



Win Awenen Nisitotung

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



Tribes 2% helps fund Dafter Fire's brush truck

By SCOTT BRAND

Under the 2% agreement between the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and the state of Michigan for gaming revenue sharing, the tribe is required to disburse 2% of its slot revenue to local units of government.

The Dafter Township Fire Department received \$12,782.47 in the Spring 2025 round of 2% funding from the Sault Tribe for a firefighting brush truck.

"Ours is in pretty rough shape," said Dafter Fire Chief Austin Conway. "It's a 2013 with a lot of miles on it."

In making their application for 2% monies, Dafter Township officials noted they responded to 63 fire-related incidents in 2023, with the majority of those incidents involving brush and wild-

land fires, along with CPR and medical assist calls.

Conway indicated the contribution from the Sault Tribe has gone a long way in helping to raise the \$50,000 or so needed to purchase the new truck and various fundraising mechanisms are underway to secure the rest.

While speaking about the most recent 2% round of funding, Conway expressed his appreciation for the \$25,000 awarded in December 2024, which served as the downpayment for the new \$175,000 Dafter Township Fire Department Garage at 9926 S. Soo Line Road. The 40 x 60 foot building will house both the current fleet of fire trucks and the anticipated taller ladder trucks that will someday come to the facility.

"It's 99 percent complete,"

said Conway during an Oct. 31 visit, adding there remained only minor electric work and venting requirements to be done before it can officially be brought into use.

The Dafter Township Fire Department boasts 28 volunteers who serve not only their own community, but many others in the surrounding area in providing mutual aid in the event of an emergency. Most of them have EMT/Paramedic Training allowing them to assist in motor vehicle accidents, hazardous material response and search and rescue operations in addition to their firefighting capabilities.



November is National Adoption Month

FROM ACFS

November is National Adoption Awareness Month, a time to recognize adoption-related issues and focus on children in foster care who are waiting for permanent families. This month shines a light on the many children and youth who long for the stability, love, and support that only a permanent home can provide.

Since 1985, the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, through the Sault Tribe Binogii Placement Agency, has offered adoption services dedicated to honoring and preserving Native American culture. The agency's mission prioritizes keeping tribal children with their families whenever possible. When that is not possible, the Sault Tribe works to

match children with tribal families to ensure they remain connected to their culture and heritage. These cultural connections help children build a strong sense of identity, belonging, and pride in their Native heritage, which are all vital to their overall well-being and development.

Anishnaabek Community and Family Services (ACFS) also monitors tribal cases nationwide and can help connect children with tribal resource foster homes, even outside the tribe's seven-county service area. Expanding the pool of available foster homes helps ensure the best possible match for each child, giving them the opportunity to grow up in a safe, supportive environment that honors their cul-

See "Adoption," page 8



Rudyard Schools Learning Lodge



Jackie Minton, Oct. 28, 2025: "It's been a busy three weeks in the Learning Lodge at Rudyard Schools. Smoked fish, Indigenous Day, processing a porcupine, and tomorrow we will finish up by dyeing quills. Then it's time to close up for the winter and take activities back into the building." See more photos on page 10 of this issue.

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Wildlife biologists conduct cranberry assessment

BY JENNIFER DALE-BURTON

On a fine October morning, Natural Resources Wildlife staff and volunteers headed out to a 32-acre cranberry bog to conduct a cranberry assessment as part of the NRD’s Ishkode Project studying the effects of prescribed fire on the forest.

NRD wildlife biologists found the cranberry bog within the larger Betchler Marsh area while conducting other vegetation surveys. They invited interested community members to help with the assessment to collect volunteers’ cranberry stories and their opinions on the bog as an edible plant source.

Two of the volunteers, Lori Gambardella and Jennifer Dale-Burton, gather wild cranberries to eat, along with other wild edibles. Gambardella helped the biologists identify other plants in the bog. Volunteers Tina Robinson and Cody McLaren helped count cranberry plants and cranberries.

NRD staff assessing the cranberries that day were Wildlife Biologists Clara Lepard, Kali Krupa, Colton Hudak, and Becca Lathrop, and Reporting and Permitting Specialist Emma Carley. Picking out two lines with a long measuring tape, the biologists set down 1-square-me-

ter outlines in which they would count the cranberry plants. These counts will act as a baseline measurement and can be used to estimate overall cranberry abundance in the bog.

They chatted while working, NRD staff listening to stories of where Gambardella and Dale-Burton had picked cranberries. They also sampled a few berries and admired the scenery, especially the vivid red pitcher plants dotting the landscape. Robinson picked a few berries she would later make into a sauce with orange juice and honey.

They found mostly the same plants growing across the bog — bog rosemary, pitcher plants, sphagnum moss, leatherleaf and some grasses growing with the cranberries. Average cranberry coverage was 5.24-9.2%.

The wildlife biologists are interested in how the prescribed fires will affect the cranberries. Most people know fire stimulates new growth in wild blueberries releasing nutrients into the soil and getting rid of pests and other plant competition. The biologists want to know if cranberry plants will also benefit from fire. They also want to know if fire will be good for the bog by pushing back the encroaching forest, and will



Photo by Jennifer Dale-Burton

Natural Resources Wildlife staff and volunteers headed out to a 32-acre cranberry bog to conduct a cranberry assessment as part of the NRD’s Ishkode Project studying the effects of prescribed fire on the forest. L-R: Wildlife Biologists Clara Lepard, Kali Krupa, Colton Hudak, and Becca Lathrop; volunteers Lori Gambardella, Cody McLaren, and Tina Robinson. Not pictured, Jennifer Dale-Burton and Reporting and Permitting Specialist Emma Carley.

make other observations.

Wildlife staff would be happy to direct tribal members to the

bog for future cranberry picking. Call Sault Tribe Wildlife at (906) 632-6132.



Photos by Jennifer Dale-Burton

Counting the cranberries (above), and a cranberry plant with a berry (below).



Below are a couple of ideas for adding cranberries to your dishes. You can adapt these to your preferences. Have fun!

Cranberries and wild rice

- 4 cups cooked wild rice
- 1 cup fresh cranberries
- 1/4 cup maple syrup

Cook cranberries until they have popped open and add the maple syrup. Stir in freshly cooked wild rice or leftover wild rice, and heat until warm. Optional: add 1/2 cup of your favorite nuts or seeds, such as chopped pecans or hazelnuts, or sunflower seeds.

Twice baked winter squash with cranberries

Cut your favorite winter squash in half and scrape out the seeds. Lay on a foiled sheet and bake until fork tender. Let cool and scrape out into a bowl. Add halved cranberries tossed in maple syrup, and return to squash rind. Add your favorite cheese on top, such as mozzarella or feta, and put back in oven until golden brown.

ATTENTION

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dale-burton@saulttribe.net.

Congresswoman Haley Stevens visits tribe

By Scott Brand

Vowing to be the best U.S. Senator Indian Country has ever had, Congresswoman Haley Stevens of Michigan’s 11th District made the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians a focal point of her latest campaign tour with an Oct. 29 visit.

Stevens, who announced she is running for the U.S. Senate post currently held by Sen. Gary Peters in 2026 after he declined to seek re-election in the upcoming cycle, is facing multiple challengers for the Democratic Party’s nomination with the candidate to be selected in the Aug. 2026 primary.

She found a receptive audience arriving in the Sault to meet with Tribal Chairman Austin Lowes along with Directors Michael McKerchie, Isaac McKechnie and Aaron Payment.

The visit included a full tour of the Sault Tribe Health Center with stops at the Community Health and Traditional Medicine, Optical, Dental and Behavioral Health.

“This is really one of the most remarkable health centers I have ever been to,” said Stevens marveling at how all of the services were combined under one roof. “I am all in, I love this.”

Capitalizing on the visit, Chairman Lowes and his fellow directors shared a list of concerns including the effects of the government shutdown and what impact it has had on current and future programs.

In addition to the Sault Ste. Marie visit, Stevens had campaign stops in Saginaw and Marquette as she looks to build momentum for next year’s senatorial run.



Photo by Scott Brand
Congresswoman Haley Stevens of Michigan’s 11th District toured the Sault Tribe Health Center during an Oct. 29 visit. Above, L-R: Clinic Manager Carrie Rogers, Unit I Director Aaron Payment, Tribal Chairman Austin Lowes, Congresswoman Stevens, Unit I Director Isaac McKechnie, Unit I Director Mike McKerchie and Health Center CEO James Benko.

Donation honors Joni Talentino’s memory

The Great Lakes Indian Housing Association (GLIHA) presented Interim Housing Director Mariea Mongene, and Grants Manager Sierra Yiirs, with a \$1,000 donation to the National American Indian Housing Council (NAIHC) in memory of Joni Talentino.

Joni worked in Housing since 1990 and was the Housing Director for the last 17 years up

to her passing in June of 2025.

Joni was an active member in both organizations and represented the Great Lakes Housing Region on the NAIHC Board of Directors for several years.

The Great Lakes Housing Region includes Minnesota, Michigan and Wisconsin Indian Housing Authorities.

Joni’s passion helping tribal membership was much appreciated through the leadership she provided for both the Housing Authority and on a national level too.

ated through the leadership she provided for both the Housing Authority and on a national level too.

Right: Great Lakes Indian Housing Association presented Interim Housing Director Mariea Mongene (center), and Grants Manager Sierra Yiirs, with a \$1,000 donation to the National American Indian Housing Council in memory of Joni Talentino.



SATURDAYS IN DECEMBER  ALL SITES





WIN YOUR SHARE OF OVER **\$41,000** CASH & CREDITS

Hot Seat Draws Start at 5 p.m. Win Up to \$150 Kewadin Credits or \$200 CASH

See Northern Rewards Club to register and for more details. Must earn 50 base points to qualify for promotion.

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SANTA'S SECRET STASH
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Join us for a Thanksgiving Meal on Thursday, November 27. Find More Information at kewadin.com/dining

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COMING IN DECEMBER
KEWADIN SAULT STE. MARIE

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Tribal board passes resolutions in September, October

The Sault Tribe Board of Directors met at the Munising Tribal Center on Sept. 16 passing more than a dozen resolutions including:

- A budget modification for the Ishkode Project with an increase of \$9,182.79 from the Department of Agriculture for ongoing efforts in the Hiawatha National Forest.
- Established a fiscal year 2026 budget for TED Grant support with Bureau of Indian Affairs monies of \$131,005.93.
- Authorized Hillcrest Builders to complete up to \$89,850 in sidewalk and parking lot repairs at the Lodge of Hope with funding coming from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.
- Rescinded the previous property acquisition policy and raised the spending limit from \$5,000 to \$10,000.
- Authorized a memorandum of Understanding with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to remove the obelisk that currently stands on tribal burial grounds near the Soo Locks.
- Allocated \$935,658 from the Opioid Settlement fund to support the Lodge of Hope operations allowing additional funds to be funneled into housing projects and approved the 2026 Indian Housing Plan.
- Authorized negotiations for right-of-way easements for utilities and roads with Mackinac County for a housing project in Moran Township.
- Authorized and approved financial compensation for the Board Administrator position and retitled the Board Administrator’s Executive Assistant position to Assistant Board Administrator.
- Approved the adoption of a new Key Employee Organizational Chart, a Sault Tribe Authorities and Commissions Organizational Chart, a Sault Tribe Committees

Organizational Chart and rescinded any previous tribal organizational charts.

- Identified General Counsel, Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer, Chief judge, Chief Executive Officer of Health Services, Chief Information Officer, Board Administrator and Executive Director of the Gaming Commission as key employees.
- Authorized a lottery to dis-pense unused commercial fishing licenses.
- Authorized the hiring of Jessica Dumback as the Chief Executive Officer, CEO.
- Approved amended JKL Fiduciary Committee bylaws to open meetings to the public and passed another resolution directing various tribal commissions and committees to do the same.

Sept. 25 special meeting

In a special meeting on Sept. 25, the Sault Tribe Board of Directors accepted two audits and authorized change signers at more than a half-dozen financial institutions allowing the senior accountant, comptroller and executive assistant access to existing accounts.

- The 2024 Housing Authority Audit, as conducted by Anderson Tackman and Co. was accepted.
- The 2024 Governmental Audit as conducted by Dennis, Gartland & Niergarth was approved.
- An agreement between the JKL Fiduciary Committee and Sault Area Public Schools was approved for the next two years.
- The Health Department was authorized to accept \$1,486,500 of Indian Health Services (HIS) funding for Backlog of Essential Maintenance, Alteration and Repairs (BEMAR) projects for health centers in Gladstone, Manistique, Munising and Sault Ste. Marie.
- Waived sovereign immunity and consented to waiver of tribal

court jurisdiction clearing the way for a Tribal Opioid Settlement Fund Grant with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services in the amount of \$160,000.

- Authorized the tribal chairman to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service Northern Research Station with an eye towards future collaboration.
- Approved resolutions allowing transactional information to be shared with certain Finance Department staff at Flagstar Bank, Sovereign Bank, Soo Co-Op Credit Union, People’s State Bank, Nicolet National Bank, Huntington Bank, Central Savings Bank, and PNC Bank.

Oct. 14 board meeting

The Sault Tribe Board of Directors tackled a lengthy agenda during the Oct. 14 meeting at the Kewadin Casino and Convention Center passing more than a dozen resolutions including:

- Budget modification to the School Fiduciary Committee for an increase in Federal Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) revenue monies of \$109,719.53.
- Budget modification to BIA Forestry Funds for a reallocation of expenses.
- Established a Fiscal Year FY 2025 budget for Black Tern and Mudpuppy conservation programs with U.S. Fisheries and Wildlife Revenue monies of \$17,320.62.
- Established a FY 2025 budget for Coastal Wetland Monitoring with BIA monies of \$46,743.
- Established a FY 2026 Budget for Invasive Species Surveillance with BIA monies totaling \$14,497.95.
- Established a FY 2026 Budget for Manoomin Habitat Suitability with BIA Revenue monies of \$33,303 and a FY

2025 Budget for Manoomin Restoration in the amount of \$8,913.09.

- Authorized a contract with Wisconsin State Laboratory and National Atmospheric Deposition Program in the amount of \$61,387.86 using Inflation Reduction Act and Clean Air Funds for water quality testing.
- Approved a grant proposal with U.S. Fisheries and Wildlife seeking up to \$75,000 for bat monitoring and conservation efforts.
- Authorized the Natural Resources Division to apply for \$200,000 in U.S. Environmental Protection Agency funding.
- Appointed Dell Powers as delegate for a two-year term to the Michigan Elders Association with Diane Compo to serve as an alternate.
- Awarded a contract to Windemuller Surveillance in the amount of \$119,550 to replace the existing camera system at Big Bear Arena.
- Entered into a commercial lease agreement with an option to purchase the 8 acre parcel known as the Roy Electric Property.
- Authorized the HR Department to update all policies when there is a name change to tribal job title, tribal department name and state/federal agency name.
- Rescinded outdated Calling Card, Communication and Pager policies and amended the Remote Work and Child Protection Background Check policies.
- Authorized a \$12,000 expenditure for membership dues to remain a member in good standing with the National Congress of American Indians.
- Approved one lease and modified a second for properties in Kinross Township’s Cedar Grove Estates.
- Approved Right-of-Way resolutions for roads and utilities as

infrastructure work commences for future housing development in St. Ignace.

- Authorized the Tribal Participation forms to effectuate the Sackler Family Opioid settlement.
- And finally, referred a proposed change to out-of -state travel resolution to an upcoming workshop for additional discussion.

Meeting held Oct. 21

The Sault Tribe Board of Directors met at the Kewadin Casino and Convention Center on Oct. 21 and took the following actions in a lengthy session:

- Established a fiscal year 2026 budget for sanitation with the Federal Indian Health Service Revenue monies of \$300,000 for septic and well systems throughout the seven-county service area.
- Approved a budget modification in U.S. Department of Agriculture funds in the amount of \$34,242.38 to support funding a new position on the Ishkode Project.
- Allocated \$6,000 in Tribal Support monies for the Emergency Assistance Program and transferred \$7,705.55 in Third Party monies for a total of \$13,700.55 for fiscal year 2025.
- Approved a fiscal year 2025 budget modification for IT services to purchase Microsoft Enterprise Licensing with consulting to build modern cyber-security architecture.
- Established a fiscal year 2026 budget for the St. Ignace Dental Program with \$124,157.76 coming from federal money and an additional \$1.78 million from third party revenue.
- Established a fiscal year 2026 budget for the Health Division in Marquette using \$315,031.45 vin third party revenue, \$350,610.28 in Indian Health Services revenue and \$40,435.31 for housekeeping and maintenance through third party revenue.
- Authorized Central Savings Bank to use the Sault Tribe logo and Housing Authority logo for tribal land lending and construction loans for a period of up to 10 years.
- Approved the use of up to \$25,000 in Cultural Enhancement monies for the Food Sovereignty Committee to create a plan for a Unit I orchard.
- Authorized the Sault Tribe’s Administration and Legal Department to take the necessary steps to establish a tribal license plate program.
- Approved the Sault Tribe’s CFO and Board Administrator to compile quarterly reports detailing the travel expenses for the board and chairman to be published in the Sault Tribe Newspaper.
- Approved the expenditure of up to \$15,000 for an appraisal on the Shibley Property in New Boston, Mich., as it does not appear as though the Sault Tribe will ever be able to construct a casino at that location.
- Authorized the Food Sovereignty Committee to create a plan to bring hydroponic farms to all five units.
- Directed the Sault Tribe’s CEO, Health Department CEO

See “Board report,” page 8

Board of Directors travel report Jan. 1-Sept. 30

Pursuant to Sault Tribe Board of Directors Resolution 2025-280: Quarterly Board Travel Reports, in the chart below is the financial detail related to the first three quarters of 2025 (Jan. 1 - Sept. 30). Please see resolution for additional information.

Board Member	Board of Directors Workshops / Meetings	Government-to-Government	Tribal Conferences	Lobbying	Miscellaneous (Elder meetings, ground breakings, office hours, meetings, etc.)	Total by Board Member
Austin Lowes, Chairman	\$1,014.58	\$8,460.17	\$2,888.59	\$4,205.37	\$1,386.48	\$17,955.19
Kimberle Gravelle, Unit 1	\$904.42	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$904.42
Isaac McKechnie, Unit 1	\$639.03	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$639.03
Michael McKerchie, Unit 1	\$884.49	\$929.74	\$2,913.91	\$623.04	\$0.00	\$5,351.18
Robert McRorie, Unit 1	\$238.00	\$0.00	\$6,617.52	\$235.40	\$0.00	\$7,090.92
Aaron Payment, Unit 1	\$1,123.43	\$5,489.69	\$14,603.01	\$0.00	\$6.03	\$21,222.16
Lana Causley-Smith, Unit 2	\$1,118.29	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$189.00	\$1,307.29
Kimberly Lee, Unit 2	\$2,141.33	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$53.20	\$387.80	\$2,582.33
Shawn Borowicz, Unit 3	\$2,317.72	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,317.72
Bridgett Sorenson, Unit 3	\$2,051.86	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,051.86
Larry Barbeau, Unit 4	\$8,358.09	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$382.00	\$884.80	\$9,624.89
Kimberly Hampton, Unit 4	\$1,437.72	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$189.00	\$564.70	\$2,191.42
Tyler LaPlaunt, Unit 5	\$5,769.26	\$3,261.86	\$3,935.69	\$548.88	\$1,189.10	\$14,704.79

The expenses above include Motorpool expenses, mileage expenses, hotel expenses, per diem, airfare, train fare, parking expenses and any other miscellaneous travel-related expenses.

Anishinaabemowin 2025

We are all equal in the great **Circle** of Life. No one is in front of you, no one is behind you, no one is above you, no one is below you. You can still have a positive effect. — Ojibwe

Mashka’odin Giizis
Frozen Moon
by Susan Askwith

Aaniish e-zhiwebak pii November e-gizat? Mashka’odin giizis zhinkaade.

What’s happening in November? Frozen moon, it is called.

Gojiing g’chi noodin. Aakwi-gimiwan. Minamaagwat noodin. Bangii gisinaa zhaazhi. Dibikat ginwesh nongo.

Outside it’s really windy*. It rains frequently. The air* smells good. It a little cold already. The night-time (=dark-time) is long these days.

Aanind bmaadizijig waawaashkeshi-giiwisewag. Pii mino-giizhigak namadabiwag mitigwaaking besha waawaashkeshi miikaans. Bzaan-yaawag. Baabii’aawaa giwi waawaashkeshiwag.

Some people hunt deer. On a nice day they sit in the woods near a deer trail. They keep quiet and still. They wait for those deer.

Naangodnong e-giiwisejig baamasewag mitigwaaking ji giiwisewaad.
Sometimes the hunters walk around in the woods to hunt.

Biindig, g’zhiitaami ji jiibaakweying. Inside we are getting ready to cook. G’wii mwaa-naanig . We will eat [things considered alive]

Miinwaa g’wii miijin-aanan. and we will eat [things considered not alive].



giigoonyik



bigoji-zhigaangwishiik



mishiiminak



mizise



mindaaminak



miskodiisminak



waawaashkeshi-wiiaas



bgoji-minoomin



miinan



zhashkwedoonyan



Anishinaabe-ziizbaakwat



kosmaan

Anishinaabe-niibiishaaboo g’wii minikwemi miinwaa mino-nibiish. We will drink Anishinaaabe tea and good water.

Aapiji gwa g’miigwechiwendaami kina gegoo. We are very thankful for everything. . .

kina miijim kina bmaadizijig miinwaa Anishinaabe aadziwin-inaan.
all the food all the people and our Anishinaabe culture/ way of life

Fun fact: if you say an animal’s name it is considered alive whether it’s actually still living, dead, cut up, or cooked. As soon as you call it meat, you’re saying it’s no longer alive and available to eat even if still raw!

Even more fun: Anishinaabek divide everything into alive or not alive. If it’s food **N’wiisin** says I’m eating. With **wiisini** you can’t mention what you’re eating. If you’re eating something considered alive (animate) you say **N’mwaa**. = I am eating (then you name it). If you’re eating an inanimate item, you say **N’miijin**. = I am eating (then you name it).

Making our Sounds Most letters sound like they do in English. Here are the exceptions.
a sounds like the a in *awesome* **a** sounds like the a in *about*
ii sounds like the e in *be* **i** sounds like the i in *dip*
oo sounds like the o in *go* **o** sounds like the oo’s in *book*
e sounds like the e in *Ed* **g** sounds only like it does in *go*
Pronounce all the letters. Big deal: ‘nh’ in a word has no sound! It’s only a sign to say the previous vowel nasally - as if you have a stuffed-up nose! Emphasized syllables are underlined.



Aambe, baapin! (Come on, laugh!)
What did the little **mizise** say to the big **mizise**?
Peck on someone your own size!
How many cooks does it take to stuff a **mizisi**?
One, but you really have to squeeze her in.
What do you bring to Thanksgiving dinner when you accidentally sat on the sweet potatoes?
Kosmaan casserole
What do you call a sad cranberry? **Miin**

Happy Halloween at Sault Tribe Administration



Photos from STLE
A big “Thank You” to everyone who donated and participated in Sault Ste. Marie’s Downtown Trick-or-Treat event for the Sault Tribe Administration Building. Passing out candy, (R) were IT’s Chris Lovins, Payroll’s Melissa Killips, Sault Tribe Law Enforcement’s Officer Kucharski, along with the Executive Office’s Amber Lemon and her dog Rusty (L).



Sault Tribe Traditional Medicine Program

Gerard Sagassige

2025 DECEMBER CLINIC HOURS

December

2,8,9,15,16,22,23,29,30

Sault Ste. Marie Health Center

(906)632-0236

Wednesday, December 3rd

St. Ignace Health Center

(906)643-8689 or (877)256-0135

Wednesday, December 10th

Munising Health Center

(906)387-4721 or (800)236-4705

Wednesday, December 17th

Manistique Health Center

(906)341-8469 or (866) 401-0043

Wednesday, December 31st

Hessel Community Center

(906)484-2727

Any Questions, or to Book an Appointment Please Call Traditional Medicine Program at

906-632-0236 or 906-632-5268



Photo by Scott Brand
Mr. Litzner's 8th grade class from JKL Bahweting School visited the Sault Tribe Administration Building on Oct. 16. The students started on the third floor and worked their way down to the basement getting a brief tour of the facility, which provided an inside look at the inner-workings of each department. Those who finished the mission were provided with the most recent copy of the Sault Tribe Newspaper, complete with the 2024 Annual Report, as a reward.

MANIDOO GIIZOONHS - LITTLE SPIRIT MOON

DECEMBER 2025

NIIZHWAASO GIIZHIGAT	NTAM GIIZHIGAT	NIIZHO GIIZHIGAT	NSWO GIIZHIGAT	NIIWO GIIZHIGAT	NAANO GIIZHIGAT	NGODWAASWO GIIZHIGAT
	1 Gwawaan mitig. (S/he is cutting down a tree.)	2 aagamag (snowshoes)	3 zigaabiiginige waawaashkesh (reindeer [leashed deer])	4 Mooshkaneshin Dibiki Giizis (It is a full moon.)	5 daminawaagan (doll)	6 Niibaanamaa waaskonenjiganan (Christmas lights)
7 jigjigaaneshiinh (chickadee)	8 bkwaakat (ball)	9 zhooshk'jiwe daabanes (sleigh)	10 pkwezghaansag (cookies)	11 segaajiganan (decorations)	12 Weweni baamasen. (Walk in a good way.)	13 N'biingech! (I am cold!)
14 ishkode daabaanens (little train) 	15 Niibaanamaa mdaas (christmas stocking)	16 gwiizens dewe'iged (little drummer boy)	17 Niibaanamaa mitig (Christmas tree) 	18 ziisbaakadoonhs skowin (candy cane)	19 aankoosenh (sled [something linked to another thing])	20 wiigwebjibjigan mazinigan (wrapping paper)
21 Winter Ntam Bibooni glizhgad (First day of winter)	22 Gichi-miigwet (Santa Claus [one who gives greatly])	23 shkabijigaanhs (little packages)	24 Niibaanamaam. (It is Christmas.)	25 Mino Niibaanamaan. (Have a Merry Christmas.)	26 taataagaansan (bells)	27 nagamwinan (songs)
28 maagweng (gift [something you are given])	29 zhengwenhsanan (jingle bells-round bells)	30 aazheniinsag (little angels)	31 zenbaanh (ribbon)			

Tribal board passes resolutions in October, November

From “Board report,” page 5
and Sault Tribe’s General Counsel to examine the budget as it looks to winnow down the anticipated deficit and report findings at the Nov. 25 workshop.

• Authorized a partnership with Lake Superior Academy in seeking an Out-of-School-Time (OST) Grant from the state of Michigan.

Nov. 4 meeting
Child Welfare took center stage at the Nov. 4 meeting of

the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Board of Directors with multiple resolutions approved designed to protect young people under the provisions of Chapter 30.

Amendments to the Chapter 30 Welfare Code included a change to appoint a Board Liaison Alternate to the Child Welfare Committee to ensure representation at all meetings; the addition of a “Best Interest of the Child” definition to direct the courts in future decisions;

a provision including step-parent and live together partner as parents when applicable; and a detailed plan for Foster Care and Permanency Placement Preferences to guide these actions in the future.

The board also approved the following resolutions:

• Established a Fiscal Year 2026 Budget to Health Education Community Health with Indian Health Services Revenue of \$23,728 and third party revenue of \$509,291.81 and other reve-

nue of \$111,000.

• Approved the 2024 401K Audit as presented by Dennis, Gartland & Niergarth providing oversight for the program on behalf of the 1,791 participants currently enrolled in the program.

• Authorized \$291,507 be allocated from the Opioid Settlement Fund to help operate the Child Welfare Program.

• Approved an additional \$157,589.11 to be allocated from the Opioid Settlement Funds to

operate the Lodge of Hope for a total of \$1,093,247.11 alleviating the request for Tribal Support for Fiscal Year 2026.

• Agreed to update a utility easement with Cloverland Electric for a parcel of property on Section 13, Township 47 North, Range 1 East on Sugar Island.

• And, approved the first step of the application process to expand Purchased/Referred Care Delivery Area (PRCDA) into Cheboygan and Emmet counties.

Sault Tribe YEA fourth annual leadership conference themed — “Step into our Stories”

Sault Tribe YEA will welcome Melissa Isaac from the Michigan Department of Education Indigenous Education Initiative and Michelle Simms, chair of Confederation of Michigan Tribal Education Departments, to YEA’s fourth annual leadership conference, Step Into Our Stories — Resources for Educators, on Friday, Nov. 21, to share and discuss resources created in partnership with our Michigan tribal

nations. These tools are designed to help teachers and learners engage with Michigan’s Indigenous histories and perspectives. If you are an educator, school administrator, or simply interested in learning more about Indigenous history, you don’t want to miss this! The deadline to register is Friday, Nov. 14.

Session 1 is an interactive walk-through of the Step Into

Our Stories website, where you’ll explore resources created in partnership with Michigan’s tribal nations. We’ll highlight the educator learning bundles, maps, timelines, and classroom tools designed to help teachers and learners engage with Michigan’s Indigenous histories and perspectives. Participants will leave with a clear understanding of how to navigate the site and begin using these materials in their own learn-

ing spaces.

In Session 2, we’ll take a closer look at the grounding documents that shape the Step Into Our Stories project, such as Anishinaabe Learning Principles, Baabiinskaanmat: The Cyclical Nature of Learning, and Essential Understandings for Michigan. Together, we’ll unpack how these frameworks reflect Indigenous world views, guide the design of educator resources, and strength-

en relationships between schools and tribal communities. This discussion will deepen participants’ understanding of the “why” behind the work.

Other sessions are Mandated Reporting Training by Sault Tribe Child Placement Supervisor Melissa Tominac and a “make and take” traditional craft activity by YEA Student Services Coordinator Melissa Causley.

Sault Area Art Center celebrates Indigenous culture

The Sault Area Art Center (SAAC) is hosting a “Celebrating Indigenous Culture through Art” exhibit through Nov. 22. “This exhibit,” according to a press release, “celebrates Indigenous cultures, inviting artists to share works inspired by Native American and First Nations heritage, experiences and traditions.” “This area is rich in

Indigenous culture and this exhibit offers us a chance to share that with everyone,” said SAAC Executive Director Raulaniesa Aranda in the days leading up to the Nov. 6 opening. “The Sault Area Art Center is honored to be able to host an exhibit honoring these cultures through art.”

Artists were offered the opportunity to submit 2D works, such as photography, printmaking, birchbark art collage and digital, or opt for 3D works like clothing, basketry, quilting, jewelry and woodworking.

“We have 15 different artists who are local or have local ties,” said Aranda, adding the submissions include hand-beading, painting, stories, regalia and music.

“Thanks to sponsorship from the Inter-Tribal Council and

Ben Forejt at Ben’s Electric Contracting, we are able to present first, second, and third place cash awards for both 2D and 3D categories,” said Arana. First prize, as judged by Traditional Medicine’s Gerard Sagassige and Blacksmith Bill Morrison,

will be awarded \$200. There is a \$100 award for second place and \$50 for third.

The winner of the Viewer’s Choice Award will take home a \$50 cash prize.

The SAAC, located at 217 Ferris Steet in Sault Ste. Marie is

open Tuesday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

There is no charge for admission.

The public is also invited to attend the community reception scheduled for Friday, Nov. 14, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the art center.

November is National Adoption Month

From “Adoption,” page 1
-ture and identity. Anyone interested in fostering, regardless of location, is encouraged to reach out.

Across the nation, many tribal children in foster care are still waiting for families who can provide both nurturing care and respect for their cultural heritage. Unfortunately, a shortage of foster and adoptive homes continues to be a challenge statewide, nationally, and within tribal communities, including the Sault Tribe. There is an immediate need for dedicated foster and adoptive parents who can provide stable, loving homes while helping children stay connected to their roots.

Every child deserves a loving family, and every tribal child deserves to remain connected to their heritage. This National Adoption Month, consider opening your heart and home to a child in need. To learn more about becoming a foster or adoptive parent, contact Anishnaabek Community and Family Services at (906) 632-5250, (800) 726-0093, or by email at acfs-foster-homes@saulttribe.net.

Tribal members thoughts sought

wayfinding signage that honors Anishinaabe culture, language, art, traditions, values, and history.

Two in-person community workshops took place in October that were incredibly thought-provoking, engaging, and fun for participants. Three additional workshops will be conducted virtually in December.

Sault Tribe Branding and Wayfinding Virtual Community Workshops:

• Tuesday, Dec. 2, 5:30-7 p.m.

• Wednesday, Dec. 3, 5:30-7 p.m.

• Thursday, Dec. 4, 5:30-7 p.m. Participants receive a \$50 gift card for their input. Space is limited.

The team, led by Wendy Hoffman, will also be conducting a Sault Tribe Branding and Wayfinding Community Survey that will be available soon.

For more information, contact Julia Keefe at julia.keefe@kauffmaninc.com or Wendy Hoffman at whoffman@saulttribe.net.



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Lights, camera action: PSA explains treaty rights

By Scott Brand

The Sault Tribe’s Video Production Department has produced a short public service announcement (PSA) designed to educate the public on treaty rights, specifically related to the snagging of fish on the St. Mary’s River system. Snagging has historically taken place at what is commonly referred to as the Carbide Dock in the shadow of the Cloverland Electric Powerhouse.

Narrated by Chairman Austin

Lowes, the video shows members of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians exercising their treaty rights as they attempt to snag incoming salmon.

The bulk of the film was shot on the evening of Oct. 2, as Sault Tribe Video Productions Director Joseph Street was joined by A.V. Specialist Damien Hopper at the Carbide Dock to record members of the Sault Tribe in action utilizing hand-held and drone footage.

“I’m just here to enjoy watching

our Sault Tribe members exercise their 1836 Treaty rights,” said Unit I Director Robert McRorie upon his arrival, but Chairman Lowes came in with a different attitude: “We are here today to catch fish.”

More than a half-dozen tribal members showed up to participate, but the fish were much more reluctant as Travis Gardner was the only angler to successfully land a salmon while the cameras rolled.

That didn’t detract from the work of Street and Hopper, or

the message that now appears on the upcoming PSA which will be accessible at the Carbide Dock to provide information regarding long-established treaty rights to those who access the QR Code on nearby signage. The Sault Tribe has the right to snag fish, the video explains, and will continue to do so in a way that protects fish populations for the next seven generations.

The Carbide Dock had allowed snagging for tribal members for

decades, but the wind, water and waves took a toll on the structure resulting in its closure to all fishermen due safety concerns. A costly restoration project involving the City of Sault Ste. Marie coupled with generous financial contributions from the state of Michigan and the federal government recently allowed the popular fishing site to be reopened to the public fueling the celebration of this practice during the Oct. 22 gathering along the river.



Tribal member Joe Pine (R) provided new fishing line to Sault Tribe Chairman Austin Lowes as they prepared to snag at the Carbide Dock.



Above, Lowes and Tribal member Jessie Farley watch the waters waiting for a salmon to cruise by. Below, the camera records Farley in action.



Left, Joseph Street pilots a drone high above the Cloverland Electric Powerhouse to capture aerial footage, while Damien Hopper utilized a hand-held camera along the dock.



Hopper films Lowes as he filets the salmon snagged by Travis Gardner.



Photos by Scott Brand

Right, one of the snagging hooks utilized by fishermen. While some are purchased from the Internet, many are homemade from molds handed down from previous generations.



Street piecing together the final production.

2026 Black Lake Sturgeon Lottery Application

Sault Tribe has an allocation for **sturgeon harvest** from Black Lake in Cheboygan County in 2026. Please fill out the following application and return to Sault Tribe Natural Resource Department at: **2428 Shunk Road, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783.** **Application must be received by 5:00 pm on December 29th, 2025.** Applications received after 5:00pm on December 29th, 2025 **WILL NOT** be accepted.

First Name		Middle Name		Last Name			
Address		City		State		Zip Code	
File Number (Red # on Tribal ID)		STS #					
Date of Birth		Sex		Phone Number		Email	

One entry per applicant.
Open to Sault Tribe members ONLY.

Rudyard’s traditional Ojibwe teaching lodge

The learning lodge was built at Rudyard Area Public Schools this August by Rudyard Youth Education and Activities (YEA) program participants and volunteers brought together by YEA Coordinator Jackie Minton. The traditional Ojibwe teaching lodge was built as an additional space for learning and cultural connection to support Indigenous education and community engagement. Students are shown here cleaning and drying porcupine quills, making pinecone birdfeeders by spreading peanut butter and seed on the pinecones, and smoking fish. Students made their own lunch by roasting brats over the learning lodge fire.



Putting fish in the smoker.



Preparing fish for the smoker.



Making birdfeeders with pine cones and peanut butter



Cleaning porcupine quills in hot water.



Trimmed fish ready for the smoker.



Drying the porcupine quills.



Fish in the smoker.



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November is Diabetes Month; prevention is key

JESSICA A. RICKERT, DDS, ANISHINAABE DENTAL OUTREACH

Diabetes Mellitus affects how the body uses blood sugar (glucose). Glucose is an important source of energy for the cells that make up the muscles and tissues. It is also the brain’s main source of fuel.

Insulin is a hormone made by the pancreas that allows the human body to use sugar (sucrose) from carbohydrates for immediate energy. And insulin allows the body to store glucose for future use. These metabolic activities keep the blood sugar level from getting too high (hyperglycemia) or too low (hypoglycemia).

In diabetic disease, the pancreas does not function. This leads to excess sugar in the blood. Too much sugar in the blood weakens white blood cells. These are

the body’s soldier-cells to fight infections. Diabetes can lead to serious health problems affecting various organs, including the heart, eyes, kidneys, feet, legs, and nerves.

Native American youth have Type II diabetes at a rate up to sixty-four times their non-Native peers. That’s according to a systematic review published last week in Diabetologia, a peer-reviewed medical journal on diabetes. Youth from the Akimel O’odham & Tohono O’odham and Gila River Indian Communities showed the highest prevalence of Type II diabetes at 6.4%. Young Native women bear the highest burden of the disease, with AI/AN female youth having diabetes at rates 77% higher than their male counterparts. Diabetes in AI/AN youth has risen 3-8 times in the past four decades.

Native youth also experience

worse outcomes with diabetes, suffering higher mortality and morbidity rates compared to non-Indigenous youth.

If the sugar level is high in the blood, it is high in the saliva, too. Bacteria which form plaque, a sticky, harmful film, use sugar as food. These bacteria can cause tooth decay and gum disease. Both conditions can lead to tooth loss.

Symptoms of diabetes are dry mouth thirst, urinating often, weight fluctuation, feeling tired, weak, or shaky, having mood changes, blurry vision, infections, such as gum, skin, vaginal infections, and slow-healing sores.

If Native youth ate only the pre-Columbian diet, they would be far healthier with less diabetes.

Lots of fresh fruits and vegetables are recommended for diabetics. Without healthy teeth,

diabetics tend to eat soft, processed foods which are high in carbohydrates, causing dangerous plaque. This leads to more tooth decay and gum disease, leading to tooth loss.

Dental disease is an infection which can cause insulin levels to fluctuate. This unhealthy cycle can spiral out of control, making diabetes harder to manage.

If you have diabetes, a healthy mouth is even more important.

Here is a quick look at how diabetes can take its toll on your oral health: Less saliva causes a dry mouth.

More cavities. The gums may become inflamed and bleed often. Loose teeth. Infections and sores in the mouth can take longer to heal. Pain.

Here are important tips to keep your mouth healthy and happy: Brush your teeth at least twice a day with fluoride tooth-

paste. Floss your teeth at least once a day. Tell your dentist if you have diabetes. If you smoke, quit. Smoking increases your risk of gum disease and can worsen your diabetes. Stop all alcoholic drinks. Drinking can worsen your diabetes and increases your risk of dental disease. Regular dental visits.

When you have diabetes, uncontrolled high blood sugar can damage the entire body — including your teeth and gums.

The good news? Help is available. Ask your tribal health center for advice. Also, The Native Diabetes Wellness Program is a Center for Disease Control program which honors AIAN cultural practices and supports tribal efforts to reclaim traditional foods.

Prevention is in your hands. Take charge of your dental health.

Annual Great American Smokeout November 20

BY COMMUNITY HEALTH EDUCATOR LYNDEE ZEIGLER

The Great American Smokeout (GASO) is an annual event, held on the third Thursday of every November, encouraging individuals across the United States to quit smoking or support a loved one in quitting. Organized by the American Cancer Society, this event provides resources, support, and

motivation to start a healthy, smoke-free life and overcome commercial tobacco addiction. It also challenges people to view the day as “Day One” on their journey to a smoke-free life. With millions of Americans who smoke cigarettes, cigarette consumption remains the leading cause of preventable death and disease in the world. In fact, 480,000 deaths occur in the U.S.

as a result of smoking and exposure to secondhand smoke.

If you or a loved one smokes cigarettes, consider joining the movement. Let the Great American Smokeout on Nov. 20 inspire you to start tobacco-free living. No matter your age or how long you’ve smoked, quitting improves health both immediately and long-term. For example, soon after you quit,

your heart rate and blood pressure decrease and the nicotine level in your blood drops to zero. Within a couple of months, your coughing decreases and your lung capacity improves. In 1 to 2 years, your risk of a heart attack drops sharply. And the list of benefits goes on and on.

Quitting commercial tobacco is a journey, but research has shown that both counseling and

cessation medications increase successful quit attempts. One great resource from the Sault Tribe is the Nicotine Dependence Program. This program provides individuals with the tools and support they need to successfully quit.

For more information about the program, please call Sault Tribe Community Health at (906) 632-5210.

Up-to-date addresses for tribal members sought

Sault Tribe members whose addresses are not up to date have “bad addresses” with the tribe’s Enrollment Department. Please check over these names and if you see a friend or relative on this “bad address” list, please let them know they need to update their address. It’s simple and quick! Call (800) 251-6597 or email Stacey Synett: enrollment@saulttribe.net.

Adams Jr, Donald H
Adams, Craig P
Adams, Mark W
Adams, Scott M
Agy, Gary M
Albinger, Robert P
Alexander Jr, Fred M
Alexander, Laurie J
Allen, Ronald J
Allison, Stephen W
Andrews, Tammy
Anguilm, Anthony P
Anthony Jr, Daniel R
Arntz, Debra E
Arseneau, Lawrence R
Aultman, Inez A
Baker, Vince W
Barber, Gary L
Barber, Robert A
Barker, Melanie F
Barr, Brian J
Beckman, Kristin A
Bedrick, Mildred A
Beigel, Leon J
Belisle, Danny L
Bell, Gerald W
Bellant, James L
Belonga, Francis J
Benedict, John A
Berkland, Karen M
Bernard Jr, Lawrence G
Bicknell, Gerald L
Biron, Gary B
Blanchard, Gregory S
Boahbedason, Francis J
Babee, Joseph F
Bohrer, Michael G
Bonno, Clyde A
Bosley, Ricky L
Boston, Julie A
Bourasaw, Peter J
Boursaw Jr, James D
Braley, Sharon L
Brasseur, Bernie
Brauer, Edward A
Brenchley, Frederick K

Brewer, Karen
Brigman, Rod R
Brothers, Keith A
Bryce, Thomas S
Bugg, Charles R
Bunce, Frank J
Cadreau, Margaret
Cadreau, Paul M
Cairns, Michael A
Carpentier Jr, Charles H
Cary, Peter M
Cervera, Claudia E
Clark, Robin L
Corwin, Mary M
Coughlin, Francis R
Cox, Tina M
Crowder-Simmons, Laura J
Cruz, Rhonda B
Darnell, Mickie J
Delpriore, Cheryl L
Dewar, Debra L
Dietz, Mark O
Dilworth, Lawrence M
Doyle, Vickie S
Eaton, Gregory A
Edmonds, James B
Elegeert, Thomas J
Erickson, James S
Ettawageshik, Joel Q
Ettawageshik, John L
Falbe, Brian D
Faragher, Elaine R
Fischer Jr, David A
Fischer, Dale A
Fischer, Dawn A
Ford, Deborah M
Fouracre, Douglas V
Fournier, Anna M
Fox, David R
Fralick, Jonathan E
Frazier, William J
Gagnon, Lynne M
Gale, Danny M
Gokey, Todd S
Gomez Jr, Jose A
Gouine, Gerald H

Grant, Diane L
Grathwohl, Randall E
Green, Richard G
Green, Sheri A
Gregg Jr, Peter H
Greggs, Jason J
Gregory, Richard J
Grimmer, Joseph P
Groh, Vicki J
Grondin, Charles J
Hallesy, James F
Hansen, Marianne
Hanson, Peter J
Harned, Todd
Harris, Bruce K
Harris, Patricia A
Hartrick, Tim M
Hascall, Stanley
Hatch, Mark H
Hatch, Susan
Hayes, George A
Heckert, Douglas W
Heximer, Larry G
Hill, David J
Hillman, Judy G
Hoffman, Gina L
Holle, Janis A
Holmberg, Patti A
Holmes, Donald J
Hylo, Dana W
Hylo, Lee A
Jackson, Charles D
Jackson, Jennie M
Jensen, William J
Jochman, Carolyn M
Kerr, David T
Keyandwy, Ronald D
Kilstofte, Tammy K
King, Timothy G
Kivisto, Douglas J
Klepper, Marion M
Konkel, Cynthia E
Kopacki, Marcia L
Kotarski, William J
Kravis, Valerie K
Laceby, Lawrence W
LaCross, Donald K

LaLonde, Dennis G
LaLonde, Rene A
LaPine, Michael T
LaPlaunt, Charles F
Laughton, Jerry D
Leask, Daniel J
Lee, Rodney J
Leveille-Gaillard, Lori J
LeVernois-Myette, Yvonne
Lewis, Anna M
Lewis, Robin J
Lewis, Tina M
Lichtenberger, Rebecca M
Lockwood, Jeffrey F
MacArthur, Tracy L
Mantooth, Troy L
Martineau, Allen R
Masta Jr, Kenneth A
Mastaw, Kevin
Matteson, Richard C
Mattson, Melanie A
McCarthy, Kenneth P
McCarthy, Richard J
McClelland, Gary W
McCondra, Raymond P
McCondra, Ronald K
McDermott, Edward J
McDonald Jr, John
McDonald, Brent S
McDonald, Tom
McKerchie, Debra A
Metivier, Lynette S
Meyers, Cathy J
Michaels, Violet L
Miles, Richard J
Moffatt, April M
Monck, Steven J
Montague, Lark L
Montgomery, Debra S
Moore, Bonnie A
Morris, John P
Mullendore, Carolyn M
Murray, Charles E
Neal, Cathy L
Neal, Linda A
Nesbitt, Rebecca L
Nichols, Bobbie J

Osogwin, Laurie A
Ozant, Gregory K
Paciocco, Stephen J
Page, Lisa A
Paquin, Carolyn J
Paquin, Kathleen M
Paquin, Michelle
Parrish, Glenn R
Paschall, Karen L
Patterson, Randal J
Paulsen, Camie A
Pederson, Denise M
Pembroke, James L
Perry Sr, Joseph P
Perry, Raymond A
Perry, Robert F
Phillips, Doris M
Pilcher, David J
Poole, Lisa R
Povey, Dell E
Powell, Patricia S
Pratt, Katherine A
Pratt, William J
Pressley, Kimberly A
Quinn, Suzanne M
Radford, Sharon D
Ray, Linda S
Rittenhouse, Bonnie K
Rivard, Loretta J
Rivers, John N
Robbins, Merlin S
Rohlfs, Debra J
Ruperd, James K
Ryckman, Barbara
Samuel, Debra E
Sari, Jeffery M
Schell, Debra L
Scheuring III, James W
Schmid, Raymond L
Scobey, Peggy M
Scott, Jack T
Sepienza, Anne M
Sepienza, Joseph
Sepienza, Steven
Seymour, Michael S
Shields, Edwin R
Simonds, Deborah S

Skupin, Lalona I
Slabaugh, Joan B
Smith, Alfred L
Smith, Karan A
Snowbeck, Duane B
Sosnowski, Paul M
St. Louis, Robert F
St. Louis, Wayne A
Stewart, Cherrie J
Stierman, Mary T
Sturm, Christian A
Suffield, Steven D
Summers Jr, Wilfred G
Sylvester, James G
Thibodeau, Marilyn R
Thomas, Robert R
Thornhill, Lorry D
Toland, Geraldine P
Trudell, Candice R
Vanhouten, Kevin L
Vanier, Tina M
Vanzile, Sherri L
Vieau, Gary D
Vincamp, Lisa A
Wagner, Sherrie R
Weatherly, Mary H
Weber, Daniel B
Welch, Michael L
Welchner, Nancy A
Weston, Charmaine T
Westveld, Holly J
Wheeler, Henry A
Whisenant, Albert T
White III, Daniel
White Jr, Gerald R
White Sr, Lyonl J
White, Randy P
Wicketts, Betty M
Willingham, Jody L
Willson, Susan M
Wiseley, Patricia L
Wood, Daniel J
Wood, Kathryn A
Woodworth, Tami L
Yancy, Pamela J
Young, Laurie A
Young, Rose A

1836 Treaty of Washington Chronology

Sault Tribe members might find the following timeline regarding Sault Tribe's treaty rights to hunt, fish and gather of interest.

Pre-400
Native Americans fish with seine nets.

400-800
Gill net invented. Inland Shores Fishery evolves.

1600-1700s
European contact: French fur trappers and Jesuits. Fishery trade with Europeans begins. Territory wars among Europeans.

1776
U.S. Independence from Great Britain.

1778
First U.S. Indian treaty.

1807
First Michigan area treaty among Chippewa, Ottawa and Potawatami.

1820
Treaty of Sault Ste. Marie ceded land at the little rapids of St. Mary's River to build Fort Brady; perpetual right to fish was reserved.

1830
Indian Removal Act legislated.

March 1836
Ottawa-Chippewa Treaty: fishing, hunting and land bases retained.

July 1836
Ottawa-Chippewa Treaty re-signed: land base lost; fishing and hunting retained.

July 1855
Ottawa-Chippewa obtain land for allotments and permanent homes.

August 1855
Treaty with Sault Ste. Marie Bands: U.S. government to own rights to Sault Rapids and Soo Locks area.

1860
Bay Mills Reservation established by Congress.

1924
U.S. citizenship given to Indians.

1930
People v. Chosa: State Supreme Court declares Indians have no special fishing and hunting rights under the 1842 and 1854 treaties; state regulations apply.

1930-55
Invasion of the sea lamprey; trout population decimated. Exotic species alewives and smelt gain a foothold in the lakes, competing for food.

1955
Great Lakes Fishery Commission established, an international agency for Great Lakes issues.

1966
Limited entry regulation by Michigan DNR. Michigan DNR introduces of Pacific coho salmon and chinook salmon. Order puts 250 commercial fishermen out of business. Zone management favors recreation fishing. Gill net banned.

1971
People v. Jondreau: Michigan Supreme Court reversed on state law concerning Indian fishing; rights to fish under 1854 treaty recognized.

1971-79
People v. LeBlanc: Big Abe LeBlanc sets nets to challenge lack of treaty rights; state Supreme Court rules in 1976 that Ottawa and Chippewa bands, party to the 1836 treaty, retained

treaty-based fishing rights in the Michigan waters of the Great Lakes that could be limited by the state only if the state could demonstrate that Indian fishing endangered the fishery.

1974
Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indian gains federal recognition.

1976
BIA Michigan Agency re-established.

1979
U.S. v. Michigan (Fox Decision): U.S. District Court Judge Noel Fox decides in favor of Indian treaty Great Lakes fishing rights under the 1836 Treaty.

1981
6th Circuit Court of Appeals upholds the Fox decision and U.S. Supreme Court declines review. Chippewa Ottawa Treaty Fishery Resource Authority (COTFMA) established.

1983
7th Circuit Court issues decision in the Lac Courte Oreilles Band v. Voight affirming rights to hunt and fish under 1837 and 1842 treaties.

1984
Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians gains federally recognition, becomes party to the 1836 Treaty.

1985
Entry of Consent Order signed, setting up fish allocations and zones in tribal treaty waters until May 2000.

1987
Trial Court establishes species for treaty harvest methods that can be used and utilization of them by treaties of 1837 and 1842.

1994
Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians gain federal recognition, become party to the 1836 Treaty.

1996
Tribal commercial fishers become subject to U.S. maritime laws and U.S. Coast Guard inspection.

1998
U.S. Supreme Court upholds treaty rights' continued legal existence in Mille Lacs Band v. Minnesota, from state claim that no right to hunt, fish or gather in an Indian treaty survives admission of the state into the Union. Commercial fishers become subject to federal seafood safety regulations and federal inspection (HACCP). Little River Band joins COTFMA.

May 2000
Consent Order expires. Parties negotiate replacement allocation agreement.

August 2000
Tribes, state and federal governments sign 20-year Consent Agreement under U.S. District Court Judge Richard Enslin. Fishery is allocated between treaty and non-treaty fishers. COTFMA becomes Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority (CORA). Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians joins CORA.

November 2007
After four years of negotiations, the Inland Consent Decree

is signed into effect by U.S. District Court Judge Richard Enslin, in which the state of Michigan recognizes the rights of CORA tribal members under the 1836 Treaty for subsistence hunting, fishing and plant gathering

activities on 13.8 million acres of public land and inland waters defined in the treaty-ceded territory.

August 2000
The 2000 Consent Decree expired. Although the US

District Court Western District of Michigan Southern Division Judge Paul L. Maloney ordered a consent decree into effect in August 2023, Sault Tribe has appealed it to the US Supreme Court.



Tribal Chairman Austin Lowes will be donating this 8-point buck to the Venison Drive, a pilot program new this year in Unit 1 to get venison to the tribe's elders.

Director McKechnie: A message to our members

Boozhoo Relatives,
I've worked for our tribe for over 20 years, and now as a member of the board, people often ask me, "Why does it sometimes feel like our tribe is always fighting with itself?"
I've thought about that a lot. And I want to answer honestly and respectfully.
Our people have survived removal, boarding schools, and systems that were built to divide us from our land, our culture, and even from each other. For generations we were told there was never enough — not enough housing, not enough healthcare, not enough jobs, not enough voice. When people are taught to believe there isn't enough, they fight to protect what little they think they have.
That is historical trauma. And it still shows up today.
We also have a government structure where we effectively operate as five separate Units, almost like five states. Each Unit has real needs and everyone wants to take care of their own community. That comes from love. But it also creates competition for resources.
Then we place all of that inside a twelve-member Board, where every decision requires agreement across different regions, priorities, and perspectives. This can make it difficult to move forward, especially on big issues like constitutional reform. It's not that people don't care — it's that each Unit and each leader is trying to protect their community.
So yes — sometimes it gets combative.
But I want to be clear about



**ISAAC MCKECHNIE
DIRECTOR, UNIT I**

something:
We are not divided because we do not care.
We are divided because we care deeply.
We are passionate.
We are protective.
We fight hard because we love our families, our Tribe, and our future.
But I believe it's time for us to start fighting for each other — not against each other. We are all relatives.
We all come from the same rivers, forests, and waters. Our ancestors stood together when

times were harder than they are now. The decisions we make today — and how we treat each other — will shape what our grandchildren inherit.
What we heal in this generation, they will receive as strength.
Miigwetch,
Isaac McKechnie
Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians
imckechnie@saulttribe.net
Editor's Note: Due to time constraints, Director McKechnie's unit report could not be fit into the unit report section of the newspaper.

Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians

VENISON DRIVE

Operating within Unit 1 of the Sault Tribe's service area, this drive partners with Maurer's Little Meat Shop to process deer donated by Sault Tribe hunters, which will be provided to Unit 1 Elders free of charge.

Hunters interested in donating need to schedule their deer drop-offs by calling (248) 310-0122. When the meat is processed, it will be picked up by the Tribe and distributed at our Unit 1 Elder lunches.

Chi miigwetch to Isaac McKechnie, Aaron Payment, Mike McKerchie, Kim Gravelle, and Rob McRorie for obligating cultural enhancement funds to start this venison drive.

Halloween parade held during assembly at JKL School



Students at JKL School had the chance to parade around the gym in their Halloween costumes in preparation for the big day, while family and friends watched from the bleachers.



SAULT TRIBE HEALTH DIVISION

FOOD DRIVE

NOVEMBER 3RD-
NOVEMBER 25TH

DROP-OFF LOCATION

ANY SAULT TRIBE HEALTH CENTER LOBBY
8AM-4PM
Donations will be distributed to local food banks.

We accept donations of non-perishable food in jars, cans, and sealed packages.

We appreciate any and all donations made. Thank you for helping us come together as a community to make a positive impact.

For More Information Call Sault Tribe Community Health at (906) 632-5210

Obelisk removed from ancient Anishinaabe burial site in Brady Park and is being relocated



The base of the obelisk being removed.



Water Street overlooks the Soo Locks and St. Marys River.



Up, up, and away!



A large obelisk was removed from Brady Park in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., where it was originally placed to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Soo Locks. It was erected in 1907 on top of an ancient Native American burial site and its removal was accomplished following decades of advocacy from local tribes. A Memorandum of Agreement was developed in consultation with the tribes, the Michigan State Historic Preservation Office, and the National Park Service. Above are representatives from the Bay Mills Indian Community, the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Sault, Mich.



Above: Kathy LeBlanc addresses the crowd gathered for the historic event. Below: Jeremy Burnside dancing during the ceremony.



Flag carriers started the ceremony off as two eagles were seen flying over the river near the event.



A talented hoop dancer participated in the ceremony.



The orange barrier is what remains after the obelisk was removed.



Speakers (above) gave a historical account of the burial ground and the drum (below) provided honor songs for the ceremony.



Mike Hatch, horse dancer.

Photos by
Scott Brand,
Brenda Austin

All are welcome to attend the
Learning to Walk Together
Pow Wow

Northern Center | 540 W. Kaye Ave.
Marquette, MI

Saturday, December 6th, 2025
Grand Entries at 1pm & 7pm EST
Feast @ 5pm | Free Admission

Head Woman Dancer - Becky Genschow
Head Man Dancer - Jeremy Bimbatoo Malingan Burnside
MC- Rodney Loonsfoot
Arena Director - Jonathan Hutchinson
Head Veteran- Martin Reinhardt
Firekeeper - Cody Mayer
Featuring the KBIC Honor Guard
Co-Host drums: Ice Circle & Summer Cloud
Local Host Drum -Teal Lake Singers

Interested Vendors contact Kevin @ 906-235-0959

In Partnership with

Ozhitoodaa “let’s create” craft events



Jackie Robinson brought her expertise to Nokomis-Mishomis Place, the Elder Center, on a late October afternoon to teach the art of weaving a dreamcatcher. Robinson frequently conducts craft nights at Nigaanagiizhik, but thought it would be beneficial to provide an afternoon session on the heels of the elder luncheon to attract new participants. More information about upcoming events can be found at the Ozhit Craft Circle Facebook Page.



Donna gets a little assistance as Robinson skillfully wraps her sinew around the red willow frame. Guests were encouraged to personalize their creations selecting from a multitude of beads and feathers



After the Dreamcatcher crew departed on the afternoon of Oct. 22, new supplies were produced and a different crowd arrived to do an evening session of painting. Above, a group of teachers from the Sault Ste. Marie Area Public Schools participated in this educational exercise as part of a program through Northern Michigan University. Visitors were invited to bring a positive attitude and their creativity with all of the painting supplies provided.



Aimee Penrose and Nancy Lowes intently threading sinew.



Shirely Van Alstine and Susan Boehmer proudly show their completed work.



Beckie Miller, left, and John Goetz, right, quietly painting at their tables during craft night.



Above, Henry, 5, displays his painted work. At left, Anna, 6, was joined by Seandra Thompson and Julian Locke as the trio enjoyed an evening of creative fun.

Walking on..

GLENDA PAQUIN ALWOOD

Glenda Paquin-Alwood, 69, of Burlington, Mich., passed away Friday, Sept. 12, 2025, at her home under hospice care, surrounded by her family.

A celebration of Glenda’s life took place Sept. 23, 2025, at Lighthouse Funeral & Cremation, 1276 Tate Trail, Union City, Mich.

Interment followed at Burlington Cemetery. Glenda was born just minutes after midnight on Nov. 1, 1955 (because her mother didn’t want her to be born on Halloween) to Conrad and Vola (Vallier) Paquin in St. Ignace, Mich. On Nov. 29, 1999, she married Norman Alwood in Battle Creek, Mich., who was the love of her life for 29 years. He preceded her in death on Oct. 3, 2016.

Glenda worked as a bus driver for 28 years at Tekonsha Community Schools, tended bar at the Whistle Stop in Burlington for 25 years, worked at Rowbotham’s Apple Orchard in Homer, and later retired from Tenneco in Marshall. Glenda enjoyed antique tractor pulling, tractor shows, collecting frog memorabilia, and spending time with her family and friends.

Glenda is survived by her daughters, Connie (Kristan) McKimmy of Horton, Bobbi Jo (Jerry) Jackowiak, Cheryl Ann (Stan, Jr. “Frank”) Hawver and Barbi Sue (David) Johnson, all of Union City; her grandchildren, Chelsea (Jared) Motz, Ashley Hawver, Cassandra Alwood, Dalton Johnson, Stephanie Johnson, Bryce Johnson and Summer Little; her nine great-grandchildren; her siblings Nola Paquin of Quincy, Tamara Paquin of Florida, Dorla (Ken) Larsen of Florida, Maurinie (Al) Rodriguez, Noel (Lisa) Paquin of Union City, and many nieces and nephews.

In addition to her husband Norm, she was preceded in death by her parents.

TIMOTHY “TIM” SHAWN BOSLEY

Timothy “Tim” Shawn Bosley, 61, of Gwinn, Mich., a proud U.S. Marine, dedicated welder, and lover of the great outdoors, passed away after a brief illness on Friday Oct. 3, 2025, at UP Health System in Marquette.

Born in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., on Sept. 16, 1964, the son of Carl and Donna (Rath) Bosley, Tim spent his early years there before his family relocated to Marquette during his early teens.

He graduated from Marquette Senior High School in 1983. After high school, Tim briefly moved to Florida before joining the United States Marine Corps. During his four years of honorable service, he served as a heavy equipment operator, an experience he carried with deep

pride throughout his life. For Tim, being a Marine was not just a chapter in life, it was part of his identity. He believed firmly that once a Marine, always a Marine.

Following his military service, Tim returned to Florida where he worked for Coca-Cola. He later settled in Saginaw, Mich., where he began a long and skilled career as a welder. In 2003, he returned to the Upper Peninsula to continue his trade and be closer to the landscapes he loved.

Tim was a proud member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. He had a deep appreciation for nature and enjoyed camping, hiking, and spending time outdoors. His strength, bravery, and courage were evident to all who knew him.

Tim is survived by his father, Carl Bosley; sister, Deborah (Richard) Neff of Roanoke, Va.; uncle and aunt, Walter and Nancy Bosley of Sault Ste. Marie; uncle, Raymond Bosley Sr. of Painesdale, Mich.; and aunts Sandy Bosley and Cheryl Bosley.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Donna Bosley; aunts Donna Kangas and Ruth Bosley; and uncles Larry Bosley, Rick Bosley, and Reuban Kangas.

Honoring Tim’s request, no public services will be held. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the charity of your choice. Canale Gwinn Funeral and Cremation Services is serving the family where condolences may be expressed online at canalefuneral.com.

LAWRENCE “BROWNIE” BROWN

Chief Petty Officer EMC SS Lawrence “Brownie” Brown USN retired, passed away June 2, 2025, surrounded by his family.

Brownie was born Aug. 5, 1935, in St. Ignace, Mich., the son of Ruth Ann Johnston and Leo Forrest Brown.

He married Kiki in 1960 in Dover Plains, N.Y. and they celebrated 65 years of marriage on May 28, 2025.

Brownie joined the U.S. Navy in 1952 as an electrician and served his country for 30 years, retiring in 1984, 1953 served on a sub-tender; 1954, qualified for submarines and served on seven different subs; 1963, promoted to Chief Petty Officer; 1982 served on a destroyer. Brownie served in the Korean War, Vietnam War and the U.S. invasion of Grenada.

His decorations include: Expert M14, Sea Service Deployment Ribbon, Navy Expeditionary Medal with one Bronze Star, Naval Battle Efficiency Award, Good Conduct Medal (Five in total), National Defense Medal, Vietnam, Service Medal, Enlisted Surface Warfare Designation, Submarine Designation, Member of the U.S. Submarine Veterans and was inducted into the Holland Club for years of Honorable and Faithful Service to the U.S. Navy and Submarine Force, He was a member of the VFW, American

Legion and Fleet Reserve. Lawrence travelled the world throughout his lifetime; he loved his family and friends and anyone and everyone who knew him loved and respected him. He will forever be loved and forever be missed.

Remaining to cherish Brownie’s memory is his wife Sophia Ann Brown; daughter Christ Ann Brown and partner Tim Harwood; daughter Missy Jeanne Brown; granddaughter Taylor Rae Sanchez and husband Vincent Daniel Sanchez; great-grandchildren, Jackson Daniel, Colton David, Lillian Faith and Grace Lawrence Sanchez; surviving siblings are Gayle Miller, Patsy Pope, Kay Smith and Darryl Brown; his beloved baby girl Popi, and preceding Lawrence’s death is his son Michael David Brown.

Always our “Brownie” — forever on “eternal patrol.”

LOLA MAY CARTER

Lola May Carter, 90, passed away peacefully Sept. 19, 2025, with her family by her side. Born April 13, 1935, in Rexton, Mich., to Levi and Edna Sanders, Lola was a bright light to all who knew her.

From a young age, she was hardworking and dedicated, helping her mother with cooking and caring for her younger sisters, while also working alongside her father in the woods.

Over the years, she held many jobs, including working in motels and restaurants in the Upper Peninsula and in Oregon, where she was also part of the shrimp and crab industry.

Her lifelong work ethic carried over into the pulpwood business she built with her husband, Robert Carter. Lola was both the bookkeeper and a dedicated logger, often running the chainsaw herself.

Outside of work, Lola cherished time with her family. She enjoyed word searches, putting puzzles together, and playing Yahtzee with her sisters—pastimes she now continues in heaven with those who went before her. Her greatest joy was her growing family, especially the smiles of the little ones who brought her endless happiness. Lola is survived by her beloved sisters, Evelyn, Donella, and Margaret; her children, Leon Underhill, Juanita (Pete) McNamara, Lawrence (Penny) Underhill, Allen (Mindy) Underhill, Debbie Carter, Vicki (Kurt) Knapp, Terry (Brenda) Carter, Connie (Larry) Stowe, Jenny Carter (Scott), Lorraine (Roger) Averill, and Carol Underhill; along with many nieces, nephews, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Robert Carter; six sisters; one brother; three sons; one granddaughter; and several aunts and uncles.

Visitation was held Sept. 24, 2025., at Janowicz Family Funeral Home in Remus, Mich..

A funeral service followed on Sept. 25, at the funeral home. Lola will be remembered for her strength, her love of family, and her unwavering dedication throughout her life. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to the family.

LYNDA CHRISTENSEN

Lynda Christensen, 80, of Sarasota, Fla., passed away peacefully Sept. 21, 2025, surrounded by family.

Lynda was a woman of deep faith whose life reflected her unwavering devotion to God. Her belief in God’s grace and his presence guided her through every season of life and was a source of strength, comfort, and purpose.

She lived her faith with humility, love, and quiet conviction, and shared that love generously with those around her.

She was born on March 19, 1945, in St. Ignace, Mich., to Clement and Margaret St. Andrew. She was the beloved wife of the late Albert Christensen, with whom she shared a lifetime of love and devotion.

Lynda was known for her quiet strength, warm heart, and deep love for her family. She created a home filled with love, laughter, and generosity—a place where everyone felt welcome. She will be remembered for her unwavering support, kind spirit, and gentle presence in the lives of those she held dear.

With a sparkle in her eye and a sense of humor that stayed with her through the years, she often introduced herself as “Lynda with a Y”—a small but endearing detail that captured her playful side and made those around her smile.

She was preceded in death by her husband Albert, her parents, four brothers—Roy, Bob, Floyd, and Doug—and one cherished grandson, Anthony.

Lynda is survived by her loving brother, Jerry St. Andrew; her three children: Roxanne and her husband David Taylor with their children: Erik (wife) Jenny, and their children Jackson and Gracyn; Kecia (husband Matt Poling, and their daughter Emercyn); Sadie (and son Colton); Anthony; Carmen and her husband Dudley Pratt; Stephen Christensen, and his children; Nathan (wife Britny, and their children Jerome, Annabelle, and Mayson); and Bailey (husband Brian Fulmer, and their children Marley and Mia).

She is also remembered fondly by many extended family members and dear friends who were blessed to know her.

A celebration of life will be held in the spring of 2026 in St. Ignace, Mich., where Lynda will be laid to rest beside her beloved Albert. All who knew and loved her are welcome to attend and honor her life.

Lynda loved looking at the moon—it brought her peace, reflection, and wonder. In the quiet moments when you find

yourself gazing at the moon, may you feel her love shining back. We love you to the moon and back, mom.

DOUGLAS JOHN FRAZIER

Douglas John Frazier, 58, of Naubinway, died Wednesday morning Sept. 10, 2025, in the presence of his wife, Heather Cochrane, and family following a courageous battle with cancer.

Born April 21, 1967 in Manistique, son of Donald and Karen (Beckman) Frazier, Doug was a 1986 of Engadine High School.

At an early age, Doug loved fishing with his dad and uncles. Later, he and his brother Dwight started their own business, D & D Fishery in Naubinway. Doug was the captain of several commercial fishing boats. He worked for Kenny King fishing for several years, later moving to Cedar River and working for Rouleau Brothers. Due to his declining health, Doug retired from commercial fishing after several years on the water every day, wondering what one does now.

Doug loved hunting with his family, going to concerts, working on cars and trucks, casino gaming, camping and hanging out with his friends. In his later years, he also enjoyed kayaking. Doug was a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

Doug married the former Tonda Frey in 1994, raising two sons. Later in life, Doug married Heather Cochrane of Epoufette in July of 2025.

Doug is preceded in death by his father Don; aunts Sally Frazier, Judy Frazier and Janet King; cousin Roy Frazier; grandparents Ken and Emma Beckman, Melvin and Archimese Frazier.

Survivors include his wife, Heather, of Newberry; mother Karen Frazier of Naubinway; sons Dylan Frazier of Naubinway and Drew Frazier of Engadine; step-sons Drew and Blaine Grogan, both of Newberry; brother Dwight (Brenda) Frazier of Sault Ste. Marie; nephew Josh Frazier of Brimley and nieces Whitney Frazier of Sitka, Alaska, Aubrey Smith and Ashton Smith of Tylertown, MS ; great nephew Ethan Frazier of Indian River; brother-in-law Tony Smith of Tylertown, Miss.; mother-in-law Jean Rios of Epoufette. Doug is also survived by others who looked up to him as a Dad, including Curt Deace and Riley and Vanessa Formolo.

A gathering of family and friends took place Saturday Sept. 20, 2025, from noon until 1p.m. at the Christian Fellowship Family Worship Center in Naubinway. A celebration of life followed at the worship center with Pastor Tim Miller and Chad Gouza as celebrants. Interment with Native American rites will followed at the Naubinway Cemetery.

The family expresses their deep appreciation to the physicians from Green Bay oncology and Schoolcraft Memorial

see “walking on” Page 18



Walking on continued...

From “Walking on,” page 17
and care provided for Doug.

Doug’s wishes to family and friends are to always stay happy and work together for better happiness.

Memorials may be directed to the family to assist with funeral expenses. Condolences may be expressed at www.beaulieufuneralhome.com. Beaulieu Funeral Home in Newberry is assisting the family.

GARY LEE SHEPARD

Gary Lee Shepard, 69, of Kincheloe, Mich., died on Sept. 19, 2025, at home.

He was born on April 30, 1954, in Grand Ledge, Mich., to Cloyce and Ida (Campbell) Shepard.

Gary grew up in Grand Ledge and graduated with the Class of 1973 from Grand Ledge High School. Shortly after, he enlisted in the United States Army, where he proudly served his country for nineteen years. His military career took him around the world, and he retired in 1992 with the rank of Sergeant First Class.

Following his service, Gary returned to Grand Ledge before making his home in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. He began a second career at Kewadin Casino, where he worked in the logistics department.

Outside of work, Gary enjoyed the outdoors and sought out the quiet of “off the grid” camping.

He had a lifelong interest in model trains and electric cars, and his creativity and resourcefulness led him to design and build his own solar panels for his camper.

Gary is survived by his brothers, Wayne (Jacile) Shepard and Brian Shepard, both of Portland, Mich.; and his nieces and nephews, Nora Small, Eric Shepard, and Daniel Shepard.

Gary was preceded in death by his parents, Cloyce and Ida; and brothers, Howard (Ellen) Shepard and Dennis Shepard.

Per Gary’s wishes, no services will be held at this time.

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

ALLEN ROY GREEN III

Allen Roy “Bud” Green III, 38, passed away at home unexpectedly, with his mother and stepfather by his side on Oct. 8, 2025. He was born

in Sault Ste Marie, Mich., on April 11, 1987, to the late Al Green and Lindy Mattox and he is the second oldest of four children.

Bud attended St. Ignace Area Schools until the early 2000s and later continued his education at Rudyard ISD Schools. He was known for his kind and friendly nature, which helped him form

many meaningful connections. His infectious smile, laughter, and lighthearted spirit left lasting impressions on everyone who knew him. Bud had a deep love for his family and animals and found joy in numbers, music, and watching WWE.

Bud is survived by his mother and stepfather, Lindy Mattox and Kevin McNamara of Moran, Mich.; sisters, Samantha Green of Kingsford, Mich., Glenda (Blake) Loebach of Engadine, Mich., and Sara Olson-Green (Theodore Olson) of St. Ignace, Mich.; nieces and nephews, Lilly Campbell, Jamisin Green, Leyna Green, Athena Roe, Eli Olson, Evan Olson, Elise Olson, Josephine Loebach and Brycen Loebach; uncle, Dale Woodford; aunts, Christine Sutter and Lois Green; and uncle, Dan Green; as well as many other family members who will all miss him dearly.

Bud was proceeded in death by his father, Allen Roy Green Jr.; grandparents, Pauline and Ronald Halberg; grandmother, Philma Leazier; grandfather, Glenn Mattox Sr.; aunt, Sonya (David) Sayles; and uncles, Samuel Green and Glenn Mattox Jr.

Visitation was held Oct. 16, 2025, at Family Life Funeral Homes, in St. Ignace, Mich., with the Funeral Service immediately following. A luncheon was held downstairs following the service.

MICHAEL “MIKE” IVY GRIGGS

Michael (Mike) Ivy Griggs, 53, of St. Johns, Fla., passed away peacefully on Oct. 30, 2025, surrounded by family, after facing pancreatic cancer with courage and grace. Born at Torrejon Air Force Base in Madrid, Spain, Mike’s life was one marked by service, innovation, and deep family devotion.

Mike attended Ku-ring-gai High School in Turrumurra, Sydney, Australia, before graduating from Kingwood High School in Kingwood, Texas. He pursued higher education at Lamar University in Beaumont, Texas, and later earned his Bachelor of Science in Information Technology from the University of Phoenix.

From 1993 to 1997, Mike proudly served in the U.S. Navy as an Intelligence Specialist aboard the USS Juetta and USS Tarawa, with deployments to the Persian Gulf. After his honorable discharge, he lived in Vista, Calif., working with Transwestern Publishing and Red.Net.

In 2002, Mike returned to Lafayette, La., to join and eventually take the helm of the family business, IvyTek, Inc. Under his leadership, he transformed their legacy loan management software into a cutting-edge cloud-based solution serving mission-driven lenders across the United States, empowering communities through impactful loans. The family relocated to St. Johns, near Jacksonville, Fla., in 2014.

Mike’s passions reflected a vibrant and generous spirit—an avid grill master, dedicated fisherman, enthusiastic sports fan, world traveler, passionate gardener, and devoted gamer. Above all, family was his greatest joy. He freely gave his time as a Boy Scout leader and devoted coach of his son’s soccer teams alongside his best friend, Steve Andrepont. His curious mind, infectious optimism, and genuine care inspired all who knew him.

Proud of his heritage, Mike was a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and served on the boards of Sault Tribe, Inc., and Chippewa Government Solutions (CGS). Locally, he founded the Jacksonville Salesforce Developer Group and contributed to the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce IT Council and CEO Forum.

Mike is survived by his devoted wife of 31 years, Sandra (Brys) Griggs; their children Reese Ivy Griggs and Jordan Griggs (and Jordan’s fiancée, Lauren Fryoux); his parents Daniel Ivy and Vickie (Keller) Griggs of Livingston, Texas; sisters Marcy (Ashley) Hildebrand of San Antonio, Texas and Lacey Horton of Rockwall, Texas; as well as numerous, uncles, aunts, nieces, nephews, and cousins who cherish his memory. His final act of community generosity was to become an organ donor.

He was preceded in death by his beloved grandparents, Frank (Bud, Tom) and Phyllis (Peggy Irwin) Keller of Gould City, Mich., and Frederick (Fred) Ivy and Una (David) Griggs of Baton Rouge, La.

A Remembrance Service will be held Dec. 6, 2025, at 11:30 a.m. in the chapel of San Juan Del Rio Catholic Church, followed by a private celebration of life at the family home. An Indian Ceremonial burial with Veterans Honors will take place on Thursday, July 2, 2026, at 12 p.m. at Newton Township Cemetery in Gould City, Mich., followed by a gathering at Scott’s Point on Lake Michigan.

The family gratefully acknowledges the compassionate care provided by Cancer Specialties of North Florida, Mayo Hospital, Community Hospice, and Quinn Shalz Funeral Home. Please visit his online Tribute at www.quinn-shalz.com.

WILLIAM “BILL” J. HERMANN

William “Bill” J. Hermann, 82, passed away Sept. 18, 2025, peacefully as he napped. Born in 1942, Bill was the eldest of six children of Dean and Laura Hermann (nee Goudreau of St. Ignace) and grew into a man marked by service, commitment, and a deep love for his family.

From 1966 to 1968, Bill served his country with honor as a Chief Warrant Officer in the United States Army. Following his service, he pursued a career in

health care, dedicating himself to others as a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist. His calm presence, skill, and joyful personality touched countless lives over the years.

Bill was a loving husband of 62 years to his wife, Nancy, and a proud father to Bill Jr., Lisa, Deanna, and Damian. He found immense joy in his role as grandfather to Jordan, Melissa, Zack, Thea, Ella, Lettie, Joe, Madeleine, and as great-grandfather to little Lola. Family was always at the center of his life, and his warmth and humor live on through them.

Bill had a gift for connecting with people. He loved a good conversation, no matter where he was, and delighted in connecting with all people. His adventurous spirit took him around the world, with travels to France, the Dominican Republic, and Africa, where he almost got to the top of Mount Kilimanjaro :). He was also an avid read-er, who was never without a book. He loved to read history, biographies, and literature.

He was known for his ability to turn even the smallest memory into a story, whether the tale was true or not. Those who knew Bill will remember his kindness, his laughter, and the way he made everyone feel welcome.

His legacy is one of service and love.

He lived a well-loved life and will be deeply missed and forever cherished by his family and friends.

CATHERINE ISABELLE HESS

Catherine Isabelle Hess, 70, of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., passed away peacefully at home Oct. 15, 2025.

She was born June 12, 1955, in Sault Ste. Marie to Ronald and Muriel (Allard) Lane.

Catherine spent her early years in Sault Ste. Marie, Rose City, and Detroit, Mich. A determined and loving mother, she earned her GED and later an associate degree from Lake Superior State University—all while raising her children and selling flowers. In her late thirties, she founded Go Getters, a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting individuals with mental illness. What began as a small grassroots effort grew into a prominent nonprofit serving Wayne County for many years. After a successful career of service, she retired in 2002 and returned to make her home in Sault Ste. Marie.

Known for her big heart and generous spirit, Catherine was deeply involved in her community and faith. She was a faithful supporter of St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, donated to hunger relief efforts, organized prayer chains, and was active in mental health advocacy groups, the Marion Prayer Group, and St. Mary’s Catholic Church.

Catherine enjoyed life’s simple pleasures: playing cards, crafting and selling her wares at

local shows, camping, sitting by bonfires, and praying with—and for—those around her. Her compassion and faith touched many lives.

She is survived by her sons, Victor (Christine) Quintanilla of Florida, David Garcia Quintanilla, and Ronald A. Quintanilla, both of Sault Ste. Marie; daughters, Cassandra M. Hess of Sault Ste. Marie, and Deana Hess and Dawn Hess of Canada; grandchildren: Victor (Jennifer) Quintanilla Jr., Catherine J. Quintanilla, David (Heather) Quintanilla, Issaih Quintanilla, Jordan Quintanilla, Chance Quintanilla, and Issabell Quintanilla; and great-grandchildren: Seth, David, Noah, Gabrial, Aaron, and Raymond; siblings, Kimberly (Joe) Shultz of Sugar Island, Vickie Sumner, Muriel Lynn Evens, John (Lori) Lane, and Magie Lane, all of Sault Ste. Marie.

Catherine was preceded in death by her infant son, Joseph Hess; parents, Ronald and Muriel Lane; brother, Tony Lane; and grandparents, Isabelle and Cyril Allard.

Visitation was held Wednesday, Oct. 22-23, 2025, at the Niigaanagiizhik Ceremonial Building (Sault Tribe Cultural Center), in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. Mass of Christian Burial was held Oct. 23 at Holy Name of Mary Proto-Cathedral Catholic Church, also in Sault Ste. Marie. Catherine’s final resting place will be at Oaklawn Chapel Gardens in Bruce Township, Mich.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that any memorial contributions be made to Family Life Funeral Homes, 4951 S. M-129, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783, to help with the funeral costs.

Family Life Funeral Homes – Sault Ste. Marie assisted the family with arrangements.

Condolences may be left to the family at www.familylifefh.com.

MILLARD CLYDE IRWIN

Millard Clyde Irwin, 71, of Rudyard, Mich., passed away peacefully at home on Oct. 23, 2025.

He was born Jan. 12, 1954, in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., to Frank and Mildred (Holt) Irwin.

Millard was raised in Rudyard and graduated from Rudyard Area Schools with the Class of 1972. Following graduation, he served his country in the United States Navy. A true entrepreneur at heart, Millard built a successful career in construction, real estate, and hospitality, always approaching every endeavor with hard work, integrity, and determination.

Millard was a “salt of the earth” kind of guy. Though he carried a gruff exterior, those who knew him best understood his heart of gold. He spoke his mind, stood by his word, and loved his family deeply.

In his younger years, he was active in the Boy Scouts of

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America and served as an altar boy at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Rudyard. Millard loved the outdoors, hunting, boating, and anything that gave him a sense of freedom. Some of his fondest memories came from roughhousing with his brothers, known to many as “the Irwin Boys.”

He loved the open road and took every opportunity to ride, logging miles and memories across the country on his motorcycles, including the one he built from the ground up.

Millard is survived by his son, Jason Oberle of Sault Ste. Marie; granddaughter, Alyssa VerWiebe of Aspen, Colorado; siblings, Mitch (Jennifer) Irwin, Maury “Moe” (Angela) Irwin, and Mia (William) Wheeler; and sisters-in-law, Sara Irwin and Linda Irwin; he will also be deeply missed by his partner, Rachel Shields.

Millard was preceded in death by his parents, Frank and Mildred Irwin, and brothers, Michael Irwin and Malcolm “Manny” Irwin.

Honoring Millard’s wishes, no services are planned at this time. A celebration will be held for Millard in the spring of 2026.

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

JEAN ANN OMANS-NEAL

Jean Ann Omans-Neal, 86, of St. Louis, passed away June 21, 2025, at Riverside Healthcare Center. She was born Sept. 24, 1938, in Newberry, Mich., the oldest of nine children to Morris and Emma (Vincent) Trombley.



She worked at Wolverine Worldwide, Wilcox Nursing Home, and as a bus driver. Jean volunteered for the local American Red Cross Baby Pantry and enjoyed Mickey Mouse collectibles. Jean was a devoted wife, mother and grandmother. Her home was always open not only to family but anyone in need. Spending time with her loved ones was always her greatest joy.

Jean is survived by her children, Roberta (Rick) Taylor, Jay (Kathy) Omans, Bill (Michelle) Omans, and Wendy (Brad) Gill; son-in-law John Hudeck; 14 grandchildren; many great and great-great-grandchildren; her siblings, Myrna Nash, Linda Wilcox, Lynn Frazier, Lorraine Burgess, Rose Zeller, and Robert Trombley; and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her first husband, Jack Omans; second husband, Charles Neal; a daughter, Elizabeth Hudeck; a son, Raymond Omans; her parents and brothers Morris and Raymond Trombley.

Funeral services were held June 27, 2025, at Lux-Moody-Wolfel Funeral Home, in Alma. Interment will be at a later date in Pritchard Cemetery. Those desiring may make memorial contributions to the American Red Cross.

ELAINE ANN KOSECKI

Our loving mother and grandmother, Elaine Ann Kosecki, 100, passed away peacefully at home with her family by her side on Sunday, Sept. 28, 2025, in Beaverton, Mich.



Elaine was born Aug. 13, 1925, in DeTour, Mich., to the late Joseph Schmitz and Blanch (Lee). She spent her early years living at Whitefish Point in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula, where her father served as the lighthouse keeper; this was an experience that shaped her love for adventure.

Though she eventually left the U.P., it always held a special place in her heart.

On June 29, 1946, Elaine married the love of her life, John Kosecki, in Bay City. They shared many years together before his passing.

During World War II, Elaine proudly worked as a welder at Defoe Shipyard in Bay City. Later in life, She became part of St. Catherine of Siena Parish, where she remained a devoted member for many years.

Elaine had a sharp wit and a mischievous sense of humor. She was known as a bit of a stinker and loved to play pranks on those she loved. She especially enjoyed outings to the casino, frequenting the Standish Casino with her partner-in-crime and dear friend, the late Marie Rabideau. The two were always up to something and had a way of lighting up a room.

Beyond her fun-loving side, Elaine was a warm and loving soul. She enjoyed cooking and baking. She also enjoyed playing bingo and spending time with friends and family.

Elaine is survived by her children: Lynn Kosecki, Mary Lou (Bernie) Van Sumeren, Joanie (Bill) Wheeler, Dan (Debbie) Kosecki, Kevin Kosecki; ten grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Along with her husband John, Elaine was preceded in death by children: Carol Kosecki, Wayne Kosecki, Tammy Ruffalo, John Kosecki; and her two brothers and sister.

A Funeral Mass took place Friday, Oct. 3, 2025, at St. Catherine of Siena Parish. with Fr. Dale Orlik officiating.

A burial followed at St. Patrick Cemetery.

Funeral arrangements were entrusted to Ambrose Funeral Home. www.ambrosefuneral-chapel.com

JACQUELINE MARIE “ROBIN” LAVALLEE

As the waves of Lake Superior crashed upon the sand outside her window, and her husband John sat quietly next to her, Jacqueline Marie LaVallee, lovingly known as “Robin,” peacefully passed away at dawn on



Sunday, Sept. 14, 2025.

Robin was born Aug. 25, 1946, at home in St. Ignace, to Elliott Grondin and Ruby Hopkins Grondin. Her dad tagged her with the nickname “Robin” because “her mouth was always open like a baby bird.”

Robin started her own family in 1966, marrying Jimmy Vaughn and giving him a son, Todd, and daughter, Sonda. Robin and Jimmy were hardworking and ambitious taking over ownership and operating the Cobble Stone Restaurant, formerly owned and managed by Jimmy’s parents in St. Ignace.

Tragedy struck Robin and Sonda in 1980 with the loss of Jimmy and Todd in a car accident when Todd was just 14 years old. Robin continued on with the love and support of friends and family, especially her good friend, Betty Sorrels. She furthered her education at NMU, earning a bachelor’s degree and securing a teaching certificate. It was during this time that Robin met John. They were married in 1988 and began the adventure of a life together that would span 37 plus years. Robin began substitute teaching for Marquette Area Public Schools, Superior Central, and Deerton Onota School. She loved teaching, especially at the Deerton School, and had a wonderful way of connecting with and making children feel special. Being Native American and a proud member of the Chippewa Tribe, Robin grew up understanding and respecting the importance of nature and wildlife, learning to hunt and fish with her family and later found joy in teaching nephews, nieces and grandchildren. She had the good fortune of bagging the biggest bucks and was quick to let everyone know her buck was bigger than John’s buck.

Robin and John enjoyed boating on the Great Lakes, salmon fishing in Fairport and would bring along anyone willing to go. Even when she was no longer fishing, she would wait for phone calls, usually from her nephew, Curtis, and grandson, Jonathon, to get the latest fishing reports. She enjoyed living on Lake Superior with John, walking the beach and collecting rocks and beach glass. Robin invited everyone to “come and use the beach” during the beautiful summer months. She had a green thumb when it came to planting and growing flowers. Robin enjoyed cutting grass (better than John) with the riding lawnmower. She welcomed all who visited with a smile, a beer and chair on the screen porch. Holidays were special times celebrated with family feasting on turkey and homemade blueberry pie. Robin loved to cook and found pleasure in watching everyone eat the special meals she prepared. Fall brought smoking of whitefish and turkeys and eventual canning of smoked whitefish. You were special indeed if you earned a jar of canned whitefish and the recipe for whitefish dip! Visiting the casino with her good friend and neighbor, Cindy Elliott, was always a fun time as was rock picking and dune climbing in Grand Marais. Hunting season

with family and “buck reports” were always important to Robin as were truck rides with John in the woods.

Winters were spent in Crystal River, Fla., with good friends, the Elmhirsts, St. Onges, Perrys, Tatrows, Cooneys and Buzzos, where she enjoyed golfing, riding in her golf cart, visiting the tiki bar and eating shrimp at The Freezer. She loved having company visit, riding on the pontoon down the Crystal and Rainbow Rivers and showing everyone the manatees.

Robin held a special fondness for her nieces, nephews, grandchildren, great-nieces and nephews. She took the time to know them, know what was important in their lives and make them feel special. Whether it was streaming or attending basketball games, attending soccer and football games, turkey hunting, looking at deer pictures from the deer cam, getting a fishing report, playing cards or talking to them on the phone, she made every effort to be a part of their lives.

She and John also opened their home to family whenever needed, whether they were between jobs, succumbing to cancer, going to college or trying to stay sober. Robin knew the importance of family and valued them greatly. A quiet sadness settled over Robin when her daughter, Sonda, lost her battle with substance abuse in 2021, and passed at the age of 53.

Robin was preceded in death by her parents, Elliott and Ruby Grondin; first husband, Jimmy Vaughn; children, Todd and Sonda Vaughn; sister, Sandy Doud; sisters-in-law, Kathrine “Kitty” Grondin and Mary Minor Pizzala; brothers-in-law, Jack Minor, John “Jack” Thousand, Jim LaVallee and Gus Neverman; nephew, Curtis Grondin; and niece, La Taunya Paquin. Robin is survived by her husband of 37 years, John; brothers, Tony Grondin and Pat (Kathy) Grondin; brothers-in-law, Daryl Pizzala and Mike Doud; sisters-in-law, Anne Thousand, Jane Neverman and Shirley LaVallee; daughters, Julie (Chad Potvin) LaVallee and Amy (Rob) Goodson; grandchildren, Erica Paquette, Jonathon (Brianna) Goodson, Michael (Madison Parsley) Goodson, Tessa Pavia and Emily Pavia; great-granddaughter, Riley Goodson. Robin was also blessed with many nephews, nieces and great-nephews and nieces. She had a special close relationship with all. She is also survived by special friends, Betty Sorrels and Cindy Elliott. A special thank you to nurse, Stephanie, therapist, Wendy, friends, Joe and Diane Elmhirst. John and family are especially grateful to sister-in-law, Kathy Grondin and nephew, Derrick Grondin, who were blessedly able to care for Robin as her time of passing grew near. Kind support and assistance were also provided by U.P. Home Health and Hospice and Marquette Home Care.

A celebration of Robin’s life and Native American ceremony will be held in St. Ignace during the late spring of 2026.

Fassbender Swanson Hansen

Funeral and Cremation Services is assisting Robin’s family where memories and condolences may be shared at fassbenderswanson-hansen.com

ALLEN FRED MONGENE

Allen Fred Mongene, 74, of Brimley, Mich., died Sept. 7, 2025, at the Ball Hospice House in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. He was born Jan. 11, 1951, in Sault Ste. Marie to Fred and Virginia (Germain) Mongene.



Allen grew up in Raco, Mich., and was a proud graduate of Brimley High School. He dedicated over three decades of his life as a security guard at Bay Mills Casino in Brimley, where he served faithfully for 31 years.

Allen was a proud member of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

Known for his strong work ethic and dedication to his job, Allen was often described as a workaholic. However, in his younger years, he found joy in the outdoors, spending time hunting and fishing—activities that connected him deeply to the natural beauty of the region.

Allen is survived by his sons, Eric (Patricia) Mongene of Raco, Mich., and Lloyd (Lisa) Smith of Pennsylvania; grandchildren, Eric Allen Mongene, Eli Ezekiel Mongene, Ehan Everett Mongene; siblings, Elizabeth (Mike) Trimm, Donna (Jeff) Smith, Kenny Mongene, and Mark Vaser.

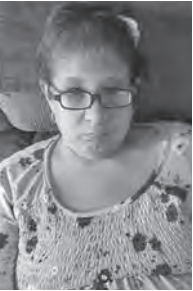
Allen was preceded in death by his wife, Sarah Mongene; and sister, Eleanor (Gene) Swartz.

Per Allen’s wishes there will be no service.

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

CASSIE LYNN MOSES

Cassie Lynn Moses, 42, of Engadine, Mich., died Monday afternoon Oct. 13, 2025 at Helen Newberry Joy Hospital. Cassie was born July 7, 1983 in



Manistique, Mich., daughter of Jacob and Diane (Selby) Moses. Cassie fought a 38-year battle with tumors but never let it affect her. She will be missed forever by all that knew her and will always be “Momma’s” baby girl.

Cassie never met anyone she didn’t like as she loved people deeply, having a strong relationship with God. Cassie was “personality plus” and had no problem speaking her mind, keeping on point every time. At times, Cassie was sassy but a sweet girl.

She loved Elvis Presley and could tell you everything about him, often debating with her Uncle Larry about Elvis’ history. Cassie enjoyed the shores of Lake Superior rock picking with

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her parents, swimming and “just being.” Her love for her brothers and sister was also apparent. Cassie was a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

Cassie is preceded in death, yet reunited, with her loving father, Jacob. She is also preceded in death by her paternal grandparents, Jonas and Helen (Calkins) Moses and maternal grandparents, George and Diane (Porter) Selby, special cousin/sister Joey Selby and aunt, Darlene Caswell.

She is survived by her loving mother, Diane, of Engadine; her siblings Jacob (Leona) Taylor of Grand Rapids, David (Missy) Selby of Portland and Nichole Moses of Grand Rapids; niece Malia Taylor of Grand Rapids and nephews Skyler (Rachel) Selby of Portland, Jordan (Allie) Selby of Charlotte and Micheal Banhagel of Grand Rapids; great nephews Barrett Jacob Selby of Portland and River Justin Selby of Charlotte; aunt Kathy (Guy) Ackley of Germfask; uncles Merlin Selby of Engadine, Robert (Kathy) Selby of Leslie, Curnell Selby of Saginaw, George (Vaughn) Selby of Leslie, Matt (Curlene) Moses of Idaho and Ernie (Sue) Moses of Newberry; special aunt Joby (Alan) Pastell of Curtis; special uncle Larry (Erica) Bash of Manchester; special cousins Pam (Frank) Lesatz and Gail Holbrook; special friends Penny Seiss of Garden City and Tammy (Mark) Stidman in addition to all the special people that loved Cassie throughout the years.

A gathering of family and friends took place on Oct. 17, at the Beaulieu Funeral Home in Newberry. Interment will take place at a later date at the Sandtown Cemetery.

Memorials may be directed to Diane Moses to assist with expenses.

Beaulieu Funeral Home in Newberry is assisting the family.

PHILIP JOHN EAMES

Philip John Eames, 63, of Kincheloe, Mich., passed away unexpectedly on Aug. 28, 2025. He was born in Seattle, Wash., on May 28, 1962, to Paul and Anne (Boucher) Eames.

He was a proud member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and very proud of his service to the United States Army.

Philip passionately gave 15-plus years of service to the City Of Grand Rapids, Mich., and 14 years to his tribe Chi Mukwa (Big Bear) arena in Sault Ste. Marie.

He was an avid Green Bay Packers fan, enjoyed fishing, collecting unique hats and would often be seen and heard enjoying LOUD music. Philip was the guy that would give the shirt off his back to anyone in need, known community wide for his generosity and giving nature.



Philip is survived by his loving wife, Wendy Eames (Huff) of 20 years. He was extremely proud of his sons Lynn (Jennifer) Huff of Jenison, Mich., and Josh (Martha) Huff of Sparta, Mich., as well as 10 wonderful grandchildren. Philip was also survived by his brother, David Eames, of Seattle, his sisters Linda Cook and Jane Cadreau, both of Kincheloe, Mich., Earlynn (Karen) Huff, Louise (Bob) Nelson, Fran Huff, Harold (Debbi) Huff, Cindy King, and Bob and Deb Talalay.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Paul and Anne Eames; sisters, Mary Eames and Priscilla Eames; brother, Paul Eames Jr.; father and mother-in-law, Lynn Harold and Bernice Huff; and brother-in-law, Leon Huff.

Philip John will be missed by many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. He will be remembered for his silly demeanor, smile and infectious laughter.

Per Philip’s wishes there will be no public funeral or ceremony. Baamapii.

RUTH FRANCISCO RAMSEY

Ruth Francisco Ramsey, 83, a resident of North Fort Myers, Fla., passed away Thursday, June 26, 2025, in Cape Coral, Fla. She was born July 16, 1941, in Guam to Antonio and Veronica Francisco, now deceased.

Ruth was a bus attendant for the Lee County School District for many years. She enjoyed gardening, playing Yahtzee and pool. She enjoyed singing and playing several different musical instruments as well as playing the piano for her church. Ruth was a champion at shooting marbles. She enjoyed playing and watching sports on tv. She loved her family.

She is survived by her loving husband of 61 years, Richard Ramsey; three children, Richard (Linda) Ramsey, Randall (Heather) Ramsey and Rebecca (Terry) Risch; seven grandchildren, Anthony, Richard (Hannah), Matthew, Cayla, Sierra, Shaylyn and Brannah; three great grandchildren, Emily, Chloe and JJ; siblings, Joseph, Lydia and Elizabeth (Mark); sister-in-law, Diana Sukta and Freda Francisco as well as many nieces and nephews.

Not only was Ruth preceded in death by her parents, but also three siblings, David, Danny and Esther; father-and mother-in -aws, Francis and Maude Ramsey; brothers-in-law, Wil Ramsey and John; and sisters-in-law, Berniece and Nancy.

A celebration of life was held Saturday, July 5, 2025, at Slater Bible Chapel, in North Fort Myers, Fla. Friends are invited to send condolences via the on-line guest book which can be found at www.MullinsMemorial.com.

Mullins Memorial Funeral Home & Cremation Service, Cape Coral, was entrusted with final care.



ALICE JOYCE RITCHIE

Alice Joyce Ritchie, 90, of Adrian, Mich., died Thursday, Oct. 30, 2025, in the care of Hospice of Lenawee. She was born Feb. 13, 1935, in Beaugrand Township, Mich., to Francis Nelson and Celina Catherine (Leask) Carpentier.

She married on Feb. 25, 1953, in Angola, Ind., to Clair Ritchie. They lived in Owosso, Mich., for many years, before moving to LaPorte, Ind., in the summer of 1971. In the summer of 1973 they moved to Adrian. They divorced in 1976.

Alice retired from RTI International Research Institute based in North Carolina.

Working for RTI, Alice was able travel all over the U.S., which she really enjoyed. While working for RTI, Alice was involved in various research studies for them. After retirement she spent many winters in St. Petersburg, Fla.

Alice lost her mother at age five and spent a number of years living with different relatives, which was difficult, but allowed her to learn a lot about her family history. She could tell you many details about her family heritage, and prided herself on that knowledge.

Alice was a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. She was very proud of her Indian heritage.

Alice was also a long-time member of Civitan of Lenawee, having just reaching 50 years this last year.

Alice is survived by four daughters, Michele Ritchie of Palmyra, Renee Ritchie-Gazarkiewicz of LaPorte, Ind., Rhonda (Steven) Ross of Adrian, and Lisa (The Late Mark) Kuhn of Macomb, Mich.; a son, William (Amy) Ritchie of Clayton; 12 grandchildren; several great-grandchildren; a sister, Theresa Florence Kraushaar, of Kalamazoo, Mich.; and many nieces and nephews.

Beside her parents she is preceded in death by six brothers and three sisters.

Cremation has taken place. Burial of cremains will take place in the spring Calvary Catholic Cemetery in Cheboygan, Mich. Memorial contributions may be made to Hospice of Lenawee.

Arrangements with Purse Funeral Home, www.PurseFuneralHome.com.

ROBERT “BOB” ALAN CORBIERE

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Robert “Bob” Alan Corbiere Sr., age 67, of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., died Oct. 29, 2025, at Hurley Medical Center in Flint, Mich., as a result of injuries received in a tragic



home accident. He was born Sept. 11, 1958, in Sault Ste. Marie, to Gordon and Connie Corbiere.

Bob grew up in Sault Ste. Marie and notably, Sugar Island, playing hockey for Sault Area High School and eventually moving on to earn a degree in diesel mechanics from Bay De Noc College. From there, Bob began working for the City of Sault Ste. Marie for over twenty years, and retired in 2009. After retirement, he returned to his passion and family legacy of being a dredge operator, like his father and grandfather before him. Bob was a member of Operators Union Local #324 for over 40 years.

Bob married his high school sweetheart, Jenise, and they had sons, Bobby and Jacque. They were married thirty-six years before her tragic passing in 2017.

The pair were well known for their avid outdoorsy lifestyle, from hunting to fishing they were rarely apart in all their married years.

As a widower, Bob enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren, often seen cheering on his grandson, Jace at hockey games, taking his granddaughter Audrie on hikes, and teaching his grandson Michael how to shoot a rifle.

Bob stayed active in his retired years, continuing to leave a legacy of hard work, integrity and respect throughout his community. Bob was known to be a friendly face and someone you could talk to. Bob was a good friend.

Bob is survived by his children, Bobby (James) Waldner of Vancouver, Wash., and Jacque (Katie) Corbiere of Sault Ste. Marie; grandchildren, Micheal Waldner, Audrie Waldner, and Jace Corbiere; siblings, Rick (Brenda) Corbiere of Sault Ste. Marie, Suzanne (Herbie) Roy of Coldwater, Ont., Jan (Bobby) Manning of Sault Ste. Marie, Karen Mitchell of Sault Ste. Marie, and Ray Corbiere of Sault Ste. Marie; and many nieces and nephews.

Bob was preceded in death by his wife, Jenise Corbiere; and parents, Gordon and Connie Corbiere.

A memorial gathering will be held on Nov. 13, 2025, from 4 to 6 p.m. at Family Life Funeral Homes, 4951 S. M-129, Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. The memorial service will begin at 6 p.m.

Family Life Funeral Homes – Sault Ste. Marie assisted the family with arrangements.

ROBERT DALE LANDREVILLE

Robert Dale Landreville, 67, of St. Ignace, Mich., passed away peacefully at Bay Human Services Portage Home in St. Ignace on Oct. 14, 2025, where he will be greatly missed by his friends. He was born Jan. 30, 1958, in Coldwater, Mich., to Claude and Alice (Homminga) Landreville.

Robert was raised in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., where he



grew up surrounded by family and community. He was known for his joyful spirit and ability to bring smiles to everyone around him. Robert’s favorite things in life were simple but brought him great happiness — enjoying pizza and diet coke, listening to music, dancing with his friends, and going for rides on sunny days.

He will be remembered for his kindness, cheerful personality, and the joy he shared with everyone who knew him.

Robert is survived by his siblings, Claude Landreville of Traverse City, Mich., Frank Landreville of Sault Ste. Marie, and Mary Tasker.

Robert was preceded in death by his parents, Claude and Alice; and brothers, Cordell Landreville, George Landreville, William Landreville, and Henry Landreville.

Robert’s final resting place will be at the Holy Family Catholic Cemetery, in Bruce Township.

A celebration of life was held Nov. 5, 2025, at Bay Human Services Portage Home, in St. Ignace, Mich.

Family Life Funeral Homes of Pickford, Mich., assisted the family with arrangements.

SHARON ANN MCCOY

Sharon “Sherry” Ann McCoy, Niibaa-biidaasigekwe, 70, of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., passed away Tuesday, Oct. 21, 2025, the night before her 71st birthday. Sherry was born on October 22, 1954, in Sault Ste. Marie to the late Kenneth and Helen (Gurnoe) McCoy.

Sherry was a strong spirited Anishinaabekwe. She was gifted with second sight and misunderstood by mainstream society. She was tough in the classical nature of being a McCoy and quick witted with delightful humor. Sherry was a beloved sister to nine siblings.

Sherry was a proud member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians in Bawating who belonged to Ziinzibaakwadoominising, Sugar Island.

The light of Sharon’s life was her dear son Kenneth Joseph McCoy. Sharon and Kenny shared a bond transcending life-times and grounded in the unconditional love characteristic of the true fruit of the spirit. Sunday breakfast with Kenny and her little brother, Mike, were the highlight of her week. She also loved and appreciated the kind women that took care of her at Oak Trail Assisted Living. In her final days, she left us with profound wisdom. She explained that the medicine one needs in life is family, love, understanding, respect, and water.

Sherry is survived by her siblings, Paul “Chip” McCoy, Michael (Kim) (Former Wife, *See “Walking on,” page 21*



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Judy) McCoy, Patrick (Betsy) McCoy; in-laws, Greg Spring, Tony Abramson; her gifted son, Kenny McCoy; and triple digits of nephews, nieces, great-nephews, and great-nieces as well.

Sherry is preceded in death by her parents, Kenneth and Helen; sisters, Jan Wojcik, Bonnie McCoy McKerchie Spring, Cathy “Tacky” Abramson, and Carol McCoy; and sister-in-law, Ruth McCoy.

Visitation was held Thursday, Oct. 23, 2025, at Mary Murray Culture Center, on Sugar Island, Mich. A traditional ceremony was held Oct. 24, 2025, at 1:30 p.m.

Sherry’s final resting place will be at Wilwalk Cemetery, on Sugar Island, Mich.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to Sherry’s funeral expenses.

Family Life Funeral Homes of Sault Ste. Marie assisted the family with arrangements.

JEAN M. WOODHALL



Jean M. Woodhall, 75, of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., passed away peacefully at her home surrounded by her family on Sept. 6, 2025. She was born Nov. 16, 1949, in Sault Ste. Marie to William and Ella (Kinser) Belanger.

Jean had a strong spiritual relationship with God and felt called to spread his word to everyone, young and old. She loved her family deeply and spent all of her time with them. She was truly a beautiful, loving, nurturing person that spread kindness, hope, and positivity to anyone she met. A word to often describe her was “special” because she made an impact on everyone’s lives, whether she knew them well or just met them. She will forever be loved and missed by her family, friends, and fur babies.

Jean is survived by her daughters, Tina Exford of Novi, Mich., Stacey Synett of Sault Ste. Marie, and Crystal Nichols of Novi. Grandchildren, Nicole Haddix, Rachel Heater, Kristy (Shane) Sanicome, Gia Hogan, Ashley Woodhall, David Woodhall, Bradley Haddix IV, Taylor (Steven) Frost, Jordan Synett, Darron Nichols, Justin Nichols, Jacob Nichols, and Dylan Nichols. Great-grandchildren, Ava, Rick, Nova, Micheal Heater, Hunter Heater, Xander Sanicome, Xaiden Sanicome, Aimee Sanicome, Tristan Woodhall, Tillie Horstrom, Grayson Woodhall, Connor Frost, Leo Frost, Rayna Frost, and Alexia. Siblings, Alice Valley of Sault Ste. Marie

and Phyllis Smith of Sault Ste. Marie. Nieces and nephews, Gerald (Susan) Belanger, David (Lisa) Belanger, James (Laura) Belanger, John (Erin) Belanger, William (Kari) Belanger, Michael (Michelle) Belanger, Jackie (Larry) Lannoo, Amanda Locke, and Travis Smith.

Jean was preceded in death by her parents, William and Ella; brothers, William Belanger and David Belanger; daughter, Lisa Woodhall; and grandson, Johnny Willett.

A celebration of life will be held in Sault Ste. Marie at a later date.

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

DIANE “DOTTIE” JEAN (LEONARD) ADAMS

Diane “Dottie” Jean (Leonard) Adams was born May 4, 1949, to Herman Louis and Beatrice Constance (King) Leonard.

She grew up in DeTour Village and graduated from DeTour High School with the class of 1967. She was a proud member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. Her given Indian name was Gaagikwe (porcupine woman).

After a long and tumultuous journey with Pancreatic cancer, Diane went peacefully back to the Creator on Oct. 6, 2025. She was 76 years old. Her caregivers, husband Mick, and sisters Sharon and Hermina (Sam) were with her to ease the path.

Dottie married Robert “Bob” Cronan (deceased 1989) of St. Ignace shortly after he returned home from Vietnam. They lived in St. Ignace for a short period of time then moved and settled in Wisconsin, then in Illinois.

Diane went to secretarial school in Wisconsin and later landed a job with Kenner Toy Company. While working as a secretary she crafted her skills in sales and joined Kenner’s sales team. Her time in the toy industry saw trends of Star Wars, Stretch Armstrong, Care Bears, Strawberry Shortcake, Batman, Superman, and Ninja Turtles. It also brought her opportunities for travel experiences around the U.S. and to Hong Kong. She ended her successful career as an independent saleswoman and retired in 2010.

Diane met the truest form of love in her life when she became reacquainted with her second husband Michael “Mick” Adams. They had much in common, they both grew up in DeTour, were classmates and graduated together. So, it was a foregone conclusion when they decided to return to DeTour to live out their retirement years entrenched in the close-knit

community near their families. Although Diane had no children of her own, she was blessed with inheriting them in her second marriage to Mick. Her passion and care for Cari, Jason (Chrissy) and her grandchildren, Allison and Ryan, were always a part of her joys shared in conversation. She also celebrated the bond and friendship with Jason and Carrie’s mother Paula, stating “she’s been a blessing.”

Diane lived an intentionally passionate and full life of loving and making the most of every moment. Her deepest friendships were within her family, and her safe place was with her sisters.

Every family member was a “favorite” to her. She soaked up the moments immersed in celebrating family life events and she always stepped up when there was a need for added support.

In particular, she was all in for annual family reunion camping weekends at Trout Lake. This was evidenced by the choice to join her life with Mick by marrying at one of the reunions on Aug. 2, 1997, with a great majority of their family members surrounding them. Diane and Mick celebrated twenty-eight years of marriage, and a life well lived together.

Dottie loved being near the water, working puzzles, playing scrabble, cards, or games with Mick or her sisters, watching a good movie, listening to books on tape, thrifting, making old things new or repurposing them, entertaining guests, celebrating any and all family life events, camp fires, watching for shooting stars, a good glass of dark red wine, or a rich cup of morning coffee, soups, bath soaks, sitting on their porch looking out over the harbor and shipping channel, and relaxing in her cozy bed. She enjoyed music from the 50’s, 60’s, 70’s, to include the Vietnam era, Gordon Lightfoot, Elvis, the Beatles, Neil Young, and Roy Orbison to name a few.... and dancing to all of it!

She lived through: the Korean War (1959), the Cuban Missile Crisis (1962), the assassination of John F. Kennedy, president (1963), the ending of segregation and the passing of the Civil Rights Act (1964), the first U.S. moon landing, with the Apollo 11 mission (1969), the Watergate scandal and resignation of President Richard Nixon (1970), the ending of the Vietnam War (1975), the demise of the Edmund Fitzgerald, which sank in a storm near Whitefish Point on Lake Superior (1975), the rise of personal computers (1980’s), the fall of the Berlin wall (1989), the dissolving of the Soviet Union, ending the Cold War (1991), the Gulf War (1991), the death of princess Diana of Wales (1997), the impeachment of President Bill Clinton (1998), the U.S. invasion of Iraq (2003), a global financial

crisis that led to a recession in the U.S. (2007-08), the rise of social media platforms (2010), the Paris Agreement to address climate change (2015), the Covid 19 pandemic (2020), the invasion of Ukraine by Russia (2022), the rise of the internet and digital technologies, out houses to indoor plumbing, black and white television to color, operated assisted telephones-to digital dial and push button-to cell phones, and much to her dismay the second election of Donald Trump as president. With all of these impactful global events, it was no wonder that she became very passionate about her convictions regarding the political climate in the United States.

Two of Diane’s greatest life passions were traveling and exploring new places and experiences with her life companion, Mick. Those adventures usually took place near large bodies of water which landed their winter stays on the Gulf and Atlantic Coastlines.

Other spirit-filling moments for her were times spent engaging with her sisters on “girls pajama party weekends” or celebrating each other on their birthdays. They had an immense bond with each other that included much laughter, also some tears, and many, many shared life stories.

One of the highlights in Dottie’s life was a tugboat that was built by her grandfather, Philo B. Leonard, in 1947. In this vein of her soul, she came across the wooden tug on a summer visit to her hometown. She garnered the purchase of the tug and had it hauled to the Waukegan Yacht Club back in Illinois, which she was a member of. With guidance and help, Dottie painstakingly refurbished the tug with the same heart and sweat that her grandfather had built it with. When the stripping of paint, caulking and sealing of seams, polishing of brass, several coats of new paint were completed, and mechanics of the engine were restored, the tug was then moored in a slip at the club during the summer months. The tug became her unofficial “cottage on the water”, where they spent many summer weekends. The tug was always a point of interest for by standers when it was either docked or taken out for a day trip on the shoreline of Lake Michigan. Dottie loved sharing the story of its history, which was so closely tied to her roots. The tug now has a new owner, is resting on a dry dock, and is displayed for viewing as a piece of local history at its original home in the village of DeTour.

While a member at the yacht club, Dottie continued to grow her diversity by learning to sail and becoming a member of a sailboat crew. During this time, she relished in the experiences of sailing in many of the Chicago to Mackinac races. She developed bonded friendships with her crew members, on the

race journeys, that took her back to family each year.

After Mick and Diane married they made their home in Lindenhurst, Ill. Diane continued her career in sales, and Mick worked as a teacher and basketball coach until they both retired.

Then, much like the tugboat going back to its origin, Diane and Mick moved back to the place of their humble beginnings in DeTour Village in 2011 to spend their remaining years by family.

After a few years of living on Diane’s family homestead property in DeTour, Mick and Dottie purchased the neighboring house next door to them. Working side by side they incorporated their unique creative touches to remodel and create their cherished retirement home. The end results of which gave Diane her favored views of the boat harbor and shipping lane, through her illness, from her bedroom, until her final breath on the evening of Oct. 6, 2025.

She is survived by her husband, Michael “Mick” Adams; her children and grandchildren by heart, Cari Adams, Jason (Chrissy) Adams, and Allison and Ryan Adams; siblings, Geraldine (James) Huyck, Leona (James) DeKeyser, Hermina (Randy) Tatrow, Philbert Leonard, Sharon (Richard) Socia; sister-in-law, Angela (George) Leonard; brothers-in-law, Brian (Cheryl) Adams, Scott (Ann) Adams; sister-in-law, Charlene (Russell) Fountain; as well as many beloved nieces, nephews, great nieces and nephews, and great-great nieces and nephews.

Diane was preceded in death by her parents, Herman and Beatrice; her first husband, Robert Cronan; mother and father-in-law, LeRoy and Rita (Jean) Adams; brother, George (Angela) Leonard; brothers-in-law, James (Geraldine) Huyck, Russell (Charlene) Fountain, and Jerry Adams; and nephews, Darryl DeKeyser and David Huyck.

Per Dottie’s wishes, no services will be held at this time.

Special thanks to Sharon (Leonard) Socia for her dedication of time, and for her care and support over these past six months of need.

Also, thank you to Hermina (Leonard) Tatrow for stepping in when needed, and for being here with her expertise in managing physical care towards the end of Diane’s life. You were both a blessing on this journey.

Her spirit, passion, and heart will be greatly missed, leaving a hole of grief for the loss of someone who left us to soon, and meant so much to so many.

Til we meet again, rest well Dottie. Love ~ Mick...and your entire family.

Family Life Funeral Homes of Pickford assisted the family with arrangements.

Improving food security for our tribal citizens



AUSTIN LOWES
TRIBAL CHAIRMAN

FEEDING AMERICA

I continue to coordinate the monthly Feeding America food distribution at the Big Bear in Sault Ste. Marie. With the government shutdown continuing to threaten SNAP (Bridge Card) benefits, which 1 in 8 Americans rely on, food distributions like this are more critical than ever.

Thanks to our dedicated volunteers, our Oct. 9 distribution provided over 11,000 pounds of food. The food that was provided included potatoes, squash, juice, plums, carrots, grapes, apples, ground turkey, and cereal. I am continuously humbled to see our community come together every month to ensure that no one goes hungry.

VENISON DRIVE

Improving food security for our tribal citizens remains a top priority. This fall, the Unit 1 board members dedicated a portion of their cultural enhancement funds to support a pilot venison drive. We have partnered with Mauer’s Little Meat Shop, the only state-licensed butcher in Sault Ste. Marie, to process up to 10 donated deer for our Unit 1 elders. Hunters wishing to contribute can schedule drop-offs directly with Mauer’s. Once processed, the tribe will pick

up the venison and distribute it to our elders at the Unit 1 elder meal site free of charge.

I was blessed to harvest an 8-point buck earlier this fall, which I donated to this program on Oct. 27. Venison is not only a healthy and traditional protein, but it’s also a symbol of Anishinaabe food sovereignty, cultural resilience, and our responsibility as hunters to provide for our people.

I want to thank Directors Mike McKerchie, Kim Gravelle, Robert McRorie, and Aaron Payment for supporting this effort. We hope to expand the program to additional units in the future. I’d be happy to help the other units establish similar drives if their board members are willing to allocate the necessary resources.

TRIBAL-STATE SUMMIT

On Oct. 10, I attended the annual Tribal-State Summit in Lansing with Governor Whitmer and her cabinet. This is an annual event where each tribe

in Michigan meets directly with the governor to address issues impacting Indian Country, followed by strategic discussions with state department directors and tribal liaisons.

I was joined by General Counsel Ryan Mills, EDC CEO Dan Doyle, Governmental CEO Jessica Dumback, and Director Aaron Payment. It was a productive day of collaboration, and we remain committed to strengthening our government-to-government relationship with the state of Michigan.

UNITED TRIBES OF MICHIGAN

On Oct. 16, I participated in the quarterly United Tribes of Michigan (UTM) meeting. UTM is an intertribal coalition comprised of the chairpersons from each of the 12 federally recognized tribes in Michigan. Lt. Governor Garlin Gilchrist attended



Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and Chairman Lowes at the Tribal-State Summit Oct. 10.

A Message from our Chairman



U.S. Representative Haley Stevens visited the tribe’s health center in Sault Ste. Marie Oct. 31. Above are Dentist David Drockton, Chairman Austin Lowes, Director Isaac McKechnie, and Rep. Stevens (L-R).

this meeting as well, and he talked about his commitment to the Michigan tribes.

For the past two years, I have served as UTM President. At this meeting, I was unanimously re-appointed to continue in this role for an additional two-year term. It is a tremendous honor to be trusted by fellow tribal leaders to guide this body as we work together for the betterment of Indian country.

MSU GUEST LECTURE

On Oct. 28, I had the privilege of returning to Michigan State University’s School of Social Work — where I earned my master’s in Clinical Social Work — to give a guest lecture. I presented on the macro-level social work initiatives our tribe has advanced during my chairmanship, including:

Housing security — Trailer Replacement Program and Homeless Shelter (Lodge of Hope)

Substance abuse support — Medication Assisted Treatment Program (The Healing Place) and AA, NA, and Wellbriety meeting space (Shedawin Haven)

Food sovereignty — Feeding America distributions, venison drive, and bison distributions

Post Natal Service — RX Kids investment (stats show near 100% utilization by those eligible).

None of these accomplishments would be possible without our dedicated staff. I am consistently inspired by their commitment to our community.

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE HALEY STEVENS

The Sault Tribe continues to build relationships with elected leaders from both political parties who are committed to supporting tribal sovereignty. On Oct. 31, U.S. Representative Haley Stevens, a 2026 U.S. Senate candidate, visited our health center to meet with tribal leadership.

Directors Payment, McKerchie, McKechnie and I — along with Clinic Manager Carrie Rogers and Health Division CEO James Benko — discussed the impacts of the shutdown and recent federal policies on tribal healthcare. We will continue to work with leaders who honor their trust and treaty

obligations to sovereign tribal nations.

ECONOMIC FUTURES CONFERENCE

From Nov. 4–7, I attended the Economic Futures Conference with our Natural Resource Division. This conference was an Indigenous-led gathering focused on economic prosperity, climate adaptation, and environmental protection. This opportunity was 100% grant-funded — including travel, meals, lodging, and airfare — so the tribe incurred no cost. With an unbalanced budget, it is essential that tribal leaders model fiscal responsibility wherever possible.

OBELISK REMOVAL

On Nov. 4, the long-awaited removal of the Brady Park obelisk took place. This monument was built on a Native burial ground to celebrate the construction of the Soo Locks, which was an act that disrespected the people who were laid to rest there.

For more than two decades, Sault Tribe and Bay Mills Indian Community have worked tirelessly to right this wrong. I am deeply grateful for the dedication of our internal team, consisting of hard work from Emma Donmyer and Cecil Pavlat. I am also deeply appreciative the work that Bay Mills has put into this over the years. This is a long-overdue victory for our ancestors.

MOVING FORWARD

Chi miigwech to everyone who continues to support these efforts. That includes our staff, volunteers, board members, and community partners who show every day what it means to put our people first. It is an honor to serve as your chairman and to work together toward a healthier, stronger, more sovereign future for the Sault Tribe. Please continue to reach out with your ideas, feedback, or concerns. We are at our best when we move forward together.



Chairman Lowes with Lt. Gov. Garlin Gilchrist at Oct. 16’s UTM meeting.

Kids’ Christmas parties and a Unit V update



TYLER LAPLAUNT
DIRECTOR, UNIT V

Aanii, Boozhoo,
As the leaves change and slowly begin to fall and blanket Nimaamaa Aki (Mother Earth) to protect her and keep her warm for the winter, we too as a people undergo constant change. The seasons up here can help us stay in balance if we stay attuned and practice some of our cultural and traditional ways. It’s never too late to begin to learn and practice. If you’re too busy, make time, or your body will eventually make you make time.

With that, I’d like to send a chi miigwech out to TJ Derwin and his family for everything they have done for our community. Recently, they hosted a sweat out at their own house to allow us to reset and find our balance. I am so thankful for being invited to attend and participate.

I’ll be honest, the busy nature of life almost got the best of me, and I wanted to stay home, but I also knew that I was at a tipping point and it was far past time for me to attend ceremony, sweat, and pray. I am so thankful to have had this opportunity and to have a community that we know we can fall back on in times of distress. You all have built a beautiful community and I am so proud of each and every one of you.

ENROLLMENT UPDATE

As of Oct. 31, 2025, there are 5,363 adult applications entered into the tracking system. A total of 201 adult applications have been denied and 3,415 new members have been enrolled, including children. The total membership in the tribe is currently 52,615. We appreciate all of your patience during this process.

HOUSING UPDATE: MUNISING

The Munising Tiny Home Pilot Project is ready to open its doors and I hope it happens before the heavy snow falls to get people into much needed homes. There will be an open house on Wednesday, Nov. 12, from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Wetmore reservation. This will allow folks to take a look at the highly anticipated new models and see what it’s all about.

With the new homes going online, I’ve been fielding quite a few questions. The application process will be the same as the reservation through the Housing Division and the point system will be used. These homes will be income based and selections

will be made solely by Housing.
CULTURAL ACTIVITIES UPDATE

We have an exciting last minute announcement. James Vukelich will be making his way through the UP in November and it sounds like we may be able to lock him in for a last-minute talk in the Munising and Marquette areas. I am working on solidifying some dates. As soon as we lock something in, we will post on social media and the tribe’s website.

We have again partnered with NMU Native American Student Association (NASA) to host the Marquette Unit 5 powwow. Last year we were able to strengthen our partnership by bringing in KBIC. This year, we continue to strengthen our partnerships in culture, tradition, and prayer by bringing in BMIC, as well.

These partnerships are not only important to our students, but all of us as a people. Standing together in our shared beliefs and customs is one of the most powerful statements we can make. I am so proud and excited to see this partnership continue to grow, and hope to reach out for an all UP powwow with the NMU NASA this time next year.

The Learning to Walk Together Powwow will be held at the Northern Center at NMU on Dec. 6. Grand entries will be held at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. with a feast to happen at 5 p.m. This event is free to everyone. Our lineup of head staff is solid and was done in partnership with the three tribes and the students, and we have tons of amazing vendors. I hope to see everyone there!

A majority of our craft supplies are in for the first round of sewing events at both the Marquette and Munising Community Centers. Now, we just need to identify times and dates that work for our teachers in each of the communities, and we will get a registration sheet online as soon as we are able. It sounds like a few more of our community members are stepping up to host some classes, so we might have a pretty nice winter and spring schedule of teachings coming to Unit 5.

Finally, I want to thank all of our people who helped put on ghost feasts in both Munising and Marquette towards the end of October. They were both beautiful ceremonies and I’m thankful to have had the opportunity to attend both occasions. As we continue to bring back this important ceremony, we will work to provide more education around the topic to bring even more people together to share in their loved ones memories and pray in a good way. I look forward to this continued growth.

ADVOCACY

With the government shutdown, there hasn’t been much progress on the advocacy front. Needless to say, we are still working as a tribe to stay on top of issues as they arise, monitor our funding sources, and ensure

that our tribe continues to operate at full capacity in case of any delays.

Once the government reopens, I have been invited to an IHS 70 years of service celebration in Washington, D.C., which I do plan to attend. These types of events are a great opportunity for us to continue to build relationships with the federal government and the programs we work with.

We are hopeful that the government will come to an agreement and the shutdown will end before people really begin to feel the impact. Our tribe is monitoring all policy implications and funding mechanisms as the shutdown looms on. It’s scary out there for a lot of people right now and we don’t want to see any of our members suffering.

Within the tribe, I have put a resolution on the agenda for the Nov. 4 meeting to expand our Purchased/Referred Care Delivery Areas (PRCDA) to Emmet and Cheboygan counties so that we may continue to move with expansion of our health services. This is just an application, but if approved by HHS, we will be able to count these members in our user population and authorize our purchase referred care in this population. Once the application is submitted, it’s our jobs as elected leaders to try to run with it through the finish line.

This is a small step in the right direction as we have the largest tribe east of the Mississippi and our healthcare is a treaty right.

CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS PARTIES

Munising
The Munising Children’s Christmas Party will be held on Saturday, Dec. 13 from 12 - 2 p.m. at the Munising Tribal Health Community Center. Jennifer Meyer has graciously volunteered to lead the way for this one again. Children must be registered in advance to guarantee gifts. (See the flyer on this page.) Chi miigwech for being such an amazing community advocate and volunteer, Jennifer. The Teal Lake Singers will be making an appearance as well.

MARQUETTE
The Marquette County Unit’s 4/5 Children’s Christmas Party will be held on Sunday, Dec. 14 from 12 to 3 p.m. at the Marquette Tribal Community Center. Rose Larson and Cyndi Hanson have graciously volunteered to lead the way this year. Children must be registered in advance to guarantee gifts. (See the event flyer on this page to register.) Teal Lake Singers will be making an appearance as well.

ELDERS
The next Munising Elder meeting and meal will be held on Thursday, Dec. 4 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Munising Tribal Health Center Community Room. If you are an elder age 60-plus and living in Unit 5, you are welcome to

*Come celebrate the Sault Tribe
Children’s Christmas Party
Saturday, December 13th
12:00 to 2:00
Munising Tribal Health Center
M-28, Munising, MI
To sign up, TEXT:
Full Name, Age and Gender of
Child
To 906-450-5246
Sign up before November 24th
Ages Birth to 18 years old*

Marquette County Unit 4/5
**Children’s Christmas
Party**
Sunday, Dec. 14
12 – 3 p.m.
Marquette Tribal Community Center
204 Cherry Creek Road, Harvey, Mich.
Must RSVP by Wed, Dec. 10,
to Marquette Tribal Center; (906) 225-1616

Gifts for school
age children
up to 18

Pizza &
Traditional
Drumming!

show up and attend. New faces are always welcome.

The next Marquette Elder meeting and meal will be held on Thursday, Dec. 4, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the newly renovated Marquette Tribal Community Center at 204 Cherry Creek Road in Harvey. This will now be the permanent home of the Marquette elder meetings and meals. Congratulations! If you are an elder ages 60-plus residing in Units 4 or 5 in the Marquette County area, you are welcome to show up and attend. New faces are always welcome.

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

Chi Miigwech,
Tyler Migizii Migwan
LaPlaut
Unit 5 Director/Vice-Chairman
tlaplaunt@saulttribe.net
(906) 440-8294

**Elder Christmas
celebrations**

Please call Elder Services
(906) 635-4971 to RSVP.

Unit 5 Munising:
Thursday, Dec.18 at noon,
Munising Tribal Health Center
Community Room.

Unit 4/5 Marquette Area:
Thursday, Dec. 4, Marquette
Community Center, meeting at
5 p.m. with a meal to follow,
RSVP by Nov. 20.

Global Gaming Expo was a worthwhile trip



BRIDGETT SORENSON,
DIRECTOR, UNIT III

On Oct. 5-10, I was in Las Vegas for the G2E (Global Gaming Expo) conference. Sunday and Friday are travel days. Monday through Wednesday there are education sessions 9 a.m.-4 p.m., with each session being 50 minutes. We do get almost an hour and a half for lunch on our own. On Thursday, I attended the expo from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Staff and myself met with slot vendors Ainsworth, Interblock and Aristocrat.

On Monday at 4 p.m. I also attended a tribute, “Remembering Chairman Ernie Stevens Jr.” He was a member of the Oneida Nation of Wisconsin and was the chair of the Indian Gaming Association for more than two decades. It was a great tribute to a great man who was a true leader, not just for his tribe but for all of Indian country. I met him a few years ago at this conference

and he offered to come out any time to our tribe. He was a strong supporter of gaming providing economics to tribal nations.

I have been to this conference annually since 2021. The first year, many of us attended because we were also meeting with Wynn to launch our online gaming arm. I attend for a few reasons, such as, being a board member means we are the Kewadin Gaming Authority, a member of the Gaming Commission and I worked for casino administration before being elected. Some try to politicize the conference because it is held in Las Vegas. Many conferences are held in big cities like this and what better city for a gaming conference.

I enjoy the education sessions more than the expo. This is where you learn what others are doing and what issues they are facing. This year, there was many discussions on AI (Artificial Intelligence) by optimizing the gaming floor using the data to provide a better experience for our customers.

Loyalty with customers and team members with communication and involvement. How millennials want experiences and 80% of them want the non-gaming features. Casinos need to provide other options to attract this group such as events, social experiences and using their cameras. They like rewards similar to Starbucks-stars program.

Many casinos are also using influencers to promote their facilities and events. One of the ladies

out there is paid \$200 per hour to do this. Micro-influencers are people with at least 10,000 followers and a mega-influencer has more than 1 million.

Threats of sweepstakes in states that came in while tribes were planning sports betting. These sweepstakes are illegal and unregulated. It is basically like Class II gaming that courts are arguing a hole that it’s not gambling.

This was the 25th anniversary of this conference. Of course, at night we go sightseeing to other casinos. I am not much of a drinker or gambler, but I like to learn and see things.

At the Oct. 14 board meeting, we voted on many grants for the Natural Resource Department, appointed Dell Powers as a delegate for the Michigan Indian Elders Association, approved an agreement with Mackinac County to provide salt to the roads for the Hessel and St. Ignace Casino, eliminated some outdated HR policies, did some land leases and approved some right away for the BIA for roads and utilities for the St. Ignace Savard Housing Project. There was a resolution for the chair and board travel that was tabled to the next workshop.

At the Oct. 21 meeting, the board approved sanitation funding from IHS for \$300,000 for wells and septic, which new construction is the IHS priority, approved funding to the tribe’s emergency assistance program (homelessness and medical travel outside service area) through ACFS, passed a resolution to hire a dental hygienist in St. Ignace and provide some step increases, passed a resolution to fund the new Marquette Health Center, approving a tribal license plate program for members in the service area, approving publishing quarterly travel of the board and chair, and appraising the Sibley property that was supposed to be our downstate casino.

The board also did a tour of

the Black Rock Bar and Grill in the Soo casino. This will also have a food court. The construction should be done very soon and then they will begin training staff and preparing to open hopefully in December or so.

On Oct. 22, many departments presented to the board and membership on their programs. Many great Power Points and information was provided and recorded for members to watch when they can.

On Oct. 25, we had our first community ghost feast in St. Ignace at the McCann School. We had lots of great food. Chi Miigwech to those that came and our cooks and preparers, Sue, Patti, Veronica, our firekeeper Bill, and Russ for his wise words. Thanks to John for making sure we had everything for the building, and the AA group for setting up the tables and chairs.

On Oct. 27, the Housing Commission had its monthly meeting and then met with the board in the afternoon for updates on ARPA projects, funding sources, future developments and overall department concerns. We will all be meeting again in February. The Housing Commission meetings are open to residents that may want to discuss concerns with us as well. Meetings are generally the fourth Monday of the month at 10 a.m.

On Oct. 30, there were Casino CFO interviews. More interviews will be happening in early November. This is will be the last executive position to be filled.

Also, on the morning of Oct. 30, myself and my co-workers did a trick or treat with the Sault Tribe Head Start Class. We had a great time with the 12 students.

I will be attending the NCAI (National Congress of American Indians) conference in Seattle on Nov. 16-21. I have attended a few of these conferences over the years and will be reporting on it in the next tribal paper.

A reminder that the Unit 1,

2 and 3 holiday elder meal with take place in the Soo on Dec. 9. Please contact Elder Services for reservations and transportation arrangements, (906) 635-4971.

Unit 3 is having crafting nights with Midge and Sue on the second and fourth Tuesdays at the McCann School from 5 p.m. until done. These are drop in sessions open to tribal families.

The Wequayoc Cemetery Committee is hosting the Veteran Flag Ceremony on Nov. 11 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Flags will be removed and wreaths will be put on and then a potluck will take place.

Many people are inquiring about tribal enrollment application status. As of Oct. 31, there are 5,363 applications in. They have denied 210 applicants. They have enrolled 3,415 people, which gives us a total membership of 52,615. I know many people are still waiting but please try to have patience with staff as they review information.

Unit 3 has a new cultural coordinator, Caden Colegrove. She is from St. Ignace and will be organizing cultural activities in the area.

I have gotten many calls about the survey on the one, two, or three branch government. I had asked Legal to provide the pros and cons for each option so that members could decide on their own. I did not campaign one way or another but did respond when asked. I do not think it is necessary to blast our opinion on social media campaigning for some that may have a self-interest in the outcome. These people never cease to amaze me. The next election cycle has started earlier than I ever remember it.

Happy Thanksgiving to everyone and if you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at bsorenson@saulttribe.net, bridgett91@yahoo.com, or (906) 430-0536. Continued prayers to the McCoy family as they have lost two members in two weeks.

Unit 3 elders enjoyed day trip



SHAWN BOROWICZ,
DIRECTOR, UNIT III

Boozhoo,

Good day, fellow tribal members, hope this report finds you all well. We as a board are finishing up year end projects and financials and if you have heard any rumors about the tribe’s financial status, ask a board member and don’t give in to rumors. It’s not as bad as the rumors going around.

In Unit 3, our housing project is still moving forward; the trees were all harvested on the property. Down the road at our other property that adjoins the city, the underground utilities are being installed and routed to the proposed building sites. When this is completed, the individual lots and roads will be surveyed out and staked so the internal infrastruc-

ture can be installed. We continue to meet with Housing and the engineers to keep this project moving forward.

The Unit 3 elders were recently taken on another road trip to visit the Gaylord Elk farm, treats and coffee at Cops and Donuts, a visit to Jays Sporting Goods and a color tour on our way back to St. Ignace. It was a wonderful fun-filled afternoon.

The Shores casino recently had its side-by-side raffle that has been ongoing since August. It was a large turnout for the raffle and although we haven’t gotten the figures as yet, I believe it was a huge revenue generating venture for our casino. We need to do more of these types of ventures to continue to make our properties worthwhile to visit to keep competing in this type of market. The Sault Casino will soon be opening the new Black Rock Restaurant and three mini delis in the same area. This should draw new and continued customers for some fine dining and if this goes well we need to do similar to our other properties.

Hunting season is upon us, so please be careful and good luck in your harvest.

Respectfully,

Shawn Borowicz, sborowicz@saulttribe.net, (906) 430-7612 or (906) 379-8511

NRD working on black tern, mud puppy needs



KIM GRAVELLE,
DIRECTOR, UNIT I

Aaniin,

I would like to congratulate Danielle Fegan on her acceptance as the Natural Resource Director. Her department has been working on some of the following issues facing our tribe.

One project is to address the

conservation needs of the Black Tern and Mud Puppy species within the USFWS (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) Straits of Mackinac Area and the St. Mary’s River over a two-year period. This initiative will create tangible improvements while setting the stage for long term success through an adaptive management approach. The goal is to support these species’ preservation and recovery by contributing to the health of the St. Mary’s River and its ecosystems for future generations.

In addition to the recovery of the Black Tern and Mud Puppy Project, the Natural Resource Department Wildlife Program is still carrying on the surveillance and management of invasive species in the lower St. Mary’s River. They are working to understand the response to invasive species (on i.e. marsh birds and waterfowl) while also continuing their

work to find and identify priority locations for the restoration of manoomin (wild rice) in the St. Mary’s River Basin.

If community members are interested in more information on any ongoing projects, they can check for updates on Instagram and Facebook - Seventh Generation Principle (@seventh-generationprinciple). They also welcome community members to see firsthand what their department is responsible for.

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

Please feel free to call me at (906) 259-3742 or email at kkgavelle@saulttribe.net. Please leave a message and I will return your call.

Miigwech, Kim Gravelle

Winter approaching soon — Unit 4 update



LARRY BARBEAU,
DIRECTOR, UNIT IV

Aaniin,
The fall has been an extremely busy and productive season for our unit and myself. Fishing is slowly winding down but keeping me very busy. Fall colors are still all across the U.P. and the weather has been nice so get out and enjoy it while you can because

winter is approaching.

Upcoming Meetings and Important Dates

We have many meetings coming up in the month of November, including board workshops and meetings, JKLFC meetings, Enterprise Authority meetings, etc. The board continues to work on ways to increase transparency for our members for all of these meetings.

Nov. 4, 2025 – Board workshop/JKLFC meeting at 9 a.m. and the board meeting starting at 5 p.m. in the Whitefish Point Room at Kewadin Casinos, Sault Ste. Marie.

Nov. 11, 2025 – Happy Veterans Day – thank you to all those who have served!

Nov. 14, 2025 – Constitutional Survey Results at 5 p.m. in the Theater at Kewadin Casinos, Sault Ste. Marie.

Nov. 18, 2025 – Board work-

shop at 10 a.m. and the Board meeting starting at 5 p.m. at the Hessel Community Center.

Nov. 25, 2025 – Board workshop at 10 a.m. in the Whitefish Point Room at Kewadin Casinos, Sault Ste. Maire.

Nov. 27, 2025 – Happy Thanksgiving everyone – hope you all have a wonderful Holiday surrounded by family and friends.

REMINDERS:

Commercial Fishing Licenses – Lake Superior

Two commercial fishing licenses are currently available for Lake Superior. Interested parties must meet eligibility requirements and submit completed applications to Sault Tribe Law Enforcement. This rare opportunity supports ongoing efforts to practice our fishing treaty rights. For application details or further information, contact Sault Tribe Law Enforcement at (906) 635-

6065 or visit the Sault Tribe’s website.

Government Branch Survey – Members Engagement Encouraged

A new survey comparing a 2- and 3-branch models of government has been distributed to all tribal members. Members are encouraged to complete the survey and send it back out as soon as they get them.

Niiwin Noodin Pow Wow

SAVE THE DATE for the 2026 Niiwin Noodin Pow Wow, scheduled for June 6, 2026.

Unit 4 Elder Meetings

We encourage all tribal elders to attend the elder meetings. The next meeting in Manistique will be held Nov. 12, 2025, at 12 p.m. EST at the Manistique Tribal Center. The next meeting in Escanaba will be held Nov. 12, 2025, at 4 p.m. EST at the Escanaba Community Center.

Looking Forward

The Manistique Elders Christmas Party will be held Dec. 4, 2025, at 5 p.m. EST at the Manistique Tribal Center. The Escanaba Elders Christmas Party will be held Dec. 10, 2025, at 5 p.m. EST at the Island Resort and Casino.

Unit 4 Children’s Christmas parties will be scheduled and posted soon. Keep your eyes open for additional information.

I want to give my sincere thanks for trusting in me to represent Unit 4 members and the Sault Tribe. I am always available for questions, comments, and ideas for growth. I encourage members to participate in any and all activities/events occurring throughout Sault Tribe.

Contact information: Larry Barbeau, Unit 4 Representative. Phone (906) 259-3040, Email lbarbeau@saulttribe.net.

Director Hampton reporting on October’s work



KIMBERLY HAMPTON,
DIRECTOR, UNIT IV

Aniin kina waya, and welcome to fall and soon winter. November came out of nowhere as did Daylight Savings Time and the brisk weather. Just a reminder to explore assistance programs that are available as we move into the cold months.

Over the last month I have been busy with the following:

Week of Oct. 6, I traveled to Las Vegas to attend the G2E

Gaming Conference.

Oct. 14, I attended the JKL Fiduciary Committee meeting, board workshop and board meeting.

Oct. 20, attended the Conservation Committee meeting.

Oct. 21, participated in a membership services presentation with all departments.

Oct. 27, participated in an update meeting and strategic planning session with Sault Tribe Housing Authority.

Oct. 28, attended board workshop.

Oct. 29, met with the CEO and CFO of Schoolcraft Memorial Hospital to explore how we can strengthen our partnership.

Oct. 30, attended some of the Kewadin CFO interviews.

Reminders

Niiwin Noodin Pow Wow

SAVE THE DATE for the 2026 Niiwin Noodin Pow Wow, which has been scheduled for June 6, 2026.

I encourage everyone to “like”

the Niiwin Noodin Pow Wow Facebook page to keep updated on events.

Unit 4 Elder Meetings

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

The next meeting in Manistique will be held Dec. 4, 2025, at 5 p.m. EST at the Manistique Tribal Center and will be the Elder Holiday Party and Meal. Please RSVP by Nov. 20 by calling (906) 635-4971.

The next meeting in Escanaba will be held Dec. 10, 2025, at 5 p.m. EST at the Island Resort and Casino and will be the Elder Holiday Party and Meal. If you plan to attend, please RSVP by Nov. 19 by calling (906) 635-4971.

Feeding America Schedule

Wednesday, Nov. 12, 2025: 10 a.m. CST Dickinson County (Drive Thru), Redemption Hill Church, 332 S Carpenter Ave, Kingsford, MI 49802

Thursday, Nov. 13, 2025: 10 a.m. EST Marquette County (Drive Thru), Silver Creek Thrift Store, 219 Silver Creed Road, Marquette, MI 49855

Wednesday, Nov. 19, 2025: 10 a.m. EST Delta County (Drive Thru), Salvation Army Escanaba, 3001 5th Ave S, Escanaba, MI 49829

Wednesday, Nov. 19, 2025: 12 p.m. EST Marquette County (Drive Thru), NMU Berry Events Center, 1401 Presque Isle, Marquette, MI 49855

Wednesday, Dec. 3, 2025: 10 a.m. EST Schoolcraft County (Drive Thru), Schoolcraft Memorial Hospital, 7870 West US-2, Manistique, MI 49854

Looking Forward

Niiwin Noodin Pow Wow planning sessions will resume after the New Year.

Some additional adventures being worked on are as follows: obtaining additional permission to access land for traditional ceremonies, building accessible lodges throughout Unit 4, growing the

Niiwin Noodin Pow Wow volunteer crew, expanding the Unit 4 elder subcommittee groups and their outings, and more. Updates to these and additional projects will be provided as able.

Katchup with Kim, Maamawi Craft Nights and Office Hours will be resuming this fall and winter since the business of spring and summer are behind us; watch for schedules.

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

My contact information is below:

Kimberly Hampton, Unit 4 Representative. Phone (906) 440-8138. Email is khampton@sault-tribe.net.

Our tribe can weather the shutdown storm



MICHAEL MCKERCHIE,
DIRECTOR, UNIT I

Good luck to all the hunters this month. As many of us prepare to hunt, I’m reminded of how powerful a lie can be regarding wolves. I’m sure many of us have heard how “bad” wolves are and how they’ve attacked everything from pets to farm animals, but what if you found out

many of those stories are simply untrue? Several news articles that ran wolf attack stories have later retracted their statements and were based on lies. Wolf attacks are very rare and most always involve dogs wandering into their territories. Wolves have changed deer behavior and you may see less deer but the deer are still there. The wolf “lie” is powerful though, it remains. Hunters see less activity so it must be the “wolves” killing off all the deer, when in fact in most areas of Michigan deer populations are up.

I’ve seen a difference in the amount of deer I see where I hunt. But I also have heard from our numerous biologists, field techs, and those in our wildlife programs to know that they are there, I’m just not seeing them because their patterns have shifted. I bring this up because it is nearly impossible to try and convince someone who has heard the

lies and have seen the “decline” with their own eyes. Once the lies are out there and people believe them, it’s a difficult task to show them facts that don’t support what they believe. Michigan has a healthy deer population that can and has co-existed with wolves. Reports from biologists in Michigan confirm this with data, yet the lie persists and probably always will. This time of year always make me think of the “wolf problem,” that and election season is right around the corner. Some campaigning has already begun and some campaigning feels like it never ended.

We’re currently in a federal government shut down that ultimately will affect our tribe through its many grants and agreements. None of the funds we receive from the federal government are “hand-outs,” as many are treaty obligations that are greatly underfunded for what was promised and agreed to. The

federal government should have to maintain those treaty obligations regardless of a shutdown but unfortunately many of those funds coming in are dependent on Congress passing budgets. Our tribe is in a position to weather this storm and I’m glad we have funds to draw from but am concerned for our future.

Our board continues to meet with our executives and directors in formulating plans to try and balance our budget, and maintain member services, while trying to cover costs on recent expansions and look at other ways to diversify our economy. It’s a balancing act and we will continue to come up with solutions to ensure our tribe succeeds. We have many great achievements but we also need to tighten the belt and ensure we can cover the costs of maintaining the operating costs of all of our services. I will continue to update the membership on these ongoing issues.

As a reminder, Unit 1 directors continue to host monthly membership meetings; you can go in-person or join online. We will do a better job at advertising the meeting so more members can show up — I hope to see you there. As always, I urge members to join a committee, attend events when you can, and get both sides of a any story you hear.

Please reach out to me to discuss issues. I can be reached at (906) 440-7768. Chi Miigwech.

Moving?

Don't miss one issue of Win Awenen Nisitotung! To keep up your subscription, email Sherrie Lucas at slucas@sault-tribe.net with your new address when you move.

National level MMIP work to protect our people



AARON PAYMENT
DIRECTOR, UNIT I

Those who know of my work realize I am passionate about the MMIP Crisis. As a former endangered runaway from age 16 to 18, I am especially focused on protecting our tribal youth. While I am grateful I was not exploited during this time, one in six missing youth are within 2 to 48 hours. There is so much work to do here with improving reporting and articulating MMIP Tribal Community Response Plans. As your former chairperson and current tribal council member, I have played a key role here and wish to share what I have learned with all tribal nations to improve their efforts. After all, we are all related.

I am excited to share my appointment in 2025 and extension into 2026 as the Tribal Nations Fellow for the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC). This fellowship is part time (12 hours a week) given my primary role and full time responsibility is as tribal board member.

As the third such fellow, my focus has been on inter-tribal relations and affirmative tribal use of the free resources NCMEC

provides to tribes including: extensive investigative checklists and local logistical support when a child goes missing and when tribal law enforcement invites us in. The NCMEC shares advanced forensic services to support investigations, Team Adam support and tie-ins to Amber Alerts, multi-media and missing persons poster alerts including age progression expertise, initial intakes and caring case management, behavioral health support and Team Hope survivors’ support.

For more information on the services the NCMEC provides, please check out the NCMEC website: <https://www.missingkids.org/home>.

So far in 2025, I have presented at several national, regional and state level inter-tribal convenings. I am especially excited to share our NCMEC Tribal Points of Contact (TPOC) initiative to more affirmatively align the use of the NCMEC’s free resources with tribes. A post card mailing was done to all tribes with a QR Code link to a short on-line inventory. Tribal nations are urged to take a moment to provide this information so we can more affirmatively provide targeted resources to your tribe.

UNDERSTANDING MMIP
It is important to understand baseline data of the MMIP crisis in order to approach data-driven solutions. While the Violence of Women Act of 2005 mandated data collection of MMIP data, we have made very little progress over the last quarter century. For the general population, we know that 360,00 children to missing (NCIC) yearly which is about 1,000 a day. Human trafficking is up 25% including a 31% increase in child trafficking since 2019 and with 59% of all missing

children being persons of color. In 2016, there were over 5,000 reports of missing American Indian Alaska Native (AIAN) women and girls yet NamUS logged 116 of these cases (2.2%).

In 2023, of 820 cases of missing AIAN, 14% were under the age of 18 for which 54% were girls and 46% were boys. Only 25% had known tribal enrollment or affiliation meaning for the vast majority (75%) of AIAN missing children, we just don’t know their respective tribe, which makes reporting to the tribe of jurisdiction impossible. Just 19% go missing from tribal lands while the inverse (81%) go missing from off-reservation land.

ONLINE ACCESS TO OUR CHILDREN

The situation is getting exponentially worse with 65% of victim recruitment happening on the Internet. The NCMEC reported a 300% increase in online enticement activity from 2021 to 2023 with 59% percent focused on those 15 years of age or younger. Twenty six percent of reported traffickers exploited youth from their own social media accounts. The NCMEC reports a 12% increase in the CyberTipline from 2023 to 2024 surpassing 36.2 million reports. From 2015 to 2023, teen access to smartphones increased from 73% to 95%.

Use of SnapChat increased from 41% to 60%. Sixty three percent of teens report using TikTok with 59% saying they use it at least once a day and 47% report using Instagram at least once a day and 51% using SnapChat at least once a day. With enhanced access to our children, the new normal, prevention, parent/guardian oversight, and safety of their child’s online activity becomes paramount.

A 2023 HHS OIG report found that that states did not always report children missing from foster care to the NCMEC in a timely manner as required by law. In fact, only 33% of the cases were timely reported. According to the NCMEC, with 92.4% of missing children are endangered runaways, 74.4% of these children go missing from care. A missing child is proposition or sexually exploited within 2 to 48 hours of going missing, which makes establishing MMIP tribal community.

Our shared AIAN mistrust of government is likely a confounding factor in why our people are reticent to report or cooperate with federal agencies. The NCMEC, however, is a not a government agency, but is instead a non-profit, non-partisan organization focused on rescuing children. All evidence points to a significant undercount of our missing people, I believe is attributed to both a justified distrust of government and misidentification of our people at the point of contact when they go missing.

NATIONAL MMIP CENSUS NEEDED

Rather than yet another incomplete “national study,” tribal nations need mandatory reporting of tribal citizenship and descendency when a tribal person goes missing. If state and federal investigators were required to notify the respective tribe of jurisdiction, we would not only have a more accurate count, tribes could engage as partners in rescuing and recovering our missing citizens. Not only is it possible to collect this data, I believe it is imperative under treaty doctrine and the federal responsibility to provide “health, education and

social welfare” for which we secured a forever commitment based on pre-paid treaty rights for the exchange of over 2 billion acres of Indian-ceded territory.

COVENANT HOUSE
Finally, as an engendered runaway who fended for myself from age 16 to 18, I recognize I was lucky not to have been exploited. Today, this would be the exception not the rule. When a child runs away or is discarded as I was, you feel desperate as you don’t know if you’ll have shelter that night or where your next meal will come from. Today, I give thanks each night to the Creator for the bed I sleep in and the roof over my head. I don’t take this for granted. For the benefit of those youth on the street, please consider contributing to Covenant House as they don’t judge, they provide a safe environment for youth on the street when they need it. I am confident they save many from further victimization and exploitation. Some are reluctant to give as you just don’t know if your contribution will make a difference. I chose to contribute to Covenant House and pray I make a difference which in some cases is both the least and/or best we can do. Visit Covenant House at <https://www.covenanthouse.org/>.

Growing up, I was taught that we are all relatives. Protecting each other is our responsibility. Are you being a good relative? Please contact me (aapayment@ncmec.net) if you would like to learn more about the free resources the NCMEC provide.

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

Chi McGwitch, ~ Aaron
Phone: (906) 440-8946
aapayment@saulttribe.net

Director Lee reports on past & future Unit 2 events



KIMBERLY LEE,
DIRECTOR, UNIT II

Aanii, I hope this message reaches you in good health and high spirits as winter approaches. Unit 2 has had a busy and fulfilling fall, filled with teachings, laughter, and community bonding. We’ve engaged in youth activities, cultural events, and seasonal celebrations that brought our community together in meaningful ways. Honoring traditions and making memories. Chi miigwech to everyone who volunteers, participates, and shares their time and energy to support our events and one another.

Haunted Trail — Oct. 4 the Haunted Trail, hosted as part of YEA’s community activities, saw a strong turnout of families, teens, and community members who came out for a night of fun and scares. The trail featured themed scenes, volunteers in costume, and several frightful areas that made the experience exciting and memorable. Volunteers created multiple zones, including a haunted graveyard, a “mad butcher” shop, and a spooky forest walk. Youth helpers joined in as actors, makeup artists, and trail guides. Bringing energy and creativity to each scene. A special chi miigwech goes out to the Soo crew, who return each year to camp and decorate. Their lighting and detailed designs are top-notch and very much appreciated. Many families expressed their gratitude for this safe and family-friendly Halloween event. The Haunted Trail continues to be a favorite Unit 2 tradition, bringing everyone together for laughter and light-hearted scares. (Planning for next year is already in the works — with new zones being discussed!)

Annual Apple Cider Pressing — was held Oct. 23 the Unit 2 YEA Apple Cider Pressing brought youth and community

members together for a hands-on day of learning and fun. From operating the press to tasting the fresh cider, everyone participated in each step of the process. It was a sticky, laughter-filled event that blended teamwork with teachings about harvesting and traditional foodways. Chi miigwech to everyone who helped, participated, and supported this event — your efforts created lasting memories for our youth and carried forward important traditions.

Halloween Party — Oct. 25 the Unit 2 YEA Halloween Party was a fantastic evening filled with games, laughter, and creativity. Families and kids came together to celebrate the season with music, decorations, and costume contests. Chi miigwech to the many volunteers, parents, and youth who helped decorate, set up, and run the games — these gatherings wouldn’t be possible without your dedication and teamwork. It was wonderful to see so many smiling faces and imaginative costumes!

Our traditional Ghost Feast was Nov. 1 this year. It was a beautiful evening of remembrance, tradition, and community. Families gathered to honor ancestors with prayer, food, and song. Keeping alive the teachings

that remind us of our loved ones continue to walk beside us in spirit. The feast table was filled with homemade dishes and traditional foods lovingly prepared and shared. Offerings were made in gratitude, and prayers were carried with the smoke from the fire. Symbolizing connection between this world and the spirit world. Our youth listened closely, learning the importance of balance: showing respect for those who have passed and caring for those still with us. The evening closed with reflection, warmth, and songs that strengthened our bonds as a community. Chi miigwech to all who helped prepare, brought a dish, or joined in honoring our ancestors.

Looking Ahead — The Holiday Season The holiday season is upon us!

A time that brings joy and togetherness for many, and challenges for others. As we move through this season, let’s remember to show one another kindness, patience, and grace. Whether it’s laughter, a shared meal, or a helping hand, every act of care makes a difference.

Elder Christmas Party
December 9: Units 1, 2, and 3 Elder Holiday Party
DreamMakers Theater — 12 p.m.

Unit 2 Gatherings:
Naubinway • Hessel • Newberry (Dates and times to be announced) Bring your holiday spirit and your best smile! Let’s make this year’s elder gatherings full of joy, laughter, and love.

Youth Christmas Parties for Hessel and Newberry (Dates and times to be announced).

As we close out the year, we reflect on how much our community has accomplished together. From new housing developments and a multipurpose building to expanding cultural opportunities for all ages. Every gathering, from youth learning activities to community feasts, strengthens our connections and honors the teachings passed down through generations. The dedication of our volunteers, families, and staff continues to make Unit 2 a vibrant and welcoming place for all. Chi miigwech for your continued support, kindness, and community spirit. We look forward to celebrating the holidays together and building on the unity and good work that make our area strong.

Miigwech for your time.
Kimberly Lee
Unit 2 Board of Directors
klee@saulttribe.net
(906)379-8965

Thornton participates in Honor Flight Maine

Sandra L. (Goudreau) Thornton, formerly of St. Ignace, Mich., and daughter of the late Donald J. and Dana Goudreau, recently participated in Honor Flight Maine, traveling from Bangor, Maine to Washington, D.C. to visit the memorials honoring veterans who lost their lives in service to our country and those who served in the Armed Forces.

This trip coincided with the date she enlisted in the Woman’s Army Corps (WAC) 55 years ago.

While on this trip to Washington, D.C. Sandra had the honor and pleasure of meeting Earl Morse, the founder of Honor Flight who was greeting veterans at the World War II memorial.

Upon graduation from LaSalle High School in 1970, Sandra enlisted in the Woman’s Army Corps on Oct. 9, 1970, and served through Sept. 31, 1977.

While in service Sandra was stationed at Ft. Bragg, N.C., Heidelberg, Germany and Ft. Riley, Kansas as a stenographer and administrative specialist.

Sandra attained the rank of SSG (E-6). She was awarded the National Defense Service Medal, Good Conduct Medal and the Army Commendation Medal.

She now lives in Augusta, Maine.



Sandra L. (Goudreau) Thornton, formerly of St. Ignace, Mich., recently participated in Honor Flight Maine.



Scott Daniel Brown Jr. Successful bear hunt welcomed home

On Oct. 14, 2025, Scott Daniel Brown Jr. was born to Sault Tribe members Scotty and Arianna Brown. Immediately following his arrival, baby Scotty was brought to the NICU in Marquette due to respiratory concerns and distress. He was intubated, placed on a ventilator, had a nasogastric tube placed in his nose, and an umbilical venous catheter placed in his stomach. Fortunately, baby Scotty was born with a fighting spirit. He made great strides every minute. After 13 long days of gaining strength and snuggling nurses, he was ready to go home. Baby Scotty’s big sister, Ashlynn, was especially proud and excited to bring him home and show him the world. The family is incredibly thankful to all the staff at UPHS Marquette for their kindness and dedication to baby Scotty.



Miles Tazelaar, 14, from NJ shot his first black bear.



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