Sault Tribe allocates over $125 million for recovery center, tribal member relief, employee compensation

SAULT STE. MARIE, Mich. – To date, the Sault Tribe Board of Directors appropriated $91 million of the tribe’s American Rescue Act (ARA) funding for tribal member relief at $2,000 for each and every tribal member everywhere for all ages.

With a tribal population of over 45,000, the distribution of checks is a monumental job, which requires address updates, enrollment of minor children and the completion of a form, a simple statement of need rather than an income-based application. The tribal administration is working diligently to update addresses and prepare a direct mail that should be mailed in the next several weeks.

A tribal member address update link is being prepared for posting on the tribal website. Please see the Sault Tribe website as best source of information at: www.saulttribe.com. Tribal members will be able to fill out this electronically on the website.

Members are also welcome to update their address by calling Tribal Enrollment toll-free at 1-800-251-6597. Members are advised to be patient. Checks will be mailed out in rolling batches as forms are returned. Such that the bulk of checks should arrive by mid-August. A $10 million appropriation made at the July 6, 2021, board meeting to address long standing issues of bringing tribal member pay to market value. Before the COVID-19 pandemic, the tribal board authorized an updated market study to determine an appropriate pay scale for all tribal members. With tribal board approval, the effective date of implementation backdated to July 6, 2021. Given the large volume of work remaining, adjustments to bring team members to market value is estimated to be just after Labor Day.

Executive Director Christine McPherson said, “We have been working diligently on preparing a budget recommendation for the tribal board to bring all team members to market value. The governmental, housing, casino and enterprise team members are the engine that runs the tribe, so we are excited to finally reward team members by bringing them to market value. The board’s $10 million commitment is significant and appreciated.”

Also approved is a historical $25 million commitment to address the drug and substance abuse challenge in our larger tribal community, including the opiate epidemic that the Centers for Disease Control report as some of the highest rates of affliction among American Indians and Alaska Natives due to historical and inter-generational trauma. The Sault Tribe was one of the first tribes in the country to approve a Tribal Action Plan as a first step. During our extensive research, the tribe identified the need for detox, in-patient recovery treatment and establishment of a new long-term Recovery Campus. A few years ago, the tribe entered a unique partnership with Hazelden Betty Ford to develop a unique treatment based on our Anishinaabe Bimaadzwin and dedicated and blessed land 4 miles west of the I-75 interchange on M-28, near Dafter, Mich.

The pandemic made the challenges of the opiate and other substance abuse epidemic even more acute. Chairperson Payment said, “Each of us has been impacted by both the pandemic and the opiate and substance abuse health crisis. Our care and concern for our own people is demonstrated and I am personally grateful for this appropriation by the board.”

Finally, over the course of the pandemic, the tribe’s main revenue source for operations was interrupted by up to a 70 percent loss. In order to support the safety of the public and our team members, casino operations were shuttered for two fiscal quarters. Casino payroll is $80 million annually, which expends the vast majority of our gross revenues. One hundred percent of net revenues for gaming operations, $17 million annually, supports tribal programs, services and operations. The estimated amount left to recover after various revenues replacement loans were applied in 2020 is $38 million and another $20 million estimated through 2021. In order to preserve the cash flow from the casino to tribal programs and to fully replenish lost revenues, the board ear-marked $50 million for revenue replacement. These funds will in turn, stabilize payroll and tribal programs, services and operations.

The net effect is that over $35 million remains to be allocated, along with an additional $50 million for the second distribution of the American Rescue Act funds, which the tribe is project-ed to receive by July 15. The tribal board is meeting weekly to hear tribal priorities, review the tribe’s strategic plan, and trying to merge needs and wants for the remaining $80 to $90 million. Additionally, the board has identified the need to hold large in-person and virtual tribal member input sessions to help identify needs. The chairperson and the tribal board office are working on scheduling sessions beginning as soon as mid-July.

For questions, please contact Chairperson Payment at (906) 635-6050. For regular updates, please visit the tribe’s website at www.saulttribe.com.

Tribal Elder Alice Huhtala celebrates 100th birthday

On June 30, 2021, Sault Tribe elder Alice Huhtala reached 100 years of age and earned centurion status. Until January of this year, she lived independently, the last 5 years of age and earned centurion status. Until January of this year, she lived independently; the last 20 years of age and earned centurion status. Until January of this year, she lived independently; the last 20 years; and the last 10 years, grew up in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.

Alice and George (deceased in 1975) raised three daughters, Judy LaJoie (with whom she now shares an apartment), Carol Mramor (deceased) and Linda (Howard) Behlmer, living near Cleveland, Ohio. Alice has grand-children, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

Through the years, Alice donated her time, money and cooking skills helping family, relatives, neighbors, friends and our Unit I elders. She served on the Unit I Elder Subcommittee for several years. She has not yet been able to share the dance she and Father John Haskell planned to have at Mishibinik Nokemis Elder Center. Will this yet come to pass in the future? Only Gitchi Manitou can answer that.

A small family gathering in her honor was held on her birthday.
The following members of the tribal board of directors are committed to ensuring that the entire tribe benefits from the American Recovery Act funds. These funds were based upon the entire population of the tribe. To ensure everyone has an opportunity to benefit, we have approved $91 million dollars for direct payments for ALL tribal members (regardless of residence) who complete verification of COVID-19 impact forms during March 2021-present time frame.

This approval was by unanimous vote of the tribal board of directors.

The board also identified our employment team members, health of our membership and revenue replacement as priorities to be addressed from the American Recovery Act funds received by the tribe and has committed $25 million from the American for a Recovery Campus project (collaboration of Sault Tribe, Betty Ford and Hazleden), $10 million from the American Recovery Act funds to address compensation issues related to the recruitment and retention team members, and earmarked $50 million in revenue replacement for our casino operations.

This approval was by unanimous vote of the tribal board of directors.

The American Recovery Act funds are different from their predecessor, the CARES Act funds. CARES Act funding was allocated based upon the Indian Housing Block Grant Data (service area population); funding for individual impact payments to qualified members in the seven-county service area. These funds were for impact of COVID-19 during March 2020-Dec. 31, 2020.

This approval was by unanimous vote of the tribal board of directors.

It is extremely unfortunate that these funds have been politicized, generating misleading "unofficial" media reports in news publications, as well as on social media. It is unacceptable that individual leaders are attacking others to further their respective political agendas. It is also unacceptable that individual elected officials are attempting to manipulate and divide the membership regarding these different funding sources. ALL funding and programming approved by unanimous vote of the Board of Directors.

As board members, we are committed to working with everyone to ensure that these funds benefit the tribe in the most impactful manner for this and the next seven generations. To ensure this, ALL remaining American Recovery Act funds shall require extensive input of staff, the membership and the board of directors. This shall also include Sault Tribe facilitated public input sessions with any/all members who wish to attend in person or virtually.

Respectfully,
Kim Gravelle, Unit I Director
DJ Hoffman, Unit I Director
Michael McRiche, Unit I Director
Lana Causley, Unit I Director
Catherine Hollowell, Unit II Director
Keith Massaway, Unit III Director
Brigitte Swenson, Unit III Director
Denise Chase, Unit IV Director
Darcy Morrow, Unit IV Director
Charles Matson, Sr. Unit V Director

Kim Gravelle, Unit I Director
DJ Hoffman, Unit I Director
Michael McRiche, Unit I Director
Lana Causley, Unit I Director
Catherine Hollowell, Unit II Director
Keith Massaway, Unit III Director
Brigitte Swenson, Unit III Director
Denise Chase, Unit IV Director
Darcy Morrow, Unit IV Director
Charles Matson, Sr. Unit V Director

CARES Act funding was allocated based upon the Indian Housing Block Grant Data (service area population); funding for individual impact payments to qualified members in the seven-county service area. These funds were for impact of COVID-19 during March 2020-Dec. 31, 2020.

This approval was by unanimous vote of the tribal board of directors.
Senior Project Fresh snacks available for 60+

Are you a low-income adult over the age of 60? You can receive fresh fruits and vegetables through participating local farmers’ markets through the Senior Project Fresh program. If you are in a single-household with an income level under $23,828 or a household with two people with an income level under $32,227, you may be eligible. You can receive $20 in coupons to be used on over 100 fresh fruits, vegetables and herbs at any participating farms’ markets in Michigan. Some items you can use your coupons on include, but are not limited to, apples, carrots, a variety of berries, peppers, onions, potatoes and even honey.

If you are a resident of either Chippewa or Mackinac County contact us today at (906) 635-6368 or msue.chippewa@countymsu.edu.

TAX EXEMPTION CERTIFICATES
MICHIGAN SECRETARY OF STATE APPOINTMENTS

Requests for Certificate of Exemptions require a 24-hour notice prior to the SOS appointment.

The Tribal Tax Office staff may not be able to assist Resident Tribal Members, who are at a scheduled appointment, and did not call the Tribal Tax Office in advance for the Certificate of Exemption.

The Tribal Tax Office is not responsible for a delay in obtaining the registration for vehicles, recreational vehicles, motor homes, etc., due to the Resident Tribal Member not requesting the Certificate of Exemption in a timely manner.

The Tribal Tax Office may be reached at (906) 635-6050 or cblocher@saulttribe.net.
Public comment invited on 2022-24 CSBG plan

Sault Tribe’s Anishnaabek Community and Family Services (ACFS) 2022-24 Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) plan is available for your review. The CSBG program is designed to assist in alleviating the burden of an unexpected emergency for eligible Sault Tribe members’ households in the tribe’s service area. How we administer this program is partly determined by YOUR input.

The plan will be available from July 19 to July 28 for comment at www.saulttribe.com and at the ACFS office, 2218 Shunk Road, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783. Email comments are encouraged, send to jbye@saulttribe.net.

Public comment will be heard on Monday, July 28, 2021, 3-5 p.m. at 2218 Shunk Road in Sault Ste. Marie.

If you have questions or comments, please email jbye@saulttribe.net or call (906) 726-0093 to speak to a Direct Service case manager.


Public comment invited on 2022 LIHEAP plan

Sault Tribe’s Anishnaabek Community and Family Services (ACFS) 2022 Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) plan is available for your review. The LIHEAP program is designed to assist in alleviating the burden of high energy costs to eligible Sault Tribe households in the tribe’s seven-county service area. How we administer this program is partly determined by YOUR input.

The plan will be available from July 19-28, 2021, for comment at www.saulttribe.com the or at the ACFS office at 2218 Shunk Road in Sault Ste. Marie. Email comments are encouraged to jbye@saulttribe.net.

Public comment will be heard on Monday, July 28, 2021, 3-5 p.m., at 2218 Shunk Road.

If you have questions, please contact Juanita Bye, ACFS director at (800) 726-0093.

Ref: Notice of public hearing/2022 LIHEAP plan.

Public comment invited on 2021-22 LIHWAP plan

The Sault Tribe Anishnaabek Community and Family Services (ACFS) 2021-22 Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) plan is available for your review. LIHWAP provides assistance to restore water or prevent water shut-offs to eligible Sault Tribe members’ households in the tribe’s seven-county service area. How we administer this program is partly determined by YOUR input.

The plan is available July 19 to July 28 for comment at www.saulttribe.com and at the ACFS office, 2218 Shunk Road, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783.

If you have questions or comments, please email jbye@saulttribe.net or call (800) 726-0093 to speak to a Direct Service case manager.

Ref: Notice of public hearing/2021-22 LIHWAP plan.

Training opportunities 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, 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. Please apply at WIOA at Chippewa Community Recreation Center in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. or call Brenda Cadreau at 635-4767 for more information.

Public comment invited on 2021-22 Goo Goo Dolls coming

Kewadin Casino St. Ignace brings the return of music on the waterfront! Presented by Classic Rock The Bear, hot off the release of their album, Rarities, the Goo Goo Dolls and special guest Cheap Trick appear Aug. 19 for one night of incredible music. Goo Goo Dolls’ sales exceed 12 million albums worldwide. The group has garnered four Grammy Award nominations and seized a page in the history books by achieving 14 number one and Top 10 hits at Hot AC. As a result, they hold the all-time radio record for most top 10 singles. Among a string of hits, Iris topped the hot 100 for 18 straight weeks.

Special guest for the evening, Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductee, Cheap Trick, will rock the stage with their timeless classics. We want You To Want Me, The Flame, Sucker and so many more.

We’re kicking off the return of music to the outdoor stage with two amazing bands in one night to remember. This is a show you do not want to miss!

On-site parking is available at no extra cost. GA lawn ticket holders may bring their own folding chair.

Tickets sales start on Friday, June 25, at 10 a.m. starting at $50! Tickets will be available at tickets.kewadin.com, the Box Office or by calling 1-800-KEWADIN.
Sault Kids’ Fishing Day returns

SAULT STE. MARIE, Mich. – After a year hiatus due to the pandemic, the Connor Gorsuch Kids Fishing Day is back at the Sault Ste. Marie Kids Fishing Pond at Rotary Park. This year’s event will be held 8-11 a.m. on July 31.

Kids Fishing Day is an opportunity for kids to catch trout and win prizes, all through the generosity of a variety of local businesses, organizations and volunteers. Bait, food, drinks and fish-cleaning services are all provided free of charge. Some fishing rods and tackle are available for those who need it.

The outing takes place at the Kids Fishing Pond at Rotary Park, which opened for the season earlier this month. Managed by Cleverland Electrical Cooperative, the City of Sault Ste. Marie and Lake Superior State University, the pond is in a unique setting along St. Mary’s River shipping channel. It is open to fishing for kids 16-under.

Committee vacancies —

The following committees have vacant seats. Sault Tribe members interested in filling these vacancies should submit one letter of intent and three letters of recommendation from other members to Joanne Carr or Linda Grossett, 523 Ashmun St., Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783. Call (906) 635-6050 for any questions.

Anishinaabe Cultural Committee - nine vacancies - four males (4-year term), five females (4-year term)
Child Welfare Committee - two vacancies (4-year term), 1 vacancy (expires May 2023)
Election Committee - four vacancies (4-year term)
Higher Education Committee - four vacancies (4-year term)
Health Board - five vacancies (4-year term)
Special Needs/Enrollment Committee - seven vacancies (2-year term)

Elder Advisory Committee
Unit I - Sault (4-year term), one regular vacancy and one alternate vacancy
Unit II - Hessel (4-year term), one alternate vacancy
Unit II - Naubinway (4-year term), one alternate vacancy
Unit III - St. Ignace (4-year term), one regular vacancy and one alternate vacancy
Unit IV - Manistique (4-year term), one alternate vacancy
Unit IV - Escanaba (4-year term) one regular vacancy and one alternate vacancy
Unit V - Munising (4-year term), one alternate vacancy
Unit V - Manistique (4-year term), one regular vacancy and one alternate vacancy

Subcommittee vacancies
Unit I and II - Sault (4-year terms), two regular seat vacancies, two alternate seat vacancies
Unit II - Hessel (4-year terms), two regular seat vacancies, two alternate vacancies
Unit II - Naubinway (4-year term), two alternate seat vacancies
Unit II - Manistique (4-year term), two regular seat vacancies, one alternate vacancy
Unit IV - Escanaba (4-year term), two regular seat vacancies, two alternate vacancies
Unit V - Munising (4-year term), two regular seat vacancies, one alternate seat vacancy
Unit V - Manistique (4-year term), three regular seat vacancies, one alternate seat vacancy

“Of the fish going into the pond this year are coming from the Jordan River National Fish Hatchery,” said Roger Greil, who has been leading the efforts at the pond since it was established in 2004. “The hatchery provided fish last year, too, when the pond was open but our annual Kids Fishing Day was canceled. Without them, we would not have fish for the kids to catch.”

Greil said the Jordan River Hatchery is providing 3,000 trout this year, with 1,000 rainbow trout stocked the night before Kids Fishing Day. The pond will be closed that evening to increase the chances of kids catching fish the next day.

“The fish we’re stock are part of the Jordan River National Fish Hatchery fishing initiative, where we provide fish to groups that promote free and accessible youth fishing opportunities across the state of Michigan,” said Roger Gordon, manager of the federal hatchery. “With the success of the pond last year, in spite of the pandemic, we are very pleased to be able to help out again this year.”

Pendills Creek National Fish Hatchery has donated fish for the pond in the past, too, as has the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, and many people have donated toward the cause.

Registration for Kids Fishing Day runs from 8-9 a.m. on the day of the event. Kids 8-under can fish from 9-9:30 a.m., kids 9-16 can fish from 9:30-10 a.m., and all age groups can fish at 10 a.m. Look for more information on the Sault CVB web page and Facebook account.

The Sault Kids Fishing Pond is funded through the Sault Convention and Visitors Bureau’s Sault Area Foundation for Education (SAFE), a 501© 3 foundation (tax I.D. # 46-0739920).

To help keep the pond successful, write Sault Area Foundation for Education, PO Box 1000 or 225 E. Portage Ave., Sault Ste. Marie MI 49783.

This online training system does not interact with health systems, insurance carriers or law enforcement. Naloxone is sent to your address in a plain, discrete packet.

Please direct questions about our program to info@nextdistro.org.

To learn more about remote trainings, please reach out to Lisa Moran at lmoran@itcmi.org.

6830 S. Taylor Rd. in Sault Ste. Marie (Off 6 Mile Rd., 1 Mile West of Mackinac Trail)

6 Mile Farmers Market
Located on 6 Mile Rd. just after I-75 Overpass. Watch for signs.

Fresh & Local from the U.P.

Summer Hours Beginning in June: Tuesday and Thursday 12-5 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Community Shared Agriculture — Shares available for $20-32 per week, depending on size. Stop by the market for more information.

Crafts, Gifts & More

Vegetable and flower plants, and hanging baskets, ready at the end of May.

Crafts • Gifts • Herbs • Baked Goods • Canned fruits & vegetables • Produce • Honey • Maple Syrup • Furniture • Fresh Donuts • Soup
Anishinaabemowin 2021

“Although no one can go back and make a brand-new start, anyone can start from now and make a brand-new ending.” — Carl Bard

Gzhaate g-zhaa-te It’s hot.
Gzhaatemagad g-zhaa-te-ma-gad It’s really hot.

Aambe maadigaa biishing jiigbiig. Let’s wade in the water at the shore.

Aambe bagizo-daa! Come on, let’s go swimming!

Minendaagozin! Have a good time! (have fun, enjoy yourself)

N’wii nmadib gawaatesshiing miinwaa n’wii bgizkaa. I’ll sit in the shade and I’ll relax.

Puzzle it out! Count the number of triangles in each design. Use the letter associated with that number to figure out the words below. Tell the English meaning for each, too.

Minendaagozin!

Do you remember how to count to eleven? Here’s a refresher: Bezhik (be-zhik)= 1, Niizh (nii-zh)= 2, Nswe (n-sw)= 3, Niwin (nii-win)= 4, Naanan (n-aa-nan)= 5, Ngodwaaswi (n-god-waa-swi)= 6, Niizhwaaswi (nii-zh-waa-swi)= 7, Nshwaaswi (n-sh-waa-swi)= 8, Zhaangswi (zh-aang-swi)= 9, Mdaaswi (m-daa-swi)= 10, Mdaaswi shi bezhik (m-daa-swi shi be-zhik)= 11. A bit of a heads-up: Make good use of “Making our Sounds” below. It’s a useful tool. Vital, really.

What do you call the wife of a hippie? Mississippi
What did the pig say on a hot summer day? I’m bacon.
What did the ocean say to the sailboat? Nothing. It just waved.
What did the air conditioning unit say to its owner? I’m your biggest fan.
I stayed up all night wondering where the sun went. Then it dawned on me.
A friend tried for a job at a sun cream factory but didn’t get it. He’s going to reapply.

Pronounce all the letters. Italic type will tell you which word-parts to stress. No italics in a word means the parts have equal stress. Long words are broken up with dashes (-); still, say each word smoothly. And notice “nh” has NO SOUND of its own. It is a sign to say the vowels just before it “through your nose”.

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

aa sounds like the a in awsome a sounds like the a in tuba
i 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 wood
e sounds like the e in end g sounds ONLY like it does in go
DOI opens investigation into U.S. boarding schools

By Rick Smith

On the heels of mounting body counts found at former Indian boarding school sites in Canada, U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) Secretary Debra Haaland announced the launch of the Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative, described as "a comprehensive review of the troubled legacy of federal boarding school policies."

Haaland made the announcement to the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) at their annual Mid-Year Conference. According to a memo from Haaland dated June 22, 2021, the initiative was prompted by the recent discovery of 215 unmarked graves at the site of the former Kamloops Indian Residential School in British Columbia, Canada. Many more bodies have been found in other Canadian boarding school sites and the body count continues to climb. Kamloops now appears to be merely the proverbial tip of the iceberg.

"The Interior Department will address the inter-generational impact of Indian boarding schools to shed light on the unspoken traumas of the past, no matter how hard it will be," said Haaland. "I know that this process will be long and difficult. I know that this process will be painful. It won't undo the heartbreak and loss we feel. But, only by acknowledging the past can we work toward a future that we're all proud to embrace." Fawn Sharp, president of the NCAI, praised the measure, "The National Congress of American Indians commends the Department of the Interior for taking the essential first step of providing an official account of the atrocities that Native children experienced during the boarding school era," she said.

"By documenting who, what, when and where these egregious abuses occurred, Native families may not only be able to fully heal, but they may be able to begin to reconcile with the past. Many mothers, fathers, siblings and children of boarding school victims and survivors have walked on without ever knowing the full extent of what happened to their loved ones. But, knowledge is power. By learning the truth, we can fully begin reconciling the past and healing for the future. Michigan American Indian tribes also endorsed the initiative along with other tribes across the nation.

In the United States, the Indian boarding schools started after the passage of the Indian Civilization Act of 1819. About 357 such boarding schools developed across the country and operated into the 1960s. The schools were largely funded by the federal government and operated by religious organizations. The students were often forcibly taken from their homes to attend the schools. The main ideas behind the schools were to replace students' Indigenous mores with characteristics of the Euro-American society and equip them with skills to do a variety of tasks such as farming and housework along with other more common school subjects. Students were prohibited from observing their own cultural norms or speaking their own languages under harsh penalties. Many of them were victims of physical, sexual, emotional and psychological abuses. Indian boarding schools in Canada operated from the 1880s to the 1990s.

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Mankiller among first honorees on new coins of the American Women Quarters Program

By Rick Smith

The United States Mint recently announced the new year coin series that honors prominent women who have made significant achievements and historical contributions to the nation and its citizenry. The American Women Quarters Program begins in 2022 and concludes in 2025. The first honorees are May Amelia Akin, a renowned author; Dr. Sally Ride, first female astronaut to launch into space; Wilma Mankiller, first female principal chief of the Cherokee Nation; Adelina Ostero-Warren, a leader in New Mexico’s suffrage movement; and Anna May Wong, the first Chinese-American Hollywood movie star.

The obverse (heads) side of the program’s quarters will keep the traditional likeness of George Washington, but the reverse (tails) side will feature the images of the female honorees. The coins are authorized by Congress in the Circulating Coin Redesign Act of 2020, which stipulates up to five women per year may be so honored for their endeavors in a wide spectrum of accomplishments and fields, including but not limited to suffrage, civil rights, abolition, government, military, business, labor, humanities, arts, and sports, and should honor women from ethnically, racially and geographically diverse backgrounds.

The Secretary of the Treasury will select honorees with help from the Women’s History Initiative of the Smithsonian Institution, National Women’s History Museum and the University of Arizona, and has 40 years of public service with tribal, environmental and historical groups.

Laura Rubin will serve as a representative for environmental non-governmental organizations. Currently the director of the Healing Our Waters Great Lakes Coalition, will join the agency’s Great Lakes Advisory Board (GLAB).

Now Hiring!

Project Coordinator
IT Coordinator
Administrative Assistant

These are all full-time, on-site positions located in Sault Ste. Marie, MI.

For more information, visit strongheartsHelpline.org/about/jobs for full job descriptions, salary information and how to apply.

Ettawageshik, Rubin on EPA Great Lakes Advisory Board

Chicago, Ill. — The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced on June 8 that Frank Ettawageshik, executive vice president of the United Tribes of Michigan, and Laura Rubin, director of the Healing Our Waters Great Lakes Coalition, will join the agency’s Great Lakes Advisory Board (GLAB).

Frank Ettawageshik is the executive director of the United Tribes of Michigan and will serve as a tribal representa-
Convinced – equipment for the tribe’s casinos.

136 – Enrollment FY 2021 Budget Modification – Approved for a decrease in tribal support of $15,555.14 for 2022 and a decrease of USDA funds of $5,398 and an increase in tribal support of $3,324.16 for 2022.


161 – Sawyer Village FY 2022 Budget Modification – Approved for changes in the personnel sheet and increase in net income of $248,96.

162 – Authorization to Enter into Listing Agreement for Lease – Authorized DemMawating Development to enter an agreement – with a local commercial redeveloper to purchase the former Mackinac County facility for leasing and designating the tribe’s EDC executive director as signatory authority.

163 – Authorization to Purchase Garage Permits – Authorized the EDC executive director to buy such permits.


165 – Allowing for Improved Execution of COVID-19 Rescue Act AMF Program Distribution – Authorized access and use of the tribe’s membership list in preparation and execution of the program, authorizes the expenditure of $91,000,000 in program funds and other measures to facilitate distribution. Also set a deadline date of Sept. 30, 2021, for all applications from adult members aged 18 and over and Dec. 31 for all members who minors under age 18.

166 – Approving Purdue Bankruptcy Reorganization Plan – Approving as filed the American Health Care Association Reorganization Plan for the recovery cam-

auctions

Matantí gets sweat lodge, offers Wellbriety

By Kelli Beaudry

It’s said to be the most pow-
erful structure in the world. It’s a representation of the path to Mother Earth and it’s the sweat lodge. A sweat is an excellent place to start one’s journey.

A sweat lodge was recently built on the grounds of the Matantí Tribal Health Center as a part of the Sault Tribe Opiate Response Program.

Four health centers of

The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians convened on June 15, 2021, with all present directors Hollowell and Morrow and passed the following resolutions.

150 – Authorize a vote in favor of the plan as proposed in June 2021.

157 – COVID-19 American Health Care Association Reorganization Plan – Approved funding through the American Health Care Association Reorganization Plan for the recovery cam-

158 – ACFS - Subpart Funds – Authorized applica-
tion for HHS program funds of $337,009.01 for 2021 and HHS American Rescue Plan Act Membership Assistance Program Distributions – Authorized access and use of the tribe’s membership list in preparation and execution of the program, authorizes the expenditure of $91,000,000 in program funds and other measures to facilitate distribution. Also set a deadline date of Sept. 30, 2021, for all applications from adult members aged 18 and over and Dec. 31 for all members who minors under age 18.

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165 – Allowing for Improved Execution of COVID-19 Rescue Act AMF Program Distribution – Authorized access and use of the tribe’s membership list in preparation and execution of the program, authorizes the expenditure of $91,000,000 in program funds and other measures to facilitate distribution. Also set a deadline date of Sept. 30, 2021, for all applications from adult members aged 18 and over and Dec. 31 for all members who minors under age 18.
Indian Health Care Improvement Act is now permanent through Supreme Court decision

WASHINGTON, D.C. – In a 5-4 decision the Supreme Court affirmed the permanent reauthorization of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (IHCIA), which has been in place since 1976, without an interruption.

“The IHCIA authorizes new programs in the IHS to ensure the service is more equipped to meet assistance needs, with healthy status American Indians and Alaska Natives to the highest level. For example, it includes: authorities for new and expanded programs for mental and behavioral health treatment and prevention; expanded authorities for long-term care services, including home care, assisted living and community-based care; new authorities for development of patient travel cost; new authorities for urban health professional short-term projects; new authorities for the provisions in the Insurance Health Services Program, which pays for referrals; new authorities for facilitation of care for Indian veterans; and new authorities for urban Indian health programs,” said news reports.

“The IHCIA on March 23, 2010, represented a fourteen-year effort by NCAI, tribal leaders, and advocates to maintain a legislative commitment by the federal government to deliver health care for American Indian and Alaska Native communities. IHCIA was originally passed in 1976 and last reauthorized in 2000.

LANSING, Mich. – Governor Gretchen Whitmer urges parents to take steps to receive Child Tax Credit payments that began July 15.


“Here’s the news updates: The new funding helps families put food on the table through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), children with high-quality child care, providing critical assistance to vulnerable children in poverty, and an expansion of the Emergency Rental Assistance program.

“Do as we have always done, we have an unprecedented opportunity to use federal stimulus funds to help Michigan’s families, small businesses and communities emerge from the pandemic stronger than ever before,” said Whitmer. “We want Michigan’s children to have access to food, housing, and critical services our kids need to thrive and for our communities to be resilient and recovering.

“Payments will not affect public assistance.

• Parent’s children under 18 may be eligible to receive this money even if they have not previously filed taxes and have low or no earnings.

• Expanded child tax credit is expected to reduce child poverty by 62 percent among Native American children.

Michigan providing food and rental assistance

LANSING, Mich. – Governor Gretchen Whitmer recently urged parents to file a federal income tax return if they haven’t yet done so or use the non-filer sign-up tool in order to be eligible for federal Child Tax Credit payments.

“The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 increased the federal Child Tax Credit to $3,600 for children under age 6 and $3,000 per year for children 6-17 years old. The tax credit will be issued as a monthly payment and will not count as additional income that could affect a family’s eligibility for public assistance.

“Child Tax Credit is a powerful tool to help us fight childhood poverty,” said Whitmer. “It is a game-changing opportunity to uplift kids and families in Michigan and across the United States and our government is committed to helping us make a real difference in people’s lives right now.

“First, the step to receive the credit is to file a federal income tax return. To do so, please sign up using the non-filer sign up tool. Unlike the earlier Child Tax Credit, parents may be eligible for advance Child Tax Credit payments even if they have not previously filed taxes and have low or no earnings.

“Vaccination efforts as well as food and rental assistance are critical to recovery of individuals, families, and communities. We have continued to provide essential care in hospitals for their COVID vaccination efforts as well as

in projected savings through the CTC. The non-filer sign-up tool is designed for those individuals who don’t normally file a tax return, such as families experiencing homelessness, the rural poor and other underserved groups,” said State Treasurer Rachael Eubanks. “It provides an opportunity for all eligible families to sign up to receive the federal Child Tax Credit.

“The IRS has started sending letters to more than 36 million American families who may be eligible based on information they included in either their 2019 or 2020 federal income tax return, or who used the non-filers tool on IRS.gov last year to register for an economic impact payment.

Families who sign up for advance Child Tax Credit payments will receive a second, personalized letter listing an estimate of their monthly payment.

“The American Rescue Plan is the boldest vision for fighting child poverty in the U.S. in at least 50 years,” said Poverty Solutions Faculty Director H. Luke Shaefer, who is the Hermann and Amalie Kohn Professor of Social Justice and Public Policy and associate dean for research and policy engagement at U-M’s Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy.

“Research shows that we can intervene while kids are young, it’s going to pay dividends in terms of higher academic performance, lower engagement with the criminal justice system and higher earnings on average later in life.”

Recent estimates from Columbia University’s Poverty Solutions center find that this expanded Child Tax Credit will reduce child poverty by 45 percent overall, by 52 percent among Black children, by 62 percent among Native American children, and will sharply reduce the extent of the most extreme forms of child poverty in America.

Find more information at www.childtaxcredit.gov.

$32.1 billion in federal funding to distribute to local units of government for the following: to provide assistance to households, small businesses and nonprofits; to aid industries in adapting to new opportunities; to provide premium pay for essential workers; to provide government with real-time estimates of the extent of the reduction in revenue relative to revenues collected in the most recent full fiscal year; and to provide grants for expenditures in water, sewer or broadband.

“I am proud to serve with a governor who has worked with both sides of the aisle to assure Michigan roars out of this pandemic,” said state Senator Curtis Hertel Jr. (D-East Lansing). Other members of the state Congress expressed similar sentiments.
Safety during a violent encounter
From StrongHearts Native Helpline

Avoid getting into a vehicle. — Avoid areas where weapons are easily accessible. Kitchens are dangerous because of the access to knives. Bathrooms are dangerous because of skipping and the many hard surfaces in a small area. Garages or sheds can also be dangerous because of access to tools and other heavy equipment. Avoid any areas where firearms are stored or kept, even if they are locked securely.

— Remove necklaces and scarves if possible as these could be used to strangle you. Remove earrings.
— Move away from any children in the area.
— Avoid areas where firearms are easily accessible. Kitchens are dangerous because of access to knives. Bathrooms are dangerous because of skipping and the many hard surfaces in a small area. Garages or sheds can also be dangerous because of access to tools and other heavy equipment. Avoid any areas where firearms are stored or kept, even if they are locked securely.

— You have the right to protect yourself and that includes calling the police.
— After a violent encounter, it can be difficult to process what has happened, take time for yourself to recover and reconnect with yourself. Seek medical attention if needed and is safe to do so. Consider documenting the violence and abuse. Take pictures and write descriptions of the abuse in a journal or open an email account and email them to yourself. If there are any medical or police reports documenting the abuse, keep the records. Make sure your information is kept in a safe place. Keeping documentation will allow you to have an option to pursue legal action in the future.

Participating in self-care activities like exercise, eating healthfully, counseling, journaling, knowing when and how to emotionally check out during times of duress could be helpful. Be gentle with yourself mentally and physically. Practice your spirituality by smudging, prayers or sitting with your traditional medicines if this helps heal your spirit.

“Immediate safety is important and long-term safety planning should be considered when you are in or exiting an abusive relationship,” said StrongHearts Services Manager Joy Samuelson (Standing Rock Sioux Tribe). “Our advocates can help you plan for your safety, no matter what your current situation is.”

StrongHearts Native Helpline is a 24/7 culturally-appropriate, anonymous, confidential and free service dedicated to serving Native survivors, concerned family members and friends affected by domestic, dating and sexual violence.

We can’t solve the problem of violence against girls and women without also addressing violence against men and boys. – Emma Brown, Washington Post

What do you think you know about boys, men and sexual violence? With so few people realizing that large numbers of males are sexually abused and assaulted, male survivors are an almost forgotten category of victims. Most men who experience sexual assault choose never to reveal it, even to people they know and trust. They fear disbelief, ridicule, shame, accusations of weakness or ignoring. For all of these reasons, men who survive sexual abuse or sexual assault endure their traumatic experience silently and alone.

Some shocking statistics: according to RAINN as of 1998, 2.78 million men in the United States have been victims of attempted or completed rape. About three percent of American men, or one in 33, have experienced an attempted or completed rape in their lifetime. One out of every 10 rape victims is male. More than half of all reported sexual assaults take place in the survivor’s own home or within one mile of it. Another 20 percent happen in the home of a friend, neighbor or relative. A population-based study of 705 adult men in Virginia found a lifetime prevalence of 12.9 percent among men, with 94 percent assaulted for the first time before the age of 18. Regression analysis showed that male victims of sexual violence were 2.4 times more likely to be depressed and 2.4 times more likely to contemplate suicide and yet did not seek health services.

There are many myths that surround male sexual assault. Some of them are: men cannot be sexually assaulted, only gay men are sexually assaulted, only gay men sexually assault other men, boys who experience child sexual abuse will grow up to become abusers themselves and men cannot be sexually assaulted by women. Anyone who has been sexually abused or assaulted, regardless of gender identification or sexual orientation, experiences lasting effects and suffers emotional pain. Sexual abuse and sexual assault affect men in many of the same ways it affects women. However, men also display some unique reactions in the aftermath of sexual assault, such as questioning their own sexual identity or orientation and downplaying the impact of their experience. Like women, men who experience sexual assault may suffer from depression, PTSD and other emotional problems, but because men generally have different life experiences than women, their emotional symptoms can appear different from women.

Men need our support, too. If a male relative or friend tells you that he has been sexually assaulted, you should respond the same way you would to a female, believe him. It is not your role to question whether a sexual assault has occurred. Never blame him for being assaulted. No one ever deserves to experience sexual assault. It doesn’t matter whether he was drunk or high or how he was behaving. SEXUAL ASSAULT IS NEVER, EVER THE SURVIVOR’S FAULT.

Listen to him. It is important to let him know he can talk to you whenever he is ready. Traditional Ojibwa teachings and traditions, therapies or both, can help boys and men cope with the powerful physical and emotional reactions to their experience. We at the Advocacy Resource Center are here to help those affected by sexual violence regardless of how the assault took place. If you would like to know what services are available to you, please contact the Advocacy Resource Center at (906) 632-1808.

ACFN EDUCATES AT FAMILY FUN FAIR — From left, Ashley Morrow, Cheryl Stic and Heather Pavlat offer Anishnaabek Community and Family Services information at the Arts, Crafts and Family Fun Fair 2021 in Sault Ste. Marie on June 25. Information on services and how to become a foster parent were provided to attendees and various promotional items were available for giveaway. Make a difference in a child’s life! If you are interested in becoming a foster parent, please call Anishnaabek Community and Family Services at (906) 632-5250 or (800) 728-0093.

From StrongHearts Native Helpline

Be aware that in an abusive relationship, violence is used as a tactic for the abuser to maintain power and control over the victim-survivor. The violence will continue and may escalate in a tactic for the abuser to maintain the relationship, violence is used as a tactic for the abuser to maintain power and control over the victim-survivor. The violence will continue and may escalate in a tactic for the abuser to maintain power and control over the victim-survivor. The violence will continue and may escalate in a tactic for the abuser to maintain power and control over the victim-survivor. The violence will continue and may escalate in a tactic for the abuser to maintain power and control over the victim-survivor. The violence will continue and may escalate in a tactic for the abuser to maintain power and control over the victim-survivor.
July spotlights Internet safety for everyone

In light of recent events here in our own county, it seems necessary to highlight the importance of Internet safety not only for children but for adults, too.

When we hear alarming stories of children being kidnapped by someone they’ve met online, we must strive to believe that such events can’t happen in our town or to our children; but the truth is that such events are possible, and it does and it HAS.

As recently as May 2021, a Sault Ste. Marie child was kidnaped and taken to another state by online predators. The child’s captors lured the child via social media and travelled by car to the U.P. to pick the child up. Thankfully, after many local tips and a thorough investigation the child was returned safely to home. The suspects are believed to have been investigated for the same crimes in the past, so, what can we do? It begins with communication with our children. Not just a one-time reminder in passing to “be careful” on the Internet, but regular reminders of the dangers that lurk behind their screens. Having in-depth conversations about the specific reasons why we need our children to be careful.

There are numerous concerns that parents have about their children being connected online daily whether its social media or online gaming, cyber-bullying, Internet predators, sexting, texting and gaming, cyber-bullying, Internet predators. The child’s emails, texts, social media sites and what content is searched or shared. The apps also help limit screen time and filters websites to eliminate risky content. Some of the highly rated apps parents are using are Bark, Pocket Guardian, Webcam Watcher and Family Time. Limitly is a free app for Android users only. However, we cannot solely rely on these apps to do the work for us. We must stay involved, stay in communication, monitor the devices and stay connected with our children. Children need real in-person communication.

Be mindful of your own screen time and be sure to make time for your family away from the Internet. Make special memories together and enjoy each other’s company.

Check www.facebook.com/saulttribeARC for potentially dangerous apps for children and teens. The Advocacy Resource Center can provide help for those in need of support services and can be reached at (906) 632-1108.

Getting started with communication with our children. Not just a one-time reminder in passing to “be careful” on the Internet, but regular reminders of the dangers that lurk behind their screens. Having in-depth conversations about the specific reasons why we need our children to be careful.

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Contact SHINY WHEELS DETAILING for all of your detailing needs. If it has a steering wheel or wheels, we got you covered! Mobile Service Provided! We come to you so you can relax in the comfort of your home and let us do the work!

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Sault Tribe Housing Authority
EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic:
Are you at risk for Housing instability?
Are you facing eviction?
Are you behind on your rent or utilities?

For more information, call: 800-794-4072 or 906-495-1454 or email EmergencyRentalAssistance@saulttribe.net

The ERA program provides assistance to Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa members and households who rent homes anywhere in the United States. Applicant households must have incomes at or below 80% of the Area Median Income and meet other eligibility requirements.

For full details, visit:
Housing offers Emergency Rental Assistance - The Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians Official Web Site

What costs can the program cover?
The ERA program can help renters with the following costs starting as far back as March 13, 2020:

- Past due, current and up to 3 months of prospective rent costs
- Past due, current and up to 3 months of prospective utility costs
- Security deposit, relocation & rental fees
- Emergency motel stay
- Application or screening fees
- Internet service
- Other Housing expenses incurred related to housing due, directly or indirectly, to COVID-19 that qualify for assistance under federal law

Download an application today at:
Housing offers Emergency Rental Assistance - The Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians Official Web Site

“This project is being supported, in whole or in part, by federal award number 21.023 awarded to Sault Tribe Housing Authority by the U.S. Department of the Treasury.”
Tribe’s Cultural Department shares teachings

COMMUNITY

Kids enjoyed a day of fishing at annual event

Families of students in the Head Start program at the tribe’s Child Care Center in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., were invited to a fishing excursion on June 18 at the children’s fishing pond at Rotary Park. The folks enjoyed a nice, sunny evening while teaching or learning how to fish. Michaela McLeod, lead teacher for the program, said Aaron Payment and Susan Soltys split the cost for kiddie fishing gear. Other kiddie fishing gear for prize drawings was donated by Daniel Bowerman. Sault Tribe Law Enforcement provided bait. McLeod was aided by Kelly Hewitt and Joe Nolan, Sault Tribe Law Enforcement and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

This young lady enjoys some hot pizza and warm sunshine.

Photos by Rick Smith

10th Annual Bawweting Anishinaabemowin Language Conference June 11-12 at the Niiigaanigizhik Building. Attendees Robin Clark, Bea Jackson, and Melissa Killips (front) work on quilling on birch bark.

Language instructor Susan Askwith, at right, gets bread dough — Bkwezhigan — ready for twisting and baking on a stick. Below are the Anishinaabemowin words Askwith taught would be used to make the Bkwezhigan over the outdoor fire.

This young lady enjoys some hot pizza and warm sunshine.

Director of Language and Culture, Cathy DeVoy, peeling birch bark for departmental activities from trees on Sugar Island.
John “Jay” King retires from tribe after 27 years

By Brenda Austin

John “Jay” King celebrated his retirement from the Sault Tribe after 27 years with a party held in his honor on June 8 in St. Ignace. He started his employment with the tribe in 1993 when he accepted a position with North Star Neon.

Then, in August 1996, he became a safety officer in the Sault until that fall, when he transferred to St. Ignace where he has remained for over 24 years.

King said that as a tribal safety officer, he was responsible for understanding workmen’s comp code mandates, complying with OSHA and NFPA codes, performing training events, and audits of tribal buildings. “Safety officers are on call 24/7,” he said. “Years ago, there was one time I left St. Ignace for home five different times and got called back each time. I finally made it home about 1 a.m.”

He said he has watched the tribe expand and develop the administration complex and Big Bear Ice Arena, and the expansion of the Sault casino. He also saw the construction of the casinos in St. Ignace, Manistique, and Christmas. He was also around to witness the purchase of the McCann building in St. Ignace, the building of the cultural building there and new homes for tribal members on the St. Ignace reservation.

“When I pulled into the casino parking lot in 1996, I wondered how some of the employees parked there were going to make it home from work because their vehicles were so atrocious. Now you pull into the same lot and there are nice newer vehicles. The tribe has come a long way,” he said. “My time as a safety officer was an enjoyable experience.”

John “Jay” King at home enjoying his retirement.

Photos by Doug Goudreau

TERRY E. BLANCHARD

Terry Elynn Blanchard, 79 of Harbor Beach, passed away peacefully at home on April 11, 2021. He was born on March 9, 1942, in Manistee, Mich., to Eileen and John Blanchard. He graduated from Lake Huron High School in 1960. After graduation, he enlisted in the United States Coast Guard. He was honorably discharged in 1964. Terry and Barbara (Stewart) were married in 1969. They lived their entire lives within the city in 1991. Terry was a member of Pearl E. Carr, Brett Carr, James (Cynthia) Farrell, Gabriella (Justin) Bean, Sarah (Christian) Subban and Robin (Ethan) Kafitz; a quirk or two they loved and lived for. He was preceded in death by his parents; a special thank you to the McLaren Hospice Staff and attending nurse for their support, kindness and care given to Carol.

JOSEPH E. GREEN JR.

Joseph Elmert Green Jr., 74, of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., passed away away on July 1, 2021, at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit. He was born in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., on Nov. 4, 1946. Joseph graduated from Sault High with the Class of 1966 and later attended Lewis-Clark State College in Superior State University. In June 1967, Joseph joined the U.S. Navy and served as a hull technician. He served in the Vietnam War and some of the ships he served on were the USS Johnston, USS Kennedy and the USS Boxer. It was through his military service that he was able to travel the world.

By far, the most important part of her life was the time she spent with her family and friends. Her love for her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, friends and family is treasured. She is preceded in death by her father, Hiram, and her mother, Margaret (Barras) Curtiss. Joseph was preceded in death by his wife, Carol; his mother, Margaret (Barras) Curtiss; and his brother-in-law, John Curtiss.

Joseph was born on July 31, 1940, in Flint, the daughter of Pearl! Eirnel and

Walking on...

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Jim was a member of the Seafarer’s Union as well as the Stuit Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

Jim is survived by his mother, Eudene McDowell; his father, Francis N. Zepeda; his sister, Lisa (Jeff) Zepeda and two nieces; his brother, Francis N. Zepeda, Jr.; and many nieces and nephews; and beloved friend, Bruce (Celeste) Passinault of Dade Park in 1950 where she was Mrs. Scotta moved to Allen Park in 1956. She was a member of St. Francis Community Service Level 2 and Community Service Award for her dedication to children. She was a member of the Salvation Army in 1959 and was a member of the Salvation Army’s Women’s Auxiliary in 1960. She was a member of the Salvation Army’s Women’s Auxiliary in 1960. She was a member of the Salvation Army’s Women’s Auxiliary in 1960. She was a member of the Salvation Army’s Women’s Auxiliary in 1960. She was a member of the Salvation Army’s Women’s Auxiliary in 1960. She was a member of the Salvation Army’s Women’s Auxiliary in 1960. She was a member of the Salvation Army’s Women’s Auxiliary in 1960. 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There is a great demand for dental services. In order to provide high quality and complete care, the dental program will offer in-person as well as telehealth appointments in advance. Elders (age 60 and older) and kids will be given scheduling priority.

Danielle LaPlaunt selected April Health Employee of the Month

Vaccination clinics. Health Director Leo Chugunov congratulates her. The Biden-Harris administration and bipartisan congressional support, HHS, Labor, Treasury and OPM are promulgating rules that will protect consumers from financial ruin simply because they did not ask for an in-network provider during their treatment.

“No one should ever be threatened with financial ruin simply because they did not ask for an in-network provider during their treatment. “Facing a difficult medical situation is challenging enough – no one should then face a surprise medical bill when they get home,” said OPM Director Kiran Ahuja. “

As part of the American Rescue Plan (ARP) signed by President Biden, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) is again lowering the cost of health insurance and opening more pathways for Americans to afford high-quality and comprehensive health coverage.

The Biden-Harris administration’s special enrollment period for the COVID-19 pandemic was extended until July 15, 2021. We encourage consumers with additional savings they can get for the rest of the year. Additionally, as a result of the Biden-Harris administration’s special enrollment period for the COVID-19 pandemic, consumers can continue to apply for coverage, compare plan offerings or learn if they qualify for more affordable premiums through an in-network provider, go to HealthCare.gov or CuidadoDeSalud.gov through Aug. 15. People can view 2021 plans and subsidies available for the following month and if they are eligible, they can enroll in a plan that best meets their needs. Enrollees should review their applications, make any updates needed and submit their applications and then select a new plan or reselect their current plans to receive the increased savings under the ARP.

People can also call the Marketplace Call Center at (800) 318-2596, which provides assistance in over 150 languages. TTY users should call (855) 898-4325. Consumers can also find a local assister or agent/broker in their area at https://www.hhs.gov/find-assistance/.

Please call 1-5 p.m. to schedule your emergency appointment for the following day. Occasionally emergency appointments may be available the same day.

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### Scholarship established in honor of beloved Sault Ste. Marie woman, Sarah Gardner Weber

**BY BRENDA AUSTIN**

Bay Mills Community College (BMCC) has established the Sarah Gardner Weber Memorial Scholarship in honor of one of their own. Student Sarah Gardner Weber lost her battle with COVID-19 on Dec. 23, 2020, and her family established a scholarship to keep her memory and legacy alive.

Weber grew up on Sugar Island and was well-known in the area, having worked at War Memorial Hospital for over 25 years in admissions and patient financial counseling. She also volunteered as a domestic violence counselor and at hospice.

Weber began taking classes at BMCC in her 50s. “She took a few classes and fell in love with it,” said her sister, Suzette Gardner. “She wanted to be a role model for young Native Vincent.”

Weber was a member of Sault Ste. Marie Public Schools and chair of the Education Department. “If she were here today, she would want to hear that we are making progress,” said Kevin Polston, superintendent of Kentwood Public Schools and chair of the Student Recovery Advisory Council.

Weber was born on Sept. 10, 1963, in Sault Ste. Marie. She was the daughter of Fredrick and June Aube (Kyle Anderson), all of Sault Ste. Marie. She also has people.

The scholarship is for nontraditional students who have been out of high school for a minimum of 10 years. To qualify, students must also be members of a federally recognized tribe and have a minimum GPA of 2.0. The first application is for scholarship applications. This application is from May 15 through June 15, 2021, at 11:59 p.m. Students who are Sault Tribe members interested in receiving a scholarship for the school year are required to submit a complete scholarship application, which is posted on Sault Tribe website at saulttribe.com under Higher Education.

The program offers a variety of scholarships, most of which are $1,000 with various eligibility requirements each academic year.

The second application is for grants. This application is posted Aug. 23, 2021, to Sept. 21, 2021. The application closes on Sept. 21 at 11:59 p.m. Grant funding is available for full-time (12 credit hours or more) underclass students who attend a Michigan state-supported public college. The student must be a Michigan resident. Students are required to complete free application for student aid (FAFSA). Student must have their FAFSA information on file with their college by the end of August or they are going to enroll for fall semester. The application grant form needs to be given to the university or college financial aid office. Students, make sure you sign the bottom of the grant form. Grants are based on unmet financial need.

The third application is for the Self-Sufficiency Incentive Award (fall grades). This application is only for the fall grades. All required paperwork and grades reports must be submitted. This application will be posted Dec. 1, 2021, to Jan. 31, 2022. Application closes at 11:59 p.m. The grades are for the fall semester just completed. The available funds are divided up by the number of credits hours taken by students who submitted their fall grades. This is not based on the number of classes. The program only pays for C or better grades and will not pay for repeated courses.

ALL required paperwork must be mailed, emailed or faxed for each application. The Higher Education Department will no longer pull from an old file for trial cards, W-9s or applications.

In 2020, 143 essays were submitted for scholarships and 4,405.65 credit hours were submitted by 359 students for the Self-Sufficiency Incentive Award. The BIA grants award students who have an unmet need for furthering their education financial aid. Fall 2020, the grant awarded $87,747.70. Winter 2020, the grant awarded $69,889.06.

“Going back was not easy,” Weber said. “Many times in her life she tried to go back to college, but she was raising four kids on her own and it just wasn’t possible. It wasn’t until a few years ago that she was able to go back.”

She noted that the older you get the harder it is to go back to school. That’s why it is so important that this scholarship is for those who are going back to college to furthering their education.

The Sarah Gardner Weber Memorial Golf Scramble is on Aug. 26, at Wild Blue Golf Course in Brimley. Proceeds from the golf scramble will go to the Sarah Gardner Weber scholarship fund.

Weber’s family is proud and honored that she was given the first ever honorary degree at Bay Mills Community College on May 14, 2021.

### Higher Education changes application process

**BY DIANE MCLEOD-MALEPORT**

The Sault Tribe Higher Education Department changed the application process for the 2021 BMCC graduates.


2021 BMCC graduates

Photo submitted by Diane McLeod-Maleport

Sue Weber (right) and her daughter, Jami Aube.

Sue Weber was born on Sept. 10, 1963, in Sault Ste. Marie, the daughter of Fredrick and June Aube (Kyle Anderson), all of Sault Ste. Marie. She also has people.

Weber was a member of Sault Ste. Marie Public Schools and chair of the Education Department. “If she were here today, she would want to hear that we are making progress,” said Kevin Polston, superintendent of Kentwood Public Schools and chair of the Student Recovery Advisory Council.

Whitmer signs bill to put Michigan students and educators first

**MACOMB, Mich.**-- Governor Gretchen Whitmer recently joined students, educators and support staff at Ojibwa Elementary School in Mackinac County to sign House Bill 4421, which appropriates $4.4 billion in federal COVID relief fund to support schools across the state and help students, teachers and schools recover from the pandemic. The historic education funding represents the largest investment in education in the state in late June to ensure that Michigan’s K-12 education system takes advantage of federal funding to make unprecedented investments in our schools.

“We have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to make the type of investment in our schools that will make a real difference for the students of Michigan and educators first as they head into the next school year,” said Whitmer. “Our actions today prove that Republicans and Democrats in Lansing can work together to enact budgets that are laser-focused on helping Michigan take full advantage of the unprecedented opportunity we have right now to make transformative investments in our schools that will have positive impacts for generations.”

The bipartisan supplemental bill distributes over $4 billion from the federal Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief, or ESSER, to power schools’ efforts to get our kids back on track. A total of $841 million comes from ESSER II funding from December 2020, while $3.3 billion comes from ESSER III funding from President Biden’s American Rescue Plan.

The ESSER funds will be distributed to districts based on their Title I, Part A allocation - which means more money will get to districts that serve students with the highest need. The funds help meet a wide range of needs arising from the coronavirus pandemic, including reopening schools safely, sustaining their safety operation, and addressing students’ social, emotional, mental health and academic needs resulting from the pandemic.

“Each of our schools and districts has developed the Student Recovery Advisory Council to better understand our schools’ needs and identify every opportunity to help every student thrive after the pandemic,” added Whitmer. “We know this recovery isn’t just about brushing up on fractions or repeatedly doing the quadratic formula. Our students need a comprehensive recovery.”

The funding represents supplemental funding for the current year budget. Legislation for the school aid budget for next fiscal year beginning Oct. 1 is currently under review.

“This is a significant budget supporting those who invest in the lives of our young people,” said Rep. Brad Paquette (R-Niles). “The bipartisan work done here is just the first step towards even more future transformational positive change within our education system.”

Through the funding, teachers and support staff have stepped up and done everything in their power to teach their students the basics and review the concepts of their mental health amidst unprecedented obstacles,” said Rep. Regina Weiss (D-Oak Park), “My colleagues and I are proud to have supported the Education Recovery Plan on HB 4421. This bill will send billions of federal covid relief dollars directly into our schools and classrooms for PPE, support staff, academic intervention, mental health services, air quality improvements, and more. This critical support will help students across Michigan return to learn, and sets a strong foundation for what meaningful investments in education should look like.”

“This federal funding is a game-changing opportunity to invest in our students and schools, from aiding learning recovery, to addressing the educational inequities and disparities our aging school infrastructure,” said MEA President Paula Herbert.

“School leaders work with parents and communities as they plan for a return to school, they will need additional resources to ensure each child can experience success. With these vital funds, research shows these resources are critical to provide the academic, physical, mental, emotional and community support students need to succeed,” said Chris Burton, superintendent of Kentwood Public Schools and chair of the Student Recovery Advisory Council.
Representing All Members Everywhere
Ahneen, Boozho, Negee:

I have to great news and some unfortunate news. First, Unit 1 Board Members Betty Freihet, Austin Lowes and my proposal to ensure all Members get an equal distribution of $3,000 over the duration of the pandemic failed with 10 Board Members voting it down. Recall that last summer, the Board voted to grant $1,000 per Member in the Tribe’s 7 county service area for a total of about $15 million. While the Tribe’s General Legal Counsel advised the Board to be cautious with compliance with federal regulations on who was eligible, the Board has NEVER received a written legal opinion to advise the Board that we could not provide an equal distribution.

I share this so some Board Members are playing a shell game and smoke and mirrors to manipulate the truth. I am sure this edition of the Sault Tribe News will be peppered with accusations that I have called Board Members liars or that Betty, Austin and I are playing politics. Contrary to the claims we could not treat all Sault Tribe Members equally across distributions, I can attest that instead of supporting what some Board Members are still claiming, in fact we received a written legal opinion in October and again in June that says just the opposite. In other words, our Legal Counsel has provided a written legal opinion that there exists NOTHING in federal law or regulation to prohibit a truly equal distribution at $3,000.

Let me also point out that the most recent legal opinion in June explains that the Board should exercise caution and seek guidance from the US Treasury. Since we have worked closely with the Biden Administration and the US Treasury to legislate and secure these funds, I followed up and asked if there exists anything language in the CARES Act or Rescue Act that would have prohibited our Tribe for providing a $1,000 last fall for At Large Members to be equal to the amount the 7 County Service Members received. I also posited the question of whether or not we were barred from providing a catch up $1,000 to ensure the At Large Members receive an equal total of $3,000. The response was to provide us with links to the regulations and that how tribes distribute these funds is a matter of Tribal Sovereignty [see Treasury message left]. It is critical to note that I fully advised the Board throughout the deliberations of whether or not to benefit At Large Members equally. I even supplied them with US Treasury response [see left]. The bottom line is that several Board Members decided long ago that At Large Members are not deserving of an equal distribution. Dozens of Tribal Members sent me copies of emails, social media posts, and private messages where Board Members used arguments that contradict the October Legal Opinion or any other communications from the US Government regarding this matter. It was grotesque to watch some Board Mem-
bers contort themselves in knots making up reasons they could not treat all Sault Tribe Members EQUALLY.

Unfortunately, the Board chose to reject Betty, Austin and my proposal to catch up the At Large Members so while you will get $2,000, it falls short by 1/3 or $1,000. I am truly sorry for a vote of the Board that treats you like a 2nd class citizen. A form (not an application) will be mailed to each household. Additionally, I am advised that a web link will be provided to allow for filling out the form electronically. But again, it is a form and not an income based application. Simply check the boxes of how the Pandemic has impacted you. Also look in this paper and on the Tribe’s website (www.saulttribe.com) for a link to update your address.

BY THE NUMBERS

The numbers surrounding the federal governments pandemic relief are astounding. While some Board Members of our Board continue to claim I had nothing to do with securing federal legislation that ensures that Indian Country was included, I think our Board Members know the work I have done on your behalf. Here is how our federal relief funds for the 2021 Rescue Act break down, how the Board has spent it so far, and what is left to spend. It is important to note that while we know how much we received in the first distribution, we are awaiting a wire transfer for the 2nd distribution to come sometime after July 16th which is the deadline for tribes to submit their number of Employment Team Members to qualify. In the 1st distribution, we received $211,605,859! Our estimated 2nd distribution is $60 million for a total of $271,605,859. This amounts to 15 years of net Casino and Enterprise Revenues and shows that the work I do with federal appropriations eclipses the sum total of casino and enterprise revenues. So far, the Board has spent $91 million for pandemic relief checks $3,000 for Service Area Members and $2,000 for At Large Members. There is no language in the legal prohibition from treating all Members equally. This was a choice made by the Board for which I am sorry.

But you are not without recourse as an election is just a year away with six of the seats. I estimate that over 90% of Members in the 7 Counties care about our At Large Members as they are our brothers, Board that does not serve our aunts, grandchildren, children or cousins. Had Members had the opportunity to vote via referendum, they would have included me who lives at Large, is a full blood. He was raised on Sagu- ar Island with our traditional ways and language in tact. He also served our country in the US Navy and is one of our main firekeepers during our fasting camps. He is less deserving than the Board who voted to give themselves $3,000,000,000 which will get 1/3 less than them.

UPCOMING TRIBAL LEGISLATION

• Election Code Compliance with ST Constitution – currently the Code Conflicts with our Constitution regarding eligibility to run for office making it easier for incumbents to win and violate the vision for the government of the US Constitution. My resolution will fix this.

• Members residing in our election units are automatically registered to vote while At Large Members have to register. We need to either automatically reg- ister all At Large Members to vote, or do a free direct mailing including a voter registration form when the Rescue Act forms are mailed. A voter registration mailing has not been done in nearly 20 years.

• Expand the Tribe’s Health Service Area to include Emmet and Cheboygan Counties as a first step to expanding Tribal Health Care to All Members.

• Ethics Code: It is confirmed that a Board Mem- ber worked for and was compensated by the Devel- oper who are suing our Tribe for over $100 mil- lion. I advised that the tribe did not pay and use the funds for personal reasons by this Board Member who was forced to pay it back. Any expenditures or signitures may be investigated by the current Board Member merits in- vestigation.

Stay tuned...

Aarion Payment
If you are looking for a senior the reopening has been suspended until further notice. The reason Holly Kibble that she will continue Elder Services Division Director Updates on tribal news and issues in Unit IV vice area) and are based upon the CARES Act and direct member impact pay and, currently, reserves to make these difficult The tribe was blessed to have this possible. Every decision was made in the best interest of the tribe and ensure the membership and to ensure that all members, regardless of residence or ability, will receive the same amount in impact payments. These barrage of attacks upon sacred sites is an issue for the tribe and ensure the school will not be able to exercise the true hypocrisy of some that say things in closed sessions that they would never open, or often accuse others of actions in which they themselves have partaken. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT Our tribe’s Economic Development director continues to push forward, exploring new and innovative opportunities for the tribe. In the next few weeks, the tribe will vote to appropriate funds for some long awaited projects. We have projects on the horizon, as well as a 5% certification of our new construction company. All of this information will be provided in detail in next month’s annual report edition, which will be inclusive of returns on invest MEETING CANCELLATION The following is a detailed statement about the board of directors of our tribe. The board of directors is committed to ensuring that any additional obligations for the American Recovery Act funds (excluding revenue replacement) shall require extensive input of staff, members and the tribal board of directors. This shall also include Sault Tribe facilitated public meetings where all members who wish to attend in person or virtually. We understand that these funds have been scrutinized, generated misleading media reports in news publications as we have experienced. Recently, a special meeting was called for the continued politicization of these tribal funds. It is for this reason that we have decided to exercise our authority pursuant to Tribal Code, Chapter 14: 104-106 Agenda (7) Cancellations and Rescheduling, The Board of Directors by taking consent by positive majority vote to cancel the meeting or workshop or may reschedule it to a later date and time. If a meeting is rescheduled to another date it shall be deemed as a special meeting and shall comply with Section 2 of the Bylaws of the Constitution of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians. A request for consent by positive majority vote of the directors to cancel the special meeting called for June 29, 2021, was authorized by 10 members of the board of directors.

As board members, we are committed to working with everyone to ensure that these future investments in the tribe in the most impactful manner for this and the next seven generations. Respectfully, Kim Gravelle, Unit I Director DJ Hoffmann, Unit I Director, Michelle Massaway, Unit I Director, Lana Cauley, Unit II Director, Catherine Hollowell, Unit II Director, Keith Massaway, Unit III Director, Margaret Sorenson, Unit III Director, Denise Chase, Unit IV Director, Darcy Morrow, Unit IV Director, Charles Massaway, Unit IV Director

In closing, I will continue to push forward with members of the board of directors. I will also continue to work with members of the board to ensure that we become innovative in our approach to economic diversification, membership services and stepping out of the norm to be what we appear to be continued to be.

Sincerely, DJ Hoffmann Cell: 906-203-0515 djhoffman@saulttribe.com

Denise Chase, Director, Unit IV
We were recently informed by Elder Services Division Director Holly Kibble that she will continue to hold off on reinstating the indoor dining menus for seniors that were scheduled to resume early to mid-August. The staff will continue to provide meals by curbside service and drive-thru where available, until further notice. The reason the reopening has been suspended is because of an increase in the COVID positivity rates. There will be no in-person elder meals held until further notice. If you are looking for a senior employment opportunity, and are 65 plus years of age, there is a youth elder volunteer position posted at the Manistique YEA program.

DJ Hoffmann
Director, Unit I
The past year, COVID-19 has run rampant through tribal, local and national communities. As a tribal government, we have been forced to make decisions to ensure the stability of tribal operations, tribal services and ensure our team members continued to have incomes and employment. The entire tribal board did make difficult decisions, which made all of this possible. Every decision was not flawless. However, our doors are once again open, our services are ramping back up and we are on the case of increasing the overall wage grids for the recruitment and retention of our team members. The tribe was blessed to have reserves to make these difficult decisions and even more fortunate to receive CARES Act funding from the federal government, PPP loans and, currently, Rescue Act funds that have provided financial relief for tribal operations, program reimbursement, grant reimbursement and direct member impact payments.

As I reported last month, the tribe received $211 million dollars from the American Rescue Act. These funds are different than the CARES Act funds (economic impact service area) and are based upon the entire tribal population. To ensure that all members received this opportunity and were able to qualify for these new funds, the board of directors approved $91 million for direct impact payments of $2,000 per eligible tribal member (regardless of residence). The board approved total earmarks for the tribe as follows:

- $25 million dollars for a new recovery hospital.
- $10 million for employee retention program (COVID inflation/compression).
- $50 million for revenue replacement from our operations.

The tribe’s per capita distribution of Cares Act funds for the tribe to ensure the membership and to ensure that all members, regardless of residence or ability, will receive the same amount in impact payments. These barrage of attacks upon sacred sites is an issue for the tribe and ensure the school will not be able to exercise the true hypocrisy of some that say things in closed sessions that they would never open, or often accuse others of actions in which they themselves have partaken.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
Our tribe’s Economic Development director continues to push forward, exploring new and innovative opportunities for the tribe. In the next few weeks, the tribe will vote to appropriate funds for some long awaited projects. We have projects on the horizon, as well as a 5% certification of our new construction company. All of this information will be provided in detail in next month’s annual report edition, which will be inclusive of returns on investments.

MEETING CANCELLATION
The following is a detailed statement about the board of directors of our tribe. The board of directors is committed to ensuring that any additional obligations for the American Recovery Act funds (excluding revenue replacement) shall require extensive input of staff, members and the tribal board of directors. This shall also include Sault Tribe facilitated public meetings where all members who wish to attend in person or virtually. We understand that these funds have been scrutinized, generated misleading media reports in news publications as we have experienced.

Recently, a special meeting was called for the continued politicization of these tribal funds. It is for this reason that we have decided to exercise our authority pursuant to Tribal Code, Chapter 14: 104-106 Agenda (7) Cancellations and Rescheduling, The Board of Directors by taking consent by positive majority vote to cancel the meeting or workshop or may reschedule it to a later date and time. If a meeting is rescheduled to another date it shall be deemed as a special meeting and shall comply with Section 2 of the Bylaws of the Constitution of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

A request for consent by positive majority vote of the directors to cancel the special meeting called for June 29, 2021, was authorized by 10 members of the board of directors.

As board members, we are committed to working with everyone to ensure that these future investments in the tribe in the most impactful manner for this and the next seven generations. Respectfully,

Kim Gravelle, Unit I Director
DJ Hoffmann, Unit I Director, Michelle Massaway, Unit I Director, Lana Cauley, Unit II Director, Catherine Hollowell, Unit II Director, Keith Massaway, Unit III Director, Margaret Sorenson, Unit III Director, Denise Chase, Unit IV Director, Darcy Morrow, Unit IV Director, Charles Massaway, Unit IV Director

In closing, I will continue to push forward with members of the board of directors. I will also continue to work with members of the board to ensure that we become innovative in our approach to economic diversification, membership services and stepping out of the norm to be what we appear to be continued to be.

Sincerely,

DJ Hoffmann
Cell: 906-203-0515 djhoffman@saulttribe.com
Update on Manistique Yooper Fitness facility

The recent fitness contact our Health Division had with Yooper Fitness expired on May 31, 2021. Unfortunately, Yooper Fitness decided not to sign the contract that was sent to them by the tribe’s Legal Department to continue this service. Yooper Fitness said they would relook at the agreement in January 2022. It is very upsetting this abruptly happened to our mem-
bers and we apologize. Director Chase and I are attempting to work on a solution and will keep you updated.

**COVID American Rescue Act**

The tribe received the CARES Act funding; we obtained this funding based on our Indian Housing Block Grant data (seven-county service area population). The tribal board UNANIMOUSLY voted “yes” on July 21, 2020, for Resolution 2020-168, approving the COVID-19 Disaster Relief program. The resolution stated, “BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the COVID Relief Program shall consist of $1,000 per tribal member residing within the service area of the tribe. Later, this has now been turned into a political game by the chairman, directors Freiheit and Lowes. This membership service area inside the service area against each other or against some board members. The board has been meeting weekly with executive staff; it was requested we provide a list of items we feel are priority for the tribe.

Below are some of the items Director Chase and I provided on our list:

1. Purchase property in each community to the left of the main entrance. Gates. Parents must call or text to preregister by Aug. 11 at 6 p.m. Proof of tribal enrollment is required. Each child MUST BE PRESENT to receive their wristband. Please call or text children’s information to DMORROW (906) 298-2471 or Darcy Morrow (906) 298-1888.

The Health Division still has COVID vaccines available. If you would like to find out how to receive your vaccine, please call your nearest health center:

Manistique clinic (906) 341-8469, Escanaba health (906) 341-1836, Munising clinic (906) 387-4721 and Marquette health (906) 276-1482.

Please do your homework, vote, attend in person or virtually. These elections will conclude on Aug. 11 and when the board does not vote for it, I can cry about how the board does not care about the Tribe or how terrible they are. This is exactly what they are doing! They know the board had discredited them when they hurried up and threw res-

A legal opinion issued in February concluded: “Because the members of the Mackinac Band are entitled to enrollment as members of the Sault Tribe, all enrolled members of the Mackinac Band who are 18 years of age or older are eligible to vote in the tribe’s elections, and these members have a right to register for and vote in the secretarial election.”


**On a positive note, I am working toward gathering a group of members to promote our special need members who do artwork. This group of indivi-
duals are exceptionally tal-
ent; I would like to display their gifts in the gallery at the Vegas Kewadin Casino during March 2022. Developmental Disability Department is working toward. Will keep the public informed as our planning moves forward.

As always, I would like to thank team members for their dedication and continued hard work. Please keep the men and women in our armed forces in your prayers and thoughts for a safe and successful return.

If you have any questions or comments, you can contact me at (906) 203-6083 or Darcy Morrow at KKGravelle@saulttribe.net.

Thank you,
Kim Gravelle
Businesses doing great during summer season

Ahne, I hope everyone enjoyed the Fourth of July and enjoyed time with family and friends. It always amazes me the time and effort that the volunteers in our communities put in to make sure events like the fourth go off without a hitch.

The summer tourism season is in full swing and our businesses are positioned to maximize profit through this time. The White Pine Hotel is starting to fill to capacity and the e-store has been buzzing with activity. Our marijuana dispensary in Cheboygan is on track for completion and opening soon.

The storage units we purchased in Harvey remained filled through the pandemic and continue above industry standards for its delinquency rate. Our non-gaming operations managed to profit through the pandemic, which has proven to be challenging but proved they have been sound and reliable investments. As a tribe, we have to be careful to keep to our businesses portfolio to make sure we are not just totally reliant on our government contribution.

I want to clarify some things about the CARES and Rescue Act monies. The first monies we received from CARES Act were based on our population residing in the seven-county service area, and that is why I voted to distribute monies to our in-service area recipients. The Rescue Act monies were based on the tribe’s overall population and that is why I voted to distribute monies to every tribal member, no matter place of residency. With passing of this resolution, it was the first time in the history of our tribe that monies were distributed to every man, woman and child. It was not my intention to join in the rhetoric about this issue but to clarify where and how this monies were distributed to our tribe.

The board of directors passed a resolution allocating $3 million to provide emergency needs services to members living outside the service area. The monies can be used for rental assistance, past due utilities and water/sewer, to give a few examples. Members

See “Matson,” page 26

Tribute to a beloved community leader

Ahne
Michael McKerchie, Director, Unit I
Our tribal politics have never been pretty, but the name-calling, personal attacks and divisiveness needs to stop. It’s difficult to look at it while in the midst when leaders themselves are telling you that things aren’t fair with the distribution and nothing prohibited us; when in fact we had several things telling us otherwise and if you critically look at it — the distribution was fair.

I’ve discussed funds and the strings attached, I’ve discussed the several legal memos that structured how funds were to do with it — treat funds differently and keep membership distribution equal. It’s easy to blame others, but the truth (funds were distributed two times) went by U.S. Treasury guidelines and a law firm that we’ve hired to give us legal advice.

No one made those decisions with malice or hate. Any decision to allocate funds directly affects our ability to improve member- ship services, infrastructure or economic development — so self-interest should not have been the motivation of this magnitude the decision wasn’t taken lightly. Noting that the entire board received the same advice, we unanimously voted for an equal distribution (both times). The first distribu- tion (last year) didn’t generate the division we’re seeing now.

To re-read the unit reports last sum- mer that showed a united front from all board members and the chair. Most members understand why the distribution was the way it was. It was made to be political (this year) and is a good campaign tactic to cause division and chaos.

Take this year’s distribution (Rescue Act) by itself and ask if it works. Those who received were based on a formula that took into consideration our entire membership. The board voted to take a large portion of those funds (over $90 million) to do an equal direct assistance dis- tribution to the membership of $2,000 each. This is how we were advised and this is what we did. This should have been hailed as a major win for our entire tribe. Suffice to say, the entire board was advised not to mix the funds (CARES Act vs. Rescue Act). To tell the mem- bership that they’ve been treated unfairly is a waste of time. Using the distribution for political gain only hurts our communities.

Again, first funds based on a formula for our memberships in the service area and the second funds based on our entire membership. Our membership is going to hear that we do not agree to this for some time, as it’s been a great tactic to divide people, blame people, spotlight people and oppose people. But at the bottom line is that the board did the right thing. We treated the funds differently as they were different legislative acts and we treated them equal- ly in the distributions. There is no us vs. them — we are one tribe. I would ask anyone going caught up in the divisiveness to ask themselves why any of the board members would subject themselves to this (personal attacks on social media, name-calling, etc.) knowing that it was made to be political? The answer is they wouldn’t unless it’s for a good thing to do, and it’s unfortunate that it got painted any other way.

There is a time and place to campaign for what you want, usu- ally against tribal law to promote or oppose people seeking tribal office until next year. Personally, attacks against the tribe and our tribe and we must do better. Take a break from Facebook, take a pause to look at it from someone else’s eyes to see what you’re really like.

I don’t consider my elected campaign; it’s not now. It’s actu- ally a major win for our entire tribe. I want to clarify some things about the CARES and Rescue Act. Miigwetch! Austin Lowes

Austin Lowes
Director, Unit I
Ainin, this is a special unit report for me. It’s been one year since I was elected. When I decid- ed to run for office, I had no idea I’d be going through a global pandemic. Doing so caused my expectations to go out the win- dow. It’s therefore been a year of hard work and learning.

I don’t consider my elected seat to be my own. It’s your seat, and I’m allowed to occupy it based on how I advocate for you. When making decisions, I always put questions through the follow- ing list: Is this what the majority of our mem- berails understand? I apply this standard to every vote I make. Although much needs to be accomplished, I’m grateful to have been elected this year. This includes helping expunge marijuana convictions in tribal court, passing hazard and minimum wage bills, as well as protecting em- ployee raises every time they’ve been proposed in budget modifications and approving roughly $105 million in direct payments to tribal members from the CARES and Rescue acts.

When deciding who to vote for, I have used the operations we have earmarked several programs thus far. This includes providing every tribal member, no matter where they live, with $2,000 each. This will cost $90 million dollars and will assist roughly 45,000 tribal members. Due to the amount we received, we will set aside several times for checks to be received.

We have already earmarked $25 million dollars to build an inap- parent substance abuse center. This will treat individuals addicted to opioids. As a therapist, I have worked with many individuals in this popula- tion. I have a great deal of experience helping individuals enter rehab, which can be a life- or-death situation. This is a daunting process, as there are long wait lists to receive treatment. When individuals are eventually accepted, they frequently have to travel several hundreds of miles to centers that admit them. Building our center will alleviate this for our members, who have been dis- proportionately impacted by the opioid epidemic. I have no doubt this will save lives.

We have also earmarked $10 million dollars to address wage compression. It is my hope that this will provide every team member with a raise.

More details regarding this will be provided in the coming weeks.

Finally, a message to the tribe to the membership YOU MAT- TER. You make up two-thirds of our membership, and your num- bers are what caused us to receive roughly $150 million dollars from the Rescue Act. Director Frei- heit, Chairperson Payment and I propose that everyone have one of you with an additional $1,000. We proposed this because you didn’t receive $25 million dollars from the Act, which provided service area members with $1,000 each. If our resolution passed, you would receive $3,000 instead of $2,000. This would have erased the disparity in payments between at-large and service area mem- bers. As a tribe, we have provided every one of you with an additional $1,000. We propose that you return to receive payments. Make sure your address is updated with the roster department, as there are long wait times to get a response. You have approximately 50,000 tribal members. Due to the size of our tribe, we have the ability to provide emergency needs services to everyone in the tribe. This is why we propose to give every one of you this additional $1,000. We propose this because you didn’t receive it, and we propose this so we can erase the disparity in payments between at-large and service area members.

We have also earmarked $10 million dollars to provide emergency needs services to members living outside the service area. The monies can be used for rental assistance, past due utilities and water/sewer, to give a few examples. Members

See “Matson,” page 26

Businesses doing great during summer season

Charles Matson Sr.
Director, Unit V
Mike, I hope everyone enjoyed the Fourth of July and enjoyed time with family and friends. It always amazes me the time and effort that the volun- teers in our communities put in to make sure events like the fourth go off without a hitch.

The summer tourism season is in full swing and our businesses are positioned to maximize profit through this time. The White Pine Hotel is starting to fill to capacity and the e-store has been buzzing with activity. Our marijuana dispensary in Cheboygan is on track for completion and opening soon.

The storage units we purchased in Harvey remained filled through the pandemic and continue above industry standards for its delinquency rate. Our non-gam- ing operations managed to profit through the pandemic, which has proven to be challenging but proved they have been sound and reliable investments. As a tribe, we have to be careful to keep to our businesses portfolio to make sure we are not just totally reliant on our government contribution.

I want to clarify some things about the CARES and Rescue Act monies. The first monies we received from CARES Act were based on our population residing in the seven-county service area, and that is why I voted to distribute monies to our in-service area recipients. The Rescue Act monies were based on the tribe’s overall population and that is why I voted to distribute monies to every tribal member, no
Tribal relief checks should be a priority

Our ancestors envisioned a tribe that brought all members everywhere under one umbrella. They wanted unity with “safety in numbers.” It helped to run to help our tribe and we can add it to our tribe. As far as things have been setup but we should make a list together and have member input on that compiled list. Some of the members are referring to us as the “officers.” Some are referring to us as being manipulated by one of their special meetings. But we are doing our best to protect our rights. People have to be able to give their input on the various needs of our members. Once elected we should not give up our seat on the board of directors. We should all be seeking public office and involvement into our community. We should all be communicating with members regularly about our ideas. We should be reliving Waco, Texas, behavior. And if that is questioned—yes, we will be able to attend and visit with family and friends for coordinating the cleanup on May 22. I would mention names but I would be afraid to forget someone. It was a beautiful day and there wasn’t a lot of garbage much of the time we spent scrubbing head stones. We shared a potluck lunch and had a chance to visit. If you have never been there, it may be one of the most peaceful cemeteries and often an easy eagle sighting.

For the first time in probably the tribe’s history we are going to give $1,000 to the members $2,000 no matter where you live or how much money you make as long as you submit a form to enrollment. Forms will be mailed out in the coming weeks and will also be available online at saulttribe.net The tribe has received about $211 million from the American Rescue funds based on our entire membership population as well as on our workforce. We have dedicated the first hour of our time spent on the American Rescue funds as funds based on federal recognition, because there is no more united as a tribe before they lived. And, they worked together.

At the June 22 workshop, many ideas, projects, suggestions and needs etc., were discussed in our time spent on the American Rescue funds. The board had requested that their department heads submit a list of needs for their programs or services. We have dedicated the first hour of our time spent on the American Rescue funds as funds based on federal recognition, because there is no more united as a tribe before they lived. And, they worked together.

The American Rescue funds were based on the entire membership population but only a portion of those funds received last year was only based on the number of members living in the seven-county service area and received last year was only based on the number of members living in the seven-county service area and received $1,000 last fall. They are two different populations. We have referred to the chairman’s member towahll session as “unofficial.” How can an effort by an official board is not taking place if dissension and disagreement exists in a direction to rectify our workforce’s compensation issues. We still have so much more work that needs to be done and we should make a list together and have member input on that compiled list. Some of the members are referring to us as the “officers.” Some are referring to us as being manipulated by one of their special meetings. But we are doing our best to protect our rights. People have to be able to give their input on the various needs of our members. Once elected we should not give up our seat on the board of directors. We should all be seeking public office and involvement into our community. We should all be communicating with members regularly about our ideas. We should be reliving Waco, Texas, behavior. And if that is questioned—yes, we will be able to attend and visit with family and friends.

I work for the tribal membership, not the board

Our ancestors envisioned a tribe that brought all members everywhere under one umbrella. They wanted unity with “safety in numbers.” It helped to run to help our tribe and we can add it to our tribe. As far as things have been setup but we should make a list together and have member input on that compiled list. Some of the members are referring to us as the “officers.” Some are referring to us as being manipulated by one of their special meetings. But we are doing our best to protect our rights. People have to be able to give their input on the various needs of our members. Once elected we should not give up our seat on the board of directors. We should all be seeking public office and involvement into our community. We should all be communicating with members regularly about our ideas. We should be reliving Waco, Texas, behavior. And if that is questioned—yes, we will be able to attend and visit with family and friends.

I recently read a statement from one of your board members referred to the chairman’s member towahll sessions as “unofficial.” How can an effort by an official board is not taking place if dissension and disagreement exists in a direction to rectify our workforce’s compensation issues. We still have so much more work that needs to be done and we should make a list together and have member input on that compiled list. Some of the members are referring to us as the “officers.” Some are referring to us as being manipulated by one of their special meetings. But we are doing our best to protect our rights. People have to be able to give their input on the various needs of our members. Once elected we should not give up our seat on the board of directors. We should all be seeking public office and involvement into our community. We should all be communicating with members regularly about our ideas. We should be reliving Waco, Texas, behavior. And if that is questioned—yes, we will be able to attend and visit with family and friends.
Lana Cauley-Smith, Director, Unit II

As I reported last month, we had hoped to begin the year down and to the west. Unfortunately, we will expend new needed funding that is not being abused in this way. Please, use the form that we have had in place for a long time now and are still in use. I would like to remind all of you that we have funds available for renter's help for renters who live anywhere. You can complete the application with all that you have, but I will not waive any of the funds we have. I would like to comment on the new members of our tribe. Our Elder Care Division will be open to all members anywhere they reside. (Inside the service area or outside the service area, as the guidelines qualify that). Our Housing Department is also working on home for mort- gage application relief funds and will be noticed on your official website if and when the funds become available.

Each and every day, the tribe has updates. We have always struggled with communication and I cannot state enough that our website is getting better and information is updated often to alert members of resources. Please go there often and always call me if you need me and I will assist in any way possible. I will continue to advocate and answer any questions that you may have.

The next item I would like to speak about is our unit's pow- wows and monthly elders meetings. Our committees in Unit II have focused and elected to not host powwows this year to assure safety as well as the schedules of our own drum groups, committee members, and volunteers. Some situations' situations are still up in the air and hopefully you all will be comfortable and can attend to the Sault powwow to come together with our tribe — these dates can be found on our website (saulttribe.com). As for the monthly teachers meetings, I am in support of direction from our Heath director and Elder Care Services. This will also come from advice from individual elders' groups. I await the recommendation from our Health director and COVID teams. Our Elder Care Divi- sion will surely reach out to all groups for comment and dates to re-open. I look forward to seeing all of you.

In closing, I could write so much about the inside politics that are being played with our funding and division within our people. I have spoken directly with so many of you about that but I will stay above that here and assure you that I will not "bend" or pander for votes with unrealistic promises. I have given you straightforward what we have done, what my priori- ties are and insight on what the asks and expectations and needs are from our entire departments that work directly with members and our workforce every day. In moving forward, I will support all areas for the people and team members to make things BET- TER. This funding is a good thing for our people and could help our tribe for years to come and will only happen this time — and this is a huge factor that we must consider — we only get this one chance to get it right. That's why the politics to grandstand and throw out untrue statements is unfortunate — we have so many needs and rules to follow. I will adhere to the legal advice and advancement methods and hope you respect that from me. It's my very unfortunate when board and members are pitted against one another; many staff and families get hurt and don't like it. I refuse to take part in any that harm our sacred people. My heated discussions and debate go right to the board table and will stay clear of the grandstand- ing on social media or behind a screen that simply is unprofes- sional and inaccurate most of the time. If you pay close attention, you see that for what it is. I look forward to hearing from you and if you would like to meet with me, please contact me at (906) 322-7518, (906) 484-2954 or lacauls@saulttribe.net.

Baamapii and hope you have a good month and please do all you can to take care of each other.

Lana Cauley-Smith
Sault Ste Marie Tribe of Chip- pewa Indians
Board of Directors
Unit II Representative

Matson report continued

From "Matson," Page 2: need to contact Sault Tribe Hous- ing Authority to apply. We will be advocating vigorously to expand housing in Unit V, which we all know is in short supply. Most available rentals in our area are being purchased and developed for daily/weekly rentals to accom- modate the tourist trade. This has really made it hard for families to find affordable housing.

Negotiations for the exercising of our treaty fishing has become frustrating, to say the least. It is not in our best interest to let the other four 1836 treaty tribes involved to stand and approach negotiations in solidarity. It is my feeling that the State of Michigan is currently asking the tribes to give too much in our abilities to harvest the resources of our treaty ceded waters. It is at least my belief that we are going to have to draw our line in the sand and let the state know that we will not cave to their demands to diminish our people's treaty rights. These rights were not given to us by the State of Michigan but secured to our people by the treaty we signed with the federal govern- ment in 1836. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me at (906) 450-5094 or cmatson@saulttribe.net.

Respectfully,
Charles Matson Sr.
Unit V Sault Tribe Board of Directors

The Miller Family Farm is looking for health conscious partners to secure a share of the farm’s bounty in 2021. We have 4 different shares available, 28, 21, and continue for 16 weeks to Oct. 18 and be ready for pick up at a central location.

Sign up by June 1 to receive a priority status.

Discounted Prices:
• $475 for a family box – feeds 4-6 people ($85 savings)
• $350 for an individual box – feeds 1-3 people ($50 savings)
• Bonus item each month (i.e. eggs, fresh bread or jam)

Spots secured and paid for by June 1 will receive a priority status.

To sign up, stop by the Journey Matters, 545 Ashmun St. in the Sault, visit the Miller Family Farm at 845 W 6 Mile Rd., email jdebruler@att.net, or call (616) 588-9958.

With our web-enabled mobile app, you have access anywhere in the world, anytime, wherever you are. View accounts, transfer money, make deposits and more all from the palm of your smart phone or tablet.

SO IS MY CREDIT UNION.
OUR BEST HOPE IS THE COVID-19 VACCINE.

Why should I get mine?

The COVID-19 vaccine is safe and effective. It will save lives and help Michigan move forward. Protect us all, by getting your dose of hope.

To find your vaccine or to learn more visit Michigan.gov/COVIDvaccine. Text your zip code to 438829 or call the COVID-19 Hotline at 888-535-6136 and press 1.

STBA's annual conference highlights valuable resources to help grow your business, brings together businesses and professionals to network and strengthen relationships and celebrates the accomplishments of Sault Tribe member-owned businesses. For more information, find the STBA page on Facebook and LinkedIn or email stbamarketing@gmail.com

REGISTER HERE: bit.ly/STBA20201

Agenda

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00</td>
<td>Coffee &amp; Networking</td>
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<td>9:30</td>
<td>Welcome</td>
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<td>9:45</td>
<td>STBA Overview &amp; Update</td>
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<td>10:00</td>
<td>PMBC/MEDC: Overview of PMBC Matching Event and State of Michigan Small Business Resources</td>
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<td>10:45</td>
<td>Break</td>
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<td>11:00</td>
<td>How Digital Marketing Can Grow Your Business</td>
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<td>11:45</td>
<td>Sault Tribe Thrive: EDC Resource Overview</td>
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<td>12:00</td>
<td>Lunch (provided free of charge, courtesy of PMBC)</td>
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<td>1:00</td>
<td>How Your Sault Tribe Membership Can Help Grow Your Business</td>
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<td>2:00</td>
<td>Interactive Panel of STBA Member-Owned Business Leaders: Business Lessons Learned</td>
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<td>3:30</td>
<td>STBA Business Awards</td>
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The Pure Michigan Business Connect team will be working with procurement teams from tribal-owned companies from around the nation. STBA and PMBC will work to uncover current, and future opportunities for tribal-owned in-state suppliers.
AUGUST
Night of Destruction Demo Derby
Saturday | 7th | 8 p.m. | $12.50
St. Ignace Outdoor
Goo Goo Dolls with special guest Cheap Trick
Thursday | 19th | 7 p.m. | Start at $50
St. Ignace Outdoor

SEPTEMBER
Big & Rich with special guest Walker Hayes
Saturday | 4th | 8 p.m. | Start at $40
St. Ignace Outdoor

OCTOBER
Little Texas
Saturday | 9th | 8 p.m. | Starts at $15
St. Ignace Event Center
Bone Thugs-N-Harmony
Friday | 15th | 8 p.m. | Start at $25
Sault Ste. Marie DreamMakers Theater

NOVEMBER
Black Label Society: Doom Trooping
Over North America
with special guests Obituary and Prong
Saturday | 13th | 7:30 p.m | $27.50
Sault Ste. Marie DreamMakers Theater

CUE THE MUSIC
JULY 23 AND 24 – DOORS AND BAND AT 8 P.M.
BOBBY MCGLENDON
WITH SPECIAL GUEST PERRY/HATCH
FREE SHOWS & PRIZES

AUGUST 13 AND 14 – DOORS AND BAND AT 8 P.M.
REMNONE
WITH SPECIAL GUEST TYLE DETTLOFF
DREAMMAKERS THEATER

tickets.kewadin.com  1-800-KEWADIN