



Win Awenen Nisitotung

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

Tribe prepares for Secretarial Election

WITH A SPECIAL FEDERAL ELECTION ON THE HORIZON, HERE IS WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

BY RYAN MILLS AND NICK NOLAN, SAULT TRIBE LEGAL DEPT.

Sault Tribe citizens may be hearing an unfamiliar term connected to the proposed constitutional amendments setting up a co-equal three branch government and separation of powers: secretarial election. What is a secretarial election, why is it needed, and who can participate?

Secretarial elections are special federal elections called for by the United States Department of the Interior through the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA.) They are commonly required when tribes look to amend con-

stitutional provisions affecting tribal governance, as the Sault Tribe Board of Directors moved to do during the May 19 board meeting. In late summer or early fall 2026, Sault Tribe members will have the chance to vote on whether the tribe will amend its Constitution to create a three-branch government.

If Sault Tribe membership approves the proposed constitutional changes through a secretarial election, the results are then submitted to the Secretary of the Interior for final approval, as required under federal law and Article X of the Sault Tribe Constitution. Federal regulations and Article X of the tribe's

Constitution requires that at least 30% of the tribal citizens who register to vote in the secretarial election must cast ballots for the amendment process to move forward.

One of the main differences tribal members will notice between the secretarial election process and Sault Tribe elections is that members must specifically register with the BIA to vote in secretarial elections. Regardless of voting history or prior participation in secretarial elections, each new secretarial election requires registration.

A BIA-led Secretarial Election Board will notify Sault Tribe membership on how to register and how the election process will proceed. The Sault Tribe itself will not mail out ballots directly to members. Instead, the BIA will mail the ballots directly to eligible Sault Tribe members who register for

the secretarial election, who are at least 18 years of age by the time of the election.

With the board voting to send its resolution to enact a three-branch government

to a secretarial election, a formal federal timeline is now in place under Title 25 of the Code of Federal Regulations

(CFR) sections 81.7 and 81.19. The BIA must perform a technical review of the amendment

within 30 days of the board sending the resolution, and the election must be called within 90 days of the board sending the resolution.

Once the board sends the necessary documents and proposed constitutional amendments to the local BIA office, a review takes place. From there, the local BIA office forwards the materials to the regional BIA office for legal review and authorization. The regional BIA office works with the tribe on any concerns before authorization.

Once authorized, a Secretarial Election Board is formed, consisting of a BIA official, who chairs the board, and at least two Sault Tribe representatives. This board oversees the election process. Under 25 CFR § 81.19, the secretarial election must be called within 90 days of the tribe sending its request to the BIA. (Note: this deadline could be extended under certain circumstances.)

At the conclusion of the election, any Sault Tribe member who voted in it has five days to challenge the results. The Secretary of the Interior has 45 days from the date of the election to approve or disapprove the proposed amendment. Decisions on all challenges must be resolved within the same 45-day period.

Sault Tribe members are encouraged to ensure sure their addresses are up to date with Tribal Enrollment to receive election information from the BIA, as well as ballots for future Sault Tribe elections. More information on secretarial elections will soon be available on saulttribe.com.

See page 5 for secretarial board notice.

Elders can use new online portal to claim elder checks

The Sault Tribe Enrollment Department is introducing a new, streamlined process for elders to claim their elder dividend check. From Aug. 1 through Oct. 1, 2026, an online application portal will be available. Elders will be able to login and complete the process quickly and securely. Elder checks will be mailed in January 2027.

This new system is designed to reduce processing time, lower administrative costs, and make the application process more efficient. It will also help eliminate issues such as lost or delayed forms.

As the rollout approaches, updates and additional details will be shared in the tribal newspaper and online at www.saulttribe.com.

For those who are unable to access the online portal, a paper application will continue to be mailed to the address we have on file.

If your address changes after submitting your application, whether online or by mail, you must contact the Enrollment Office to ensure your information is updated. Call (906) 632-8552 or email: enrollment@saulttribe.net.

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Ambulance to get 800 MHz radio

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.

In the latest round of funding, the Sault Ste. Marie Fire Department was the recipient of \$5,000 earmarked for the purchase of an ambulance 800 MHz radio.

"We will probably do one at a time," said Fire Chief Edwin Miller as the cost to upgrade all four ambulances will exceed \$60,000. "The money we received will help with that."

In submitting the request, the department explained it was seeking funding for "a dual bands mobile mounted radio in the ambulance allowing interoperable communication with other responders, including the Sault Tribal Police Department."

"We are hoping to order the first one in July," said Miller.

One of the advantages of the encrypted system is it allows EMS to communicate with hospital staff regarding incoming patients without that informa-

tion being picked up by scanners where the neighbors can hear you have diabetes or were falling-down drunk.

"The radio will enhance our communications interoperability throughout the area we cover for

EMS care and transportation, serving resident and visitors," noted the request. "The intercom system is the same used on our apparatus, allowing for consistency in our equipment for use and repairs."



Photo by Scott Brand

Sault Ste. Marie Fire Chief Edwin Miller stands in front of an ambulance, the department's first to be upgraded with an 800MHz radio. He hopes to order the new radio in July.

Ribbon skirt workshop held in Marquette



Sarah Cross tries on the finished product.



Liana Vocke with her beautiful skirt.



Photos by Rosemary Larson

Unit 5 held a ribbon skirt workshop at the tribal center in Marquette on May 2 and 3. Rosemary Larson and Chelsea Freele taught participants how to make their own skirts. Above: Sarah and William Webster.



Sarah Webster wears her ribbon skirt.



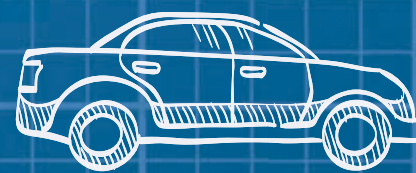
Sarah Cross checking measurements.

Correction —

Pictured below is Jamie Brotherton of Keweenaw Bay Indian Community at the Escanaba April 18 Powwow.



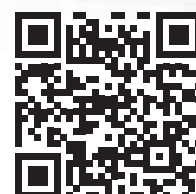
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Committee vacancies — Sault Tribe volunteers needed!

The following Sault Tribe Committees have vacant seats or upcoming vacancies. Sault Tribe members interested in filling these vacancies should submit one letter of intent and three letters of recommendation (forms available online or contact Lona) from other members to Lona Stewart at lstewart2@saulttribe.net, 523 Ashmun Street, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783, or call 906-635-6050 with any questions.

Anishinaabe Cultural

Tribal gas, cigarette discount locations

The following gas stations are offering discounts to Sault Tribe members.

Tribal owned gas stations offering gas and cigarette discounts:

- MidJim Convenience Store, 2205 Shunk Road, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783
- MidJim Convenience Store, 3045 Mackinac Trail, St. Ignace, MI 49781
- White Pine Lodge and Convenience Store, 7889 E. W. M-28, Christmas, MI 49862

Tribal owned gas stations offering gas discount only:

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

Not tribal owned stations offering gas discounts only:

- Kinross BP, 4440 Tone Road, Kincheloe, MI 49788
- Cedar Pantry, 159 W. M-134, Cedarville, MI 49719
- Sunoco, 13975 M-28, Newberry, MI 49868
- Manistique Oil Company, 216 Deer Street, Manistique, MI 49854
- Carnes Eco Fuels, 2300 Ludington St., Escanaba, MI 49837

Up to date members' addresses sought!

Sault Tribe members whose addresses are not up to date have "bad addresses" with the tribe's Enrollment Department. Check the names on the list and if you see a friend or relative on the list let them know.

Go to saulttribe.com and scroll down Membership Services to Tribal Enrollment. Then go to the Information column on the left side of the Enrollment page and select "Up to date addresses sought." Call (800) 251 6597 or email Stacey Synett at: ssynett@saulttribe.net.

Committee - One vacancy - male (4-year term)

Child Welfare Committee - Two vacancies - one 4-year term, one term expires May 2029

Conservation Committee - Commercial Fisher - One vacancy (4-year term); Non-Commercial Fisher - One vacancy (4-year term)

Education Committee - One vacancy - term expires August 2026

Elder Advisory Committee - Unit I - Sault - Two regular vacancies (4-year terms); two alternate vacancies (4-year term)

Unit II - Newberry - One regular vacancy, term expires July 2029; one alternate vacancy (4-year term)

Unit III - St. Ignace - One regular vacancy - term expires October 2029; two alternate vacancies (4-year terms)

Unit IV - Manistique - One regular vacancy (4-year term)

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

Elder Subcommittees

Unit I - Sault - Three regular vacancies - one term expires September 2029, two 4-year terms

Unit II - Hessel - One alternate vacancy (4-year term)

Unit II - Naubinway - Two regular vacancies - one term expires May 2027, one 4-year term; one alternate vacancy (4-year term)

Unit II - Newberry - Two regular vacancies, one term expires March 2028, one 4-year term; one Alternate vacancy, term expires August 2028

Unit III - St. Ignace - One alternate vacancy - term expires March 2028

Unit IV - Escanaba - Four regular vacancies (4-year terms); one

alternate vacancy (4-year term)

Unit IV - Manistique - Two regular vacancies, one term expires November 2026, one 4-year term; one alternate vacancy, term expires March 2028

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

Unit V - Marquette - Four regular vacancies (4-year terms); one alternate vacancy (4-year term)

Food Sovereignty Committee - Three vacancies (4-year terms)

Sault Tribe Election

Commission - Three vacancies terms expiring November 2030.

Membership liaisons work to assist membership

Membership liaisons work to assist with membership issues and concerns. The liaisons will also respond to and follow up on membership issues to ensure they are resolved.

Sault Tribe members are

encouraged to contact liaisons when they need help with tribal issues by emailing membersconcerns@saulttribe.net or individually at the contacts below. Please note that although the liaisons are located at sites across the sev-

en-county service area, they serve all tribal members.

Michelle Moore

Available for in-person meetings at Sault Tribe Administration.

Phone: (906) 635-6050 Ext.

26359

Cell: (906) 259-3862

mmoore@saulttribe.net

Clarence Hudak

Lambert Center, St. Ignace, (906) 643-2124

chudak@saulttribe.net

Mary Jenerou

Manistique Tribal Center, (906) 341-8469

Munising Tribal Center, (906) 450-7011

mjenerou@saulttribe.net

Membership liaisons answer your questions

Q: The state of Michigan, through the Natural Resource Commission, just passed new deer hunting rules and regulations for the upcoming 2026 and 2027 seasons. Will any of those changes affect the Sault Tribe's deer harvest?


A: No, the Sault Tribe's deer hunting rules and regulations in the 1836 Treaty ceded territory are not connected to what the state of Michigan puts in place for its non-tribal citizens. While there is some language in the 2007 Inland Consent Decree that binds the tribes to establish similar disease control measures if the state of Michigan implements those actions, our members will continue to follow our own deer hunting rules and regulations.

Q: I applied for the first time for the elk and bear permit lottery. Will there be a list of drawing winners posted that I could access to see if I get selected?

A: No, the drawings for the elk and bear permits will take place on June 15 at the Law Enforcement Building in Sault Ste. Marie and are not open to the public. The Conservation Committee and Natural Resource Division decided some years ago that information regarding members who draw permits will be kept private. Winners will be notified by staff, and bear permits will be mailed in time so they can be received in time so those who bait can start on July 1.


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

In an effort to maintain the Sault Tribe MMIP database for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons (MMIP), the Advocacy Resource Center is seeking information regarding missing and murdered individuals who are members of the **Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians**. Please message or call the ARC at 906-632-1808 with information that can be entered into the database. The information provided does not have to be current information. The ARC is seeking information for ALL missing or murdered tribal members including the seven county service areas and tribal members across the world. Please ask for Community Educator Jess Gillotte-King (extension 73104) when calling the ARC. If messaging the ARC Facebook page, please leave the following information:



First/Middle/Last Name
Date of Birth
Date of Death
Murdered/When/Where
Perpetrator Name if known:

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



Any information would be appreciated.

Thank you for your participation in this matter. Please feel free to share this information. Miigwech!

Sault Tribe Member Newspaper Subscription Form

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

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Win Awenen Nisitotung

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

June 17, 2026
Strawberry Moon
Ode'imín Giizis

Jennifer Dale-Burton.....Editor
 Sherrie Lucas.....Secretary
 Brenda Austin.....Staff Writer
 Scott Brand.....Staff Writer
 Win Awenen Nisitotung welcomes

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

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

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

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

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

Subscriptions: The regular rate is \$18 per year, \$11 for senior citizens and \$30 to Canada. Please call for other foreign countries.

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

Advertising: \$8.50/column inch.

Submission and Subscriptions: Win Awenen Nisitotung
 Attn: Communications Dept.
 531 Ashmun St.,
 Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783
 Telephone: (906) 632-6398
 Fax: (906) 632-6556
 E-mail: slucas@saulttribe.net or jdale-burton@saulttribe.net.

GO DIGITAL!

Tribal members and subscriber's receiving the print edition of the newspaper can switch to digital to receive the "early" digital edition. A link will be sent to digital subscribers the same day the print edition goes to press. Read your paper at least 6 days early!

Write to slucas@saulttribe.net to switch or get details.

Olmstead joins Health Division as comptroller

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

Wayne R. Olmstead, a Sault Ste. Marie native with more than 35 years of financial leadership experience, joined the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Health Division as comptroller April 6, 2026.

Olmstead holds a Bachelor of Science in Accounting from Lake Superior State College (now university) and a Master of Business Administration from Lake Superior State University. His career in tribal and public

finance is extensive. He began his career at the Sault Tribe in 1980 as an accountant, and his versatility quickly led him to a pioneering role as the tribe's first Information Technology director, a position he held for two years before returning to the Accounting Department as a senior accountant.

In 1996, he was tapped for the Chief Financial Officer position at the Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan.

He later served as controller

for the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians from 2004 to 2009, where he oversaw monthly and annual financial statements for 260 programs with a \$78 million revenue budget.

Olmstead also served twice as budget director at LSSU, managing a university budget of up to \$40 million, and as finance director at the Chippewa Luce Mackinac Community Action Agency.

His experience further includes

controller and CFO roles in Nevada, where he worked for Great Basin College and the Shoshone-Paiute Tribe, as well as a stint as accounting manager for the state of Michigan. Most recently, he served as controller at Tsubaki Nakashima Michigan in Sault Ste. Marie.

Olmstead said he hopes his experience will help the Health Division's management team use financial information to make decisions that support the health and well-being of tribal members.



McKerchie named Advocacy Resource Center program director

By Brenda Austin

Jessica McKerchie has been named program director for the Advocacy Resource Center, part of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians' Anishinaabek Community and Family Services.

McKerchie was employed by the tribe in 2007, working in a frontline role with Kewadin Casinos before leaving and returning in 2014 to begin her career with ACFS.

She has worked for the tribe for more than 15 years, including more than 11 years with ACFS and more than nine years with the Advocacy Resource Center. Her experience includes victim-centered services, grant compliance, program budgeting, staff supervision, audit preparation and management of multiple funding sources.

In her new role, McKerchie provides leadership and strategic



direction for victim services programming while ensuring services remain culturally responsive, trauma-informed and consistent with tribal values and sovereignty.

Her responsibilities include overseeing victim services, ensuring compliance with Tribal Code and state and federal laws,

managing budgets and financial controls, supporting grant acquisition and resource development, supervising staff, overseeing policy development and risk management, and supporting community outreach, prevention and systems coordination efforts.

McKerchie's work with the Advocacy Resource Center has included crisis counseling, assessment, case management, safety planning, advocacy, court support, victim rights education, personal protection order assistance, data reporting, policy development, grant planning and community education. She has also worked with tribal, state and federal court systems to assist victims through complex legal proceedings.

"My goals in this position are to sustain and build upon the victim services program in a way that not only provides a positive impact today, but also for the next

seven generations," she said.

McKerchie's background with the tribe began in 2014 as a case aide with ACFS. She later served as a community educator, administrative assistant, case manager/victim advocate and case supervisor/victim advocate supervisor with the Advocacy Resource Center.

She holds a certificate of health science from Bay Mills

Community College and completed additional general studies toward elementary education at Central Michigan University. She is also a Michigan notary public.

Outside of work, McKerchie said she is usually cheering on her children's sports or extracurricular leadership activities, camping, exploring ORV trails or going on adventures with her husband, Mike.

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Kewadin Casinos announces next phase of multimillion-dollar upgrade project

Kewadin Casinos will soon begin work on the next phase of its multimillion-dollar upgrade project with each casino seeing a substantial investment into their property over the next three years. Previous phases of Kewadin Casinos' multimillion-dollar upgrade project have included a complete interior and exterior renovation and remodel of the Kewadin Casino Sault Ste. Marie hotel tower, new dining concepts bringing in Black Rock Bar & Grill and The Eatery Sault Ste. Marie and casino main entrance.

The next renovations are scheduled to begin in summer 2026 and will include:

- Kewadin Casino St. Ignace**
 - Room renovations and upgrades beginning fall 2026
 - Development of a new RV

Park with full hook ups beginning spring 2027

Kewadin Casino Sault Ste. Marie

- Demolition of the original casino and hotel known as the East Wing structure along Shunk Rd. beginning fall/winter 2027

- Construction of a new sports bar including virtual game bays beginning summer 2027

- Construction of a new waterpark with specific children and adult areas beginning summer 2027

Kewadin Manistique

- New RV Park including full hook up options beginning summer 2026

- Renovation of restaurant and bar, schedule to be announced

Kewadin Casino Christmas

- RV Park enhancements

including full hook up options beginning summer 2026

Kewadin Casino Hessel

- Renovation of bar and deli beginning Fall 2026

- Improvements of the cabin and RV Park including 50 amp hook up options, schedule to be announced

"We understand that the needs of our guests have evolved over the years, and we are excited for the opportunity to evolve with them. These renovations are designed to enhance the guest experience in the areas guests value most, whether it is a family traveling to camp or a local resident looking for a great meal and a fun night out. This next phase will allow us to better meet those needs by enhancing our RV park offerings, improving our hotel at Kewadin Casino St. Ignace, and

bringing more family-friendly experiences to Kewadin Casino Sault Ste. Marie with the only water park in Michigan's eastern Upper Peninsula," said Kewadin Casinos CEO Allen Kerridge.

Kewadin Casinos has continued its successful partnership with Integrated Designs Inc. (IDI) for architecture and engineering services and Gundlach Champion to provide construction management services for this project.

Kewadin Casinos currently offers over 2,000 slot machines, 26 table games, hotels, dining, and other amenities at five properties in Michigan's eastern and

central Upper Peninsula.

Owned and operated by the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, Kewadin Casinos are the premier gaming destinations for people who live in and visit the Upper Peninsula, which is bordered on the south by Lake Michigan and Lake Huron, on the west by Wisconsin, and on the north by Lake Superior and Canada.

For more information about the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, visit www.saulttribe.com.

For information about Kewadin Casinos, visit www.kewadin.com.

Nolan hired as legal department public relations manager

BY SCOTT BRAND

Nick Nolan has been hired to fill the newly-created public relations manager position for the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Legal Department.

The 2010 Sault High graduate brought a great deal of education and experience when he arrived on May 4. He earned a bachelor's degree from Central Michigan University in 2014 and his master's in 2022 from Michigan State University in strategic communications. Upon graduating from CMU, he spent three years as a reporter for the Sault Evening News, before moving on to the Sault Convention and Visitors Bureau where he spent the last seven years becoming the director of marketing and communications.

"The main goal is to represent the tribe in a positive light and highlight our successes," said Nolan of his new role with the



Sault Tribe. "As a Sault Tribe member, I am excited to use my background in communications and storytelling to give back to the tribe and help support the work being done throughout our community."

Nolan is the son of Willard and Lisa Nolan and grew up on Sugar Island. He currently resides in Sault Ste. Marie with his wife, Hannah, and dogs, Kenny and Wrigley.

Lowes reappointed to the MCSC

Sault Tribe Chairman Austin Lowes, along with eight others, was reappointed to the Michigan Community Service Commission June 4, 2026. Lowes was reappointed as a representative of Native American tribes with the term October 2026-2029.

The Michigan Community Service Commission strives to build a culture of service by providing vision and resources to strengthen communities through

volunteerism.

The Commission develops a three-year comprehensive national and community service plan for the state that is updated annually, oversees and submits the state's applications to AmeriCorps and other public and private funding sources, establishes policies and procedures for the use of federal funds, and develops initiatives to promote community service in coordination with existing pro-

grams.

Other appointees are Dayvian Richardson of Detroit, Eric Miller of Detroit, Bridget Clark-Whitney of Grand Rapids, Will McDowell of Detroit, Zosia Eppensteiner of Marquette, Renee Williams of Grand Rapids, Raquel Izzo McDonald of Haslett, and Robert Hoffman of East Lansing.

These appointments are not subject to the advice and consent of the Senate.

Notice: Opportunity to Serve on the Secretarial Election Board for the Constitutional Amendment Election

The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians is seeking tribal citizens who are interested in serving on the Secretarial Election Board for the upcoming Constitutional Amendment Election, which is expected to take place later this summer or in early fall.

The Secretarial Election Board will assist with duties related to the Secretarial Election process for the proposed constitutional amendments including setting deadlines for

the election. The tribe is seeking interested citizens from each of the five election units and a representative from the at-large membership. The Board of Directors will select:

One tribal citizen from each unit, and two at-large tribal citizens.

Selection will be made by drawing names from the list of interested tribal citizens. The drawing is anticipated to take place by the July 7 Board of Directors meeting.

Tribal citizens who are interested in being considered should submit their name, enrollment number, contact information, a letter of intent and the election unit in which they reside to constitution@saulttribe.net.

Interested citizens should submit their information no later than July 3, 2026.

For questions, please contact constitution@saulttribe.net.

Miigwech to all tribal citizens willing to participate in this important constitutional process.

Sault Tribe Court of Appeals openings

The Sault Ste. Marie Chippewa Tribal Court has the following vacancies within the Court of Appeals. These positions are essential in ensuring continued operations for Tribal Court and are a valued way to serve the tribal community.

- Attorney Vacancy
- Elder/Community Member Vacancy
- Reserve Appellate Judge (Attorney and Elder/Community)

The Tribal Appellate Court, which has "the exclusive jurisdiction to review the decisions of the Tribal Court," was established via enactment of Chapter 82 of the Tribal Code. Tribal Code

§82.109.

Qualified candidates are encouraged to apply for the positions by July 3, 2026. Interested persons who meet the qualifications found in Chapter 82 may submit an application and resume

to the Court Administrator/Magistrate at tribalcourt@saulttribe.net.

See application at: www.saulttribe.com/images/Application_for_Appellate_Judge.pdf

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Anishinaabemowin 2026

Without this gift of water, life as we know it cannot exist. *G'miigwech-wendami* (we are thankful), as were our ancestors from earliest times - and for their gift of this beautiful language to say so.

Aaniin kina waya! Hello everyone!

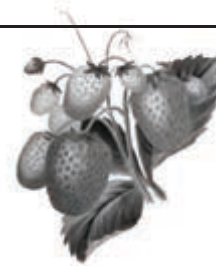
Nendaan-daa nibi maaba giizis.

Let's think about water this month.

We left behind winter water: **goon** (snow)
miinwaa **mkoom** (ice).

Nsaabaawe maanda niibin-nibi!

The summer water is wet!



De'imin Giizis Strawberry Moon

by Susan Askwith

Maanda ezhi-nokiimagak!

This is the way it works!

We have 2 simple words for water: **nibi** and **nibiish**. We have dozens more words that say the way water is used or its qualities. For now, simple is best. Also, notice though **nibiish** says water, the very close **niibiish** says leaf.



I can drink water.

I can wash my body in water.

I can wash dishes in water.

I can wash clothes in water.

I can pour water.

I can splash.

I can flush.

I can clean up.

I can water my plants.

I can swim in water.

I can stand in the rain.

Water can drip off trees.

I can fish in water.

I can find crayfish, frogs and turtles in water.

N'daa bagiz nibiing.

N'daa gziibiigizhe nibiing.

N'daa gziibiiginaagane nibiing.

N'daa gziibiiginige nibiing.

N'daa ziiginaan nibi.

N'daa debwe'ese.

N'daa maajiyaasidoon waangan.

N'daa biinchige.

N'daa ziigwepijige n'zaakiichiganan.

N'daa bagiz nibiing.

N'daa naaniibaw gimiwang.

Nibi daa nijigaa nji-mitigook.

N'daa giigoonhke nibiing.

**N'daa mkwaag shaageshiinyik, magkiik
miinwaa miskwaadesiwag niibing**

Water is in coffee, tea, milk and soft drinks.

**Nibi te biinji makade-aaboo, niibiish-aaboo,
doodoosh-aaboo miinwaa mnwaagamigin.**



Water is in fresh foods.

Water is in cups.

Water is in glasses.

Water is in pails.

Water is in clouds.

Water is in hoses.

Water is in lakes

Water is in streams.

Water is in ponds & puddles **Nibi te biinji waanzhibii
yaag.**

Nibi te biinji shki-miijim.

Nibi te biinji minikwaajiganan.

Nibi te biinji nitaasan.

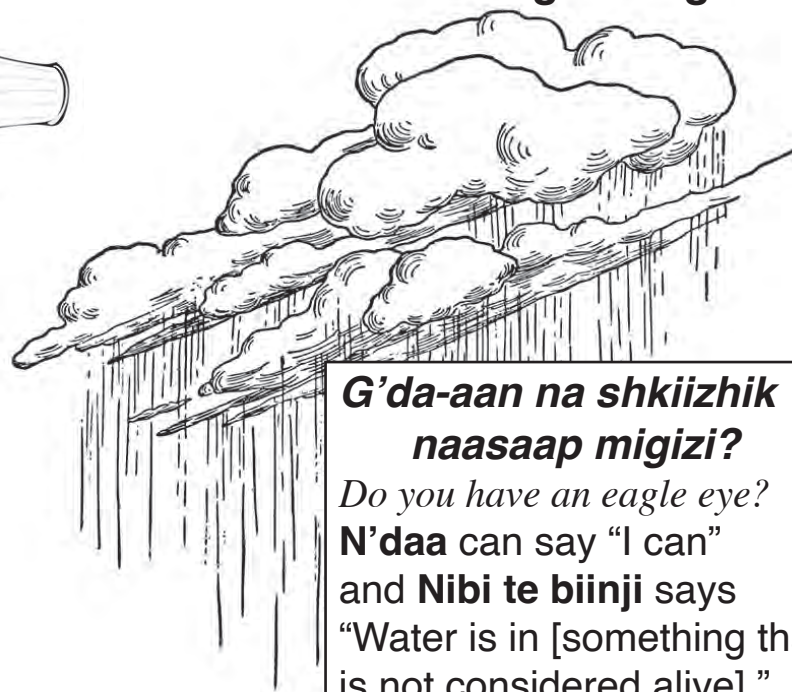
Nibi te biinji kikook.

Nibi te biinji aankwadoon.

Nibi te biinji nibi-nagishan.

Nibi te biinji zaagiganan.

Nibi te biinji ziibiinsan.



G'da-aan na shkiizhik naasaap migizi?

Do you have an eagle eye?

N'daa can say "I can" and **Nibi te biinji** says "Water is in [something that is not considered alive]." In our language, our way of seeing the world, it matters to consider what is living (even in spirit) and what is not. We are respectful.



Water is life and so...

I will respect the water.

I will treasure the water.

I will protect the water.

Nibi aawan bimaadiziwin, mii dash...

N'ga mnaadendaan nibi.

N'ga zaagitoon nibi.

N'ga ginowenjige nibi.



Aambe, baapin! (Come on, laugh!)

Why would the boy only swim the backstroke?

*He just had lunch and didn't want to swim
on a full stomach.*

What did one raindrop say to the other?

Two's company, 3's a cloud.

Why do people who wash dishes work so well together? *Because they're in sink with each other.*

What did Lake Superior say to a freighter?

Nothing. It just waved.

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

aa sounds like the a in *awesome* **a** sounds like the a in *about*

ii sounds like the e in *be* **i** sounds like the i in *dip*

oo sounds like the o in *go* **o** sounds like the oo's in *book*

e sounds like the e in *Ed* **g** sounds only like it does in *go*

We underlined the syllables that get the emphasis.

Pronounce all the letters. Big deal: these combinations: **nh**, **ns**, **ny** in a word signal the previous vowel is said nasally. The n in these is *always silent* but you pronounce the second letter.

It's only a sign to say the previous vowel nasally - as if you have a stuffed-up nose!

Powwow Etiquette — know before you go!

FROM LANGUAGE & CULTURE

Powwow celebrations are open to anyone and everyone. Guests are simply asked to respect Indigenous culture by keeping in mind the following suggestions:

Seating – Bring a chair with you, as there is often not enough seating for everyone. Chairs under the dance arena and drum arbor (where dancing and singing takes place) are reserved for dancers and singers only.

Master of Ceremonies – Listen carefully to the Master of Ceremonies (MC) when you are in attendance. The MC will keep all attendees informed at what is taking place and often explains powwow protocol to help visitors learn and feel more comfortable. After all, visitors are supposed to relax and have fun!

Grand Entry – Remain standing and remove any hats during the entire grand entry — the MC will announce when it begins. Also, no photography is allowed during grand entry.

Dance Arena – Do not enter the dance arena unless the MC grants permission for everyone to come out and dance. Guests may enter the arena is to participate in inter-tribal dances, round dances, blanket dances, or honoring dances. All of these will be announced by the MC. When in the dance arena, always dance in the clockwise direction.

Arena Safeguards – Here in Anishinaabe territory, we do not carry biinoojiis (children) in the dance arena. Children must

be able to walk and dance on their own when they are in the dance arena. This is a matter of protecting our children. In our Anishinaabe belief system, carrying children in the arena is an act signifying that you are offering that child to the spirits present and is dangerous.

Regalia – Do not refer to dancers' regalia (clothing) as costumes. These handcrafted outfits are given much thought, time, and expense. Do not touch a dancer's regalia without asking his or her permission.

Feathers – Feathers are sacred. If one falls, do not pick it up. Leave it where it is.

Photography – If you want a particular dancer or group of dancers to pose for a photograph, please get their permission. If you are a professional photographer who may use the image in the future for a commercial project, please get permission from the dancer(s) and have them sign a release form.

Prohibited Items – Alcohol, drugs, political campaigning and pets are prohibited at powwows. Do not attend if you are under the influence.

Moon Time – If you are a woman and are on your moon time (menstrual cycle) please avoid the dance arena. Its also a good idea to put some cedar in your shoes or moccasins to protect yourself and others during this powerful time. Also, do not touch any medicines (tobacco, sweetgrass, cedar or sage) or

sacred items like pipes or drums.
Powwow Feast – Elders first! Indigenous people highly value and respect the wisdom that comes with age. When eating, children and young adults serve the elders, who always eat first. Never step ahead of someone in line who might be older than you.

Parking – Parking at powwow celebrations is often limited. Try to carpool if possible and leave parking spots in close proximity to the powwow grounds open for the elders.

Trash removal – make an extra effort to ensure your trash ends up in the trash cans provided on the powwow grounds. Indigenous cultures have a deep respect Mother Earth so please avoid littering.

Clichés – Do not use Indigenous clichés or make "Indian Jokes," even if intended to be fun. Calling men "Chief" or women "Indian Princess" would be considered very disrespectful, for instance.

Support the vendors – Come hungry! Bring some cash (or card) to support the local food and craft vendors at the event. These vendors travel all over Indian country to sell their delicious specialty food items and authentic crafts. Grab yourself an Indian taco, some wild rice or corn soup, and wash it down with a sweetgrass and berry infused lemonade! After that, find yourself a pair of beautiful earrings, a beaded lanyard, or a powwow

t-shirt as a souvenir to commemorate your attendance.

Spread the word – Many people think that powwows are only open for Indigenous people to attend. That couldn't be further

from the truth. Please inform your family and friends that powwow celebrations are open anyone and everyone. Come and experience the beautiful and vibrant culture — you won't be disappointed.

Sault Tribe Health Division
Traditional Medicine Program

GERARD SAGASSIGE

2026 JULY HEALER CLINIC SCHEDULE

★ ★ ★

July 6,7,13,14,20,21,27,28
Sault Ste. Marie Health Center
(906)632-0236

Wednesday, July 1st
Hessel Community Center
(906)484-2727

Wednesday, July 8th
St. Ignace Health Center
(906)643-8689 or (877)256-0135

Wednesday, July 15th
Manistique Health Center
(906)341-8469 or (866) 401-0043









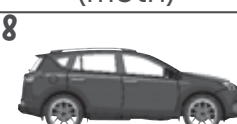




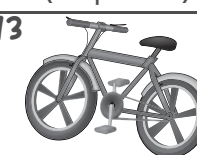
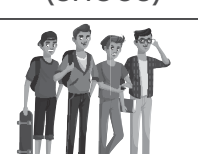
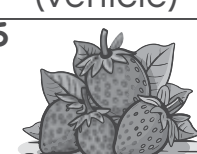













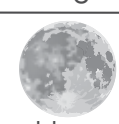




Wednesday, July 22nd
Munising Health Center
(906)387-4721 or (800)236-4705

Wednesday, July 29th
Escanaba Community Center
(906)632-0236

★ ★ ★

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

ODEMIN GIIZIS (STRAWBERRY MOON) - JUNE 2026

NIIZHWAASO GIIZHIGAD	NTAM GIIZHIGAD	NIIZHO GIIZHIGAD	NSWO GIIZHIGAD	NIIWO GIIZHIGAD	NAANO GIIZHIGAD	NGODWAASWO GIIZHIGAD
	1  nimkii dikman (moth)	2  N'wii bshkzhige. (I will cut the grass/mow the lawn.)	3  N'ga bmibtoo. (I'm going running.)	4  binoojiinhyag (children)	5  wiika (late)	6  mbaasjigan (airplane)
7  makazinan (shoes)	8  daabaan (vehicle)	9  wiigwaam daabaan (camper/RV)	10  shkiizhigokaajiganan (sunglasses)	11  wiiba (early; soon)	12  Biginoshin (Call me on the phone)	13  biimskowebshkigan (bicycle)
14  eshkiniigijig (young people)	15  de'minan (strawberries)	16  bagwan (shirt)	17  bmaadizijig (people)	18  wiikwaan (hat)	19  Giizhigaate. (It is a bright, sunny day.)	20  Ntam Niibin (First day of summer)
21  Noos Giizhigad (Father's Day)	22  Gebeying giizhigad. (It is a long day.)	23  giizhkinatagoonh (cut off - shorts)	24  maajibiigan mkak (mail box)	25  kinoomaadiigamig (the institution of school)	26  N'wii oo baamase. (I want to go walking.)	27  biijbiigan (a written letter)
28  mkade ojiinhsag (black flies)	29  Mooshkaneshin Dibiki Giizis. (It is a full moon.)	30  baashkminsigan (jam)				

Inaugural West End Culture Camp to be held this July

The inaugural West End Culture Camp will be held July 25 and 26, 2026, at the Clear Lake Education Center in Schoolcraft County.

“Our plan is to have something like this annually,” said Language and Culture Director Cody Jodoin. “It’s not something we have offered before on the west end to my knowledge”

As this is the first event of its kind, Jodoin encouraged those who are planning to attend to register ahead of time to establish a headcount for meals. Registration can be done by telephone at (906) 379-8486 or through email at ktovar@saulttribe.net.

“We are collaborating with YEA (Youth Education & Activities) and they are planning to bring 60 to 80 kids to stay at the cabins onsite,” said Jodoin, adding that remaining guests are welcome to bring tents if planning to spend the night.

On Saturday, July 25, activities begin at 7 a.m., with a sunrise ceremony followed by breakfast at 8:30 a.m. A traditional craft activity is scheduled for 10 a.m. with lunch at noon. At 1:30 p.m., visitors will have the option of playing Baagaadowewin (traditional lacrosse), Anishinaabemowin Bingo or taking to the water for some canoeing, fishing and perhaps some unanticipated swimming, so life jackets are required.

Talking circles are slated to begin at 3:30 p.m., followed by dinner at 5:30 p.m. Evening events include a drum and dance social at 7 p.m., with campfire and crafts at 8:30 p.m. before lights out at 10 p.m.

The Sunday, July 26, schedule begins with a sunrise ceremony at 7 a.m. and breakfast at 8:30 a.m. A guided bush tour and plant medicine teaching starts at 9:30 a.m., with closing remarks and a traveling song at 11:30 a.m., as

guests prepare for the noon departure.

“This is open to the commu-

nity,” said Jodoin, adding there is no charge to participate in any of the activities and all the

meals are provided. “The public is invited and we will welcome tribal members from everywhere.”



Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians
44th Annual Bahweting Homecoming Powwow
 July 3-5, 2026

-- Sault Tribe Language & Culture -- Community Cultural Teaching Series

June 8

GCHI-TWAA ISHKOKE KINOOMAAGEWINAN SCARED FIRE TEACHINGS WITH CECIL PAVLAT

July 13

NIBI KINOOMAAGEWINAN WATER TEACHINGS WITH KATHY LEBLANC

August 10

GCHI-TWAA NIIWIN MASHKIKII KINOOMAAGEWINAN 4 SACRED MEDICINE TEACHINGS WITH SAULT TRIBE TRADITIONAL MEDICINE

September 14

GCHI-TWAA JIIBAAKWE KINOOMAAGEWINAN TEACHINGS TO PREPARE CEREMONIAL MEALS

October 12

GCHI-TWAA GASHKIBIJIGAN KINOOMAAGEWINAN SACRED BUNDLE TEACHINGS LEARN HOW TO START YOUR BUNDLE

November 16

AANJIKIID GCHI-TWAAWIN KINOOMAAGEWINAN CHANGING WORLDS CEREMONY TEACHINGS

December 14

CARING FOR OUR ANCESTORS REPATRIATION & HISTORIC PRESERVATION TEACHINGS WITH CECIL PAVLAT & EMMA DONMYER

Please mark your calendars to join us for a monthly cultural teaching series. These sessions will aim to provide basic cultural teachings led by community elders & knowledge holders. Sessions are open for all to come and share. All teachings will be held at Nigaanagiizhik from 7:00-9:00pm & a light meal will be provided starting at 6:30pm. Feel free to bring a dish to pass as well. Questions? Call (906) 635-6510 -or- email ecollins@saulttribe.net

Schedule of Events
 Thursday, July 2nd - All day spiritual gathering - starting with sunrise ceremony

Grand Entries
 Friday, July 3rd - 7:00pm
 Saturday, July 4th - 1:00 & 7:00pm
 Sunday, July 5th - 12:00 noon

Dancer Registration (no cost)
 Friday (5-645pm) & Saturday (11am-1230pm)

Head Staff
 Emcee - Shannon Martin
 Emcee - Beedahsiga Elliot
 Head Veteran - Nick VanAlstine
 Arena Director - Lilman Quintero
 Head Dance Judges - Alexa & Bud Day
 Head Drum Judge - Harvey Dreaver
 Host Drum - chosen each session
 Head Dancers - chosen each session

Food & Craft Vendor Registration
 Must be enrolled in a tribe or first nation
 Email - culture@saulttribe.net (must register by June 15)
 General Powwow Questions - Call (906) 635-6510

Free Admission & Open to the Public!
 Location - Sault Tribe Powwow Grounds - 11 Ice Circle Drive Sault Ste Marie, MI 49783
 Host Hotel - Kewadin Casinos Sault Ste. Marie - call (906) 632-0530 (room block 2984)
 Camping - Free rustic camping (first come, first served) bathroom & shower building on site
No drugs, alcohol, politics or pets allowed - Not responsible for loss of property or accidents

Dance Contest
 Golden Age (50+) - \$1000, \$700, \$500, \$300
 Men Combined & Women Combined
 Adults (18-49) - \$1000, \$700, \$500, \$300
 Men: Traditional, Grass, Fancy & Woodland
 Women: Traditional, Fancy, Jingle & Woodland
 Teens (13-17) - \$400, \$300, \$200, \$100
 Boys Combined & Girls Combined
 Juniors (6-12) - \$200, \$150, \$100, \$150
 Boys Combined & Girls Combined

Drum Contest
 1st Place - \$10,000
 2nd Place - \$8,000
 3rd Place - \$6,000
 4th Place - \$4,000
 5th Place - \$2,000
 - Drum split for all other drums -
 (Must have a minimum of 5 registered singers)

Powwow Committee Specials
 Old Style Jingle - Dance Special
 \$500, \$400, \$300, \$200, \$100
 Old Style Sidestep - Singing Contest
 \$1000, \$500, \$250
 Bells Only - Dance Special
 \$500, \$400, \$300, \$200, \$100



Is the majority of the tribe prepared to forfeit their opportunity to advocate for Equal Rights? It seems that this is what the current administration is hoping for.

***VOTE NO**

***Stop the Injustice.**

Cast your vote against the new Sault Tribe Constitution.

For a comprehensive analysis, visit SaultTribeGuardian.com

***Editorial comments.**

Sault Tribe Board passes resolutions in May, June

Board meets May 5

The Sault Tribe Board of Directors met at the Kewadin Casino and Convention Center on May 5 and took the following actions.

- Approved a Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 budget modification for Inland Fish and Wildlife and a second for FY 2026 Great Lakes Restoration Initiative plan allowing Natural Resources to reallocate expenses to maximize various funding sources.

- Established a FY 2026 budget for the state of Michigan Opioid Settlement in the amount of \$538,461 using state funds earmarked for technology, equipment and transportation upgrades for the Health Division.

- Approved FY 2026 budget modifications for Health Division's Human Resources, Manistique Medical and Marquette Medical Departments.

- Established a FY 2026 budget of \$167,601 with federal Indian Health Services revenue for new equipment destined for the Marquette facility.

- Established a FY 2026 budget from Bureau of Indian Affairs money in the amount of \$858,920.23 to refund previously appropriated tribal support dispensed to a half-dozen different budgets.

- Following a lengthy discussion and numerous votes, the board tabled an amendment to Chapter 20: Licensing of Commercial Treaty Fishing Activity.

- Amended Resolution 2024-399 to reflect an increase in project costs of \$46,915 through Michigan Department of Health and Human Services funding for technological upgrades at ACFS.

- Re-appointed Shilow Slomsky and Roderick Blanchard to the Sault Tribe Inc. board with both terms expiring on June 30, 2029.

- And, approved an amendment to Tribal Code Chapter 30 of the Child Welfare Code.

Board meets May 19

The Sault Tribe Board of Directors unanimously passed an historic resolution calling for a Secretarial Election seeking to amend the Constitution of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe

of Chippewa Indians during the May 19 meeting at the Marquette Tribal Community Center.

The measure sets the wheels in motion to allow tribal members to vote on a new Constitution, which would bring a three-branch form of government provided the proposal is passed with at least 30% of eligible voters once the U.S. Secretary of the Interior calls for the Secretarial Election under the provisions outlined in the current Sault Tribe Constitution. That request will go the federal government within 30 days with the clock starting on May 19.

"It shall be the duty of the Secretary of the Interior to call an election on any proposed amendment upon the receipt of a resolution passed by a majority of the board of directors," reads the existing tribal Constitution, in part, making this the next step in the path. As a result, no firm or even estimated dates are available regarding the timing of the Secretarial Election.

In other action the board:

- Approved Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 Budget Document 001, which includes all Schedule A budgets totaling \$19,138,317.

- Established a FY 2027 budget for air program development with Environmental Protection Agency revenue of \$72,388 for air quality assessments.

- Approved a FY 2026 budget modification decreasing Tribal Support by \$7,027.72 while tapping \$14,055.42 in Third Party Revenue earmarked for the Intern Program.

- Approved a FY 2026 Budget Modification to Higher Education decreasing Tribal Support by \$2,000 and increasing it by \$2,000 from Third Party Revenue to fund scholarships.

- Approved a FY 2026 budget modification for Sault Ste. Marie Optical from Third Party Revenue in the amount of \$91,131.97 as the Health Department prepares to hire an optician lab coordinator.

- Approved budgeting the deputy clerk positions at maximum pay and authorized budget modifications to reflect this step.

- Approved Memorandums

of Understanding with three districts — Bark River-Harris Schools, Rudyard Area Schools, Les Cheneaux Community Schools — for the 2026 Youth Education & Activities (YEA).

- Rescinded Resolution 2023-102, which placed Juul Settlement Funds into the Land Claims Fund after it was determined it was not proper, but will allow the interest to remain if that is permissible.

- Committed \$7,000 in long-term 2% funding to Newton Township to support the Gould City Museum.

- Excluded the Sault Tribe and its officials from access to classified information and exempted the same from requirements for facility security clearance under the National Security Program Operating Manual providing Sault Tribe Inc. with an opportunity to secure a contract with the U.S. Navy.

- Accepted the resignation of an appellate judge effective June 5.

- Expressed support for the state of Michigan establishing a moratorium on large-scale data center and cryptocurrency mining developments until a consultation process is established with tribes, including comprehensive environmental and cultural impact assessments on any legislation involving those entities.

- Likewise, the board requested the state of Michigan to establish formal consultation requirements for all actions of the state in regards to carbon capture, pipeline development and subsurface land use to ensure prior and informed consent.

- Approved a residential land lease in Kinross Township.

- Approved hiring a court administrator/magistrate.

- Threw its support and offered resources to assist Lake Superior Academy against a Bitcoin mining operation.

Board meets June 2

The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Board of Directors met in St. Ignace for the June 2 meeting where they made quick work on the agenda passing a multitude of resolutions with minimal debate including:

- Established a Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 budget for Coronavirus Capital Funds with U.S. Department of Treasury Revenue of \$27,638.36.

- Established FY 2026 budgets for Great Lakes Restoration Initiative budgets for FY 2026 with \$1,982.18 earmarked for ruffed grouse research and another \$8,913.09 dedicated to manoomin (wild rice) in preparation for seeding this fall.

- Approved a FY 2026 budget for Engaging Ojibwe and Western Sciences with Bureau of Indian Affairs revenue in the amount of \$33,135.87.

- Approved a FY 2026 budget modification to decrease the transfer of third-party revenue of \$39,442.73.

- Authorized the Health Division CEO to explore, pursue and seek financing operations, including loans and loan guarantees in preparation for the Sault Ste. Marie Health Center Annex and Expansion Project.

- Approved awarding an architect and engineering contract for U.P Engineers and Architects, Inc. in the amount of \$217,250 to renovate two buildings on the recently-purchased Roy Property at 2901 Ashmun Street in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.

- Approved a waiver of

sovereign immunity in order to enter into an agreement with Indigenous Design Studio + Architecture.

- Agreed to provide 100,000 walleye fingerlings to be stocked in Brimley Back Bay in exchange for \$36,000 from the Bay Mills Indian Community.

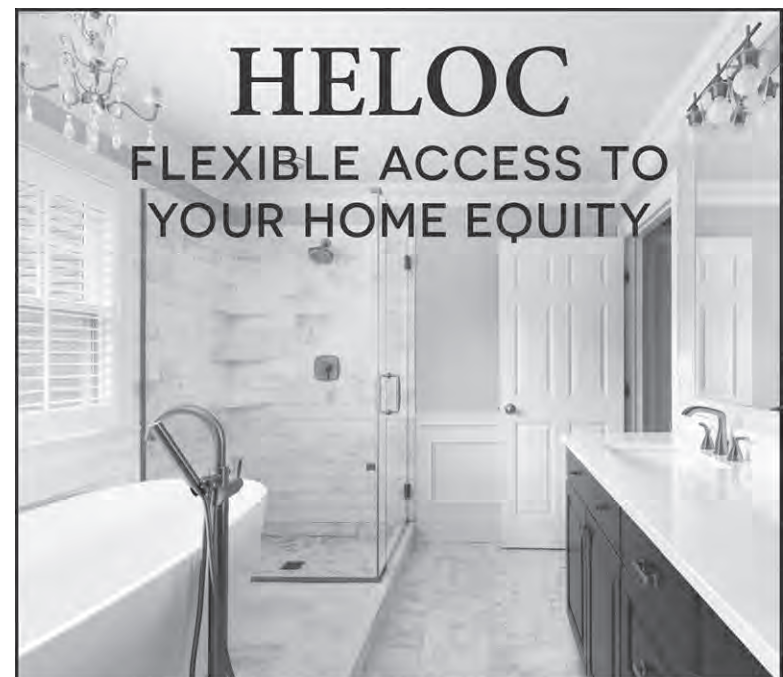
- Ended an existing land lease agreement for two lots in Kinross Township's Cedar Grove Estates and re-established that agreement with two new individuals.

- Re-appointed The Mahoney Group as the broker of record for another three years at an annual rate of \$65,000.

- Re-appropriated \$48,000 that must be spent by Dec. 31, 2026 for home rehabilitation efforts.

- Awarded a contract in the amount of \$69,500 to Payne and Dolan Inc. for the Casino Road Ring Project.

- Authorized the Sault Tribe Purchasing Department to proceed with the selected contractor identified through the procurement process for the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Utilities Service Form 515 Telecommunication System Construction Contract with Phase I bringing approximately 60 miles of service to the community.



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DISCLOSURES: Variable Rates: All HELOCs have variable interest rates that may change monthly based on the Wall Street Journal Prime Rate. Your specific APR will be determined by your individual credit profile and loan-to-value (LTV) ratio. The APR will never exceed 25.00%. **No-Fee Offer:** First National Bank of St. Ignace covers all standard closing costs, including appraisal, title, and recording fees. There are no application or annual fees. No reimbursement of closing costs is required if the line is closed early. **General:** Offer subject to credit approval. Property insurance is required. Consult a tax advisor regarding the deductibility of interest. Interest on the portion of the credit extension that is greater than the fair market value of the dwelling is not tax-deductible for federal income tax purposes. NMLS #411168.

Traditional Medicine hosts giveaway with donated tobacco plants

Traditional Medicine Supervisor Lori Gambardella handed out tobacco plants to Sault Tribe members from the Sault Health Center lobby June 5.

The supply, which lasted about two hours, was donated by a Sault Tribe member from the lower peninsula. Gambardella said he's been cultivating the plants for the last 25 years, and they've gradually adapted to the colder climate. The pink-flowered tobacco plants grow from spring until late fall, growing up to eight feet in height with thousands of tiny seeds, which can be planted the next spring. She instructed each taker to keep their plants in full sun, water them twice a week and talk to them every morning.



Sault Tribe member Emily gets a tobacco plant for herself and her sister from Traditional Medicine Supervisor Lori Gambardella (L-R). A tribal member raised and donated the plants.

Tribal Health Division purchases Roy properties

As reported in the May 2026 Win Awenen Nisitotung, the Sault Tribe Health Division has purchased the Roy Electric properties across the street from the Health Center on Ashmun. This new “extension property” will enable the Health Division to provide additional space and ultimately entice more skilled medical professionals to come to work with us.

The two blue buildings on Ashmun will be completely refurbished and used for additional office spaces, a staging area for departments that are relocating or getting updates, and some much-needed cold storage. These buildings are only the first step of expansion; there are additional plans to renovate and expand on the south side, directly attached to the current Sault Ste. Marie Health Center building.

ing.

The impending growth of the Health Division has been met with a great deal of positive attitudes, both internally and externally. Not only does the growth illustrate the value of Health Division services, but also how vital a role we play in the community.

As our growth becomes more visible—through new acquisitions and upcoming expansions of existing locations—we invite our supporters to not only celebrate these milestones with us, but also to watch for enhanced services across the tribe’s seven-county service area.

Additionally, we invite you to please join us for a Traditional Blessing event of the newly acquired property (formerly Roy’s Electric) on Monday, June 15 at 1 p.m.



L-R: Sault Tribe Health Division Project Manager Annie Thibert, Kenneth Dale and Jeff Roy of Roy Electric, Sault Tribe Chairman Austin Lowes, UP Title Representative Michelle Raden, Sault Tribe Director of Real Estate and Property Management Helen Wilkins and Sault Tribe Health Division CEO James Benko.

Sault Tribe Housing Authority’s new satellite office

The Sault Tribe Housing Authority is proud to announce the opening of its new Sault Ste. Marie Housing Office, which officially began operations on June 1, 2026. Having an office located back in Sault Ste. Marie has been a long-time goal for Sault Tribe Housing Authority. The new office will improve access, expand housing services and support for tribal members and residents throughout the Sault Ste. Marie area. The Housing Authority also has a satellite office in Manistique, Mich., to provide housing assistance on the west end of the service area.

The new office is located at: Dawn Eavou Housing Office 2163 Migisa Court Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 Office hours are Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Sault Ste. Marie office provides assistance with housing applications, housing program information, resident services, rent collection support (scheduled dates only), and other housing-related needs. Members may also pick up applications for all service programs at this location.

“This office represents an important step forward in improv-

ing access to housing services for our members and residents in the Sault Ste. Marie area,” said Resident Services Manager Cathie Erickson. “We are excited to continue expanding our presence and strengthening support within the community.”

The office features a public entrance accessible by ramp on the north side of the building to help ensure convenient access for all visitors.

Staff at the new office include resident service, occupancy, homeownership and accounting.

You can contact the office by calling (906) 495-1450.



Sault Tribe Housing Authority recently opened a new office in the Sault.

Sault Tribe environmental manager receives commendation

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

SAULT STE. MARIE, Mich. — From the air, Robin Bouschor could see how connected everything was — the water, the land, the more-than-human relatives and the communities that depend on them. Below her was the M/V Honorable James L. Oberstar, the 806-foot freighter that had run aground on the St. Marys River, and the shoreline around Shingle Bay, a place the Sault Tribe has worked for generations to protect.

“Looking down from the aircraft, I wasn’t simply seeing a response operation; I was looking at a place that our ancestors cared for, a place the tribe had recently worked to bring back into tribal stewardship, and a place we hope future generations will continue to know and care for,” she said.

Bouschor (Makade Aanakwad Kwe), environmental program manager for the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indian’s Natural Resources Division, Gidayaangwaami’idimin Ezhinawendiyang, has received a U.S. Coast Guard Public Service Commendation for her role in the emergency response to the grounding.

She was honored for her work with Unified Command after the Oberstar struck bottom June 8, 2025, while traveling up the river. The freighter sustained damage to roughly 90% of its hull and ruptured tanks carrying ballast and heavy fuel oil. More than 30,000 gallons of heavy fuel oil were at risk of entering the St. Marys River and threatening Shingle

Bay, a culturally significant area the tribe reacquired less than a year before the grounding and set aside as preserve lands where tribal members can exercise treaty rights through harvesting, ceremony, research and education.

Bouschor worked with the Coast Guard, along with federal, state, tribal and Canadian partners. The Coast Guard credited her local knowledge and guidance with helping shape the response, which included more than 240 responders and 12 high-risk operations. The effort stabilized the damaged vessel, reduced the pollution threat and allowed the freighter to be moved 360 miles across Lake Superior to Duluth, Minn.

Bouschor was quick to share the credit.

“While I am honored to receive the United States Coast Guard Public Service Commendation, I view this recognition as a reflection of the collective effort that made the response successful,” she said.

The potential threat to Shingle Bay carried particular significance for the tribe, which had entrusted stewardship of the Sugar Island and Shingle Bay parcels to the Natural Resources Division. She described thinking less about the vessel itself than about everything that stood to be lost if the response failed.

The commendation was executed June 16, 2026, in Cleveland and signed by Rear Adm. R.E. Dash of the Coast Guard’s Great Lakes District.

Danielle Fegan, director of the tribe’s Natural Resources Division, said Bouschor’s work reflects the division’s mission of collaborative stewardship in the Great Lakes region. “Robin’s work ethic and her commitment to protecting our lands, air, and waters are a direct expression of the Natural Resources Division’s mission to serve as leaders in collaborative stewardship within the Great Lakes region,” Fegan said.

The Coast Guard said Bouschor’s service reflected credit on herself, the Sault Tribe and the Coast Guard.

Late Housing director leaves legacy

The legacy of a dedicated leader in tribal housing continues to inspire across Indian Country.

During the recent National American Indian Housing Council (NAIHC) Annual Convention and Tradeshow, Joni Talentino was posthumously honored with the prestigious Virginia Kizer Award, one of the highest recognitions in Native housing.

The Virginia Kizer Award honors leaders who demonstrated extraordinary commitment and service to tribal housing programs and Native communities. Named after longtime Indian housing advocate Virginia Kizer, the award recognizes individuals whose leadership and dedication have made a lasting impact on affordable, culturally relevant housing throughout Indian Country.

Our former director, who



Photo courtesy of the U.S. Coast Guard

Robin Bouschor, environmental program manager for the Sault Tribe Natural Resources Division, was honored for her work with Unified Command after the M/V Honorable James L. Oberstar struck bottom June 8, 2025, while traveling up the St. Marys River.



passed away in July 2025, devoted her career to improving housing opportunities, strengthening programs, and advocating for families throughout our community. Her leadership helped guide important initiatives that expanded access to safe and affordable

housing while always keeping the needs of tribal members at the center of the work.

Colleagues and community members remember her not only as a strong leader, but also as a compassionate mentor and advocate who believed housing was foundational to the health and wellness of Native families.

While this recognition comes with sadness following her passing, it also serves as a powerful reminder of the legacy she left behind. Built on service, compassion and an unwavering commitment to helping others.

Her work will continue to influence future generations of tribal housing professionals and inspire continued efforts to strengthen Sault Tribe communities through safe, affordable, and culturally grounded housing opportunities.

Adam Homminga graduates as warrant officer

Adam Homminga recently graduated as a Warrant Officer in the United States Air Force (USAF), becoming the 193rd appointee in this newly reinstated rank. Homminga said the Air Force officially retired the Warrant Officer Corps in 1958, with the last person holding the rank retiring in 1980. After a 65-year hiatus, the Air Force has reintroduced Warrant Officers to serve as elite technical specialists and leaders.

“Being part of this inaugural Class 26-03 is a distinct honor, and I am proud to represent the

Sault Tribe within this historic first cohort,” Homminga said.

Homminga attended Warrant Officer Training at Maxwell Air Force Base from January through March, graduating March 12. Upon completion, he returned to Ramstein Air Base, Germany, where he currently serves at USAFE-AFACR A6.

Homminga enlisted in the USAF in April 2013 as a Cyber Systems Operations Specialist, beginning a career marked by increasingly complex assignments across multiple continents. His first assignment took

him to the 792nd Intelligence Support Squadron at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, where he served for three years and contributed to Exercise Red Flag. He then transitioned to RAF Mildenhall in the United Kingdom, spending five years across two units, two years with the 488th Intelligence Squadron and three years with the 352nd Special Operations Support Squadron. During that period, Homminga supported multinational exercises in Sweden and Estonia.

Following his time in the

United Kingdom, he relocated to Germany to serve with the 1st Combat Communications Squadron for four years. The tour produced some of his most demanding operational opportunities, including a five-month deployment to Poland and a five-month deployment to Romania, as well as support for three named exercises spanning Germany, Poland and Nevada. At the conclusion of that assignment, Homminga was selected for warrant officer, a recognition of both his technical expertise and demonstrated leadership.



Adam Homminga with his mother, Amy Homminga.

Introducing Ali and Dezmond Magnus - united in marriage

Ali Webber and Caleb Miller were united in marriage on the afternoon of May 25, 2026, in an intimate ceremony atop Mission Hill in Bay Mills Township, Mich.

In celebration of their union, the couple chose to begin this new chapter with new names — the bride as Ali Magnus and the groom as Dezmond Magnus.

Dezmond’s mother, Becki Miller, brother Ashton Jacobson, grandmother Pamela Perry, aunt Kristin Tadgerson, along with cherished friends and family, gathered to witness and celebrate the occasion.



Right: Newlyweds, Ali and Dezmond Magnus, alongside their two children, Demetria and Cheryl.

Happy Birthday Emory!



Unit I elder Emory Schwiderson is celebrating another trip around the sun. He enjoyed birthday cake and ice cream, purchased by the Unit I Elder Sub Committee. Happy Birthday, Emory!

Wilson graduates BMCC

Tribal member and Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., resident Samantha J. Wilson graduated May 1, 2026, from Bay Mills Community College, earning an associate degree in child education. Wilson will continue her education in the child education field and will own her own day care one day.



Erin Hood graduates with honors



Erin Marie Hood graduated with honors from Piedmont University on May 8, 2026, with a bachelor’s in Forensic Science.

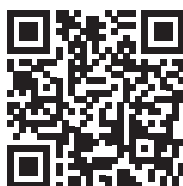
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Sault Tribe filmmakers bring Sundance-winning documentary home for July viewing in the Sault

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

SAULT STE. MARIE, Mich. — For brothers Adam and Zack Khalil, the making of “Aanikoobijigan” was never only about finishing a film.

It was about coming home.

The brothers, Ojibwe filmmakers and Sault Tribe citizens from Sault Ste. Marie, spent eight years creating the feature documentary, which follows tribal repatriation specialists in Michigan working to bring ancestors home for reburial. The film premiered at the 2026 Sundance Film Festival in the NEXT section, where it won the Audience Award. It will air nationally on PBS’s “Independent Lens” in 2027.

Before that, the brothers are bringing it back to the place that shaped them.

“Aanikoobijigan” will be screened July 2 at the Niigaanagizhik Ceremonial Building in Sault Ste. Marie, with additional screenings planned across Michigan and the Great Lakes region.

Aanikoobijigan is an Anishinaabemowin word meaning ancestor, great-grandparent and great-grandchild. For the Khalils, the word holds the heart of the film: the connection between past, present and future.

The film focuses on the Michigan Anishinaabek Cultural Preservation and Repatriation Alliance, or MACPRA, an alliance of tribal repatriation specialists representing Michigan’s 12 federally recognized tribes. The group works to return ancestors and cultural belongings from museums, universities, libraries and archives.

The work stems in part from a 1990 federal law requiring the return of Indigenous human remains and sacred items to their rightful communities. More than three decades later, many ancestors still remain boxed, catalogued and stored in museum basements and university archives.

The project also brought three Sault Tribe citizens back together: producer, cinematographer and sound recordist Jacques Clark, who grew up with Adam and Zack in the Sault, spent much of the eight-year process traveling with them across Michigan and the country, filming and recording sound.

“In a lot of ways, the film became a collaboration between three Sault Tribe citizens finding our way back to one another,” the brothers said. “The fact that a film about bringing ancestors home also brought us home to each other, and made us close like family in the process, feels like an important part of the story.”

Adam and Zack grew up in Sault Ste. Marie, attending JKL Bahweting Anishnabe School and participating in Tribal Youth Council and Youth Education and Activities. Their late mother, Allison “Ally” Krebs, ran YEA in the early 2000s with a group of mentors and educators who wove cultural teachings into youth programs, culture camps, recreation centers and computer labs.



Above: Film stills from *Aanikoobijigan* [ancestor/great-grandparent/great-grandchild], a documentary by Sault Tribe citizens and brothers Adam and Zack Khalil. The film follows Indigenous communities working to return ancestors and cultural belongings home and will screen at Niigaanagizhik on July 2. Below right: Adam and Zack Khalil.

The brothers said that upbringing shaped their understanding of community, culture and responsibility. It also introduced them, even as children, to the issue at the center of “Aanikoobijigan,” the fact that ancestors had been taken from tribal communities and held in institutions around the country.

“We didn’t know then how much that awareness would shape the work we would eventually make together, but it always stuck with us,” they said.

After graduating from Sault High School, Adam left for Bard College in New York’s Hudson Valley in 2006. Zack followed a few years later. Both received Gates Millennium Scholarships, which helped make their education possible. They credit long-time Sault High mentor Dave Houghton with helping guide them through that process.

Their path into filmmaking grew out of experimentation, art and collaboration. Adam studied film at City College of San Francisco during a year away from Bard, where he was exposed to experimental cinema. He later interned at Canyon Cinema, San Francisco Cinematheque and Other Cinema, and worked under filmmaker Craig Baldwin.

At Bard, both brothers studied with artists and filmmakers they describe as “friendtors,” including Peggy Ahwesh, Les Leveque and Peter Hutton. Zack, who had been focused on electronic music, composed an eight-channel audio score for Adam’s senior thesis, a multi-channel video installation. It became their first major collaboration.

After college, Adam interned at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of the American Indian in New York City, where he encountered Indigenous cinema in a deeper way. The brothers later worked together making high-end bar and bat mitzvah videos, an experience they describe as strange, but useful, training.

Their mother’s death in 2013 changed the direction of their work.

Krebs had been pursuing a doctorate at the University of Washington, where her work focused on returning control of Indigenous knowledge from archives and museums back to the communities where it belongs. She had also been a

mentor, educator, poet and community builder whose home was open to tribal youth.

The brothers poured their grief into their first feature film, “INAATE/SE/,” which premiered in 2016 and played at museums, festivals and venues around the world.

“That film was a way of introducing ourselves back to our community as adults, without Ally here in this physical world,” they said. “Of saying: we are still here, we are still yours.”

The seed for “Aanikoobijigan” came in 2015, when childhood friend Colleen Utter, the Sault Tribe’s repatriation specialist and a MACPRA member, called Adam from New York. Utter was traveling with Jackie Minton to the American Museum of Natural History to bring ancestors home.

Adam met them at the museum and witnessed the transfer. He saw the institutional process, the paperwork, the museum setting, the ancestors packed in cedar-lined boxes, moved beneath dinosaur skeletons and out into a New York City street to begin the journey home to Michigan.

He called Zack immediately.

The brothers had already been working on a related short film, “The Violence of a Civilization without Secrets,” which screened at Sundance in 2017 and dealt with repatriation through the story of the Ancient One, also known as Kennewick Man. But the experience in New York made clear that there was a larger Michigan story to tell.

Still, they moved carefully.

Their first question to MACPRA was not whether members would appear in the film. It was whether the film should be made at all.

The brothers spent more than a year meeting with MACPRA before they recorded anything. They screened “INAATE/SE/” for members, listened to criticism about its blind spots regarding ancestors, and let that feedback shape the new project.

Ground rules were set early, including limits around filming ceremonies and reburials. The brothers said the process required them to show up first as Anishinaabe people and only then as filmmakers.

“If they had said no, we wouldn’t have made it,” they said.



Photos by Ozhiton Films



That accountability became central to the film.

The brothers said they wanted “Aanikoobijigan” to be accessible enough for classrooms, museums and film festivals, while also reflecting an Anishinaabe understanding of time, memory and obligation. They also hoped the film would reach museum professionals, archaeologists, anthropologists and students who may one day work with collections involving Native communities.

Rather than treating the past, present and future as separate, the film approaches them as connected and cyclical.

They said repatriation is not only a legal or political issue. It is also a spiritual and cultural responsibility.

“Burial is a final act of reciprocity,” they said. “Throughout our lives we take from the earth, and in death we return ourselves to it, completing a cycle that connects us to everything that came before and everything that will come after.”

The making of the film included repatriation transfers, reburials, meetings, museum visits and years of archival research. Native artists and filmmakers, including Shaandiin Tome and Sky Hopinka, also contributed to the project.

The editing process took years and included disagreements between the brothers. They said those creative fights are part of what makes their collaboration work.

One difficult scene involved the revelation that ancestors were being held beneath the stadium at Michigan State University. For months, the brothers argued over the music. Nothing worked. While sick with the flu and working together in Copenhagen, one

of them suggested turning the music off.

They watched the scene in silence.

It worked.

“That’s what it’s like to make something together — you need another person to get you to the place you couldn’t reach alone,” they said.

Their work together will continue. The brothers are developing a feature documentary about settlers who have voluntarily returned land to Native American tribes, a subject connected to New Red Order’s “Give It Back” project. They are also working on a practical guide for returning stolen land, expected in 2027.

They have long hoped to make a biopic about Norval Morrisseau, the Anishinaabe artist and founder of the Woodland School of Art, based on Armand Ruffo’s “Man Changing into Thunderbird.”

Zack continues to teach at Cooper Union and other universities in New York. Adam, who lives in Copenhagen, Denmark, with his wife, Maria Meinild, and their daughter, Stella Allison Meinild Khalil, will begin a practice-based arts doctoral program at the Oslo National Academy of the Arts in Norway this fall.

For now, though, the brothers are focused on bringing “Aanikoobijigan” home.

The film has traveled to Sundance and beyond, but the Sault screening carries a different meaning.

“Aanikoobijigan has traveled a long way — Sundance, festivals, press, all of it meaningful — but the screening on July 2 at the Niigaanagizhik feels like what it was always really for,” they said. “We hope to see you July 2.”

Gidapiitenimigoo "We are Proud of You"

Sault Tribe holds Team Member Recognition Luncheon, rewards dedicated employees



Chairman Lowes congratulates 40-year-employees Harvey Hammock, Laurie Mansfield and Samuel Gardner.



35 year employees Veronica Beaumont, Lisa Windsor-Gonyeau and Sandy Sauro.



A few of the 23 employees who celebrated 25 years of service. Photo by Amber Lemon



Wendy Nault-Mayer, Tia Radle, Robert Smith and Geraldine Brow made up a portion of more than two dozen employees recognized for 30 years with the Sault Tribe. The luncheon was held at the DreamMakers Theater on May 12, where guests were welcomed by Sault Tribe Chairman Austin Lowes and the board of directors, and enjoyed hearing Ogimaa-Minisino, the JKL Bahweting School drum perform prior to the feast.



Nirmal Rozario celebrated 25 years.



Jami Moran recognized for 25 years.



Joy Page honored for 30 years.



Chairman Lowes and Officer Ryan Lubben, who celebrated 15 years.

Photos by Brenda Austin & Scott Brand



Chairman Lowes congratulates Dr. Andrew Rife, 10 years.



Chairman Lowes congratulates Dr. David Drockton for 30 years of service.



Cara St. Andrew received a 25-year certificate along with 22 other individuals.



Diane McLeod-Maleport joined two dozen others who have clocked in for two decades.



Lisa Sayles and Nicole Sayles, mother and daughter, celebrate 25 and 15 years.



Dale Joseph celebrated 15 years.



Michael and Jessica McKerchie share the spotlight with 15-year certificates



Colton Hudak and 21 other employees completed a full decade.

JKL School hosts 30th Anniversary Jingtamok & Fourth Annual Niiwin Noodin Powwow held in Manistique



Above, JKL had a visitor during its 30th anniversary celebration. From L-R are School Superintendent Dr. Carolyn Dale, JKL School Board President Norma Castro and Northern Michigan University Charter School Office Director K.C. Holder. Below, second grade Teachers Tara Allison and Angela Chaput donned welcome home t-shirts made for the event.



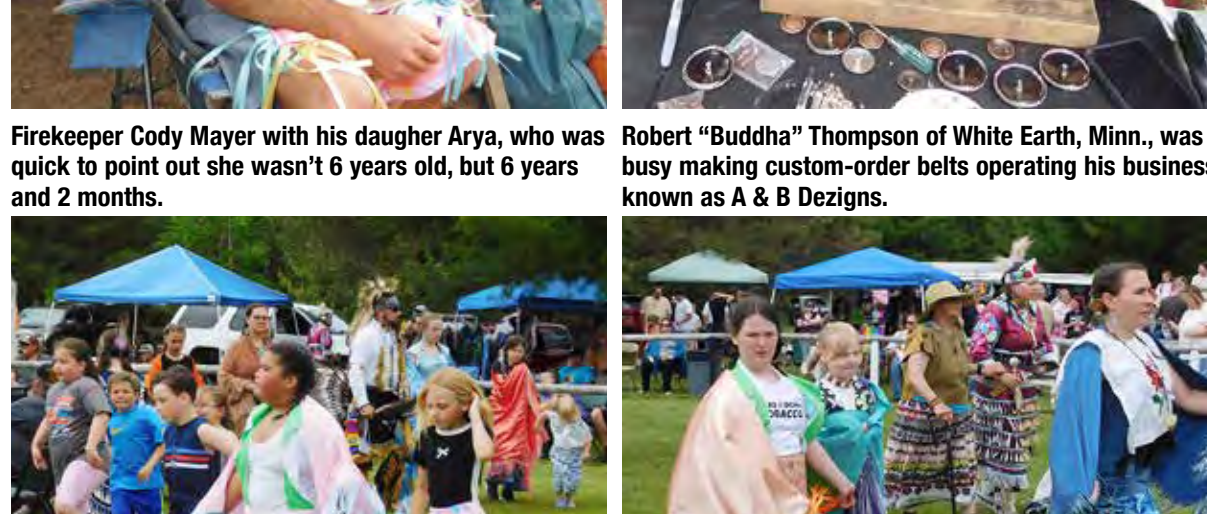
Lillian Warner, Savannah Thompson and Amelia Odbert pose for a picture. Below, Les Ailing joins the Ice Circle Singers.



Above, Brett Blackwood, who served in the U.S. Army, was the Head Veteran leading the Grand Entry. Below, preparing to post the colors.



Above, Frog Hills and below Mission Hill singers perform.



Photos by Scott Brand

Boat2School Program provides hands-on experience



Sixth-grade students from JKL Bahweting prepare to explore the walleye rearing grounds off of 15 Mile Road as part of the Boat2School Program.



Amy Schneider of the Sault Tribe's Fisheries Department takes a question during her invasive species presentation.



Students examine plankton utilizing a high-tech digital microscope to see what the young walleye feed on.



Utilizing the grab and chuck technique participants dispensed fertilizer into the pond to promote plankton growth.



Hands-on activities included donning survival suits.



Fishing for plankton...



And tossing the life-saving ring.



Cain Chaput scored the day's first ring.



Jamie Massey of Massey Fish Co. in St. Ignace shows the different kinds of fish that are harvested.



Students affixing labels on freshly packed product.



An assembly line of sharp knives and careful cuts.



Above, Jamie hoists a massive 31-pound lake trout that was captured in the nets, below, his son, Jamie and wife Margaret served snack to their guests.



Above and below processed fish bound for the market.



Above, fresh off the smoker. Below, Montana McCulley serves up a bag of lake trout bites to a customer.



Walking on...

KAREN WARNOCK-LEE

Karen Warnock-Lee, 83, of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., died May 10, 2026, at the Ball Hospice House in Sault Ste. Marie. She was born Dec. 2, 1942, in Wheeling, W.V., to Troy and Mildred (Thomas) Warnock.



Karen moved to many places throughout her life as her father's work took the family to different locations. She dedicated twenty years of service to the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians in the Newspaper Department, and also designed the Sault Tribe flag with consultation from fellow peers.

Karen had a deep love for the arts and was especially passionate about painting and sculpture.

Karen is survived by her husband, Richard; children, Kevin (Stacy) Benson and Kellan (Benson) Boyer; grandchildren, Katherine, Daniel, Max, Troy, Taylor and MacKenzie; great-grandchildren, River, Dallas, Elam and Eli; siblings, Ruth Warnock and Gerry Warnock; and many special teachers and friends.

Karen was preceded in death by her parents, Troy and Mildred.

A Memorial Gathering was held May 14, 2026, at the Niigaanagiizhik Ceremonial Building in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. A traditional ceremony followed on Friday, May 15.

Memorial contributions may be made in Karen's honor to the Ball Hospice House, 308 W. 12th Avenue, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783.

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

VERNON "VERN" GARY JOHNSON

Longtime Engadine, Mich., resident, Vernon "Vern" Gary Johnson, 84, passed away peacefully on Saturday morning, May 9, 2026, at McLaren Northern Michigan - Petoskey with his loving daughters at his side.



Vern, along with his twin sister Virginia, was born Nov. 6, 1941, at home in Trout Lake, Mich., to the late Carl and Lillian (O'Neil) Johnson. He graduated from Engadine High School in 1959.

Vern began his journey as a mechanic at a very young age when a neighbor asked him to rebuild a tractor engine at 14.

He was working at Beaudoin's Texaco Station in Naubinway when he met the love of his life, Ruth Ann Patzer, who was working next door at Beaudoin's Cafe. On May 1, 1965, Vern and Ruth were married at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Engadine.

Vern was the owner and operator of Vern's Repair where he fixed everything but a broken heart. For many years, he

was also employed with the Department of Natural Resources' Forestry Division in Newberry. Highlights of his DNR career included going up in the DNR's Cessna to spot wildfires and being sent to a wildfire in Idaho to repair the firefighting vehicles.

He was a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and enjoyed hunting and trapping. In 2011, he was lucky enough to draw a Michigan elk tag. He took a cow elk opening morning earning himself a trophy for "Oldest Hunter" at the Atlanta, Mich., elk pole. He went on hunting trips to Canada for moose and Colorado for elk and mule deer. For several years, he enjoyed going to deer camp with his brother Don, brother-in-law Bill, and good friend Charlie Fosdick.

After his retirement, he and Ruth restored a 1950 Chevy pickup truck that they took to car shows in the area. He was very proud of that truck and continued to go to car shows after Ruth's passing. He also enjoyed dancing with Ruth and cheering on his beloved Detroit Tigers even attending games at both Tiger Stadium and Comerica Park.

In addition to his parents, Vern is preceded in death by his wife of 57 years, Ruth; and siblings Donald Rose, Clem Rose, and Doreen Rose.

Survivors include daughters, Lori (Mark) Skaggs of Menominee, Mich., and Gretchen (Katie Porter) Johnson of Montgomery, Ohio; granddaughter Lillian Skaggs; twin sister Virginia DeLong of Hastings, Mich.; and godson Mark Vanderhoff of Chicago, Ill.

A gathering of family and friends took place on May 15, 2026 at Beaulieu Funeral Home in Newberry. Funeral services celebrating Vern's life followed with Pastor Melinda VanderSys officiating. Interment with Native American tribal rites conducted by the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians followed at Maplewood Cemetery in Rexton.

Vern's daughters would like to thank the doctors, nurses, and staff at McLaren Northern Michigan - Petoskey for the compassionate care he received during his time there.

Memorial contributions may be directed to the family for future designation in Vern's loving memory. Beaulieu Funeral Home in Newberry is assisting the family.

MARILYN ROSE THERESA THIBODEAU

Marilyn Rose Theresa Thibodeau, 92, passed away peacefully on May 13, 2026 at 10:34 a.m., with her daughter holding her hand.



Born in Detroit, Mich., on July 25, 1933, during the depths of the Great Depression, Marilyn was the middle child in a devout Catholic family of eight children. For the first six months of her life, she slept in a dresser drawer, a story she often shared with humor.

Her maternal family, the Leasks of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., were enrolled members of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. Her father, Phillip "Pop" Thibodeau, worked on the Great Lakes and eventually became Chief Engineer on the massive freighters traveling through the Soo Locks.

At seventeen, Marilyn attended Stenotype Commercial College in Detroit, graduating at the top of her class. On her eighteenth birthday, she moved from Detroit to Chicago, Ill., and began working as a hostess and cashier at the famed London House nightclub. There, her manager Oscar Marienthal introduced her to musicians, artists, and celebrities of the Chicago jazz scene. Even in her youth, Marilyn's compassion defined her; when she was not working, she often opened her doors to homeless women in need, earning the affectionate nickname "Mother Marilyn."

Eventually trading harsh winters for sunshine, Marilyn moved to Los Angeles, Calif., where she worked in advertising for Caples and Citron before launching her own typing service company. Her extraordinary typing speed became legendary. She worked for film studios and was hired to proofread and type the screenplay for A Raisin in the Sun. A lifelong lover of jazz, Marilyn immersed herself in the Los Angeles music scene and befriended musicians including Chet Baker and Gerry Mulligan.

Later, while living in San Francisco, Marilyn won numerous typing competitions and became known as the fastest typist in California, reportedly reaching 180 words per minute on old mechanical typewriters. She said that the newer IBM Selectric typewriters could not keep up with her speed. Her adventurous spirit carried her next to New York City, where she worked for the Egyptian Embassy at the United Nations. From there, she traveled to Senegal and later to Spain, where she purchased a motorcycle and drove across Europe before eventually settling for a time in Vétheuil, France. Despite her travels, Marilyn remained devoted to her parents and siblings, regularly returning to Detroit to spend time with family.

In 1965, Marilyn began a relationship in New York City with classical guitarist Millard Thomas, who performed with Harry Belafonte. In 1966, she gave birth to her only child, Cressandra, whom she raised with a fierce devotion and unwavering encouragement in the arts. Marilyn supported her daughter's artistic ambitions while working tirelessly herself, taking on additional typing and editing.

In 1981, inspired by her admiration for famed attorney Leon Jaworski, Marilyn and her daughter moved to Houston, Texas where Marilyn worked as a paralegal for Fulbright & Jaworski.

Years later, mother and daughter fulfilled a shared dream of building an arts center together. In 2010, when Cressandra transformed Houston's last wooden church in the Houston Heights, into the nonprofit arts center

14 Pews, Marilyn became its beloved bartender and unofficial "Cookie Czar." Before each film screenings, Marilyn delighted audiences by walking through the church aisles carrying a collection basket overflowing with cookies for guests, she lovingly called her "parishioners."

In 2018, Marilyn was featured in the Houston Chronicle as the oldest bartender in Houston and the second-oldest bartender in Texas. In 2020, after surviving a severe battle with COVID, Marilyn's health gradually declined, and she was later diagnosed with dementia. Even as her memory faded, her warmth, humor, and adventurous spirit remained.

Marilyn was preceded in death by her parents and all of her siblings; brothers, Nelson, Richard and Alfred Thibodeau and sisters Doloris Syrjala, Luella Spang, Phyllis L. Rickert and Mary Loree St. Amour.

She is survived by her daughter and caregiver, Cressandra Thibodeau, along with many beloved nephews, nieces, cousins, and extended family members.

In keeping with her lifelong love of travel and water, Marilyn's cremated ashes will be scattered across the Five Great Lakes and in Menton, France, places that reflected both her roots and her boundless sense of adventure.

Memorial services were held May 31 at Aurora Chapel in Houston Texas with Emily Sloan officiating.

MARILYN "TEENIE" (MCNALLY) MILATOVICH

Marilyn "Teenie" (McNally) Milatovich, 93, of Munising, Mich., died at her home with her daughter by her side and under the care of North Woods Home Hospice on Saturday, June 6, 2026.

She was born in Munising on Sept. 25, 1932, the ninth of twelve children to the late Thomas and Inez (Carr) McNally. Marilyn

attended Wm. G. Mather High School, and she later moved to Detroit, Mich., where she met and married Raymond Milatovich



on Oct. 23, 1954. Marilyn was family-oriented and loved Sunday picnics with family. When the kids were young, she would take them ice skating and tobogganing. Their summers were spent in the Upper Peninsula where Teenie grew up surrounded by family and her childhood traditions. Marilyn and Raymond looked forward to being surrounded by family camping at Pete's Lake.

She enjoyed arts and crafts and made decorations for the holidays year-round. Marilyn encouraged the arts to her children. She enjoyed cooking and making desserts, baking pastries and pies.


Marilyn returned to Munising and loved gardening, mowing her lawn, and berry picking. Teenie was a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and attended elder dinners. Her love for family is her lasting legacy.

Marilyn is survived by her four children – Diane Sierant, Paula (Rod Weible) Nadler, Philip (Galina) Milatovich, and Mark (Maria Cala) Milatovich; grandchildren – Michael, Stephen, and Michelle Sierant and Anna and Aubrey Milatovich; great-grandchildren – Wilder and Sawyer Sierant.

Marilyn was preceded in death by her parents Thomas and Inez, husband Raymond, son-in-law Chris Sierant and siblings Clifford "Kip", Isabelle "Lolly," Wayne, Dorothy "Dort," Ray, Margaret "Muggs," Marion "Biggs," John, Katherine "Honey," and Darlene "Dar."

A celebration of life will be announced at a later date. Her obituary and guestbook may be found bowermanfuneralhome.net.

Celebrating
THE LIFE OF



William I Mastaw

DECEMBER 2, 1955- JANUARY 15, 2026

SERVICE
FRIDAY JUNE 19 2026
1:00 PM RIVERSIDE CEMETARY
4:00 PM NIIGAANAGIIZHIK
CEREMONIAL BUILDING

Walking on continued...

LORRAINE MAUDRIE

Lorraine Maudrie, passed away Saturday Jan. 31, 2026, at the age of 86. She was born April 20, 1939, in Rexton, Mich., and grew up in Naubinway, Mich.

Lorraine attended High school in Engadine, graduated from Sault Ste. Marie High School, and received her associate's degree from Washtenaw Community College.

Lorraine retired from Thetford corporation where she worked for over 30 years. She had a variety of different positions over the years from working in the factory to driving a high low. She ended her career as a supervisor in customer service and sales. On this journey, she acquired many lifelong friends.

Lorraine loved singing was actively involved in Sweet Adelines and Voices in Harmony where she enjoyed competitions and performances. She was a proud member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

She was also a very active Grammy and enjoyed watching performances, recitals, pinewood derbies and sporting events. She loved spending time in the Upper Peninsula. Every family vacation throughout her life was spent in the U.P. Lorraine also enjoyed playing cards with her friends and family.

Lorraine is preceded in death by her husband Peewee (Richard); her father Fred Smith; her Mother Jessie (Arthur) Barber; her sister Beverly (James) Vogel; her brothers Gary (Carol) and Marvin Smith.

Lorraine is survived by her sons Terry and Steve (Tracy) Maudrie, daughters Joni (Rick) Mynarcik and Lesa Huger. Also surviving are seven grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

From her granddaughter Dr. Tara Maudrie-Lowes: My family said baamaapii, until we see you again, to my Grammy, Lorraine Maudrie this week. I'm deeply grateful I was able to spend time with her before she passed and that her antics and "grammyisms" kept us laughing right up until the end. While she was deeply funny, above all else she was kind, generous to a fault, and truly embodied unconditional love. She was endlessly proud of all of us and never missed a chance to remind us of it. The world was a better place because of her love. She is so much of the reason I do the research and work that I do, and I know I'll carry her love with me always. I love you and I'm so proud of you, Grammy. Until we meet again.

From her grandson Sam Mynarcik: Saturday afternoon, my Grammy passed away peacefully in her home surrounded by family. She was the most caring, kind, fun loving and empathetic person I've known. I know I wouldn't be the person I am today without her. Whether it'd be her crazy driving; her infectious laughter, to even snoring in the movie theaters. There was never a dull moment. I always

loved watching movies with you and I'll miss that most for sure. Thank you for being the best grandparent anyone can ask for, I love you, and say hi to Grampy for me, I know y'all have a lot of catching up to do.

"I carry your heart with me, I carry it in mine, I'm nothing without it. Anywhere I go, you go." -E.E Cummings

We would like to thank the exceptional U of M staff at the PD clinic in Ann Arbor, Dr. Segal, Lisa and Libby for the care you have provided through the years.

Family and friends were invited to attend a Funeral Mass at St. Stephen Catholic Mission Church, in Naubinway, Mich., on Saturday, May 30, 2026, with Fr. Jacek Wtyklo officiating. Rite of Committal followed at the Naubinway Cemetery.

Condolences may be expressed at <http://www.beaulieufuneral-home.com>. Beaulieu Funeral Home in Newberry is assisting the family.

MATTHEW ROBERT MCKELVIE

Matthew Robert McKelvie, 60, of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., died June 1, 2026, at home. He was born

March 27, 1966, in Sault Ste. Marie, to Emery and Eleanor "Gigi" (Hartwell) McKelvie.

Matt was born into a large and loving family of fourteen children.

Throughout his life, Matt worked in a variety of roles, including employment with Forest Ply and the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians, which Matt was a proud member of.

Matt enjoyed spending time with his close friends and family. He had a deep appreciation for music, especially Bluegrass and Country, a fondness that grew from the good old days when his father, uncles, and cousins would gather to play live music, play cards, and enjoy each other's company.

Matt was an avid gardener and took great pride in maintaining his yard. Over the years, he was recognized several times by the Sault Tribe Housing Authority for having the "Best Yard," most recently in 2025.

Matt is survived by his mother, Gigi McKelvie; siblings, Patrick (Julie) McKelvie, Christine (Mike) Gonzales, Kathleen McKelvie, Daniel (Cyndee) McKelvie, Laureen McKelvie (Steve), Mark (Jean) Bennett, John (Carla) McKelvie, William "Lurch" McKelvie, Brenda McKelvie, Victoria (Paul) Kosiewicz, and Janet (Pat) McKelvie; special friends and cousins, Bobby Hammonds, Bunz Germain, Steve McKelvie, Tim Gordon, Tom Mansfield, Charlie Mason, and Sonja McLeod.

In addition, he leaves behind thirty-five nieces and nephews, sixty-six great-nieces and great-nephews, and two great-great-nieces and great-great-nephews.

Matt was preceded in death by

his father, Emery McKelvie; and brothers, Michael McKelvie and Emery McKelvie.

A traditional pipe ceremony was conducted by Les Ailing on June 4 at the Sault Tribe Niigaanagizhik Ceremonial Building in Sault Ste. Marie. A final send-off took place on June 5, with a luncheon following.

Matt's final resting place will be at Oaklawn Chapel Gardens in Bruce Township, Mich. Burial with family will take place at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Family Life Funeral Homes to help with the cost of Matt's services.

"Creator, we give thanks for Matt's life, for the love he shared with family and friends, and for the memories that will remain in our hearts. Grant him peace on his journey and comfort to all who mourn his passing. Amen."

Love, Mama.

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

LOWELL WRIGHT FOX

Lowell Wright Fox, 82, of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., died May 2, 2026, at

MyMichigan Medical Center - Sault. He was born Sept. 23, 1943, in Sault Ste. Marie to Reginald and Agnes (Leask) Fox.

Lowell was born and raised in Sault Ste. Marie and graduated from Sault Area High School. Following graduation, he moved to New Jersey, where he began his career with Ford Motor Company. It was there that he met Joanne DeGroat, and the two were united in marriage and went on to build a loving family together, raising five children.

Lowell remained with Ford in New Jersey until the plant closed in 1988. He then relocated to Chicago, Illinois, where he continued his dedicated career at Ford's Stamping Plant until his retirement. After retiring, him and Joanne moved back to Sault Ste. Marie, where he enjoyed spending his later years in the place he always considered home.

Lowell was a proud member of UAW Local 588.

Lowell found great joy in life's simple pleasures. He loved spending time at Rotary Park and the Soo Locks, watching the freighters pass through. He had a talent for woodworking and could often be found crafting something by hand. He also enjoyed fishing and, above all, cherished time spent with his children and grandchildren. Sugar Island held a special place in his heart, as it was where he spent much of his childhood, and he returned there as often as he could throughout his life.

Lowell is survived by his children, Bradley (Debbie) Fox, Kelly Walling, Cecelia (Todd) Fox, Lowell (Beverly) Fox Jr., all of Kincheloe, Michigan, and James Fox of New Jersey; grandchildren, Autumn (Roman) Wood, Kyle Fox, Michael Hager Jr., Kayla (Robert) Parr,

Jordan Walling, Nathan Walling, Savannah Fox, Joseph (Jazlyn) Fox, James Fox, Austin Fox, Britney (Joseph) Fox, Michael (Kristen) O'Hara, and Aaliyah Fox; great-grandchildren, Bentley, Kaisley, Macey, MaKenzie, Jerid Jr., Baby Miller, Jasper, Jemma, Lainey, Baby Socia, Kellin, and Baby Fox; siblings, Lyle (Tina) Fox of New York and Ted (Mary-Jo) Fox of Sugar Island; son-in-law, Jim Walling; and grandson-in-law, Jerid Norris.

Lowell was preceded in death by his wife, Joanne; parents, Reginald and Anges; sister, Patricia Nigro; and brothers, Gerald Fox and Leonard Fox. A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

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

KATHRYN "KAY" LETSON

With sad and broken hearts, we bid farewell to our daughter, Kathryn "Kay" Letson, 72, who passed away on May 14, 2026, at her home in Perris, Calif.

Kathryn "Kay" Letson was born Dec. 7, 1953, in Manistique, Mich., daughter of Richard and LaDonna (Beveridge) Letson. She was raised in Michigan, and later moved to California.

Kathryn attended Mueller Township and transferred to Doyal and on to Manistique High School, and then attended Northern Michigan University in Marquette. Kathryn married Steven Parks on June 28, 1986, he preceded her in death.

Kathryn worked at the Marquette Alger Community Schools, then moved to California, where she worked in the office at Leisure World in Long Beach and later at Long Beach State College in administration, retiring after 32 years.

Kathryn enjoyed planting her garden with flowers and vegetables and refinishing furniture.

Kathryn is survived by her mother, LaDonna "Donna" Letson of Gulliver and her dog, Scruffy. She is preceded in death by her father, Richard; sister, Debra Letson and grandparents, Ford and Mary Beveridge, Albert and Josie Letson and Eirnel and Marie Blanchard.

Memorials may be directed to the family.

Services were held at the Fausett Family Funeral Home on Friday, May 22, 2026, from with Father Ben Paris. Burial followed at Fairview Cemetery.

ROBERT EUGENE LEE

Robert Eugene Lee, 62, of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., died April 27, 2026, at MyMichigan Medical Center -Sault. He was born April 18, 1964, in Sault Ste. Marie, to Ronald

and Beatrice (Shannon) Lee Sr.

Robert was a lifelong resident of Sault Ste. Marie and spent many dedicated years working at R & R Electronics.

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

Robert lived a simple life and found joy in watching scary movies. He was also an avid fan of the Detroit Red Wings and the Detroit Lions.

Robert is survived by his siblings, Dawn Wilson, Dustin Lee and Lexi Lee, all of Sault.

Robert was preceded in death by his parents, Ronald and Beatrice Lee; and siblings, Ronald Lee Jr., Randy Lee, Michelle Merchberger and Renee Lee.

There will be no service's per Robert's wishes.

To help the family with funeral expenses during this difficult time, Memorial Contributions may be made to Family Life Funeral Homes, 4951 S. M-129, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783. The family is deeply grateful for the love, support, and generosity shown by friends and loved ones.

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

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

ELIZABETH "LIZ" KAY GOUGE-MANEY

Elizabeth "Liz" Kay Gouge-Maney, 41, of Bryson City, N.C., unexpectedly passed away at home on May 14, 2026.

She was born Aug. 22, 1984, to Johnny Darrell Gouge and Frances (Visnaw Baier) Brown.

Liz was a 2002 graduate of Sault Alternative High School in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., and was a proud member of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians. Liz deeply valued her culture and teachings, especially proud of recently receiving her tribal name, Waawiyaaagizhigo Kwe, meaning Milky Way Woman. Liz enjoyed spending time with her family and friends, creating lasting memories. She loved cooking, traveling on cruises, and spending time with her beloved animals, Rosie, PewPew, and Mouse.

Her greatest joy in life was her son, Kaleb, whom she loved with all her heart and was endlessly proud of. Liz loved selflessly, always putting others before herself. To know her, was to know unconditional love, strength, and kindness. She had a way of making people feel cared for, supported, and important no matter what they were going through. Her laughter and sense of humor were infectious, and her beautiful smile could light up any room.

Liz is survived by her loving husband, Travis Maney; her beloved son, Kaleb Hudson; her mother, Frances Brown; and her father, Johnny Gouge; stepfather Rick

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Walking on continued...

From "Walking on," page 18
Brown. She is also survived by her siblings, Rebecca (Patrick) Gordon, Christina Gouge, Jonathon (Avana) Gouge, Caleb Gouge, Paul (Mallory) Baier, and Cody (Carley) Bosbous.

She also leaves behind her mothers-in-law Rhonda & Elena Fox, Tina Teiken, father-in-law Ricky Maney, sister in laws Laura (Price) Moore, Monica Sykes, Nicole Hudson, and special grandmothers Joy Fox and Midge Kendrew.

She held a special place in her heart for all of her nieces and nephews: Kenzie, Blair, Brooklyn, Cailey, Keirah, Dezmarah, Emarah, Zendaya, Cameron, Parker, Austin, Emily, Larry, Danielle, Shawn, Abby, Caroline, Abbygail, Kaitlyn, Nora, Sophia, Elenore, and Lane. Liz also leaves behind many special aunts, uncles, cousins, and dear friends who will miss her deeply.

She was preceded in death by her stepfather, Paul Baier; the father of her son, Albert Hudson; her grandparents, Millard and Romaine Gouge and Rita McPhail; her aunt, Cathy Chaplain; her aunt, Vicky McKinney; and her uncle, Alan Charlton.

A gathering was held on May 22, 2026 at Crisp Funeral Home in Bryson City, N.C. to honor her memory and how special she was to everyone who knew her. A celebration of life will also be held at a later date in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to her son Kaleb, to help support his college education and future expenses.

DENISE ANN (STREETER) QUINN

Denise Ann (Streeter) Quinn, age 71, of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., died on Monday, May 18, 2026, at the Ball Hospice House in Sault Ste. Marie.

She was born on Dec. 7, 1954, in Sault Ste. Marie, to Vernon and Evelyn (Parrish) Streeter.

Denise grew up in Sault Ste. Marie and graduated from Soo Area High School. She worked as a nurse's aide at Tendercare Nursing Center before transferring to War Memorial Hospital. After several years, she became a receptionist in the Radiology Department at War Memorial Hospital and retired from there. Following her retirement, Denise purchased Domino's Pizza and enjoyed working there, establishing many lifelong relationships while operating the business for several years. Denise married her high school sweetheart, and together they shared fifty-two years of marriage and three children together.

Denise proudly served as president of the Hiawatha Figure Skating Club board for many years.

Denise enjoyed sewing and making dance and figure skating costumes for her daughter

and granddaughters. She loved baking birthday cakes and desserts of all kinds, and family and friends especially looked forward to her famous pumpkin rolls. Above all else, Denise treasured the time she spent with her grandchildren and the time she spent with her beloved dogs.

Denise is survived by her husband, Daniel; children, Mike (Laura) Quinn, Dan Quinn, and Jennifer (Kenneth) Talsma, all of Sault Ste. Marie; grandchildren, Trevor, Brea, Isabella, Tiffany, Carter, Chloe, Piper, Tucker, Addison, Annabelle, Brycen, Asher and Hudson; sister, Debra (Paul) Crozier of Rudyard, Mich.; and brother, Vernon Streeter of Missouri.

Denise was preceded in death by her parents, Vernon and Evelyn; and sister, Diane (Jim) Tremblay.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

Memorial contributions may be made in Denise's name to Ball Hospice House, 308 West 12th Ave., Sault Ste Marie, MI 49783 or to the Chippewa County Animal Shelter, 3660 S. Mackinac Trail, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783.

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

DENISE LENORE CRUICKSHANK

Denise Lenore Cruickshank (née Patch), affectionately known as DC, Dee, and "Little Dee-Dee," 71, of Holly, Mich., passed away March 27, 2026. She was born Sept. 15, 1954, in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., to Leonard Lyle Patch and Evelyn Grace (Campbell) Patch.

Denise is survived by her children, Julie Anne and David Michael, Jr. (Kelley Ann); her grandchildren, Anna Lebourdais, Emily Grace (Jon), Meadow Lynn, and Harper Rose; and her great-grandchildren, Spencer Steven and Gracelyn K. She is also survived by her siblings Evelyn Ales, Larry Patch, and Lorne Patch.

She was preceded in death by her grandson, Brett Alexander (2001); her brothers Leonard and Louis; and her parents.

Denise lived a life that didn't fit neatly into categories—and she wouldn't have wanted it to.

She was strong, independent, and tough as nails when she needed to be. Her work as a nurse's aide at Northville Psychiatric Hospital, a Michigan State Park Ranger, and a Corrections Officer speaks to that strength. She handled life head-on.

But underneath that toughness was someone deeply caring, endlessly social, and full of life. Denise was a true people person—a social butterfly who could turn strangers into conversations and conversations into connections.

She loved music, animals, and

the simple joy of being around the people she cared about. She had a soft spot for animals, especially the ones that needed help, and spent time caring for strays and wildlife whenever she could.

Denise was known for her humor, her quick wit, and her ability to find light even in tough moments. She said "I love you" often, and she meant it. She believed in giving people a fair chance, and she taught her family how to keep going—even when life wasn't easy—by smiling through the rain.

She also carried a few legendary claims, including her life-long insistence that she was the world's first female gas station attendant. Whether fact or folklore, it was part of what made her unmistakably Denise.

She will be remembered for her laughter, her personality, her love of animal print, and the way she showed up for people.

Above all, her greatest legacy is the love she gave her grandchildren. In the last years of her life, nothing mattered more to her than the time she spent with them and the love they shared in return. That bond is what will carry her forward.

If there's any comfort in imagining her now, it might be this—she's finally on that island she always talked about.

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

Denise will be cremated prior to the visitation. Burial will take place later this summer at Lakeside Cemetery in Holly.

Visitation was held April 7, 2026, at Dryer Funeral Home in Holly, Mich. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to a local animal shelter in her honor. She would have saved every animal if she could."

To send flowers or a memorial gift to the family of Denise Lenore Cruickshank please visit our Sympathy Store.

JAMES "JIM" MICHAEL CARROW

James Michael Carrow, 79, of Boyne City, Mich., and formerly of Farwell, Mich., passed away peacefully in Mt. Pleasant, Mich. on May 14, 2026.

Jim was born on Dec. 27, 1946, in Cheboygan, Mich., to James E. and Edith (Birdsall) Carrow. He proudly served his country in the United States Navy as a radioman from 1965–1967. Following his military service, he returned home to Farwell where he worked alongside his father and brother at Carrow's Supermarket.

Jim lived a full and hard-working life and was deeply involved in his communities over the years. He earned his pilot's license, served as a volunteer firefighter, helped establish the City of Farwell Police Department, and also served with the Clare County Sheriff's Department.

Jim married Brenda Jarman on Dec. 11, 1980. In 1989, they

moved to Boyne City where they purchased the Boyne Country Party Shop. After later selling the business, they purchased Boyne Irrigation. Retirement never suited Jim well, and he continued working by mowing the fairways at Boyne Mountain, where he enjoyed staying active and visiting with people.

Jim especially enjoyed traveling with Brenda, spending many winters in Texas and Arizona where they made countless friendships and memories along the way.

He is survived by his loving wife, Brenda; also surviving is Sherry (Bowling) Weaver of Barryton (the mother of his children); daughters Michele (Matt) Mosher of Traverse City, Mich., and Rhonda (Matt) Lemke of Clare; sons Mike Carrow (Matt Buck) of Kewadin, Mich., and Nick Carrow (Ashley) of East Jordan, Mich., (the son of Jim and Brenda); grandchildren Mercedes Tomaski, Maghen Tomaski, Kaleigh Boggs, Justin Boggs, Lyndsie Lemke, Brandon Lemke (Megan), Justin Lemke, Alexis Farmer (Jordan), Taylor Babinski (Kenny), Landon Carrow, and Tanner Carrow; five great-grandchildren; brother and sister-in-law Ed and Jody Carrow; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, James and Edith Carrow; his sister, Janice Rotman; and his grandson, Matthew Boggs.

Jim will be remembered for his strong work ethic, dedication to his family and community, and his inability to ever truly sit still. He touched many lives through his service, friendship, humor, and kindness.

A celebration of Jim's life took place on June 12, 2026, from at the home of the Boyne City Eagles.

Arrangements are in the care of Stackus Funeral Home.

FLORENCE MARIE "COOKIE" CALHOUN

Florence Marie Calhoun was born Sept. 16, 1954, in Ypsilanti, Mich., to William Paul Campbell and Eunice Martha Campbell. She passed away on Feb. 23, 2026, at the age of 71.

Cookie worked as a caregiver for many years, with her last employer being that of a security guard before her retirement. She was a lifetime member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

Cookie loved to have her family and friends come with her to karaoke every weekend that she could attend.

She had many friends during her karaoke years, singing songs from the 60's. If anyone wanted to talk about Elvis Presley, she could sit for hours and chat about Elvis. She made two trips to Memphis, Tenn., to see Graceland.

She is survived by a son, Randy Maurer (Carmen) and a granddaughter, Gabby. She

is also survived by many nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews. She is survived by a stepdaughter, Janae Shyalix, and a stepson, Jacob Keiffer. She will be missed by family and friends.

She married Michael Calhoun and he preceded her in death. She was also preceded in death by stepson, Edward Calhoun; her sisters, Lucille Proulx (nee Causley), Evelyn Patch (Nee Campbell), Virginia Lemble (nee Campbell), Betty Lou Lehtinen (nee Campbell) and two brothers, William Campbell and Roger Dean Winters.

Final resting place will be the Hematite Cemetery on Cemetery Road in Amasa, Iron County, Mich. Burial will take place Sept. 3, 2026 at 4 p.m.

DALE FRANCIS BELONGA

Dale Francis Belonga, 87, of St. Ignace, Mich., died Saturday, May 2, 2026, at home with his family surrounding him. He was born Aug. 11, 1938, in Moran, Mich., to Phillip and Esther (Becker) Belonga.

Dale grew up in St. Ignace and graduated from LaSalle High School. After graduation, he began working and later attempted to enlist in the military but was unfortunately declined due to a heart murmur. He went on to work for the City of St. Ignace Department of Public Works and later transitioned to the water department after the City of St. Ignace acquired it. Dale dedicated 40½ years to the City before retiring. During this time, Dale met Delina Rose Proton in Engadine, Mich., and the two were married on Nov. 12, 1960, in Naubinway, Mich. They made their home in St. Ignace.

Dale was a member of the Straits Area Sportsman Club.

Dale enjoyed fishing, riding his side-by-side, and going for drives with his dog, Rusty, by his side. He especially enjoyed spending time at his cabin in Rexton, Mich., and camping with Delina.

Dale is survived by his sons, Clifford Belonga of St. Ignace and Bill (Nisa) Belonga of Rexton; grandchildren, Peyton, Dennis, Billy and Hana; and sisters, Patricia Martin and Judy (John) Winandy.

Dale was preceded in death by his wife, Delina; parents, Phillip and Esther; daughter-in-law, Wendy Belonga; and siblings, Nedra (Daniel) Hough, Phylis (Don) King, Ronald (Lillian) Belonga, Billy Belonga, Janice (Alan) Werkheiser, Joan Adams, and Michael Belonga.

A memorial gathering was held May 21, at Family Life Funeral Homes in St. Ignace. A memorial service followed immediately.

Dale's final resting place will be at Lakeside Cemetery in St. Ignace, Mich.

Condolences may be left at www.familylifefh.com.



Twelve Sault Tribe Early Childhood Education Program employees earn degrees and certificates

A dozen employees from the Sault Tribe's Early Childhood Education Program earned degrees and certificates on May 15, graduating with the 2026 Class at Bay Mills Community College (BMCC).

Early Childhood Program Manager Shondra Gervais said a unique partnership provides a program funded through Office of Head Start through the Tribal College and Universities (TCU-HS) Partnership Programs with BMCC — the Honoring Our People through Education (HOPE) Grant.

"Our team members have the opportunity to take online classes at BMCC to further their education and obtain needed credentials for their positions," said Gervais. "You come to us as a teacher's aide and the grant will help cover tuition for two classes a semester as well as any textbooks required for those classes if you are employed with our program. Certificate of Completions and CDAs can be earned in two semesters and, if interested, you may continue tak-

ing classes towards an Associates or Bachelor's degree in ECE through the life of the grant."

This year's graduating class included Bachelor of Arts in Early Childhood Education recipients Jennifer King and Melissa Whitley; Associates of Arts recipients Eileen Gibson, Helen Kerfoot and Lindsey Mattson; and Certificates of Completion recipients Josephine Clor, Patricia Freeborn, Kelsey Browning, Abigail Cvengros, Taylor Ogston, Payton Kinnear and Chloe Schram.

"Our partnership with BMCC and the HOPE Grant has provided opportunities for our team members to further their education, which in turn improves our overall quality of care we provide, educational competencies, and supports cultural identity for our community's youngest members," Gervais said. "In recent years, finding qualified teachers has been difficult and with our partnership with BMCC we will continue to grow our own and provide our team members with education opportunities to help



further their own careers in the field of early childhood."

The Sault Tribe's Early Childhood Education Program has more than 50 employees

dedicated to caring for and educating 112 infants, toddlers and preschoolers at the Anne Suggitt Early Childhood Center in Sault Ste. Marie and the Lambert

Center located in St. Ignace.

BMCC's Class of 2026 included 188 graduates earning 196 credentials, including 113 Native American students from 21 tribes.

Walking on continued...

MICHAEL HARRY ALLARD

Michael Harry Allard, 90, of Sugar Island, Mich., died Sunday, June 6, 2026, at his home. He was born April 24, 1936, in Flint, Mich., to Cyril and Isabella (Mastaw) Allard.

Mike was a loving father, brother, grandfather, great grandfather, uncle, and friend who meant the world to his family and everyone who knew him.

Mike spent much of his life on Sugar Island, a place he loved dearly. He was well known for his skill as a spear fisherman and seemed to have a natural talent for it. If there were fish to be found, Mike could find them. He loved being on the water and spent countless hours doing what he enjoyed most.

Mike proudly served his country as a veteran and later worked as a truck driver until his retirement. He was a hardworking man who believed in taking care of his family and always doing what was right.

Above all else, Mike loved his family. He was kind, generous, and always there when someone needed him. One of the greatest loves of his life was his wife, Nancy. He missed her deeply and carried that love for her in his heart every day.

Mike also had a playful side and enjoyed pulling pranks on people. He loved making others laugh and always seemed to find a way to bring a smile to someone's face. His sense of humor and the memories he created with family and friends will never be forgotten.

Mike's legacy lives on through the memories he created, the

lessons he taught, and the love he shared so freely. We will miss his smile, his stories, his laughter, and his unwavering love for his family.

Though our hearts are heavy, we are grateful for the time we shared with him and for the example he set through a life well lived. He will be forever loved, forever remembered, and forever missed.

Mike is survived by his children, Linda (Dave) Schmalz of Kincheloe, Mich., Theresa Reed of Waterloo, Iowa, Lori (Ricky) Button of Westland, Mich., and Michael (Karen) Allard of Lake Orian, Mich.; grandchildren, Sarah, Lester, Kaylea, Karl, Christopher, and Amber; great grandchildren, Kalin, Evan, Sophia, Skyles, Patrick, Calvin, Elaina, Jackson, Shay, Lily, and another on the way; and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Nancy Allard; grandchildren, Alex, and Devin; sister, Muriel Lane; brothers, Thomas Allard, Gregory Allard, and Joseph Allard.

Visitation was held June 9, at the Niigaanagizhik Ceremonial Building, continuing to June 10, until the Traditional Ceremony began.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held on June 11 at Holy Name of Mary Pro-Cathedral Catholic Church.

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

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

ALBERT FARLEY

Albert "Buzzy" Farley, 75, of Garden, Mich., passed away peacefully May 24, 2026, at St. Vincent Hospital in Green Bay, Wis., surrounded by the love of

his family.

Born Nov. 26, 1950, in Manistique, Mich., Buzzy was the son of Albert and Virginia Victoria (Geddert) Farley.

When he was a young man, he worked in the woods logging and that is how he learned to drive logging trucks. He was raised in Garden and spent much of his life working alongside his father operating the Garden Transfer Company, delivering throughout the local area. A hardworking man through and through, Buzzy also sailed the Great Lakes on the L.E. Block ore boat and later worked for Big Bay De Noc Fisheries, hauling shipments to Chicago. Truck driving was more than a career to



him; it was part of who he was.

Buzzy cherished every moment spent with his grandchildren and rarely missed a school event, always willing to travel wherever they were. A true trucker at heart, he loved hitting the open road and taking trips out west. Whether it was a semi-truck show or a classic car show, Buzzy could always be found admiring the vehicles with pride and excitement. He also enjoyed camping, though he proudly considered himself more of an RVer.

Hunting, deer watching, and photographing wildlife brought him great joy and became some of his favorite pastimes.

A proud member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, Buzzy was deeply devoted to his community. In the 1970s, there was a fire in Garden and there was not a fire department. Buzzy suggested that

Garden should have a fire department, so the mayor appointed him fire chief and he sought out volunteers to create one. In 1974, he became the first Fire Chief of the Garden Township Fire Department, a role he carried with honor and dedication.

Buzzy is survived by his lifelong partner, Rebecca Tatrow of Garden; his children, Keith (Billie) Farley of Garden and Toni (Derek) Williams of Garden; his beloved grandchildren, Maddison Farley, Westyn Snyder, and Wyatt Williams; several sisters and brothers; many nieces and nephews; and his cherished fur baby, "Izzy."

A committal service will be held June 20 at 12 p.m. at New Garden Cemetery in Garden with Leo Bodette officiating. A luncheon will follow the service at St. John's Catholic Church Hall in Garden.

In memory of Christine McDonald

On July 9, 1995, you went home to be with the Lord.

It seems like it was just yesterday. I was adopted by another family, but I am so blessed to have had the opportunity to get to know you and love you, and for you to love me and watch me grow up.

You had a heart of gold and loved your family in spite of the challenges you had in life. But at the end of your life, you had the freedom to do what you wanted without challenges in your way. Your heart and love for your family will always be remembered.

I wish we had more time, but the Lord had other plans. I love you always and remember the smile and glow you had when we visited.

Love, Your Son,
John McBride



JKL Bahweting Schools honor athletes at annual banquet

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

JKL Bahweting Schools recognized its student-athletes and coaches at its annual Athletics Banquet on May 21, capping what officials called a standout year for the Eagles.

The seventh-grade boys basketball team finished the season undefeated, and the boys cross country team won the conference championship. The track team placed second in the conference.

Aaron Litzner was named coach of the year. David Domingos Guimiare and Mya Jackman were honored as male athlete of the year and female athlete of the year, respectively.

Gabe Litzner, a JKL alumnus, was inducted into the school's Hall of Fame during the ceremony.

ny.

"It's a great year to be an Eagle," Athletic Director Greg Chromy said.

MVP and Coach's Award winners by sport:

Volleyball — Seventh grade: Aurora Hodge (MVP), Bryn Hallai (Coach's Award). Eighth grade: Kacie Corbiere (MVP), Charlie Stevenson (Coach's Award).

Girls basketball — Sixth grade: Breigh Aikens (MVP), Liza Coon (Coach's Award). Seventh grade: Macartie Nolan (MVP), Hadley McCready (Coach's Award). Eighth grade: Mya Jackman (MVP), Tia Gordon (Coach's Award).

Boys basketball — Sixth grade: Grayson Kibble (MVP),

Cain Chaput (Coach's Award); Logan Follete (MVP), Jase Averill (Coach's Award). Seventh grade: Ryder Broten (MVP), Jeffrey Rangel (Coach's Award). Eighth grade: Chayse Lujan (MVP), Karson Segura (Coach's Award).

Cheer — Sixth through eighth grade: Chevy Savola (MVP), Autumn Eldred (Coach's Award).

Cross country — Girls: Clara Niebuhr (MVP), Natalie Van (Coach's Award). Boys: Liam Scheffler-Gonzalez (MVP), Dirk Cron (Coach's Award).

Track — Girls: Lola Donmyer (MVP), Chevi Savola (Coach's Award). Boys: Kendyn Skipper (MVP), Zack Kibble (Coach's Award).



Athletes of the Year — Domingos David Guimare and Mya Jackman.



Photos by Shari Robertson

Coach's Award — Back Row: Liza Coon, Tia Gordon, Karson Segura, Cain Chaput, Dirk Cron, Zach Kibble. Front Row: Chevi Savola, Autumn Eldred, Natalie Van, Charlie Stevenson, Jeffrey Rangel, Jase Averill. Not Pictured: Brynn Hallai, and Hadley McCready.



MVPs — Back Row: Ryder Broten, Kendyn Skipper, Chayse Lujan, Lola Donmyer, Clara Niebuhr, Mya Jackman. Front Row: Macartie Nolan, Kacie Corbiere, Logan Follette, Grayson Kibble. Not Pictured: Aurora Hodge, Breigh Aikens, and Liam Scheffler-Gonzalez.



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2026 tribal interns come online for the summer

BY SCOTT BRAND

The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians 2026 Summer Internship Program kicked off on June 8, with a full – day onboarding session, facilitated by Sault Tribe Education Director Stephanie Sprecker. Participants learned about Sault Tribe, program expectations, joined a talking circle with Sault Tribe Language & Culture, and met with Sault Tribal Chairman Austin Lowes and Chief Executive Officer Jessica Dumback before heading out to work the summer on their individual assignments.

The 10-week program is designed to provide Sault Tribe college students with a valuable experience where they can apply their skills and learn new ones as they work in their fields of interest. Since its inception in 1997, the program has helped many students find permanent employment upon completing their studies with a portion of them finding jobs with the Sault Tribe.

This year's participants include:

— Jon (David) Daley is a senior majoring in secondary social studies education at Central Michigan University. He has been placed at JKL Bahweting School and will also work with Youth Education and Activities (YEA) under supervisors Heather Purple and Lisa Burnside. He is a 2022 Sault High graduate and the son of Stacey Daley.

— Sawyer Dowd is a graduate student majoring in law at Michigan State University's College of Law. He has been placed in the Sault Tribe Legal Department under Ryan Mills. Dowd graduated from Sault High in 2021 and is the son of Nikki and Isaac McKechnie.

— Kayla Gutierrez is a senior at the University of California-Santa Cruz, where she is studying creative technologies. She has been placed in Communications Video Productions with Joseph Street. The daughter of Amy and Val Gutierrez resides in San Jose, Calif. where she graduated from Pioneer High School in 2022.

— Kenedy Hagan is a senior majoring in nursing at Lake Superior State University and will intern at Sault Tribe Community Health with Jenni O'Dell at the Sault location. She is a 2023 Sault High graduate and the daughter of Jeff and Julie Hagan.

— Finley Hudecek is a senior at the University of Michigan majoring in learning, equity, and problem solving for the public good. She has been assigned to JKL Bahweting School and Sault Tribe Early Childhood Education under Heather Purple and Shondra Gervais. Finley is a 2024 graduate of Maplewood Baptist School in Kinross and resides in the Sault with her parents Matt and Daraka Hudecek.

— Camryn Pederson is a senior studying biomedical engineering at the University of Michigan. She was placed at the Sault Tribe Community Health working out of the Gladstone location under Nicole Fuson and Tara Duchene. She is a 2024 graduate of Big Bay de Noc and currently resides in Garden, Mich., with her parents, Bob and Heather Pederson.

— Taylor Wheatley is a senior at Michigan State University studying biochemistry and molecular



Photo by Scott Brand

The Sault Tribe 2026 Summer Interns started their first day on June 8 with orientation. Above (L-R) are Education Executive Assistant Breanna Sliger, Tribal Chairman Austin Lowes, interns Jon Daley, Gabrielle Woodard, Taylor Wheatley, Finley Hudecek, Sawyer Dowd, Camryn Pederson and Kenedy Hagan with CEO Jessica Dumback and Sault Tribe Education Director Stephanie Sprecker.

biology. She will split her time between the Sault Tribe's Natural Resources Department and the Center of Cooperative Ecological Research (CCER) under Katelynn Schultz and Eric Clark. She hails from Battle Creek, Mich., and graduated from Harper Creek High School in 2021. Taylor is the daughter of Carmen and George Wheatley.

— Gabrielle Woodard is a senior majoring in biology at Lake Superior State University. She has been placed with the Sault Tribe's Natural Resources Department where she will work under Jack Tuomikoski and Rusty Aikens. Gabrielle is a 2023 Sault High graduate and daughter of Alisha and Christopher Woodard.

Elder Assistant is needed in Marquette

An Elder Assistant is needed at the YEA in the Marquette Office. The position is 14 hours per week at \$14.50 per hour. Must be a Sault Tribe member age 60 or over and reside within the seven-county service area.

The Elder Assistant will help YEA staff with preparations for activities and workshops, provide direct services to youth along side YEA staff, and help with YEA program operations as needed. Working knowledge with computers and copiers needed. High school diploma or equivalent required, experience working with youth preferred. Will be required to undergo and pass a background check.

To apply or ask questions, contact: WIOA / Senior Employment Program Attention: Brenda Cadreau, 2 Ice Circle Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783, (906) 635-4767, BCadreau@saulttribe.net.

ZIISBAAKWAD MINISING JINGTAMOK

SUGAR ISLAND POWWOW

JULY 17TH-19TH

2026

<p>HEAD FEMALE DANCER Melissa Causley</p> <p>HEAD MALE DANCER Abe Bouschor</p> <p>JR. HEAD FEMALE DANCER Poppy Solomon</p> <p>JR. HEAD MALE DANCER George Solomon</p>	<p>CO-EMCEES Shannon Martin & Josh Homminga</p> <p>HEAD VETERAN Henry Bouley Jr.</p> <p>ARENA DIRECTOR Les Ailing</p> <p>HOST DRUM Ice Circle Singers</p> <p>CO-HOST DRUM Teal Lake Singers</p>	<p>FRIDAY Sunrise Ceremony 12pm Spiritual Gathering</p> <p>SATURDAY 1pm Grand Entry 5pm Feast 7pm Grand Entry</p> <p>SUNDAY 1pm Grand Entry</p>
<p>3 Mile Rd., Sugar Island, MI</p> <p><i>Follow the signs from the ferry!</i></p>	<p>Sitraditionalpowwow@gmail.com "Sugar Island Traditional Powwow" on Facebook</p>	<p>Rustic Camping Available No Vendor Fee!</p>

Chairman Lowes updates the membership



AUSTIN LOWES
TRIBAL CHAIRMAN

The Health Division is also implementing a new Electronic Health Record (EHR) system this month. This is a significant undertaking for our healthcare team. The previous system was severely outdated, and the new platform, NextGen, will provide a more streamlined experience for providers and clinicians. This upgrade will improve efficiency, reduce administrative burdens, and enhance patient care through more effective charting and record management.

State and National Advocacy

In a previous unit report, I shared that I had been appointed to the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) Tribal Advisory Committee (TAC). The purpose of this committee is to strengthen the government-to-government relationship between ACF and tribal nations while providing recommendations on how federal programs can better serve tribal communities. I am proud to announce that I was recently selected to serve as chairman of the committee. I also continue to serve on the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Tribal Technical Advisory Committee.

In addition to these national appointments, Governor Gretchen Whitmer recently reappointed

me to the Michigan Community Service Commission for another 3-year term. I appreciate the opportunity to represent tribal interests at both the state and national levels and to advocate for programs and policies that benefit our citizens.

LSSU Young Alumni Award

I'm honored to share that I've been selected to receive the Young Alumni Award at Lake Superior State University this year. This award is presented annually to one graduate to recognize their exceptional personal and professional success early in their career. Recipients must have graduated within the past 15 years and/or be under the age of 40. Last year, I was honored to be the university's commencement speaker. LSSU played an important role in shaping the path I'm on today, and I'm proud to represent the university.

Gordie Howe International Bridge Opening

The Gordie Howe International Bridge, which connects Detroit, Mich., to Windsor, Ont., is scheduled to open on June 12. As the President of United Tribes of Michigan, I was invited by the Whitmer Administration to participate in a gift exchange ceremony with First Nations chiefs during the opening events. Long before European contact, rivers

did not divide Indigenous nations but instead connected them. Waterways served as highways for trade, travel, and cultural exchange. It will be a tremendous honor to meet with First Nations leaders and represent the Sault Tribe during this historic occasion.

Tribal License Plates

Our administration continues to work closely with the Michigan Secretary of State's Office to establish tribal license plates for our citizens. This project remains a priority, and I will continue to provide updates as progress is made.

Powwow Season

I would like to extend a chi miigwech to everyone helping organize and support our powwows this year. Powwows play an important role in preserving our culture, bringing our communities together, and celebrating who we are as Anishinaabe people. The following is the 2026 powwow schedule. I encourage everyone to attend when possible and support the volunteers, dancers, drummers, vendors, and organizers who make these events possible.

Caring for Our Elders Powwow – April 18 – Escanaba High School

Returning of the Thunders Powwow – April 22 – Rudyard

Area High School
JKL Welcome Home Powwow – June 5 – JKL
Niiwin Noodin Powwow – June 6 – Manistique
Bringing Our Community Together Powwow – June 13 – Newberry
44th Annual Bahweting Homecoming Powwow – July 3-5 – Sault Ste. Marie
29th Annual Sugar Island Powwow – July 17-19 – Sugar Island
Munising Powwow – Aug. 8 – Bay Furnace

Election Reminder

I would like to thank all of the candidates who conducted clean and respectful campaigns during this election season.

General election ballots will be counted on June 25 at Kewadin Casino in Sault Ste. Marie. If you have not received your ballot, please contact the Election Committee at elections@sault-tribe.net.

Our ancestors worked tirelessly to protect our way of life and establish the government we have today. One of the best ways we can honor their sacrifice is by participating in the democratic process. Whether you are voting in person or by absentee ballot, I encourage every eligible citizen to make their voice heard.

Health Division Updates

As mentioned in last month's unit report, the Health Division recently purchased the former Roy Electric property located across the street from the Sault Ste. Marie Tribal Health Clinic. The purchase included just under 10 acres of land and represents an important investment in the future of our healthcare system.

A blessing of the property will be held with Traditional Medicine on June 15. Following the blessing, the building will undergo extensive renovations to create additional office space for Health Division staff and support the continued growth of our healthcare services.

Updates on Unit 5 powwow, housing, health



TYLER LAPLAUNT
DIRECTOR, UNIT V

outdoors, reconnect with mother nature, listen to the sounds of the season, and appreciate the simple moments that often pass too quickly. May this summer bring you all peace, purpose, and gratitude as we continue our journey through the year together.

Kitchi-Miniss Jiingtamok

The Jiingtamok Committee has been hard at work to bring you another amazing event this summer. The Kitchi-Miniss Jiingtamok will be hosted at Bay Furnace Park across the highway from the Kewadin Casino in Christmas. The jiingtamok (powwow) will be held on Saturday, Aug. 8, with a Sunrise Ceremony at 6:30 a.m., Grand Entries at 12 p.m. and 6 p.m., and a feast at 4:30 p.m. Rooms are being held at the White Pine Lodge; just call and say you are booking for the powwow to

receive the discounted rate. We look forward to seeing everyone there.

Wetmore Reservation Updates

With everyone settling into their new tiny homes, the next phase of the Wetmore Reservation expansion is set to begin very soon. As previously mentioned, there is roughly 15-acres of undeveloped land behind the existing reservation housing. This year you will begin to see it slowly come to life with groundwork for the new roadways. From there, infrastructure will continue to be developed and a variety of housing and a community center will slowly start to pop up over the next several years.

The current projection should meet all of the housing needs in the greater Munising area that

currently exist, but we will continue to monitor that need and find additional ways across the tribe to get people into homes. This will continue to be a focus across the tribe moving forward.

Health Updates Electronic Health Records (EHR)

It's finally here! The Health Division has finally transitioned off of the antiquated government EHR known as RPMS. We have officially transitioned to NextGen. This will help both our providers, staff, and our patients better interact with our health system. It will improve workflows, billing, and communications across the tribe. As with anything, a new system is going to be a little bumpy when rolling out. So please be patient and kind to those who take care of our health and well being. This

is one of many exciting advancements for our tribe.

Secretarial Election

The tribe is looking for volunteers from each unit to assist with the secretarial election. If you are interested in being a part of history, please apply at constitution@saulttribe.net.

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 mjenerou@saulttribe.net or (906) 450-7011 or (906) 341-8469.

Chi Miigwech,

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

Aanii, Boozhoo,
June brings us to a time of energy, movement, and possibility. The world around us is busy with life, laughter, and play. In the summer, it's important to spend time

Annual banquet supports foster, adoptive, guardianship, kinship families

FROM ACFS
On May 29, 2026, foster, adoptive, guardianship, and kinship families gathered at the Sault Ste. Marie Elks Lodge for the 2026 Annual Banquet.
The event was sponsored by U.P. KIDS, Anishnaabek Community and Family Services (ACFS), Mashkawizii Community & Family Services, and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.
The banquet focused on providing education, support, and resources for caregivers.

Attendees participated in a panel discussion featuring child welfare professionals, a presentation by psychologist Dr. O'Sickey on substance misuse and its impact on youth mental health, and a tour of the Hidden in Plain Sight trailer facilitated by Sheriff Mike Bitnar.
Families also took part in hands-on bonding activities and had opportunities to connect with other caregivers throughout the day while learning strategies and resources to support the children in their care.

Discover dentistry July 11 at NMU

A Discovering Dentistry Symposium will be held at Northern Michigan University July 11, 2026. This one-day dynamic exploration of hands-on learning will inspire students to excel in STEM studies.
Hosted by Planet Smilez, a non-profit that educates children about the importance of oral health commencing at an early stage, the symposium is designed to inspire and educate. The event features varied activities, interactive workshops, and mentorship with dental students from the University of Michigan.
Attendees will gain valuable insights into the various dental career paths, from dentistry and dental hygiene to assisting and beyond, while learning about the importance of oral health and



improving overall well-being.
Students can continue their journey through an optional, six-session virtual mentorship program. This opportunity pairs students with real dentists. They are given encouragement as they explore education pathways and career possibilities.
"Strengthening the oral health safety net starts with investing in our youth," said Holli Seabury EdD, executive director of the Delta Dental Foundation. "By

supporting career exploration for young people, especially those from underrepresented backgrounds, we're helping create a stronger, more sustainable oral health workforce that can meet community needs for years to come."
There is no cost for the event! Participants will leave with a passion to make a positive impact on their communities.
Program Time: 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Location: Northern Michigan University's Northern Center; 1401 Presque Isle Ave, Marquette, MI 49855
Planet Smilez registration Form: <https://form.jotform.com/260433252783153>
Contact: Dr. Pawlak, kathryn.pawlak@planetsmilez.org

Committed to listening, learning and advocating



KIMBERLY LEE,
DIRECTOR, UNIT II

Aanii, Sweet Sunshine and warm air have officially arrived! I hope this report reaches you in good health and that you can get out and enjoy the weather.

Our Unit 2 Spring Feast was truly an honor to attend and help with. A time to come together, share delicious food, and enjoy the community. It was great to see Elders, families, youth, and community members coming together to honor our traditions and strengthen our ties to our ancestors.

A heartfelt chi miigwech goes

out to Midge, Aunt Dorothy, Jeff, Lana, and Charlie for their hard work and help in making the Spring Feast such a great success. Mukwa Giizhik and William Ruthruff are both deserving of recognition for sharing their gifts with us all, and to everyone else who lent a hand in any way, including those who attended. Your time, effort, and willingness to give of yourself are greatly appreciated.

Seeing our community come together to visit, laugh, share stories, and enjoy a meal is a great reminder of how connected

we truly are.

I fully support the move to advance the new Sault Tribe Constitution through a secretarial election. I encourage members to review the proposed amendments at www.saulttribe.com and make informed decisions. While opinions may differ, it's important to focus on accurate information and respectful discussion, trusting members to make the final decision. This should always be about ensuring our focus stays on your best interests.

Whether through community events, elder meetings, youth

activities, or tribal business, I remain committed to listening, learning, and advocating on your behalf. Our strength comes from staying connected, supporting one another, and working together for the benefit of our members today and for the next seven generations. Please don't hesitate to reach out with your questions, concerns, or ideas. Chi miigwech for your time, continued support, guidance, and trust.

Kimberly Lee
Unit 2 Director
Klee@saulttribe.net
(906) 379-8965

Is a trade school or apprenticeship right for you?



KIM GRAVELLE,
DIRECTOR, UNIT I

A traditional four-year college is not the only path to a successful and rewarding career. Many students thrive in hands-on careers that allow them to learn practical skills while preparing for a specific occupation. If you enjoy working with your hands, solving problems, or learning by doing, a trade school or apprenticeship program may be a great option to consider.

One of the biggest advantages of trade schools and apprenticeship programs is the opportunity to gain career-focused training in a shorter amount of time.

Most trade school programs can be completed in as little as six months to two years, while apprenticeships allow individuals to earn a paycheck while learning a skilled trade under the guidance of experienced professionals. Both options provide valuable, real-world experience that prepares students for the workforce.

Many programs also assist participants with job placement and career opportunities upon completion. Because training is often more focused and less expensive than a traditional four-year degree, students may

be able to enter the workforce sooner and with less educational debt.

Skilled trades continue to be in high demand across the country, offering competitive wages and strong career growth opportunities. Some examples include:

- Electrician
- Welder
- Construction Trades
- Automotive or Diesel Mechanic
- Plumber/Pipefitter
- HVAC Technician
- Medical and Healthcare Careers

Whether you choose a trade

school, apprenticeship, college, or another career pathway, the most important factor is finding a path that aligns with your interests, strengths, and goals. Exploring all available options can help you build a successful future in a career you enjoy.

Remember to keep the men and women in our armed forces in your prayers and thoughts for a safe return to their families.

If you have any questions or comments, please call me at (906) 259-3742 or e-mail me at kkgravelle@saulttribe.net.

Thank you,
Kim Gravelle

McKerchie discusses constitutional amendment



MICHAEL MCKERCHIE,
DIRECTOR, UNIT I

Our tribe is preparing in the upcoming months to hold

a Constitutional Amendment Election. This election will be conducted by the Department of the Interior and will have its own registration process, its own Election Commission, and will conduct the election separate from the tribe. It will be a long process and I encourage all members to stay engaged and read up on the constitutional amendments available on our website.

You will hear many sides of the pros and cons of each of the amendments but you will be voting on all the amendments as a whole. I will be providing additional comments each month as it approaches, but ultimately each

member will have to weigh the pros and cons of the amendments to determine how they will vote. I do support a two-branch and I too will have to decide whether the pros of a three-branch government (members can challenge the board in court) to the cons of a three-branch government (too much power for one individual in the executive branch).

I've never been a fan of one elected person being over team members and departments, I think it's too problematic. Having key employees is problematic as well, but having key employees report to a group of people that hold no power outside of a board meeting is

better than one person who does not fall under employee policies. Although grievances and disputes will be challengeable under a three-branch system, a lot of damage can be done with an unrestrained executive in power. Much like an unrestrained board of directors, an independent court is essential to the separation of powers. Those are the types of struggles each member will have to weigh when we finally vote.

Later this month, our tribe will be electing leaders. I will offer some advice to those newly elected or re-elected: Cliches don't work for tribal politics. Our tribe deserves strong independent

leaders. Being loyal to someone has no place in our politics; leaders must always remain "loyal" to the membership as a whole. The thought process of, "If your not with us, you're against us," has plagued our tribe for decades; it may work for national politics (some would argue that's not working either) but it has no place in local/tribal communities.

I look forward to seeing members in the upcoming powwow and community events throughout the summer months. Miigwech. As always, if you would like to discuss anything with me, please contact me at (906) 440-7768.

Hampton thanks everyone in final unit report



KIMBERLY HAMPTON,
DIRECTOR, UNIT IV

To the Members of Unit 4 and the Citizens of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians,

As my term serving as your Unit 4 Board Representative comes to a close, this will be my final unit report after four years of service. It is difficult to put into words what this journey has meant to me, but above all else, it has been one of the greatest honors of my life to represent our people, our communities, and our future generations.

Over these past four years, I have worked to serve with integrity, transparency, compassion,

and dedication. Together, we celebrated victories, faced challenges, advocated for our communities, protected our culture and sovereignty, and continued important conversations about the future of our tribe. Through every meeting, event, conversation, and decision, I carried the voices of our membership with me.

I want to extend my deepest miigwech to everyone who supported me throughout this journey. To those who believed in me, encouraged me, attended meetings, shared concerns, offered ideas, prayed for me, or

simply stopped to talk, your support meant more than you know.

Miigwech also to the mentors, elders, colleagues, community members, staff, and fellow leaders who guided me, challenged me, and helped me grow both personally and professionally during my time in office. I leave this role with tremendous gratitude for all that I have learned.

Some of my proudest moments have been reconnecting with community through office hours, town halls, youth initiatives, cultural events, advocacy work, and helping revitalize the Niiwin Noodin Pow Wow.

Seeing our people come together in strength, resilience, humor, culture, and love has continually reminded me why this work matters.

While this chapter comes to an end, my commitment to our people does not. I will continue to advocate, support, and serve our communities in new ways moving forward.

From the bottom of my heart, miigwech for allowing me the privilege to serve you these past four years. It has truly been an honor.

With gratitude and respect,
Kimberly Hampton

ELECTION DAY: JUNE 25

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS: JULY 6

Reporting on board actions and Unit 3 events



**BRIDGETT SORENSON,
DIRECTOR, UNIT III**

On Monday, May 10, I traveled with a few Housing team members to Lansing for two days for the Building Michigan Communities Conference. It is an annual conference and was the first time I attended. This year was the first year they incorporated a tribal tract into the agenda. Our staff was also a presenter on applying for the supportive housing project for the Sault. A couple of years ago we had toured the facility in Mt. Pleasant for the Sag Chips and we decided it was something that would benefit those leaving the homeless shelter. MSHDA also had a separate workshop with tribes to introduce their staff as well as tribal staff/council to network with each other.

On Friday, May 15, I attended the first ever drum social at LaSalle High School organized by Sue St. Onge. The entire student body was able to attend and everyone seemed to enjoy

it. Mukwa Giiziik was in attendance as well as the youth drum from Manistique (Kitchi ti Kipi). Graduating seniors were also recognized with a certificate and medal.

On Tuesday, May 19, I did not attend the Marquette workshop or board meeting in person as I had picked up a good friend of mine from the hospital. I did get online about 3 p.m. for the rest of the workshop and meeting.

Schedule A budgets (67 budgets) were passed for the 2027 cycle totaling just over \$19 million. Established a budget for air program development with EPA funding for \$72,000. Added another intern at our health centers for the summer. There were some budget modifications for positions. There were a few MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) submitted to some of our area schools through YEA for summer programming. There was a rescission of a resolution from 2023 that funding was not appropriately used. Unit 2 setup a long term 2% agreement with Newton Township for the museum. A resolution to authorize the tribe to enter into a contract with USDA for the broadband infrastructure expansion project. A resolution was requested for approval from STI Federal to exclude the tribe from classified information for a contract they were pursuing. The board accepted the resignation of our appellate judge. There was a resolution for authorizing an amended constitutional submission for a secretarial election. A resolution was passed to place a

temporary moratorium on large scale data center and crypto currency mining. Another resolution was passed to establish carbon and subsurface land use framework.

The board did support moving forward with a vote on the changes to the Constitution. There was an amendment to reduce the number of votes needed to override the chair's veto from 9 votes to 8 votes. The chair was not happy about that and said it watered down his ability to veto legislation. I did support that as I do not really like the idea of executive veto anyway. I also supported sending it out to the members to vote on but DO NOT support this proposed three-branch government. A few things I think members are not thinking about is, when a member has a concern and contacts a board member, so they can help, that will not be something that will be happening under a three-branch government. The chair will be running the government. The board (legislature) will be able to pass legislation and budgets but nothing to do with everyday decisions.

I think this version of the board's Constitution was all about politics. It was used against people like nothing else matters. Well, here is the brutal truth — I believe when push comes to shove most members would rather keep the same services, programs and jobs than change a Constitution that could potentially bankrupt us. Again, I absolutely want members to have standing in court, because we

all know things that have happened that people should be held accountable, but should it be the most important factor for today or tomorrow? Our tribe has functioned and, in many ways, prospered under a one-branch government. I would much rather have 13 members have to have a majority to do things than one person. Which leads to the reason the constitutional amendment was done in 2010 — to separate the chair and CEO. Do you really want to go back to that??

At the end of the meeting, Isaac thanked members for coming and said he would like to trade some of those members for Unit 1. I was shocked but it became much worse when the chairman said well, it's true we have some real nut jobs in the Sault. I can't even imagine what the feelings were in the room but I was in disbelief on Zoom. It did not take long for it to blow up on social media. I apologize to the members for those comments that were extremely hurtful. This is exactly the kind of behavior many of us have been subjected to over the last 4 years, though.

On Saturday, May 23, I attended the Native American Festival at the Museum of Ojibwa Culture. It was the worst weather I think I can ever remember for that event. The wind was blowing so hard you couldn't hear the speaker. The drum as well as the dancers, emcee and others were so cold, the event ended about 3 p.m. There was a pretty good turnout

for the grand entry but many left after. Chi Miigwich to Tom and Francie for all the work they put into organizing this for our community.

On Tuesday, June 2, we had our annual meeting in St. Ignace. There were a few budgets for the Natural Resources Division, a budget modification for Health to use carry over funds to have prevention activities at Shedawin Haven, a resolution to seek financing for the construction of the health annex building in the Sault, a resolution to select UPEA as the architect and engineer on the project, a resolution to release 100,000 walleye fry in Bay Mills Back Bay for \$36,000, some standard land leases, appointing a broker of record for property and casualty insurance, and awarding a contract to Payne and Dolan for the Sault casino ring road project.

All members need to be aware that after this election cycle, the changes to the Constitution will be moving forward for the members to vote on. The BIA will be sending out a notice to all adult members and members must register to vote on the changes. If you do not sign up to vote, you will not be sent a ballot.

The general election count will be taking place on Thursday, June 25, at 5 p.m. The installation of officers will be on Monday, July 6. Good Luck to those candidates. It has been a rough cycle.

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

Brief update on actions taken by the board



**ISAAC MCKECHNIE
DIRECTOR, UNIT I**

Aaniin Tribal Members, I would like to provide a brief update on actions taken by the Board of Directors during the May and June 2026 meetings.

One of the most significant accomplishments was the unanimous approval of a resolution requesting a Secretarial Election on the proposed three-branch government Constitution. This historic step allows tribal citizens, not just the board, to decide whether to establish separate legislative, executive, and judicial branches, creating greater accountability, checks and balances, and judicial independence.

The board also approved a resolution supporting a temporary state of Michigan moratorium on large-scale data centers and cryptocurrency mining projects until tribal consulta-

tion occurs and environmental impacts are fully evaluated. Protecting treaty rights, water resources, and cultural sites remains a priority.

Natural resource investments included new federally funded programs for ruffed grouse restoration, manoomin (wild rice) restoration, and initiatives combining Ojibwe traditional knowledge with western science. The board also approved a partnership with Bay Mills Indian Community to stock 100,000 walleye fingerlings into Back Bay and the Upper St. Mary's River to enhance local fisheries.

Healthcare remained a major focus. The board approved additional federal funding for the Sault Tribe Opioid Response Program and authorized exploration of financing options for the Sault Ste. Marie Health Center Annex and Expansion Project. We also approved architectural and engineering services to begin planning for future healthcare expansion.

The board continued supporting Tribal Court operations through staffing and administrative improvements designed to strengthen court services and prepare for future constitutional changes.

Education and workforce development also received attention through agreements with local school districts, support for higher education programs,

internships, and youth development initiatives.

A major infrastructure investment approved during this period was a \$5.7 million USDA-funded broadband construction project that will continue expanding high-speed internet access throughout tribal communities. Reliable broadband is essential for education, healthcare, business development, and communication.

Additional actions included approval of the Casino Ring Road Project, residential land lease actions, Housing program improvements, insurance and risk management services, and FY 2027 budget planning efforts. These investments help improve services while protecting tribal assets and ensuring long-term sustainability.

As your representative, I remain committed to advancing

ing transparency, strengthening healthcare, protecting treaty rights, supporting education, improving infrastructure, and creating opportunities that benefit our citizens today and for the next seven generations.

Chi Miigwech,
Isaac McKechnie
Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of
Chippewa Indians
(906) 440-6661
iamckechnie@yahoo.com

Serving has been a privilege



**SHAWN BOROWICZ,
DIRECTOR, UNIT III**

Dear Tribal Citizens,

The last four years have been a wonderful experience for me as it allowed me to continue my public service to all our citizens that reached out for concerns and help. My entire working career

has been in the public safety field and I will continue to do so after this tribal term ends. We accomplished a lot in Unit 3 including the ongoing housing project, several parcels of land cleared for future projects, a new upgraded health clinic in cooperation with Mackinac Straits Hospital, a new building at our state park dedicated to native history and Father Marquette, and our new tribal elder van for road trips, just to name a few. I've met so many citizens as well as customers at our properties, for which I will always cherish those memories and will always be available if needed.

This fall and next year with the upgrades to the Shore's casino, which I have been pushing for years, will be a great benefit for continued revenue. If planned correctly the Shores casino could be a des-

tinuation property for the Upper Peninsula. I strongly believe in this property as it's the only one on the water with spectacular views and over a million visitors to the area each year. Mackinac Island being the number one tourist destination two years in a row, I firmly believe we need to coordinate with them and tap into getting those visitors to our property.

The last four years have been a privilege serving all our citizens and I thoroughly enjoyed every moment of it. I will still be at elder lunches and will still be available for elder excursions when any are planned. Thank you to all my supporters over the years and I will always be here to assist any of you if needed.

Respectfully,
Shawn Borowicz, (906) 430-7612

Unanimous vote but universally supported?



AARON PAYMENT
DIRECTOR, UNIT I

JKL AT 30 YEARS!

In 1992, I conducted the original needs assessment and survey of our members to determine if we wanted our own school system. It was overwhelmingly in favor. I have served on the school board (including as president) when Dr. Carolyn Dale was hired as Curriculum Director. Happy anniversary to all of our JKL family over the years. Next step, JKL High School!

UNANIMOUS?

At the May 19, 2026, tribal board meeting, the board voted unanimously to move forward with requesting the U.S. Secretary of the Interior to conduct a Secretarial Election to amend our tribal Constitution to institute a three-branch separation of powers. Given the poll results last fall indicated a landslide of our Members wanted a real government structure, you would imagine we would not have continued to face such oppositional defiance over the last 8 months. Right up to the actual vote, while I was speaking in favor of a 3-Branch, Director Kim Lee demonstrated disorderly conduct by angrily objecting to me speaking in support of a 3-Branch. Twice she screamed objections and both times, Chair Lowes ruled her out of order.

DISORDERLY CONDUCT?

This was not the first time we have seen erratic conduct from Director Lee. Upon returning to office on July 16, 2024, while I was asking questions about the Unit 2 Trailer giveaway to a non-Sault Tribe individual (we have a 2-year waiting list to get into housing and a shelter filled with homeless members including children) she did the same. I was not privy to this at the time, but the beneficiary of the \$74K+ Trailer giveaway was Director Lee's aunt. A few Board members insist this information is confidential. We have no such program and the recipient of the trailer is not even Sault Tribe so confidentiality does not apply.

If it turns out to be true that a nepotistic conflict of interest exists, then voting on this issue represents an ethics violation. Director Lee was on the Board when Tribal Legal reported the results of the Unit 2 Trailer investigation. When the Board voted to pay back the Cares Act (presumably to avoid an audit) you would expect Director Lee to abstain on any aspect of this ill-gotten trailer. On January 16, 2024, the Board voted to payback the Cares Act at which time Kim Lee voted to authorize the expenditure that directly impacted her aunt. When in May 2024, the Board sought

to make the legal investigation public, both Directors Causley and Lee voted to remove this item from the meeting agenda. If either had a conflict of interest and voted to conceal the result of an investigation, this would constitute a cover up.

WE ARE MOVING FORWARD

With or without genuine support from select Board members, we are moving forward with an impending vote of the Members to establish a separation of powers. At the June 2, 2026 Tribal Board workshop, several Board members seemed surprised and distressed that the U.S. Secretary of Interior plans to move forward and complete the entire process to amend our Constitution by Mid-September. This gives credence to the widespread discourse on social media that those who reluctantly voted to move forward only did so in hopes of rescinding the vote to move forward. Several Elders who watched on zoom, said that they could detect the disdain of some Board members.

YOU MUST REGISTER IN ORDER TO VOTE

Voting in Tribal elections and on amending our Constitution are two of the most important responsibilities of being a Tribal citizen but they are distinctly different. While the Board voted before I returned to office to automatically register all At Large Members to vote in Chairperson elections (increasing the possible votes for Chairperson from around 16,000 to 39,000) the participation of those who vote in the Chair's election did not increase; it actually decreased by nearly 200 votes. Whether voter apathy is as a result of At Large members not feeling part of the plan, or Sault Tribe Citizens not recognizing what's at stake, we need a patriotic push to

once and for all amend our Tribal Constitution to resemble a real government.

PROCESS FOR AMENDMENTS

In order to amend the Tribal Constitution, the Secretary of Interior conducts a voter registration that is distinct from Tribal election. The process starts with the Tribe supplying the BIA/ Department of Interior with a list of names and address of all of our adult Sault Tribe citizens (n ~ 39,000). The Board will need to nominate up to 7 individuals to serve on a Secretarial Election Board which is different than our Tribal Election Commission. The new committee then works with the BIA/DOI to do a mail out voter registration. In the past, the number who have registered to vote in secretarial elections has been similar to the total who have been registered to vote in Chair's elections at about 16,000. Still far fewer actually take the time to vote. The number who vote in Chair's elections is representative of the total eligible voters. What follows is the total number of Sault Tribe voters who voted in past Chair's elections and poll:

VOTES	ELECTION
7,372	2012
6,709	2016
6,769	2020
6,539	2022*
6,342	2024
6,388	2025**

*2022 Special Advisory Election
**Constitutional Poll

Despite having a potential number of registered voters to vote in Chair's election at over 39,000, who will make the decision on the Secretarial election to amend the Sault Tribe Constitution to adopt a 3-Branch Separation of Powers will start with those who register

to vote. For an amendment to pass, 30% of those who register to vote must vote, and 50%+1 votes have to vote to approve. I estimate that 18,000 may register to vote which is a few thousand more than those who did so previously. If 18,000 register, we will need at least 5,400 to vote, and 2,701 to vote to amend.

Sadly, some Board members continue to try to contravene and frustrate the process by insisting that those who participated in the poll was insufficient (n=6,388). However, as Chair Lowes has pointed out, this is 46 more than voted for Chairperson in 2024 and more than 5 times more votes than those Unit Directors who believe the poll votes were insufficient. If around 1,000 votes is good enough to elect a Board member, why is 5X to 6X times this amount, not sufficient to amend the Constitution?

SECRETARIAL ELECTION COMMITTEE

Now that we have formally requested of the Secretary of Interior to conduct an election to amend our Constitution, the Department of Interior/ Bureau of Indian Affairs will solicit volunteers to serve on an Election Board which is different than our Election Commission. I have implored the Board to not appoint an employee who reports directly to the Tribal Board of Directors to avoid a conflict of interest or to appoint someone who has a fundamental conflict in performing their duty. During the 2007 Secretarial Election to eliminate double dipping, the Board voted to appoint their direct employee who in turn protested large segments of our Sault Tribe voters from being able to vote including insisting descendants of the Mackinac Band be disqualified from voting (nearly 1/2 of ST Citizenship) and to deny

anyone not enrolled at the time the Tribal Constitution was first adopted in 1975. Several Board members choose to "poo poo" this concern recently, but watch and see what happens. We must not appoint someone who will actively work to sabotage the process.

ELECTION COMPLAINT VICTORY!

Yet again, a frivolous election complaint was filed against me and upheld by the Election Commission and over turned by the Appellate Court. The attorney assigned to the Election Commission actually advised them to find me guilty for campaigning in Tribal Offices at a Board workshop on March 24, despite me being in Petoskey, Mich., that day receiving cancer treatments. Thus, I was nowhere near any Tribal properties. And while a separate complaint of campaigning on Zoom was dismissed because we don't own Zoom) my participation via zoom on March 23 was found in violation. I suspect the attorney of record has a conflict of interest and believe this warrants an investigation.

REMOVABLE ACT

As a place marker for a future conversation, earlier this year, the Tribe's General Legal Counsel clarified that any contracts between the Tribe and a 3rd party; especially if Tribal funds or financial liability are the result, must have first been approved by the Board of Directors. Poll votes behind closed door are not legal tender. That's all I will say for now but stay tuned.

Tribal Members, please take Care and love yourself, your family and your Tribe!

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

Sunshine, smiles and summer fun – Unit 4 updates



LARRY BARBEAU,
DIRECTOR, UNIT IV

Aaniin,

Summer has finally arrived, and there is a sense of excitement for both students and teachers who are looking forward to the warmer weather and the opportunities that come with it. As we wrap up another successful school year, we hope everyone has a safe, relaxing, and enjoyable summer break. I also hope many of our families were able to get out and enjoy the powwow in Manistique, celebrating our culture, traditions, and community together. Thank you to all of our students, families, and staff for a great year, and we wish everyone a wonderful summer filled with fun, family, and memorable experiences.

Upcoming Meetings for the Month (Subject to Change)

We have a few scheduled meetings coming up for the month of June; including board workshops/meetings (one in St. Ignace), JKLFC meetings, Kewadin Gaming Authority meetings, Enterprise Authority meetings, Conservation Committee meetings, etc.

June 2, 2026 – Board workshop at 10 a.m. and the board meeting starting at 5 p.m. at the Shores Kewadin Casinos, St. Ignace.

June 9, 2026 – Board workshop/JKLFC meeting starting at 9 a.m. in the Whitefish Point Room at Kewadin Casinos, Sault Ste. Marie.

June 16, 2026 – Board workshop/Enterprise Authority meeting starting at 9 a.m. and the board meeting starting at 5 p.m. at Kewadin Casinos, Sault Ste. Marie

June 22, 2026 - Conservation Committee meeting starting at 5 p.m. in the Whitefish Point Room at Kewadin Casinos, Sault Ste. Marie.

June 23, 2026 – Board workshop/KGA meeting starting at 9 a.m. in the Whitefish Point Room at Kewadin Casinos, Sault Ste. Marie.

Unit 4 Elder Meetings

We encourage all tribal elders to attend the elder meetings. The next meeting in Manistique will be held June 10, 2026 at 12 p.m. EST at the Manistique Tribal Center. The next meeting in Escanaba will be held June 10, 2026 at 5 p.m. EST at the Escanaba Community Center. The Elder Advisory meeting is June 19, 2026 at 1 p.m. EST at the Newberry Tribal Center.

Contact information

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

As always, I encourage Unit 4 members to stay engaged with tribal government and participate in tribal meetings, community gatherings, and cultural events whenever possible. Your

involvement helps strengthen our community and ensures that members' voices are heard. If you have questions, concerns, or ideas, please do not hesitate to reach out. Hearing directly from our members helps guide the work we do on the board and allows us to better serve our communities. Miigwech to all of you, and I hope everyone has a safe, enjoyable, and memorable June as we welcome the summer season.

Moving ?



When you move, let us know where you are headed! That way you won't miss one issue of your tribal paper. Call (906) 632-6398 or email slucas@saulttribe.net.

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**GRAND
PRIZE NIGHT**
Cub Cadet Zero
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Draw at 11 p.m.



See Northern Rewards Club to register and for more details. May earn additional entries with every 50 base points on Fridays in June.

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Drink Features • Food Vendors

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