s attention should include not only local issues but issues at the inter-tribal, regional and national level. I AM NOT going to apologize for being adept at this part of my job as your Chairperson.

We have some weighty issues at hand like:

- Our Mandatory Trust Petition;
- Downstate Gaming Expansion;
- Gaming Compact Negotiations;
- Treaty Fishing Consent Decree Negotiations;
- National threats to our Sovereignty;
- National Health Care & Mail Order Scripts;
- Treaty & Tribal Membership Rights;
- Fulfillment of our Treaty and Trust Obligations;
- Services Expansion for All Members Everywhere;
- Protecting Sacred sites and our Natural Resources;
- Protecting against an imminent oil spill at the straits.

I contend that now is not a time to change oars, but to keep our paddles in the water and paddle even faster to achieve the interests of our Sault Tribe Nation to benefit all of our people!

Please pray for unity of purpose and continued success for our Sault Tribe Nation. Chl McGwitty, Negeg.
Applicants sought for tribal veteran service officer

The American Legion Danville Post 10 has been awarded two major military contracts, prompting the need to hire more employees and expand the Sault operations through high-growth space, investing in new equipment and improving the existing facilities. Anyone interested in tracking employment opportunities with the company as they open may do so at www.tp-solutions.com/careers.

Successful applicant would be a U.S. military veteran, Sault Tribe member, training through American Legion.

The American Legion serves as a liaison to various state and federal veteran programs. This position will cover the Sault Ste. Marie, St. Ignace and Hessel areas.

If you are a honorably discharged veteran and Sault Tribe member with a desire to help fellow veterans, travel and be a part of The American Legion Veteran Service Officer Team send your resume to Gary Easterling, VSO Director, The American Legion, 477 Michigan Ave., Room 1210, Detroit, MI 48226 or email geasterling@americanlegion.org.

The American Legion seeks to start providing this service by April 1, 2020.

Tipping Point Solutions expanding Sault operations

The U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Michigan approved a $1 million settlement agreement on March 5 between the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians in conjunction with the Kewadin Casinos Gaming Authority and Buchwald Capital Advisors LLC in its capacity as litigation trustee and distribution trustee for the Greektown Litigation Trust.

As trustee, Buchwald Capital Advisors LLC brought suit against the tribe and gaming authority nearly 10 years ago seeking to recover $177 million in transfers related to the refinancing of Greektown Casino debt and payment by Greektown of monies to Ted Gatazaoros and Jim Papas for their ownership interests in the casino. The tribe defended the lawsuit on several grounds, including sovereign immunity, according to tribal attorney, Courtney Kuchar.

The tribe agreed to a $1 million settlement as an economical alternative to the cost, time and expense of a U.S. Supreme Court appeal, according to Kuchar. 

Federal court approves $1 million Greektown settlement

Tipping Point Solutions Corporation is an award-winning high-tech instructional video company that was based in Denver, Colo., owned by Sault Tribe member Rick Schmidt, recently announced an expansion of its Sault Ste. Marie operations.

The company develops interactive training and instructional videos, among its clients are the federal government and the U.S. Department of Defense. It is one of several businesses owned by Sault Tribe members that formed the Sault Tribe Business Alliance last year.

Tipping Point Solutions said it will provide training and skills development for the new employees along with conducting mentoring and training for other onboarding employees.

According to the MEDC, Tipping Point Solutions was uniquely positioned to make the move due to recent awards, prompting the need to hire more employees and expand the Sault operations through high-growth space, investing in new equipment and improving the existing facilities.

“Tipping Point Solutions’ decision to establish a production facility in Sault Ste. Marie was based on our strong belief that sourcing and developing talent in northern Michigan will provide quality career opportunities for residents in the area while also supporting the company’s anticipated growth in the coming years,” Schmidt, who is also CEO, said in a MEDC announcement. “Based on our experience operating in areas of the country such as Colorado, Virginia and Arizona, we believe our presence in northern Michigan has the ability to create measurable professional and economic impact on the local workforce and the surrounding communities. We are greatly appreciative to the Sault Tribe and the Michigan Economic Development Corporation for their ongoing support and interest in our success in the Sault.”

Also cited in the announcement was The Economic Development Director Joel Schultz said, “Tipping Point Solutions’ presence in Michigan and CEO Rick Schmidt’s commitment to growth represent exactly the type of collaboration that is needed to impact our rural communities. Mr. Schmidt’s desire to impact Sault Tribe, his time and capital investments, the MEDC and the State of Michigan’s recognition of an effort being done right and subsequent support, and the Sault Tribe EDC’s outreach, investment and local facilitation represent a mutual investment in the region’s success. “I personally want to thank Mr. Schmidt and the MEDC for their commitment, the growth of the company as they open may do so at www.tp-solutions.com/careers.”

Sault Tribe has offered help to Sault Tribe members seeking to recover $177 million from Greektown Casino and its capacity as litigation trustee and distribution trustee for the Greektown Litigation Trust. As trustee, Buchwald Capital Advisors LLC brought suit against the tribe and gaming authority nearly 10 years ago seeking to recover $177 million in transfers related to the refinancing of Greektown Casino debt and payment by Greektown of monies to Ted Gatazaoros and Jim Papas for their ownership interests in the casino. The tribe defended the lawsuit on several grounds, including sovereign immunity, according to tribal attorney, Courtney Kuchar.
Anishinaabemowin 2020

“Go often to the house of your friend, for weeds choke the unused path.”
R.W. Emerson — Keep practicing your favorite Anishinaabemowin words or phrases for the same reason!

Nbwachaadidaa! Let’s visit each other!

As part of mid-winter teachings, we’re reminded of the goodness that comes from visiting our friends, neighbors and relatives. Our old ones knew visiting face to face when possible can bind us together, smooth over rough spots in relationships, and help us work together more efficiently for our common goals. We learn new things and laugh a lot. We come away feeling good. This remains true today although visiting friends has been declining for the past 30 years, and visiting family has declined over the last 20 years. Time for a change?

This visiting can mean calling on someone at home - and we do that most often when congratulations or condolences of some sort are called for. But it still counts to visit with friends as you meet them in stores, gas stations, coffee shops, parking lots and health centers.

Who is visiting Whom?

I followed the trail (miikaanhs) and found that
________________________ visited with __________________________
________________________ visited with __________________________
________________________ visited with __________________________
________________________ visited with __________________________

Although you’ll find our house a mess,
come in, sit down and converse.
It doesn’t always look like this.
Some days it’s even worse.

This is a good time to look again at how to say words. The guide is below. Say each letter’s sound, one at a time. Go nice and slow. You’ll get it!

Pronunciation guide; How to sound really good:
Let’s just stick with these basics: Letters sound like they do in reading English, except for these ones.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Anishinaabemowin 2020</th>
<th>Ziisbaakdoke Giizis Sugar Making Moon</th>
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<td>ii sounds like EE in feed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o sounds like OO in book</td>
<td>e sounds like E in fed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>oo sounds like O in grow</td>
<td>g sounds only like g in go</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nh has no sound at all; it is only a SIGN that the vowel in front of it is said in a nasal way.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English has a lot of strange spellings. Our system of writing is easier. We pronounce all the letters shown, even if we say some of them pretty fast and some are pretty quiet.</td>
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UTM reviews Minnesota tribal-state relations training model for improved collaboration

By Rick Smith

A gathering of members and representatives of the United Tribes of Michigan (UTM) in Lansing, Mich., on Feb. 20 fea-
tured presentations on a new and highly acclaimed tribal-state relations training program in Minnesota. The program is part of an overall movement by the Minnesota government to foster understanding and collabora-
tion among state agencies and tribal governments in the state.

Minnesota Governor Tim Walz issued an executive order in early 2019 instituting measures to that end, including the mandate for the tribal-state relations training.

The executive order calls for state agencies to recognize and respect the unique legal relationships between the state and the state’s tribes through measures and procedures agencies must follow.

The tribal-state relations training function as a key compo-
nent in the new measures.

“The state has instituted tribal-state relations training, which will be the foundation and basis of all other tribal relations training sources,” the executive order reads. “All agencies must direct certain staff to complete training to foster a collaborative relationship between the State of Minnesota and Minnesota tribal nations. In addition to all com-
missioners, deputy commissioners and assistant commissioners, all agency employees whose work is likely to impact Minnesota tribal nations will attend tribal-state relations training. Tribal liaisons will actively support and particip-
ate in the tribal-state relations training.”

In 2019, according to the State of Minnesota, 15 tribal leaders and 25 tribal liaisons participated in 8,635 hours of training delivered to 785 people in 27 state agencies at two-day training sessions hosted by seven tribes. It takes about 60 people to deliver a training session.

“Since its inception, the training’s fundamental goal has been to educate key state agency staff about American Indian tribal governments, histories, cultures and traditions so that the state and tribal governments can work more effectively by colabo-
rating to resolve shared policy challenges and objectives,” said Thibodeaux, training manager for the State of Minnesota. "The most important aspect of the trib-
al-state relations training is that all 11 tribal nations in Minnesota collectively tell their individual story and implement the training, which creates meaningful rela-
tionships and leads to institutional change.

Aiken went on to say the training program was first con-
ceived in 2011 after liaisons from tribes and the state realized too much time was spent on training state staff on tribal issues. She added, “Initial development of the training was led by an all Native American group consisting of Minnesota state agency tribal liaisons, tribal nations, Indian educators and Indian issues experts. The initial training ses-

sons was launched in October, 2013, with content specifically designed for leaders of state agencies and currently includes agency leadership and staff.

Along with potential long-term benefits, the training sessions also carried short-term, financial bene-
fits for participating tribes. Over a 10-month period, the state visited a tribe each month to conduct training sessions on tribal lands with each tribe for up to 100 staff members from state agencies.

Tribes were provided with up to $35,000 to set up the training sessions.

According to the State of Minnesota, the sessions were well received by both state employees and tribal officials who participat-
ed in the trainings.

The presentation encouraged UTM leaders what might be pos-
sible to develop with the State of Michigan to enhance relationships between their tribes and the state.

Aiken also pointed out that at the heart of the training, the 11 tribes in Minnesota themselves hold the key to social, political, cultural and economic prosperity and self-governance is crucial to building and strengthening American Indian nations.

PROSPERITY

It is time to move forward BOLDLY and create prosperity for our Tribe. Being a Tribe is about the PEOPLE, not the Politics. This means pro-
tecting our fishermen’s livelihoods and ensuring that anyone working for our Tribe full-time can support their families. It includes guiding/mento-
ing Tribal enterprises toward independence, expanding education programs to include the Trades, diversifying Tribally owned businesses. It means doing what it takes to ensure that our Tribe, OUR PEOPLE are successful and flour-
ishing. We must do this boldly and without FEAR. FEAR is contagious... But so is HOPES!

UNITY

We must return to our Old Ways, in a New Time. Historically, our people gathered yearly in Bahweting (Sault Ste Marie), we can do this old tradition in our modern times by having an Annual Homecoming/Gathering. It includes pow-
wows, ceremonies, feasting and the opportunity to learn more about our culture as well as learn how Our Tribe is doing! It puts the people in direct contact with their elected leaders, and represen-
tatives of every department of the Tribe. Financial reports are given and explained on every facet of the Tribes departments and enterprises. But it isn’t just this one event that develops Unity. It’s the combination of this, the many events already held in many places in our Territory, and the utilization of technology that strengthens our connection to each other no matter where we live... and that’s Unity.

SOVEREIGNTY

Our Tribe is a Sovereign Nation. We receive millions in Federal dollars as payment for the lands we once held. But those dollars come with restrictions... Income guidelines, geographic restrictions, income guidelines, geographic restrictions... income guidelines, geographic restrictions... income guidelines. This means count on us.

TRANSPARENCY.

VOTE - Jen McLeod Chairperson in 2020!
https://www.jmcleodsaulttribe.com/

Jen McLeod endorsement this advertisement jennifer.mcleod.2012@gmail.com (906) 480-9151

By Cressandra Thibodeaux

Cressandra Thibodeaux is an award-winning filmmaker and Sault Tribe member, whose grandparents were from Sugar Island. “My grandmother was our family’s oral historian,” Thibodeaux said, “her maiden name was Adelaide Leask, and she was born on Sugar Island on Aug. 21, 1945.” Her grandmother instilled in Thibodeaux the importance of preserving history. Thibodeaux is making a docu-
mentary and would like to film and interview tribal members this summer, from June 21 – July 7.

Her goal is to highlight seven tribal members of all ages, and interview their stories into a documentary, which will then be submitted to the Sundance Film Festival, among others. Anyone who is highlighted in the film will be invited to a private rough-

If you are interested in partici-
pating in the documentary called “Sault Tribe Documentary,” you can email or text Thibodeaux at cressandra@mac.com.

Cressandra Thibodeaux is the Executive Director of 14 Pews, www.14pews.com, and can also be contacted by calling 310-880-
3907. You can also visit: www. cressandra.org, www.bechdel-

Cressandra Thibodeaux

Jen McLeod
TRIBAL CHAIRPERSON 2020

I invite Tribal members to join me in bringing CHANGE to the Chair of our Tribe. With the WISDOM of an EXPERIENCED Elder Woman, I will lead our Tribe with confidence and strength on to the path of PROSPERITY, UNITY, SOVEREIGNTY and HONESTY for our Tribal Nation. Let us move forward TOGETHER...It is your moment to CHOOSE. PUSH for Change!

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Bauman takes coordinator post at Sault clinic

By Brenda Austin

Svetlana Baumann, RN, has been hired as the clinical applications coordinator (CAC) by the Sault Tribe Health Center in Sault Ste. Marie. She started Feb. 2, 2020.

Baumann provides strategic and tactical planning, development and coordination of the health center’s information systems.

She was born and raised in Russia, and attended Moscow State University of Economics, Statistics, and Informatics, where in 1988 she earned her master’s degree in informatics. After graduating she worked for 10 years as a programmer in a computer center. In 2001 she moved from Moscow to Sault Ste. Marie.

Baumann’s are often on the road traveling for games. During the summer months Baumann likes gardening and has a big Russian style garden, or dacha, where she grows everything from flowers and vegetables to fruit trees.

She attended nursing school at LSSU in 2007, and worked as a night shift nurse at WMH in the Med-Surg Department from 2012-2017.

She was born and raised in Russia, and attended Moscow State University of Economics, Statistics, and Informatics, where in 1988 she earned her master’s degree in informatics. After graduating she worked for 10 years as a programmer in a computer center. In 2001 she moved from Moscow to Sault Ste. Marie.

She started her career in Informatics in 1989, and has held various IT positions in the health sector and in large retail companies. She has 17 years of experience in the implementation and coordination of health care systems.

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March is (Indigenous) National Nutrition Month!

FROM COMMUNITY HEALTH

The Tribal Food Sovereignty Collaborative’s mission is to connect, promote and build support to increase access to healthy, seasonal, sustainable foods across the tribe’s service area. They do this by providing education, events and resources rooted in Anishinaabe culture and modern sustainability practices.

In honor of March as National Nutrition Month, the Tribal Food Sovereignty Collaborative and the Sault Tribe Thrive have partnered to bring back the Fry Bread Recipe from Let’s Eat Good! by the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Department and the Traditional Mino Wiisinidaa office.

Q: What are some common misconceptions about fry bread like fry bread?

A: Fry bread is a controversial topic in Indian Country. Many consider it a traditional food because it has been around for so long. However, many others are finding challenges with it and view fry bread as a representation of oppression and colonialism.

Q: What is the nutritional content of indigenous foods like maize (wild rice) and venison?

A: Manoomin, a grass that grows naturally in our freshwater, contains high levels of fiber and protein and it’s also a source of vitamin B, iron, manganese, calcium and riboflavin. Venison, another staple in our traditional diet, is higher in protein and lower in fat and calories than grocery store beef. Also, many indigenous foods are often grown and cultivated with fewer pesticides and additives.

A: How can you learn more?

Connect with us on social media! “Like” the Tribal Food Sovereignty Collaborative’s Facebook page and the Sault Tribe Healthy Living Facebook page. One can also speak directly with a Sault Tribe Health Educator, registered dietitian, the tribe’s Culture and Language Department and the Traditional Mino Wiisinidaa office. Our elders are a another great source of wisdom.

A: Indigenous recipe: Sweetened wild rice flour bannock bread

Although today’s more recognizable variations of bannock bread were introduced by Scots and Irish to North America, the indigenous peoples have made variations of bannock bread in their locally sourced and harvested ingredients. This sweetened bannock bread recipe incorporates some indigenous ingredients including wild rice flour (which is more nutrient rich than white flour) maple syrup and maple sugar. Historically, the bread was able to keep for long periods of time without spoiling while also providing our people with carbohydrates that weren’t always easy to come by in the winter or in certain geographic regions.

From Mino Wiisinidaa!

(Let’s Eat Good!) by the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Department

Prep time: 15 minutes
Cook time: 30 Minutes
Serving size: 3-by-3 inch square
Recipe yields: 23 servings

Serving size:

Ingredients:
- 1 1/2 cups wild rice flour
- 1/2 cup maple syrup
- 1/4 cup sunflower seed oil
- 2 1/2 cups lukewarm water
- plus more as needed

Recipe:

1. Preheat oven to 375°F and lightly oil a baking sheet.
2. In a large bowl, combine flours, commale, baking powder and salt. Mix to fully incorporate.
3. Create a well in the flour mixture and gradually add syrup, oil and water while gently stirring dough with a wooden spoon until fully incorporated.
4. Pat dough into oiled baking sheet and spread evenly into the corners.
5. Sprinkle maple sugar on top of the dough before baking.
6. Bake until thoroughly cooked and lightly browned on top, about 30 minutes.
7. Cool slightly before serving.

Sault Tribe Thrive advice: “Economic development depends on you and your business plan!”

FROM SAULT TRIBE THRIVE

Ever wonder what separates a good business idea from a great one? What is the price your business is going to capture? Who is your business‘ target customer? Many businesses fail because of poor financial planning. To make sure you’re on the right track, here are two key questions you need to answer in your business plan.

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As of March 19, Soo Co-op Credit Union temporarily closed its branch access at all branch locations. Drive-Thru Windows and ATMs will be the primary means for member transactions. Lobbies will be available by appointment only for member needs that are not able to be fulfilled through the Drive-Thru window.

In addition to Drive-Thru and ATM access, members will have access to a number of member benefits. Online and mobile banking are easy secure ways to check your balance, pay loans, transfer funds, and more. Online and mobile banking are easy secure ways to check your balance, pay loans, transfer funds, and more.

As of March 23 through Friday, April 3, please follow the instructions below for tax-related inquiries.

Questions regarding State income taxes, registration in tax agreement area, or change of address, please contact the Tax Office with contact information listed above.

Exemption Certificates for personal use vehicles, recreation- al watercraft, snowmobiles and off-road vehicles – If purchasing from dealer, please have the dealer fax or email information to the number above.

If purchasing through private party sales, use the same contact information listed above. Once application is completed, the Tax Office can send the document back to you via fax, e-mail, or US mail. Please provide where you would like the document sent. If requested, the Tax Office can directly fax the document to the Secretary of State.

Recipe:

Ingredients:
- 1 1/2 cups wild rice flour
- 4 cups unbleached all purpose flour
- 1/2 cup cornejn maple syrup
- 1/4 cup sunflower seed oil
- 2 1/2 cups lukewarm water, plus more as needed
- 2 Tbsp maple sugar
- Directions:

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Something isn't right: When dating turns violent

Warning: This column includes graphic content that some readers may find disturbing. Be warned, it may trigger memories. If you are being hurt, call the National Domestic Violence Hotline.

When dating turns violent—Something isn't right

“normal” family. and liked to joke around with my school and going to parties. He was nasty divorce and his older brother were separated and going through a he would keep me safe. We met and bigger than me and it felt like omore year of high school when During one fight on my front Page 10

Dating violence

He didn't like the way I dressed. He wouldn't go out with me in pub- Graphic content that some readers shouldn't be talking to anyone else. Once we were get my attention and say he need- ed to talk to me. Once we were short time later, I was seeing less and less of him and more and more of only him. was a one-time thing. I was wrong. Ericca Hovie was a one-time thing. I was wrong. Ericca Hovie knew. It seemed easier to cover up what I didn’t understand. I eventually realized this wasn’t a traditional relationship but I didn’t know there were any resources out there to help me with this sort of thing. I didn’t think anyone would believe me because no one had actually witnessed him hitting me — they just saw us as a cute couple. I was also intimidated because his mother worked for law enforcement. I didn’t want to get in trouble or get him in trouble. I thought what was happening was my fault because I couldn’t be the person he wanted to be and if I just tried harder or loved him enough, then we wouldn’t fight and he wouldn’t hurt me. I eventually felt ashamed. I didn’t know I could talk to my favorite aunt, my guidance counselor, my friends or even the police. Stalking — When I finally decided to break up with him for good, I was scared of what I would do. In the weeks, months and years following, he stalked me. I didn’t know what he was doing was a crime. I certainly didn’t know of anyone else who had experienced what was happen- ing to me. He would drive by my house and where I hung out with my friends and new boyfriend constantly. He would tell my new boyfriend terrible things about me to try to break us up. He would call my house and hang up. He would leave me love notes and presents on my door and in my locker. At night, he would throw pebbles at my bedroom window to try to get me to come out and talk to him. He would come to my work and watch me. My mom thought it was cute that he was trying to win me back. When I told him to leave me alone, he ignored me. When I told him to leave me alone, he ignored me. When I begged him to leave me alone, he ignored me. When I had an attorney write him a strongly worded letter, he finally stopped. My self-esteem suffered for years after and I didn’t respect myself or my body. I did things and allowed things to happen to me that I wouldn’t have allowed if it was my first serious relationship I didn’t know how to be in a healthy boyfriend-girlfriend relationship. I didn’t know that my spirit was broken. Finding myself and healing — I think of dating violence works and realizing from others, I was able to heal. strong He has helped me to tell my story to my mom. I told her about the fights, the jealousy and the stalking. I told her how toxic and abusive he had been to me. I told her I was scared when I was younger that no one would believe me. I was shocked but silent. I didn’t think she knew what to say or perhaps she was reflecting on how she had something about dating violence with me. I think she was also probably very sad that this happened to me. Experiencing dating violence — four years ago I was honored and humbled to your Unit Representative on the Board of Directors. I work hard for our Tribe and respectfully ask for your continued support in the upcoming election. We have accomplished many great things like improving our current operations and expanding our economic development while strengthening our Sovereignty and preserving our way of life for the Seven Generations.

One Board of Directors Moving Forward Together

Respectful Responsible Leadership

Economic Development • Supported the purchase and creation of multiple tribal businesses including a hotel purchased, storage, and auto sales • Voted to expanded our De-Merchandising Sales & Lobbying (added more home rentals, Riverside Park, etc.) • Additionally, a multi-million Industrial Warehouse is being built to invite more business opportunity • Providing the infrastructure to expand not only tribal owned busi- ness (Sault Tribe Inc. & LLC) but also expand tribal member owned business (businesses occupying the Tamarack Center are expanding).

Improve Current Operations • Have continuously supported management’s investments into our facility. A wage review while we continue to work on the wage grid • Voted to re-implement the longevity plan to recognize valued team members • Supported making COLA raises permanent and automatic • Have met with team members and listened to their concerns while supporting the chain of command and preserving policies

This ad endorsed by and paid for by Michael McKerchie

Proudly Serving on: • Child Welfare Committee • Audit Committee • KJL School Fiduciary Committee • SSM City Liaison Committee • LSSU Native American Advisory Committee • Sault & Kinross Powwow Committee • Tribal Action Plan Data Sub-Committee • National ACF Tribal Advisory Committee • Great Lakes Consent Decree 2020 Negotiation Team

For more information: strongheartsnativehelpline.org
From left, JKL Bahweting Culture and Language Instructor Chris Gordon, Ph.D., fifth graders Daniel Malloy, Parker Rath, Carter Yiir and honoree Bill Morrison after the 2020 JKL Bahweting School Bill Morrison Shoshiimaan Tournament on March 3. Malloy placed first, Rath took second and Yiir came in third. The lads display their winning shoshiimaan entries in this year’s annual competition and their awards. The tournament is conducted every year at the school after students study the historical, cultural and technical aspects of the shoshiimaan (snow snake) during six weeks of tutelage under Culture and Language Instructor Ms. Dorothy Campbell. This year, 69 students were involved. The tournament is named after Morrison, who started the annual tournament at the school.

Foster home to be named in honor of Arfstrom and Faunt

SAULT STE. MARIE – The Chippewa County Family Project board of directors unanimously supported the move to name its new teen foster home in honor of Bob Arfstrom and Sharyn Faunt. The Robert R. Arfstrom, Sharyn L. Faunt Foster Home is slated to open to area teens this summer.

The 5,000 square foot home on 3-Mile Road will house up to six male and six female residents and house parents. The CCFP is currently in the process of staffing the home.

Arfstrom and Faunt have supported the CCFP since it first established in 2016. They made significant financial contributions to the home and promoted the project to other donor groups.

“We are awed and humbled by this unexpected honor,” Arfstrom and Faunt wrote in a prepared statement. “We wholly believe in this project, and we pray that it will be a blessing in the hearts of the teens it serves.”

Newberry elders meet

Photo by Elder Services Director Holly Kibble

A regular part of the Newberry elder’s meetings are George Tessier IV (pictured) and Clifford Shigwadja who meet the elders at Zellar’s Village Inn to share important cultural teachings. This session focused on traditional funerals. The Newberry elder’s meet on the third Friday of every month at 10:30 a.m. For more information call Elder Services at (906) 635-4971.

Don’t Sweat the Small Stuff

Ever lose your check? Don’t like spending time at the bank? Direct Deposit is a safe and convenient way to deposit your funds into the account you want. Stop by and see us or talk to your employer today.

Winners of 2020 Morrison Shoshiimaan Tournament

A snowsnake from last year’s tournament made by a student.

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Ferry crew, volunteers honored for saving life

17-YEAR-OLD WITH AUTISM SAVED FROM ICY WATERS OF ST. MARYS RIVER - "ALL WE COULD SEE WAS HER RED CHUCK"
Darcy Marrow shares Unit IV drum making

On March 7 and 8, Sault Tribe member Bud Biron taught workshop participants how to make traditional hand drums at the Manistique Tribal Center.
Introducing the 2020 US Census and why its important

By HAIG OSGOOD
The Census is the U.S. Constitution requires that the federal government count every person living in the U.S. The U.S. Census has been conducted every 10 years since 1790.

Why is the Census important?
Every year, the federal government gives money it has collected from taxes back to the states. How much money a state gets depends on how many people live in that state. And the count of how many people live in a state is determined every 10 years. So if a state has a low Census count, it will get less money from the federal government, every year, for the 10 years after the Census count.

Recently, Michigan has gotten about $30 billion a year based on a Census count. In addition to federal funds, many representatives states have in the U.S. Congress also depends on a state’s population, which is determined by the Census. Because of a low Census count, Michigan lost about $120 million in 2010 going from 15 Congressmen and Congresswomen in the U.S. House of Representatives, to the current one.

What is the money used for?
The $30 billion Michigan gets every year is used by the state, used by counties, used by Native American tribes, and used by people living in metropolitan cities. This partnership is formulated out of the grave necessity to trust with the tribal governments and represent the first time Indian Country is counted standing together to guarantee that Indian Country is counted in the Census. The consequences of the 2010 undercount manifested itself in the form of unjust policies based on flawed data, a shortfall of resources and a lack of representation in the decision-making process. Another undercount in this year’s Census will be devastating for Native people, which is why these three national organizations are standing together and unified to ensure that Indian Country is accurately counted in the 2020 Census.

This partnership is historic and represents the first time that both our reservation and urban based Native community and representatives from tribes and Native communities will be working together to ensure Native people and Indian Country count in 2020. This partnership is formulated out of the grave necessity to ensure a complete and accurate count in Indian Country.

The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), Detroit-based Urban Indian Family Coalition (NUICF) and the Native American Rights Fund (NARF) have partnered to launch Indian Country 2020, a historic initiative to ensure the American Indian and Alaskan Native (AI/AN) population is accurately counted in the 2020 Census.

This partnership is formulated out of the grave necessity to ensure a complete and accurate count in Indian Country. This is a major problem for many Indian communities, due to the pronounced digital divide in Indian Country created by poverty and lack of access. This places completion of the 2020 Census online beyond the reach of many Native people.

The consequences of the 2010 undercount manifested itself in the form of unjust policies based on flawed data, a shortfall of resources and a lack of representation in the decision-making process. Another undercount in this year’s Census will be devastating for Native people, which is why these three national organizations are standing together and unified to ensure that Indian Country is accurately counted in all 50 states both on and off the reservation.

The strength of this partnership lies in its historic reach. Both the NCAI and NARF have built generational trust with the tribal governments and officials across the country while the NUICF has created a network of 42 urban Indian centers across different major metropolitan cities. This partnership creates an infrastructure that will connect urban and non-urban Indian together and unify our voices so we can be accurately counted in the 2020 Census.

This partnership is historic and represents the first time that both our reservation and urban based Native community and representatives from tribes and Native communities will be working together to ensure Native people and Indian Country count in 2020. This partnership will provide information, materials, technical assistance, resources to Indian reservations, tribes and Native communities and a coordinated digital message to enhance the AI/AN Census efforts.

For more information on these efforts, please visit the NCAI’s website, www.indiancountrycounts.org, or the NUICF’s website, www.nuicf.org/census.
Apply for the 2020 Nick Gerrish scholarships

Soo Co-op Credit Union offers educational scholarships for the 2020-21 academic year. Three $2,500 scholarships will be awarded and one $1,500 scholarship will be awarded to a Bay Mills Community College student.

Eligibility — Applicants must meet ALL of the following criteria:
- Students must be members in good standing of Soo Co-op Credit Union.
- Note: You must be a primary member or a dependent of a member for at least two years.
- Students must be enrolled or will be enrolled as a full time student, in an accredited college, university or trade school.
- Students must maintain a minimum GPA of 2.75.
- Students must attend college, university or trade school during the school year listed on the scholarship application.

Each award will be paid directly to the college, university or trade school and credited in the recipient’s name. (One half of the scholarship will be distributed per semester).

Failure to maintain your status at school (including termination from school, dropping out of school or transferring to another college, university or trade school) will result in the cancelation of the award and any remaining funds will be returned to the credit union. In some cases, the funds will be redistributed to an alternate applicant.

Questions? Please contact the Member Education Department at (906) 632-5314.

All applications become the property of Soo Co-Op Credit Union upon receipt and will be destroyed following the applicant review and selection process.

March is National Parenting Awareness Month

The goal of National Parenting Awareness Month is to make society aware of the role that parents play in their children’s lives. Its purpose is to bring attention to the importance of the parenting role.

Parenting is hard. It is easy to get caught up in the everyday hustle and bustle of life, but sometimes we need to focus on the bigger picture: are we fulfilling our duties as parents? Children have needs that are constantly changing. The National Parenting Awareness Campaign aims to help parents work through those changes and reminds them that their role in the lives of their children is vital.

Making a commitment to continue to learn about great parenting practices and developmental stages for your children is the best way to sharpen your skills. There is no manual when it comes to raising a child, so having the proper resources is essential. For more parenting information please visit parents.com or parenttoolkit.com. Here you can find resources on all stages of development and parenting.

If you are interested in becoming a foster parent and making a difference in the life of a child please contact ACFS at 632-5230 or (800) 726-0903.

Smith named to Bay College dean’s list

Sault Tribe member Darin “Turk” Smith of Iron Mountain was named to the at Bay College Dean’s List for attainment of scholarly excellence during the fall 2019 semester, having earned a 4.0 GPA. He is in his final semester working on his Associate of Applied Science in business. This was an honor he never expected, said his wife, Selina Smith, and his family is very proud of him. He is the son of Mary McPherson and Dan Smith and father to Morgan, Caleb, Shelby, Mitchell, Marissa and Danny. He is also the grandfather of four.

Smith was born at the Kincheloe Air Force Base, where his father was stationed. His mom was from Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., and his dad was from Oklahoma. He grew up in Pasadena, Texas; Kenosha, Wis.; Manitowoc, Wis., and Sault Ste. Marie. He attended Pasadena High School and Sault Area High School.

Smith travels to Escanaba several days a week for school. He chose Bay College in hopes of obtaining a degree in business.

Winter storytelling in Manistique

Storytelling in Manistique — From left, Pam Demmon, Betty Majestic, Jeanne Knoph, John Kleis, Gail Sulander and Paul Blondeau.

March 25, 2020 • Win Awenen Nisitotung

Nicholas Davis is a 2018 graduate of Mackinac Island Public School and made the dean’s list for the 2019 fall semester at Central Michigan University’s College of Business Administration.

This was Davis’ second time on the dean’s list. In order to make the dean’s list, students must earn a grade point average of 3.5 or higher and take at least 12 credit hours during the semester.

Davis had 15 credit hours in the fall semester and received three A grades and two A- grades. His family is extremely proud of him.

Davis makes dean’s list

Please Vote in Your Tribal Election!

Vote SORENSON Unit III

• Caring for our Elders
• Community and Employee Driven
• Financial Stability
• Diversifying
• Cultural Preservation
• Tribe First
• Trades & Mentoring
• Maintaining Services
• Treaty Right Protection
• Outspoken with Boots on the Ground

Paid for & endorsed by Bridgett Sorenson

Bridgett Sorenson, Unit III Director
Bridgett01@yahoo.com 906-984-2052

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Bridgett Sorenson, Unit III Director
Bridgett01@yahoo.com 906-984-2052

Please Vote in Your Tribal Election!
Joséphine Augustine Allard, 66, passed away on Feb. 27, 2020, at her home in Lupton-sur-Montmorency, near her loving family. She lived in Ogemaw County for most of her life.

Joe served in the United States Army during Vietnam. He married Vickie Fouest in West Branch on Nov. 7, 1981. He has a degree in forestry and worked as an auto mechanic. Joe was a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and an active member of the Sault Ste. Marie Catholic Church.

FREDERICK M. BENSON


He was born on Aug. 6, 1948, in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., and married Vickie Rose Foust in West Branch, Mich., in 1968. Tricia (Dennis) Hissong of Breitung, Cynthia (Kurt) Walls; as well as six grandchil-

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be left to the Hospice of the Northern Lower Peninsula or Michigan’s Hospice of the North, 4346 S. Oneida St., Gladwin, MI 48624.

VICTORIA A. JOHNDROW

Vicky JohnDrow, of State College, PA, passed away on Feb. 22, 2020, after suffering a long battle with lupus and Sjogren’s syndrome.

An Old Car, in memory of George “Chippy” Houghton

BY DAVE HOUGHTON


An old car rumbled through the town and through brings a man down the highway, the visitor walks slowly as he knocks on my long-time door, he brings with him all the memories of a time that was a happy day, making me wish for a miracle that I could go to the yard knowing that it is his touch that brings me back to a time where I felt happy and belong. Sadness you bring me down to my knees as if a little child in diapers, overtake my heart where I can’t find comfort. I look around in this empty room feeling my own soul lying bare, wishing that somehow in some way yesterday could again become tomorrow. Oh, hold me in your arms as the uncontrolled sobbing starts to begin, give me comfort in this sadness that wraps so tightly around my heart, cause some kind of happiness. I search within as I find this feeling of grief does not want to so easily deep down. Whispers to me within this feeling that I would need, bring down to my knees that road that memories comes from so very far, now in this moment I see to see so inwardly very clear coming down that road. Chip, driving an old car.

EVA R. KOCH
Eva Rita Koch of Sault Ste. Marie, passed away on March 2, 2020, at War Memorial Hospital. Her health finally gave way after a long struggle with dementia. She was born in Flint, Mich., on March 27, 1936, the daughter of Delbert and Olivia Provost.

Eve was a very kind, extremely loving, good-hearted person, who only saw the good in people. She was always compassionate. Eve was a nurse for 50 years of her life, where her specialty was delivering babies. A professional storyteller, a most excellent one, she will be missed by all who knew her.

She leaves behind the love of her life, James F. Horne, whom she met in her teen years, and after 40 years of separate lives, reunited to get married and enjoy their love for the rest of their lives. Also surviving her are sons, Dan (Sharon) Horne; David (Leslie) Horne; Susan Koch; sister, Debbie Moore; eight grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren; and stepchildren, Deana, Jim Jr. and Timothy.

Eve was preceded in death by her parents, Sam and Pop; broth-er, John Provost; daughter, Debra Arntz; sons, Robert Gierok and William Gierok; grandchildren, Dan Gierok, Jim Arntz and Jacob Gierok; and stepdaughter, Karen.

A memorial service takes place for Eve later this spring in Flint, Mich. Clark Bailey Newhouse Memorial Funeral Home is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences may be left at www.clarkbaileynewhouse.com.

GRACE A. MACARTHUR
Grace Ann (LaPlaunt) MacArthur went to be with the Lord and her beloved Edward on March 2, 2020. Grace was born on Feb. 1, 1937, to the late Wilvy and Grace LaPlaunt in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. Grace was a member of St. Isaac Jogues Catholic Church and St. Joseph’s Catholic Church. She was a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

Grace started her working career with the Soo Creamery and later joined Sault Area Public Schools. She retired from the school system in the mid-1990s as the executive secretary for Sacred Heart High School. Grace loved to crochet, travel and loved to watch Wheel of Fortune and Jeopardy. Above all else, she loved and cherished the time she spent with her children and grandchildren. She loved to cook and bake for her family and was proud of both her Native American and Italian heritage.

Grace is survived by sons, Dale (Patricia Jones) MacArthur and Alan (Carolyn) MacArthur; a daughter, Karen MacArthur; sisters, Myrna (John) Wilson, Wilma (Frank) MacVarish; a brother, Wayne Lipponen; grandchildren, children and stepchildren, Deana, Jim Jr. and Timothy.

Grace was preceded in death by her husband, Edward; sons, James (Jimmy) and Charles (Chip); her parents, Wilvy and Grace Ann LaPlaunt; brothers, Bernard, Robert and Patricia LaPlaunt; children and Wanda LaPlaunt, Eugene (Donna) LaPlaunt and Myrna and John Wilson.

In memory of George “Chippy” Houghton

.Employee of the Month

CONGRATULATIONS TO CHERYL LAPLAUNT, CLINIC MANAGER IN ST. IGNACE, FOR BEING CHOSEN AS THE JANUARY EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH. CHERYL DOES AN EXCELLENT JOB MANAGING THE ST. IGNACE CLINIC, SHE IS ALWAYS UP TO DATE ON ALL OF THE NECESSARY ITEMS THAT ARE NEEDED TO KEEP THE CLINIC RUNNING SMOOTHLY.
March 25, 2020 • Win Awenen Nisitotung

Dr. Aaron A. Payment, Tribal Chairperson
Representing All Members Everywhere

Ahnee, Boozho,

First, while I do the following work, it is not at the expense of missing our Tribal Board meetings. My attendance record is 99.75% as I have only missed one meeting (the day my mom died in 2005). My main job is being present at our Board meetings, Conservation Meetings, Chippewa Ottawa Resource Meetings, Executive Council Meetings, and 100% of all 2020 Consent Decree Negotiation Meetings. I always show up.

Given space limitations, the following is what I have been up to since my last Tribal Chairperson report to you:

US Health and Human Services Secretary Tribal Advisory Council [2/6 & 7] - I have served on STAC for five years advising on IHS, Head Start, Indian Child Welfare, and the Affordable care Act issues. The ACA has brought over nearly $50 million new $ to our Tribe.

Met with Acting IHS Director on Dental Therapy [2/6] - I advocated for funding to develop a new training program to bring greater dental care and shorter wait times across the UP and expand services to Emmet, Cheboygan counties and eventually Detroit.

NCAI Executive Winter Session ~ Presided twice [2/10-2/12] - I serve as 1st VP on the most influential National Non-Partisan Native Advocacy group. I presided over two days of meetings with legislators including the US Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Hosted Congressional Campaign Event for Native Candidate [2/10] - I hosted this event for Idaho Congressional Candidate Rudy Soto who is a member of the Shoshone–Bannock Tribe.


Testified on Office of Victims of Crime Funding Formula [2/12] - I’ve played a key role in securing $150 million annual funds for tribes so I am fighting to make sure the distribution is equitable.

By Invitation, I testified again in the US House on Advance Appropriations [2/12].

Attended National Advisory Council on Indian Education Meeting [2/13 & 14].

Met with MI Sen. McBroom on lowering the speed limit on US2 in front of our Manistique Health Center [2/19].

Participated in Tribal-State Liaison Forum [2/19].

Hosted the United Tribes of MI Legislative Reception in Lansing as President [2/19].

Chaired the United Tribes of MI Meeting as President [2/20].

Our Consent Decree negotiations is a once in a generation responsibility. This duty transcends this term of office into August. Our treaty rights are at stake. We need strong leadership to get it right. I am grateful we have a strong Board team who support my leadership as Lead Negotiator. I work hard to represent you and I show up. I will continue to do my best.

Chi MeGwitch, Negee!

Call: 800-793-0660 Cell: 906-440-5937 Email: aaronpayment@yahoo.com Facebook ‘Aaron Payment’

In a continued effort to prevent the spread of Coronavirus, Kewadin Casinos is temporarily closed until April 6. We will spend the time deep-cleaning our casinos and preparing to reopen.

We look forward to seeing you all soon.

Updates can be found at kewadin.com.
There have been some very good things happening to our tribe lately. We are trying to settle the Gektown lawsuit for a nominal amount compared to the original $17 million; we should have that paid off by the end of June. We are moving forward on Internet gaming. Our $70 million debt was paid off in June of this year. We have won the first step in our land-into-trust for our downtown casino, which will be a few more hurdles but this is a great first victory.

Many times the membership discussed it and involved in business ventures are proprietary we’re not concerned. If the tribe has been voted on or contracts signed. We never want to give our competitors prior notice.

The fact that I have to pass some of our budget upssets me. The Health Division’s calendar year is from October to September. In my opinion, we shouldn’t have added anything to the line that everyone wants this year. Our projections for long-term sustainability are not good. We have to be able to continue the same level of services and adding more does not guarantee we can sustain it.

The meeting has been meeting quite often with the state, feds and other tribes trying to find common ground. The team also meets internally on Monday and Tuesday mornings with representatives from the tribes. The fishermen have also been attending the meetings.

Some of our community events have been affected with the threat of coronavirus now reaching the state of Michigan. It is a scary time in our country and some tough decisions are going to have to be made. We can all hope only we make the best decisions with the information provided and our people will be able to move forward.

The board had discussed the virus at the March 3 meeting. The Health liaison had prepared a document for the membership to try and avoid contracting the virus. All areas and premises are being cleaned and more often. Hand-sanitizing stations have been added near entry/exits of the fitness center because the team members have been relayed for symptoms to look for.

The executive director met with Michigan Tribal CAOs and plan for the potential emergency situation. I asked for the special meeting so we could vote on any policies change that needed to happen. We will need to have a new board meeting on August 6 because the team member’s interest.

Unfortunately, our rules say we must give a five-day notice for board action. I do agree with that except in an emergency situation or a potential crisis it should be changed.”

Please take all necessary precautions for yourself and your family. Please keep our children, elders and vulnerable members who are accessing the tribe working on new Manistique fitness place

Tribe working on new Manistique fitness place

While at United Tribes, Director Morrow, Chairperson Wendy Hoffman and myself were able to meet with the governor of the Michigan Department of Transportation, and explained to her the road safety issues and proposed solutions.

The tribe is prepared to have a comprehensive road safety audit completed. As I mentioned before the tribe has been pressing for a few years to do a comprehensive road safety audit and the governor has finally acknowledged the need.

The board of directors will be holding a special meeting on March 17 at 10 a.m. regarding emergency response to the coronavirus. The Executive Director, CFO, Elder Division Director, Health Director, Communications Department and Information Technology have all been working diligently on policy changes; amendments; communication plan; protection of work and our personnel; and patients and patrons.

At the March 17 meeting the tribe’s Executive Director, Chairperson Wendy Hoffman and myself declared a state of emergency throughout our reservation lands of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

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It’s sugar bush time! Tree tapping has started!

Ahnee, winter is winding down and we’re all looking forward to spring. Winter does not seem to want to give up very easily. It still seems as though we are in for another storm or two before it is over. We have all heard about the coronavirus and the hesitancy that is causing in our communities. It is my hope that all of us are taking precautions to minimize the impact that it will have on our everyday lives. We need to keep a close eye on our most vulnerable people to make sure they are being cared for.

The Seven Grandfathers teachings we held in Unit V were a huge success. These classes are very important part of preserving and enhancing our traditional teachings for our people. If these classes can help to bring traditional awakening to even one individual tribal member, I feel it has been well worth it. There has been nothing but positive feedback from members and that should encourage us to keep going.

One day, Manabozho thought, “I think I’ll go see my friends, the Anishnaabe.” He went to their village, but it was empty. Manabozho looked for the people. They were not fishing, hunting or gathering berries. He found them in the maple trees just tying on their buckets letting maple syrup drip into their mouths.

“They will not die! My people are all going to be fat and happy if they keep on living this way.”

Manabozho went to the river with a big bunch of buck baskets. He brought lots of water and poured it in the top of the maple trees. He poured it until the trees were watery and just barely sweet to the taste.

“From now on, only this watery sap will drip from the maple trees. When people want syrup they will have to gather many buckets full of sap, gather wood, light fires and hot stones to drop into the buckets. They will have to boil it for a long time to make even a little syrup. Then my people will have to get fat and be happy again.”

Manabozho made maple syrup available. Also, this sap will drip only at a certain time of the year. There will be no people from hunting, fishing, and gathering.

And that is how it is to this day.

My students would tell me why it’s important to work hard and that happiness is not “too easy.” The kids understood. We have many hard workers in our tribe who understand, too. To all who have worked to help make meals for our elders and children, government employees making sure we continue to have our food, nurses making sure our medical staff, the front-liners at our stores and economic businesses that remain open for us to get gas and other essentials, teachers to meet our large work force, insurance and continue to navigate these difficult decisions as there are consequences either way. Peoples’ livelihood and ability to provide for their families are at stake.

I think we have to be very careful with protecting our team members while ensuring how long we can sustain wages. The executive board, insurance and continue to navigate these difficult decisions as there are consequences either way. Peoples’ livelihood and ability to provide for their families are at stake.

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Considering safety of team members and community

Kimberle Gravelle
Director, Unit I

Hello, I would like to say how grateful we are to team members who have been understanding during the coronavirus outbreak and those who have called to get updates. There has been a lot of false information spread to the community. This is disappointing to those who have been working diligently to come up with solutions to help get through this stressful time.

First and foremost, we need to continue the safety of team members and the community at large. It is not an easy decision to shut down member services. There is a downside to each decision we make. Just one example is the closing of our daycare services. This leaves working families with nowhere to take their children. There are no easy solutions to take the pressure off working families. As of this writing, the decision has been made to shut down the five Sault Tribe casino’s until April 5, 2020. Together we can get through this, so please take care of yourself, your family and check on your neighbors. We will be made stronger by this current challenge, it is the way of our people.

On a more positive note, Tipping Points Solutions, Inc is expanding in Sault Ste. Marie by adding nine new, high-paying IT jobs. They plan to provide intensive training and skills development to the new employees. Individuals interested in careers with Tipping Point Solutions should visit https://tp-solutions.com/careers/

I’d like to remind everyone that we have three recovery houses in Kinross, Mich., available to individuals who have been in a treatment program and need a place they can continue to recover and live a healthy lifestyle. Assistance will be provided for travel, help with traveling meetings, doctor appointments, job interviews, cultural events, school, budgeting, etc. Miwegüz to everyone in a treatment program. For more information, please call (906) 632-5200 and follow the prompts for the Behavioral Health Department. Also, a reminder if you move from your residence to a new address without notifying the Tribal Tax Office and the tribe’s Enrollment Department, you may lose important benefits, i.e., possible tax exemptions, tribal election ballots, elder’s benefits, etc.

We have had extremely hard and stressful decisions to be made with the coronavirus and the threats to our people’s health and well being. Our priority is a balance with the continued service to the members and the protection of all our people’s health in and out of the workforce. Our entire tribe has stepped up and things are changing daily. Please see our official webpage for updates on all services and health messages. I would simply ask that you offer sema for our people’s health. It’s a very scary and struggling time. I’m committed to getting us through this while remaining calm and responsible in our actions. I have not and will not stop working. I am out there like the rest of our workforce, I have grandkids and parents and will limit my exposure to our vulnerable elderly or newly born. It is known that so many are working hard to keep our tribe running and steady, if you have specific needs due to this health crisis, please let me know. We have many changes coming to get through this, please take care of your health and keep track of your kids’ kids.

As always, please keep the mask on and maintain social distancing in all the areas we work and socialize. There are individuals in our communities (both tribal and non-tribal), who have jumped in on the front line to volunteer to ensure children, elders and families receive themselves. These are the individuals who clearly illustrate the saying that leadership is all about. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who is clearly working for being a positive example of leaders.

In closing, please read this paper, as well as the tribe’s website regarding changes to our operations as well as preventative measures during these troubling times. In addition, please make sure your elders have essential items such as food and medicine, and that your families are safe during these trying times.

Kimberle Gravelle
Director, Unit I

Working diligently for the safety of membership and employees

DJ Hoffman
Director, Unit I

“We have a choice to be leaders or politicians. A true leader will face the problem and deal with it. A politician will try to please everyone and never fix the problem.”

As many of you are aware, our tribal nation (as well as the United States) is facing a biological threat impacting our communities, businesses and overall economy. There are many individuals sharing this information on Facebook, some for the benefit of informing others, as well as some intent on politicizing the matter for the tribal election. I want to assure you that all of your elected officials are working diligently to ensure our membership and employees are safe. While we may not always agree, we are united in this lasting challenge. The tribe is looking at options, recommended by our executives, regarding our government facilities, administrative buildings and casino operations. In the next few days, many changes will occur to our overall operations to limit the spread of the coronavirus. This will include different hours of operation, including but not limited to closing during certain periods of time. As a tribe, we are working to ensure that our membership receives services and our employees receive a steady paycheck to provide for their respective families.

In uncertain times, the best people shine brightest. There are individuals in our communities (both tribal and non-tribal), who have jumped in on the front line to volunteer to ensure children, elders and families receive themselves. These are the individuals who clearly illustrate the saying that leadership is all about. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who is clearly working for being a positive example of leaders.

In closing, please read this paper, as well as the tribe’s website regarding changes to our operations as well as preventative measures during these troubling times. In addition, please make sure your elders have essential items such as food and medicine, and that your families are safe during these trying times.
An introduction to the Sault Tribe Traditional Medicine Program — don’t be too shy to try!

By Brenda Austin

The Sault Tribe Traditional Medicine Program is located inside the Sault Tribe Health Center in Sault Ste. Marie, and was the first traditional medicine program in the country integrated into a tribal health delivery system. Traditional medicine practitioners (healers) work in a holistic way alongside tribal medical providers, combining the benefits of both traditional and western medicine.

Services are provided to all members of federally recognized tribes, tribal households and families, and all members of the tribal community. Tribal members and community members can schedule appointments to be seen at the following locations: Grand Island Chippewa Community Center in Manistique, Mich. (906) 387-4721; Hessel Community Health Center, Hessel, Mich., (906) 846-2931; Newberry Community Health Center, Newberry, Mich., (906) 846-4111; Sault Ste. Marie Tribal Health Center, Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., 632-5200; and the Sault Tribal Health & Human Services Center in Saint Ignace, Mich., 643-8689. Traditional medicine services will also eventually be offered in Escanaba and Marquette.

Traditional Healers Joe Syrette and Gerard Sagassige, along with traditional medicine staff Laura Downwind-Collins, Traditional Medicine supervisor; Annie Thibert, traditional practitioner assistant I; and Lori Gambardella, traditional practitioner assistant II; offer tribal members holistic Ojibwe traditional medicine services that help meet spiritual, mental, physical and emotional needs, while respecting the cultural and traditional beliefs of their clients.

Some of the services the Traditional Medicine Program offer includes: Traditional medicine procedures and ceremonial functions providing consultation, diagnosis, and treatment; treatment with traditional medicines including plants, herbs, and/or specific ceremonies; healing sweat lodges; seasonal fasting and ceremonies; cultural services such as giving of an Anishinaabe name, clan, and color identification; referral to tribal clinics, substance abuse and mental health providers as well as other traditional practitioners and to healing ceremonies; re-establishing rare plants and medicines onto tribal and private properties; and volunteer programs where community members can assist in the planting, gathering and processing of traditional medicines; among many others.

Joe Syrette started working for the Sault Tribe as a Nemandawwi’weid, or traditional healer, in 2019. He is Anishinaabe Ojibwe from Rankin Reserve Batchewana First Nation, located in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, Canada. Syrette has been practicing traditional healing work for the past five years, but has lived his life learning Anishinaabe cer-
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