



Win Awenen Nisitotung

September 23, 2026
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Bahweting Bidajimowin • Official newspaper of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians

“Paddle for the Future” held in St. Ignace

BY BRENDA AUSTIN
ST. IGNACE, Mich. —
Roughly 300 people gathered at Kiwanis Beach on Saturday, Aug. 29, for “Paddle for the Future,” a water ceremony and flotilla organized to protest industrial development in the Great Lakes, including Enbridge’s Line 5 pipe-line tunnel project.

The event, held from 9 a.m. to noon, was hosted by the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and the Great Lakes Water Protector Network. More than 100 people took part in a water ceremony led by Sault Tribe member Colleen Utter and five others.

“We gather in St. Ignace to protect the water, protect the Straits, and protect the future,” said Sue St. Onge, Sault Tribe Unit III director. “The Straits of Mackinac are not a sacrifice zone, and the Great Lakes are not a pipeline corridor. No amount of oil, money, or promises is worth gambling with the water that sustains our families, our communities, and the generations to come.”

Organizers framed the gathering as an assertion of tribal treaty rights and a stand against industrialization of what they described as the heart of Turtle Island.

“We are asserting our treaty rights,” said Monica Cady, a local resident, event organizer and Sault Tribe member. “We must protect this area known as the heart of Turtle Island. We are standing up in solidarity to defend our water.”



Photos by Esra Daraiseh

Over 300 people gathered at Kiwanis Beach in St. Ignace, Mich., on Saturday, Aug. 29, for “Paddle for the Future,” a water ceremony and flotilla organized to protest Enbridge’s Line 5 pipeline and tunnel project. Above, members of Michigan tribes take a stand in the water.

Shut down Line 5!”

Andrew Kaplowitz of the Great Lakes Water Protector Network said the event built on a long tradition of gatherings in the Straits of Mackinac.

“We’re honored to partner with the Sault Tribe and longstanding community leaders to host Paddle for the Future,” Kaplowitz said. “We’re building on a long tradition of water events in the Straits. It’s a beautiful way to bring people together and help folks find ways to take action.”

The gathering included traditional foods, drumming and art, and organizers asked attendees to bring their own reusable plates, cups and utensils as part of a zero-waste effort. Kayaks were available on a limited basis for those who wanted to join the flotilla on Lake

Huron.

“Paddle for the Future” was held in solidarity with the Rendezvous in the Straits Powwow, taking place across the street from the beach. Attendees were invited to that event’s grand entry at 1 p.m.

The gathering drew support from numerous sponsors, including Freshwater Future and Big Stone Bay Fishery, among others listed on the Great Lakes Water Protector Network’s website.

At right, Ice Circle Singers performed various songs. “Paddle for the Future” was held in solidarity with the Rendezvous in the Straits Powwow, which took place across the street from the beach. Attendees were invited to that event’s grand entry at 1 p.m.



Michigan tribes ask judge to toss Line 5 permits

BY NICK NOLAN, PR MANAGER

On Sept. 10, the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians along with sister tribes Bay Mills Indian Community, Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, and Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, joined together to petition state regulators for a contested case to challenge a pair of permits that authorized Canadian company Enbridge to build its proposed Line 5 oil pipe-line tunnel below the Straits of

Mackinac.

The tribes, with over 60,000 collective enrolled citizens, seek to overturn the wetlands and bottomlands permits that Michigan’s Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) approved for Enbridge in July.

The proposed project would require a massive disturbance of land and involve construction activities that will destroy recognized cultural and historic properties within the Straits area.

This project would threaten the

Anishinaabe way of life as well as treaty-protected interests and public trust resources.

On Sept. 9, the future of the permits issued by EGLE also came under question from Governor Gretchen Whitmer and the EGLE Director Phil Roos. The pair cited the Michigan Supreme Court’s decision overturning a separate permit for the tunnel later in July after EGLE issued its permits as a reason to revisit the initial EGLE permits.

“There is no way this tunnel project can or should move forward. It would disrupt our ancestors’ burial sites and cause irrevocable harm to this area,” said Sault Tribe Chairman Austin Lowes. “Getting to this point has taken tireless work from our sister tribes, tribal citizens, partners, and everyone who loves and values the Great Lakes. When the next seven generations ask what we did to protect the Great Lakes, I want them to know that our peo-

ple stood together, spoke with one voice, and got that pipeline out of the Straits.”

The new challenge was filed on the heels of the annual Mackinac Bridge Walk. On Labor Day, around 1,000 people from all 12 Anishinaabe tribal nations in Michigan walked across the bridge to demonstrate opposition to the Line 5 tunnel in response to a unified call to action by the ancestral Three Fires Confederacy.

Tribal members have successful black bear hunts



Sault Tribe member Greg Gierke of Thompson, Mich., sought sustenance and got plenty of it. He bagged a 395-pound black bear just before sunset three days in to the 2026 bear season. Johnny Bowler and Greg met up for a hunt after 35 years and it was a season to remember.



Tribal member Olivia Ingalls, 13, shot this female black bear in Baldwin, Mich., on Sept. 10, 2026. Olivia is the daughter of Adam and Megan Ingalls of Twin Lake, Mich.

Unit 4 Manistique elders BINGO fundraiser held monthly

The Unit 4 Manistique elders continue to host BINGO as a fundraiser for their various elder activities. The elder and volunteer led BINGO will be held on the second and fourth Mondays each month.

BINGO will be played in the community room at the Manistique Tribal Community Center, located at 5698 W US Hwy 2 in Manistique. The doors will open at 10:30 a.m., and the group will start selling cards at noon, with play to start at 1 p.m.

The public is welcome, and this BINGO is open to players ages 18 and older.

The Manistique elder lunch will be served at 11:30 and guests are welcome to make a donation and join the elders for lunch before BINGO starts.

Jackpot payouts will be based on sales.

The Unit 4 Manistique elders would like to thank everyone that has participated so far.



Think beyond the sink.



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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 the discount to Sault Tribe members.

Tribal gas stations offering gas and cigarette discounts:
MiJim Convenience Store
2205 Shunk Road
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783
MidJim Convenience Store
3045 Mackinac Trail
St. Ignace, MI 49781
White Pine Lodge and Convenience Store
7889 E. W. M-28
Christmas, MI 49862

Tribal owned gas station offering gas discount only:
MidJim University
301 W. Fair Ave.
Marquette, MI 49855

Not tribal owned stations offering gas discount 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
Shell
401 Cedar Street M-28
Munising, MI 49862
(906) 387-4817
Manistique Oil Company
216 Deer Street
Manistique, MI 49854
Carnes Eco Fuels
2300 Ludington Street
Escanaba, MI 49837

Food Distribution online application

Below is the link to submit an application for the Sault Ste Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Food Distribution Program:
<https://saulttribe.ifdp.io/kiosk/online-application>
Contact the Food Distribution Program at (906) 635-6076 or (888) 448-8732.

Committee – Two vacancies – male – one 4-year term, one term expires October 2028
Child Welfare Committee – Two vacancies – one 4-year term, one term expires May 2029
Conservation Committee – Non-Commercial Fisher – Two vacancies (4-year terms)
Education Committee – One vacancy (4-year term)
Elder Advisory Committee
Unit I – Sault – One regular vacancy (4-year term); 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 – Two regular vacancies – one term expires September 2029, one 4-year term
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 – One

regular vacancy (4-year term)
Unit V – Munising – One alternate vacancy (4-year term)
Unit V – Marquette – Two regular vacancies (4-year terms); one alternate vacancy (4-year term)
Food Sovereignty Committee – Three vacancies (4-year terms)
Health Board – Two vacancies – one term expires May 2027, one term expires September 2027
Sault Tribe Election Commission – Four vacancies, 3 terms expiring November 2030 and one term expiring November 2028 (please indicate which length of term you are seeking).

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: I just received my membership through open enrollment, and I would like to apply for the Inland Harvest Card. Will I be able to hunt my farm in Hillsdale County with it?
A: No, the Sault Tribe Inland Harvest Card is only valid within the boundaries of the ceded territory of the Treaty of 186.

Detailed maps of the ceded territory can be found on the tribe’s website posted on the Natural Resource Division page.
Members can also call the Law Enforcement Department at (906) 635-6065, and the permit coordinator can provide information on the boundaries.

Q: I live in Luce County and will have to enroll in Medicare coverage this fall. Is there someone who can help me with this?
It’s very confusing to me.
A: Yes, members can contact the Community Health Access Coalition (CHAC) and request assistance with several health insurance related questions. CHAC can help members through the process of signing up for Medicaid, Medicare and the Marketplace. They also can assist with enrollment for financial assistance at certain health centers in the Eastern Upper Peninsula.
CHAC is located at 143 Arlington Street in Sault Ste. Marie, (906) 635-748. In Newberry call (906) 293-855 and in St. Ignace (906) 643-7253.

WAN ONLINE

Tribal members and subscriber’s receiving the print edition of the tribe’s newspaper, Win Awenen Nisitotung, can switch to digital to receive the “early” digital edition. Read your paper at least six days early!
Write to slucas@saulttribe.net to switch or get details.

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. Mligwech!

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.

Name: _ _

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State and Zip Code:_ _

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Email: _ _

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☐ change of address

☐ digital subscription

OR

☐ print subscription

DOB : _____

Red #: _____

(red # on your card)

Win Awenen Nisitotung

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

September 23, 2026

Leaves Turning Color Moon

Waabagaa 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.

Big Bear Arena celebrates 30 years with community

The Big Bear Arena has a big anniversary this month as the recreation facility celebrates 30 years of serving the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians community. To mark this milestone anniversary, the Big Bear is hosting a community fun day on Sunday, Sept. 27, from 2 p.m. until 4 p.m.

This free-to-the-public event invites guests of all ages to learn about all the Big Bear Arena has to offer. Whether it's your first time visiting the arena or you're a seasoned vet, there will be

something for everyone.

"This community fun day is our way of saying thank you to all those who have helped create memories at Big Bear Arena. Whether you visited for a hockey tournament or attended a youth program as a child, we're thankful you visited the arena," Recreation Director Tammy Graham said. "Over the years, the Big Bear has grown beyond recreation and has become an important part of not just the Sault Tribe community, but the Eastern Upper Peninsula as a

whole. We're hoping everyone who has enjoyed spending time at the Big Bear over the past three decades has the chance to visit our community fun day. Without all the support from organizations throughout the EUP, the Big Bear would never have been able to grow into what it is today."

Sunday, Sept. 27, marks 30 years to the day that the Chi-Mukwa (Big Bear) Community Recreation Center opened in 1996. With the opening, the Big Bear brought a 150,000 square

foot, state-of-the-art facility to the Sault Tribe community, which made it one of northern Michigan's largest sports and fitness venues as well as the only ice arena in the Upper Peninsula with two ice rinks.

Over the following three decades, numerous sports teams have called the facility home with many more individuals visiting and enjoying the complex.

From the All-In-One-Fitness Club to being a hub for multiple Sault Tribe's departments including Health, Education, Language

and Culture, to hosting various youth programs and social events, the Big Bear Arena has been the Sault Ste. Marie area's ultimate destination for recreation, fitness, and family fun.

The Sept. 27 Community Fun Day will pack an afternoon full of games, bouncy house fun, skating, vendors, and a chance to learn about tribal and community organizations and resources.

To stay up to date on the Big Bear Arena's 30th anniversary be sure to follow along on Facebook.

Sault Area Arts Council offers free classes to tribal members

BY BRENDA AUSTIN
SAULT STE. MARIE — Sault Tribe members can take any class offered by the Sault Area Arts Council (SAAC) at no charge through a grant partnership aimed at using art and Indigenous cultural programming to promote wellness.

Due to a collaboration with the Sault Tribe Health Department through the CDC Tribal Practices for Wellness in Indian Country Grant, SAAC's collaboration with STHD covers registration fees for Sault Tribe members for all classes offered, including regular arts programming. Sault Tribe members wishing to participate in classes need only provide the Arts Council with a copy of their tribal card through a registration link provided on each of the class information pages found on their website at: www.saultartcenter.com.

com/classes.

"Our goal is to raise awareness among Sault Tribe members about these class scholarships and ensure everyone has the chance to take a variety of classes," Executive Director Raulaniesa Aranda said. "This grant has also allowed us to provide culturally significant skill building workshops taught by Indigenous instructors to continue passing down knowledge to new generations. We're grateful to be able to build off of this opportunity and bring even more art programming to people of all ages."

The partnership supports workshops and events celebrating Indigenous culture, crafts and art. Those classes are open to Native and non-Native participants, with registration priority given first to Sault Tribe members, followed by members of other Native

tribes, Native households and then non-Native participants.

Classes include woodland applique, moccasin making, movie discussions, beading and more. Anyone interested in attending a class is encouraged to follow SAAC on Facebook or Instagram @saultartcenter for updates on class topics and dates.

Other upcoming art programming includes creative drawing classes with Eliana Gulder. A three-session intermediate class for ages 16 and older will be held Oct. 8, 15 and 22.

SAAC will host its annual Indigenous Art gallery exhibit in October. "Cultural Healing and Resilience" will open Oct. 6 and run through Nov. 7, 2026, with a reception open to the public on Oct. 9, from 5-7 p.m.

For more information, email director@saultartcenter.com or call (906) 635-1312.



Photo courtesy of the Sault Area Arts Council
Workshop helper, George Solomon, shares semaa at the beginning of a cedar flute class taught by elder Bud Biron at the Sault Area Art Center.

SATURDAYS IN OCTOBER

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Learn more at Michigan.gov/FoodAssistance.



Anishinaabemowin 2026

“The only way to do great work is to love what you do.” — Steve Jobs
“It always seems impossible until its done.” — Nelson Mandela

Nangwa kina binoojiinh’ik zhaawag kinoomaagegamigong.
These days all the children they are going to school.

Their **work** is to learn: how to think and reason, how to investigate and calculate, how to communicate and cooperate with others and recognize other points of view.

Binoojiinh’ik gchi-nokiiwag.
The children they are working hard.

Our goal for them is that they will be thoughtful informed citizens who contribute to healthy communities.

Learning a different language (like Anishinaabemowin, or Spanish or Arabic or Chinese) **requires work**. It’s not easy because it’s new and different, but learning it can be like a game — fun because it’s challenging. You can learn it little by little and focus on whatever fits your life.

This person takes pride in making a high-quality house. S/he wants to make money too.
Gchi-nokii.



This person is learning to play the fiddle (Naazhaabiig’ige.). S/he wants to have fun. **Gchi-nokii.**

And for you! It’s a perfect time to learn to speak Anishinaabemowin—lots of it or just a little. The spirits will guide you.

Ka gchi-nokii
you will work hard
ka mashkawis ka gchi-nendam
you will be strong you will be happy



Waabagaa Giizis Leaves-turning-color Moon



By Susan Askwith

Nokii. He or she is working.
We don’t specify he or she, like in English. We say “that person.”

Nokiiwag. *They* are working.
Gchi-nokii. She or he is working *hard*.

Gchi- is a word-fragment that says an action (verb) is happening in a big way—very, extreme, hard or lots.

Gchi-nokiiwag.
They are working hard.



This person wants to talk to Creator and to the spirits, in our language. S/he wants to live a good life.
Gchi-nokii.



This person wants to teach Anishinaabemowin to his/her children so they will be proud of their culture. **Gchi-nokii.**

Rewards of learning this language:

- ★ Pride in our people and our culture
- ★ Knowing you can do hard things
- ★ Keeping a strong brain as you age
- ★ Focus and process information better
- ★ See the world from a different angle
- ★ Be a good example for family and children in your life

Aambe, baapin! (Come on, laugh!)

I just found out the company that produces yard-sticks won’t be making them any longer
I was going to tell a carpentry joke but I couldn’t find any that woodwork.

I quit my job at the doughnut factory. I was tired of the hole thing.

Walking past a farm, I saw a sign that said, ‘Duck, eggs.’ I thought that was an unnecessary comma. And then it hit me.



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!

Orange Shirt Day across the tribe’s service area on Sept. 30

Wednesday, Sept. 30, is Orange Shirt Day. Sault Tribe will be commemorating the day with events happening across the Sault Tribe’s seven-county service area. On this day we wear orange to support the 150,000-plus children who endured the board school system’s physical, sexual, and emotional abuse. This created historical trauma, which

Native Americans continue to endure.

The Marquette Intertribal Community invites everyone to attend its Orange Shirt Day Awareness Walk and Gathering on Sept. 30. Walkers will meet at 6 p.m. at Grandview Apartments — the former Holy Family Orphanage at 600 Altamont St. in Marquette. The walk begins at

6:15 p.m. and ends at the Seven Grandfathers sculpture at the Spear Dock. (Please use downtown parking.) There will be 300 shirts given away at this event.

In St. Ignace, the fourth annual Orange Shirt Day event will take place from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Museum of Ojibwa Culture. The remembrance walk will start at

3:30 p.m., from the museum to the marina and back, with a meal
See “Orange,” Page 8

Foster parents needed in our community

Anishnaabek Community and Family Services is looking for caring people within our tribal community who are willing to open their homes to children in need. Foster parents help provide safety, stability, and support during times when children and families are facing challenges.

Children in foster care need loving homes where they feel safe, stay connected to their culture and community, and have the chance to grow. Foster parents play an important role by offering daily care, guidance, and compassion while families work toward reunification or other permanent plans.

ACFS provides training, support, and ongoing guidance to foster families throughout the process. You do not have to be perfect to become a foster parent. Patience, understanding, and a willingness to care for a child are what matter most.

If you are interested in learning more about becoming a foster parent, please contact Anishnaabek Community and Family Services at (906) 632-5250. Your support can make a lasting difference for a child and for our tribal community.

Sault Tribe Health Division

Traditional Medicine Program

Gerard Sagassige

October 5,6,19,20,26,27

Sault Ste. Marie Health Center

(906)632-0236

Wednesday, October 7th

St. Ignace Health Center

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

Wednesday, October 21st

Manistique Health Center

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

Wednesday, October 28th

Munising Health Center

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

ANY QUESTIONS, OR TO BOOK AN APPOINTMENT PLEASE

CALL TRADITIONAL MEDICINE PROGRAM AT

906-632-0236 OR 906-632-5268

SAULT TRIBE LANGUAGE & CULTURE

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

Unit 1 – September, October & November (2026) – Questions? Email: ecollins@saulttribe.net

Ceremonial Meal Teachings (Sept 14)

Baawating Language Conference (Sept 17-19)

Woodland Style Canvas Paining (Sept 26)

Orange Shirt Day Event (Sept 30)

Cedar Ceremony (Oct 2)

Porcupine Quillwork Medallion Workshop (Oct 3)

Men's Retreat at MMCC (Oct 9-11)

Fall Ceremony & Gathering (Oct 17)

Sacred Bundle Teachings (Oct 19)

Jiibay Feast (Ghost Supper) (Nov 1)

Veteran's Day Powwow (November 14)

Dewe'igan Teachings (November 19)

Women's Retreat at MMCC (Nov – Date TBD)

Moccasin Workshop (Nov – Date TBD)

Unit 2 – September, October & November (2026) – Questions? Email: ctreaveen1@saulttribe.net

Kincheloe Drum Dance Social (Sept. 9)

Newberry Community Craft Night (Sept 29)

Birch Bark & Quill Medallions – Newberry (Sept 26)

Advanced Beading Workshop (Oct 4, 11, 18 & 25)

Hessel Community Craft Night (Oct 14)

Newberry Community Craft Night (Oct 28)

Hessel Community Craft Night (Nov 4)

Newberry Community Craft Night (Nov 18)

Unit 3 – September, October, November (2026) – Questions? Email: ccolgrove@saulttribe.net

Feasting & Feast Kit Teachings (Sept 19-20)

Orange Shirt Day Event (Sept 30)

Birch Bark Basket Workshop (Oct 2)

Ribbon Shirt Workshop (Oct 4-5)

Anishinaabemowin Hike at Sand Dunes Trail (Oct 10)

Ghost Feast (October – Date TBD)

Corn Camp (Nov 21-22)

Return of Craft Club (Date TBD)

Leather Mitten Workshop (Nov 28-29)

Unit 4 – September, October & November (2026) – Questions? Email: ktovar@saulttribe.net

Ojibwe Bingo – Manistique (Sept 5)

Moccasin Workshop – Escanaba (Sept 19-20)

Ribbon Shirt Workshop – Escanaba (Sept 28)

Corn Husk Dolls – Escanaba (Sept 29)

Leather Mittens – Manistique (Oct 3-4)

Beginners Sewing – Escanaba (Oct 23)

Flute Workshop – Escanaba (Oct 24)

Drum Workshop – Escanaba (Oct 25)

Drum / Spirit Feast – Escanaba (Nov 1)

Beaded Christmas Ornaments – Escanaba (Nov 6)

Ribbon Shirt Workshop – Escanaba (Nov 13)

Ribbon Skirts Workshop – Manistique (Nov 14)

Ribbon Jackets – Manistique (Nov 21)

Unit 5 – September, October & November (2026) – Questions? Email: schambers1@saulttribe.net

Culture Night – Marquette (Sept 10 & 24)

Birchbark Quilling Workshop – MQT (Sept 12)

Kitchi Minies PW Meeting – Munising (Sept 16)

Fish Cleaning Workshop – Munising (Sept 19)

Fall Harvesting Workshop – MQT (Sept 29)

Orange Shirt Day – MQT (Sept 30)

Culture Night – Marquette (Oct 8 & 22)

Pucker Toe Moccasins – MQT (Oct 10-11)

Ribbon Shirt Workshop – Marquette (Oct 14)

Woodland Flute Workshop – Munising (Oct 17)

Copper Bowl Forging – MQT (Oct 18)

Jiibay Feast (Date TBD)

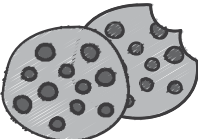
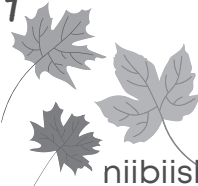
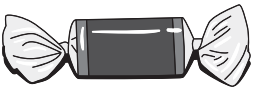
Indigenous Foods Presentation – Marquette (Oct 22)

Culture Night – MQT (Nov 12 & 26)

Please follow the Sault Tribe Language & Culture Facebook page in your unit for more information about these events. Individual flyers with additional details will be posted for each activity.

BNAAKWE GIIZIS - FALLING LEAVES MOON

OCTOBER 2026

NIIZHWAASO GIIZHIGAT	NTAM GIIZHIGAT	NIIZHO GIIZHIGAT	NSWO GIIZHIGAT	NIIWO GIIZHIGAT	NAANO GIIZHIGAT	NGODWAASWO GIIZHIGAT
				1  zhashkwedoonh (mushroom)	2  shiingwaak (pine tree)	3  jiibay (spirit/ghost)
4  zenbaansag (ribbons)	5  bkwezhigaanhsag (cookies)	6  manidoo-minenhsag (beads)	7  niibiishan (leaves)	8  ziisbaakwadoonhs (a candy)	9  mishkiig (bog)	10  Mina maagwat gojiing. (It smells good outside.)
11 Nbwaachwe. (S/he is visiting.) 	12  Anishnaabejig Giizhigad (Indigenous Peoples' Day)	13  Shkaakamakwe (Mother Earth)	14  jiibay kanan (skeleton)	15  bgiw (chewing gum)	16  Manise. (S/he is making firewood.)	17  mndaamin bkwaakwod (popcorn ball)
18  esbikenh (spider)	19  nboop (soup)	20  mkadewozi gaazhag (black cat)	21  Zegis. (S/he is scared.)	22  niibiishkaa (lots of leaves)	23  Boodwe. (S/he makes a fire.)	24  Dibikad (It is dark.)
25  jiibay wiikongewin (spirit feast)	26  Mooshkaneshin Dibiki Giizis. (It is a full moon.)	27  koosmaanan (pumpkins)	28  Aandeg (crow)	29  mshkimod (bag)	30  Biiskwanyen (Get dressed)	31  Tasewan (Halloween)

Neely joins Sault Tribe legal team as staff attorney

BY BRENDA AUSTIN
SAULT STE. MARIE, Mich. — Sault Tribe member Amber Neely has joined the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians legal department as a staff attorney, bringing experience in federal Indian law, environmental law and complex litigation to the position.

Neely, who is from Marquette, moved to Sault Ste. Marie for the position. She will be in the city weekly for work while continuing to spend weekends and holidays in Marquette.

Her work for the tribe will include treaty rights, conservation, enrollment, health care and child welfare matters. Neely said her treaty rights work will include representing the tribe’s interests surrounding Line 5, the Enbridge pipeline that crosses the Straits of Mackinac, and to protect tribal members’ rights to ceded territory.

“I am very excited about my new job and to have joined the team,” Neely said.

Ryan Mills, the tribe’s general counsel, welcomed Neely to the department. “We are lucky to have her on board,” Mills said.

Neely earned her law degree from Wayne State University Law School in 2022 and was admitted to the State Bar of Michigan that November. She also studied at the University of Michigan Law School through a dual-enrollment program, where her coursework included federal Indian law and federal courts, and completed a course in Indigenous peacemaking through an initiative involving the Native American Rights Fund and Stanford University.

“Tribal, environmental, and constitutional law were my primary focus in law school,” Neely said.

She began her legal career with Rosette LLP in Grand Rapids, a majority Native American-owned firm specializing in federal Indian law, where she worked as a law clerk before becoming an associate attorney.

Her work at Rosette included matters involving tribal trust land, treaty rights, self-governance, environmental law, education law and the Indian Child Welfare Act. She represented clients in negotiations, mediations and tribal and state court proceedings.

Neely also helped develop the claims in a case brought by the Klamath Tribes against the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. In 2023, a federal magistrate judge ruled that the bureau had violated the Endangered Species Act by prioritizing irrigation over the protection of endangered C’waam and Koptu sucker fish during a severe drought, finding that obligations to maintain water levels for the fish took precedence over allocations to irrigators.

At Rosette, she led a health care fraud investigation involving a pharmacy benefit manager and a contract health clinic that exposed fraud against a tribal health plan and the federal 340B Drug Discount Program.

Before joining the Sault Tribe, Neely worked as a complex litigation associate with King, Tilden, McEttrick & Brink, a Massachusetts firm, where she investigated and litigated complex health care and insurance fraud cases brought under the federal Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act, commonly known as RICO.

Before law school, she founded and ran E.A.R.T.H. Angels, a Marquette nonprofit focused on environmental sustainability and activism that she led from 2012 to 2019. The organization’s name stands for Education, Altruism, Resources, Technology and Humanitarianism.

Neely used performance art as one way to educate the public about environmental issues. Among the projects she wrote, directed and produced was the children’s play “Becky Saves the Bees,” which focused on pollinator protection and threats to the food supply.

Her professional background also includes years in marketing and management. She earned a bachelor’s degree in communications from Michigan State University, worked on the national auto show circuit representing Cadillac and managed a nationwide team of 40 sales representatives for American Express OPEN.

Neely said she hopes the management and public relations experience she developed during that part of her career will also benefit her work for the tribe.

Neely is a John D. Voelker Foundation scholar, having received scholarships from the foundation for law school and bar examination study. She also received a bar examination study scholarship from the American Indian Law Section of the State Bar of Michigan.

Joining the Sault Tribe legal department gives Neely an opportunity to apply that combination of legal training, advocacy and professional experience directly on behalf of her own tribe.

“I decided to become an attorney to more closely align my profession with my personal values, and so that I could level up my work as an environmental and human rights activist,” she said.

Neely is a Sault Tribe citizen and descendant of the Grand Island band.



Honoring Indian boarding school survivors in September

MINNEAPOLIS, MINN. — On Sept. 30, the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition (NABS) will bring survivors, descendants, tribal leaders, community members, allies and advocates together for the National Day of Remembrance for Indian Boarding School Survivors.

This year’s theme, “Honoring Truth, Embracing Healing, Building Our Future,” calls upon communities across the country to remember the children who never returned home from Indian boarding schools, honor the survivors who continue to carry these experiences, and recognize the lasting impacts of the federal Indian boarding school system on Native families and communities.

“The Day of Remembrance is a time to reflect on the impacts that Indian boarding schools have had on us all: our survivors, families and communities,” said Charlee Brissette, Oral History Project Co-Director. “Out of 526 known boarding schools in the U.S., eight of those were in Michigan. It’s important that we use this time to honor, support and uplift our survivors and descendants. We must continue to stand together in our efforts for healing and justice, not just on September 30th but every day.”

A Day of Remembrance in Minneapolis

NABS will host its 2026 National Day of Remembrance gathering at Powderhorn Park in Minneapolis, Minn., on Wednesday, Sept. 30.

The afternoon program will feature a screening of Medicine Ball, a documentary directed by Leya Hale (Dakota/Diné), followed by a panel discussion exploring the film’s themes, the enduring legacy of the federal Indian boarding school system, and the importance of truth-telling, healing, and remembrance.

Beginning at 6 p.m., NABS will welcome the broader community for an evening Candlelight Vigil and Remembrance Walk. The gathering will include remarks from survivors, guest speakers and community leaders, along with a collective opportunity to reflect, remember and honor those whose lives were forever changed by Indian boarding schools.

Remembrance is a call to action

NABS encourages relatives, allies and organizations to honor the day by hosting local activities in their communities, raising awareness and advocating for recognition in their communities.

“Every community has a role to play in ensuring that Indian boarding school history is not forgotten,” NABS Board President Benjamin Barnes (Shawnee) said.

NABS is also offering its 2026 National Day of Remembrance T-shirt, featuring original artwork by Casandra Artichoker (Sicangu Lakota). Proceeds support NABS’s education, advocacy and healing efforts. (Visit boardingschool-healing.org/day-of-remembrance-2026/)

“Orange Shirt Day/Day of Remembrance reminds us that every child mattered then, every survivor matters today, and every family affected by Indian boarding schools deserves truth, justice, and healing. September 30th is an opportunity to center the voices of survivors, remember the children who never returned home, and acknowledge the lasting impacts these institutions continue to have on our families and Tribal Nations. It is also a call to ensure that this history is taught honestly and that we remain committed to protecting our children, languages, cultures, and traditions for generations to come,” Lacey Kinnart, Oral History Project Co-Director, said.

From “Orange,” Page 7
to follow. Orange shirts will be given away to participants. The Indigenous Education Initiative will be providing information at this event, hosted by Sault Tribe and survivors.

In Sault Ste. Marie, the community is invited to the Sault Tribe Advocacy Resource Cen-ter

(ARC) and the Language and Culture Department’s Community Feast. Those who returned from the boarding schools, and those who didn’t, will be honored with the feast and talking circle at Niigaanagizhik Ceremonial Building at 11 Ice Circle in Sault Ste. Marie. Orange T-shirts will be provided for those in atten-

dance.

ARC is sponsoring its sixth Orange Shirt Day photo. Post your Orange Shirt Day photo comments on the ARC Facebook on Sept. 30. ARC encourages everyone to wear orange in support of our board school victims and survivors. Post on www.facebook.com/saulttribeARC.

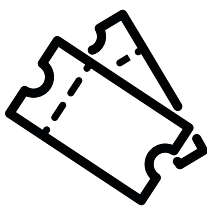


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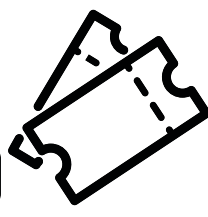
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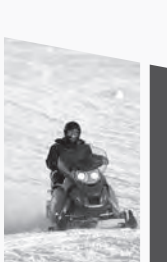
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Sault Tribe teen’s story lands in bestselling Indigenous futures anthology

By **BRENDA AUSTIN**

ANN ARBOR, Mich. — A short story by Mariel Alice Gupta, a 15-year-old citizen of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, appears in a new anthology of Indigenous futures fiction that has sold out its first printing and become a No. 1 bestseller in Oklahoma.

“From the Heart of Our Nations: An Indigenous Futures Anthology of Short Fiction” was released July 31 by OK Stamp Press. Edited by Kashona Notah with a foreword by Rebecca Nagle, the collection gathers 14 stories, all set 250 years in the future. A second printing is underway.

Gupta’s contribution, “The Dreaming Buffalo,” follows three generations of women fighting to protect the last living herd of buffalo, asleep in a canyon outside their home. Their effort is aided by a powerful Anishinaabe mythical water being.

“I want ‘From the Heart of Our Nations’ to be for my ancestors who never got the opportunity to tell their own stories and remind the world we live in



that they will not be forgotten,” Gupta said.

The book began as a virtual writing workshop hosted by Nagle through First America and led by Notah. Applications were capped at 70, and 14 writers were selected. Gupta said none of them knew where the work was headed until the group met for the first time.

“They surprised us by saying that the stories we were going to write in the workshop would be published in an anthology,” she



Mariel Alice Gupta

said.

The other stories in the collection introduce readers to a sentient turtle-shaped spacecraft, cities in the sky, medicine men mechanics, futuristic interrogation rooms, warehouse-sized time capsules, a bipedal machine adorned with crow feathers and a two-spirit elder who teaches younger people that everything will be all right, according to the publisher’s description. The collection centers Native survival while imagining Indigenous communities generations into the future.

The July 31 launch event in

Tulsa, Okla., included a keynote by author Deborah Jackson Taffa and a book signing.

Gupta lives in Ann Arbor and is beginning her sophomore year of high school. Her family comes from St. Ignace, and she has grown up going north. She credits her older sisters, Meghan and Madeline Gupta, and their extensive research into Mackinac Island and the family’s history with showing her what their Native culture means to them.

She is the daughter of Samar and Toni (née Johnson) Gupta. Gupta said that growing up she was an avid reader and wrote her first story in middle school. “I realized how much I loved writing and that I was good at it too,” she said.

Historical fiction and fantasy are her favorite genres, and she is interested in how the two can interact. She starts a story with a question rather than a plot. “I like to start by asking myself a challenging question and how the characters I create are going to respond to that question,” she said.

Her work has already drawn

notice outside the anthology. “The Lightbringer,” a story she wrote independently about a fantastical kingdom where the sun doesn’t exist, won a Scholastic Gold Key for the Midwest region.

Away from the page, Gupta swims competitively, cares for her miniature dachshund and collects antique rings. “I have always loved jewelry, especially rings, and find it is a special way for me to connect with the past,” she said.

She plans to keep weaving traditional Native storytelling into her work while adding fantasy to it, and she wants to experiment with poetry and eventually put together a collection.

“I definitely see myself writing a full novel in the future, but I’m waiting for the right idea to come along and I hope it finds me soon,” she said.

“From the Heart of Our Nations” is available from Magic City Books, 221 E. Archer St., Tulsa, OK., at magiccitybooks.com or info@magiccitybooks.com.

Sault Tribe youth receive student incentives

The Michigan Indian Elders Association, which is made up of elder representatives from each of the federally recognized tribes in Michigan, raises money each year to support tribal youth. Its biggest fundraisers are at the MIEA meetings and conferences held throughout the year, which are hosted by the different tribes.

The K-12 Student Incentive program is a wonderful program where students can receive \$25 per quarter for perfect attendance if they are in Kindergarten through 12 grade and \$25 per quarter for all A’s for students in grades 4-12.

This annual incentive program is available to students who are Sault Tribe members, or can provide proof of being a descendant of a member of a federally recognized tribe.

This year, there were 46 students from all over the country that submitted the required information, resulting in over \$3,100 being paid out to these hard-working young people.

The total paid out to all Michigan tribes participating in the program was \$5,600.

The announcement for this program comes out each year in late spring.

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.

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



Carter Samuelson, a Sault Area High School junior with his check for all A's for the 2025-2026 school year.



Ceagan, Cassidee and Carter Wolf (L-R) of Cheboygan with checks for perfect attendance for all four quarters of 2025-2026.

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10/6/26 -SAULT KEWADIN CASINO THEATER

10/8/26 - DETOUR EUP FINE ARTS HALL

10/9/26 - HESSEL TRIBAL YOUTH & FITNESS CENTER

Flu & COVID vaccines available to Sault Tribe members, other federally recognized tribes, non-native spouses, and Sault Tribe employees.

**QUESTIONS ~ CALL COMMUNITY HEALTH
906-632-5210**

HEALTH FAIR IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Elders celebrate birthdays



At their monthly Elder Sub-Committee meeting, the Unit I elders enjoyed cake and ice cream to celebrate their friends with birthdays in the month of September. Celebrating this month are L-R: Marilyn White, Aimee Penrose, Tim LaLonde, Deanna LaLonde and Carol Eavou.

Osburns welcome baby Cooper

Cooper William Osburn was born Aug. 14, 2026, to proud parents Kyle and Holly (Austin) Osburn of Asheboro, N.C. Cooper weighed eight pounds 15 ounces and was 20.5 inches in length. His paternal grandparents are Mike and Pam Osburn of Asheboro, N.C., and his maternal grandparents are the late Ken Austin, and Brenda Austin of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. He also has two aunts ready to spoil him – Nikki Nicholson (Kayden) and Leanne (Rayce) Schofield and an uncle, Travis Austin (Sarah Austin), of Lexington, S.C. Cooper was welcomed home by their two dogs, Silly and Echo, and cats Tater Tot and Inka.



McKelvie and Corbiere wed

Hali McKelvie and Aaron Corbiere were married on April 10, 2026, in a beautiful ceremony at a one-room chapel near Eldorado Canyon, outside Las Vegas, Nev.

The bride is the daughter of Pat and Julie McKelvie and Myra Widener-Baa. The groom is the son of Rick and Brenda Corbiere. They were joined by their parents and the groom's aunt, Karen "Spike" Brock, for an intimate ceremony.

The bride walked down the aisle with her father and carried a bouquet of daisies and baby's breath, adorned with a sacred medicine pouch and her father's rosary.

The groom wore a matching boutonniere, and guests wore Wiingashk (sweetgrass) wreaths.

The father of the groom had a special role in the ceremony,



serving as the couple's ring bearer and proudly presenting their rings as they exchanged their vows.

In another meaningful moment, both mothers signed the marriage license as official witnesses, making the day an

especially personal celebration of family and love.

A reception with family and friends was held on Sept. 5, 2026, at Bruce Twp. Hall. The couple resides in the Sault with their blended family and pups.

50th wedding anniversary celebrated

Joe and Jenny (Chalmers) Gillotte celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Aug. 21, 2026.

The couple married Aug. 21, 1976, in a candlelight ceremony at Calvary Baptist Church in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., by Reverend Cook. Best man was John Gillotte, the groom's brother. Matron of honor was Charlotte (Chalmers) Salamone, sister of the bride.

Joe and Jenny have two daughters, Jess Gillotte-King (Steve King) and Jennifer Gillotte.

They have six grandchildren: Raleigh (Jacob) Ryan, Jack



(Carissa) King, Hazel King, Jameson King, Cole Gillotte, and Genevieve Gillotte-Ward. They also have two great-grandchildren, Patrick and Cecilia Gillotte.



They held a big celebration at the Christopher Columbus Hall on Friday, Aug. 21.

Joe also celebrated his 75th birthday the following day.

Time to celebrate

Happy 3rd

birthday

Leighlyn!

Love Nonna

& Papa



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Understanding the Secretarial Election

A guide to the proposed constitutional amendments and election process.



Sault Tribe citizens will soon cast their votes on proposed constitutional amendments through a federally administered Secretarial Election. This guide explains **what's on the ballot** and **how the election process works**.

What is a Secretarial Election?

Sault Tribe citizens will vote **"yes"** or **"no"** on whether to amend the Sault Tribe Constitution to create three separate, co-equal branches of government. A Secretarial Election will occur no later than December. These special elections are administered by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and are required by federal law and Article X of the Sault Tribe Constitution to make amendments affecting how the Sault Tribe is governed.

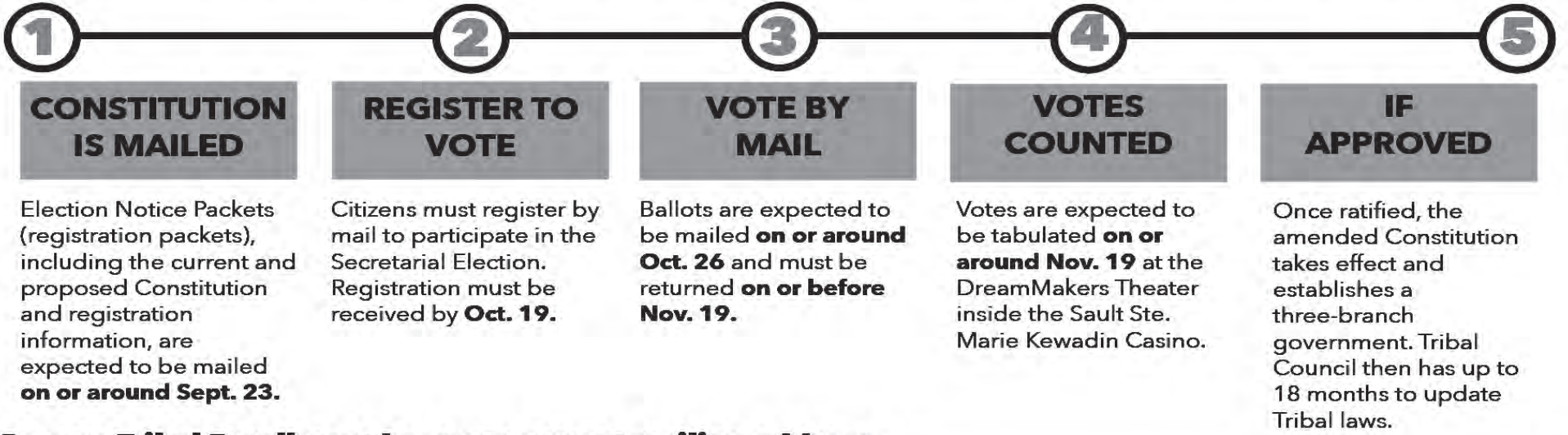
What Would Change? The Proposed Three-Branch Government

If approved by Tribal citizens, the amended Constitution would establish three separate, co-equal branches of government, each with its own responsibilities.

 Legislative Makes Laws - Adopts Tribal laws - Approves the Tribal budget - Adopts Tribal regulations - Legislative body: Tribal Council	 Executive Carries Out Laws - Implements Tribal laws - Manages Tribal government - Delivers services to Tribal citizens - Executive leader: Tribal Ogemaa	 Judicial Interprets Laws - Ensures due process - Resolves legal disputes - Reviews laws for consistency with the Constitution - Courts: Trial and Supreme Court
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How the Secretarial Election Process Works

A BIA-led Secretarial Election Board has been established to administer the election, the process moves through a series of steps before the results are certified by the U.S. Department of the Interior.



Be sure Tribal Enrollment has your current mailing address.

At a glance



YES/NO
One ballot question
Vote by mail



Registration required
Election will occur no later than December 2026

Learn more



Read the proposed Constitution
Find answers to common questions
Get election updates
Visit the election website at:
saulttribe.com/government/secretarial-election

Community convenes for manoomin seeding event

BY SCOTT BRAND

Approximately 1,600 pounds of manoomin seed has been dispersed in the fall of 2026 throughout the St. Mary’s River System and a couple of inland lakes as part of the continued effort to reestablish wild rice in the Eastern Upper Peninsula.

“This year we got our seed from Minnesota,” said Katie Schultz of the Sault Tribe Wildlife

Program. “Our long-term goal is to have self-sustaining harvestable beds.”

The Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians has been working to restore the wild rice beds since 2018, but the overall effort is far more complicated than just throwing some seed into the water and hoping for the best. The initial efforts included the difficult work of removing existing cattails that

would choke off any new growth before it could take root. Those efforts are beginning to pay-off.

“The Kayak loop,” according to Schultz’s assessment, “has had a couple of good years.”

For the last six years, the Natural Resources Division has invited the public to assist with a community seeding event. This year’s gathering was held on Munuscong Bay and saw a wide

range of individuals turn out to be a part of the hands-on process, although to be honest, most of them opted for the gloves-on process, after getting a whiff of the rice before departure.

Following the ceremonial blessing of the rice, complete with smudging and the laying of tobacco, participants headed out donning waders to access the difficult to reach seeding locations. Others,

however, utilized borrowed canoes and kayaks to paddle to the designated seeding grounds.

The volunteers were joined by members of the Natural Resources Division, including at least one person from every program, the U.S. Forest Service and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources also participated with some funding towards this restoration effort as well.



Deb Pine smudges the seed and provided tobacco for those preparing to plant manoomin during the event.



Five-gallon buckets and the pack mule method, minus the mule, delivered the seed for planting.



The long walk, treacherous footing and boot-sucking bottomland provided a good workout for those who opted for the wader route.



Wildlife Biologist Clara Lepard carrying buckets down to the launching site, while below Monica Cady and Pierce Mayville work together from their canoe.



Above, Kali Krupa of the Sault Tribe Wildlife Division pilots a red kayak through the marsh, while below Damien Hopper makes his way through some lily pads in the blue kayak.



Bottom right, Meredith Jones, 9, sits in the front while YEA Coordinator Melissa Causley attempts to paddle backwards with the help of Sault Tribe Wildlife Division's Colton Hudak.



Photos by Scott Brand



At left, Rex Scheeley of the SEAL MCD Conservation District joined Sault Tribe Fish and Wildlife’s Leanne Kinsella in an isolated part of Munuscong Bay.



Stephanne Johnson and her son Ace Johnson-Sanchez.

Good food, good times abound, as Sault Tribe Elder Services hold picnics throughout region



The Statue of Liberty, AKA Home Health Tech Mary Sawyers, made an appearance at one of the elder picnics. Events were held in late August and early September including gatherings in Escanaba, Sault Ste. Marie, Naubinway, Hessel, Newberry, St. Ignace and Marquette. There is still one more chance to participate as Munising will host the final elder picnic of the season on Sept. 24.



Above, Art Causley grilled burgers, country pork steaks and chicken thighs for the Hessel Picnic. Below, Unit II Directors Lana Causley-Smith and Kimberly Lee saucing the meats at the Aug. 27 gathering in Hessel.



Unit I Directors Aaron Payment and Kimberle Gravelle putting on their gloves before preparing food for the guests.



Unit I Director Michael McKerchie flipping burgers for the crowd.



Terrie Milligan seasons burgers at the Hessel Tribal Center.



Cook Lucinda McFarlane serves seconds to Bill Perrault as Unit III celebrated in St. Ignace.



Unit I Director Ashley Gravelle putting some fresh New York strip steaks on her end of the hot grill.



Katie Peabody of Elder Services hand-delivering cake.



The Hessel dessert table was a popular destination.



Guests enjoy a variety of selections at the St. Ignace luncheon held on Sept. 9.



Phillip Nertoli, working the other end of the grill, is about ready to send his finished steaks in to be served.



A full house enjoying their Sault Ste. Marie feast.



Above and below, depending on the venue and weather, picnickers had the option of eating inside or outside.



Linda Snyder and Jane Karacson — which means Christmas in Hungarian for those who are interested — check folks in to the Aug. 22 picnic in Marquette.



The Teal Lake Singers perform in Marquette.



Left, Kay Salminen with cousin Sarah Webster heading outside to eat in Marquette. Right, Denise Martin and Chris Stempke at their seats.



Mary Jenerou visits with Boyd Snyder inside the Marquette facility where most visitors opted to dine outside in the warm weather and pleasant sunlight.

Gathering of the Eagles Powwow held in Hessel



Nick Van Alstine leading the grand entry for Gathering of the Eagles Powwow, which brought a good crowd to the venue on Aug. 15.



Left, Jane Palermo and Carolyn Dale (L-R) stand at attention for grand entry.



Flag and staff bearers prepare to post the colors.



Thanking our veterans.



Jackie Minton leads a long line around the circle.

Photos by Jennifer Dale-Burton



Clockwise, dancers in full regalia.



Hoping to win the upcoming spot dance.

SAULT TRIBE HEALTH DIVISION
AND MSU EXTENSION PRESENT:

FALL CANNING WORKSHOP



Pressure Canning Carrots
with Chicken Noodle Soup
Thursday, October 29th



Register with Sault Tribe Community Health
To Reserve your spot (906)-632-5210

- Learn and Practice Canning Skills
- Open and Free to Everyone
- Gifts and Prizes Awarded
- Meal Provided During Event
- Limited Capacity Register Now!

Start at 1:00pm - 5:00pm

Big Bear Kitchen (Upstairs)

2 Ice Circle Chi Mukwa

Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783



Supported by the Tribal Practices for Wellness in Indian Country Project made possible with funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Happy happy 90th birthday Bonnie (Morell) Bright



Tribal member Bonnie (Morell) Bright celebrated her 90th birthday this year with all her children and grandchildren, great grandchildren and great-great-grandson (above).

She was born in Sault Ste. Marie on May 28, 1936. She is a proud Sault Tribe member along with her brother Clyde Morell, her two aunts; Betty Fizel (the ring

lady) and Maybell McPherson.

She has tried made sure all her children have their tribal cards and her grandchildren; great-grandchildren and her grandchild have their tribal cards as well.

On June 13, 2026, her family hosted a belated birthday outdoor party at her home in Deckerville, Mich., where over 100 people

came to celebrate her 90th birthday. Her friends in the area and many of her family members attended. The farthest family members to come were her brother Clyde Morell and his wife Aunt Bobbie who came from Colonial Beach, Va.

Bonnie has five children, fifteen grandchildren, twenty-eight



great grandchildren and one great-great-grandson. Sadly, her oldest son Gary L. Bright passed away April 1, 2026.

Also in celebration of America's 250th birthday, she asked that attendees wear the American flag colors; red, white and blue — also because they are her favorite colors. They dressed

as follows; her children wore red; grandchildren wore white and great grandchildren wore blue. Her great great-grandson and her wore all three colors.

There was lots of delicious food, laughter and reminiscing about old times and making of new memories with all of the family and friends.

Naubinway's Karen Frazier keeps local history alive

Aanii. I'm Karen (Beckman) Frazier, a life-long resident of Naubinway, born April 6, 1944, to parents Ken and Emma (Davenport) Beckman.

In the early 1700s Natives lived in all the U.P. In 18, the first family came to Naubinway. The William Boucha's came from Mackinac Island. He was a fur trader and bought furs from the Natives. There he and his wife built a two-story home on the point in Naubinway and raised 14 children. A few years later, Louis Matty arrived, also a fur trader.

Naubinway had several tribes over the years, the Ojibway (or Chippewas) Winnebago's, Menominee, and Sauk's. The Natives welcomed all who came.

As time went on, more settler's came and most of the Natives had to move. Some still stayed. We still have Native decedents here. I am proud to be one of them, my family goes back 12 generations.

Around 180 to 180 logging became a big industry in town. Our town grew, some say close to 2,500. People from all over came

to work.

It employed some 600 or more men. There was a mill train called the "Peggy," where Jim Baker Sr. from town was the engineer and my grandfather, Harvey Davenport, was a break man.

The mill lasted until 1910 to 1912.

Commercial fishing was always a busy industry too. My family was and still is going. Over the years fishing was great. But times have changed. We started out with several boats in our harbors. Now there are maybe one or two. It's sad to see.

This last year I decided we need an update on our town's history since it's our countries 250th anniversary. So we (some of our townspeople) started "Naubinway's Family History and Industry," and collected pictures, information and stories from anyone who lived here in the past.

In 198 I did a book on our seniors of Naubinway, there were 40 families. They all had to be 60 and up. I had a great time with these folks since I grew up with



them. Sadly, they are all gone now.

We have Fraziers, Kings, Bouchas, Valliers, Davenports, Beaudoins, Wachters, St. Andres, Paulsens, Wyses, Vincents, Mettys, Bakers, Maudries, Perkins, and Gildersleeve. Some are families from the past.

We have a "Naubinway, Land of Echoes" Unit II Elder Group I am proud to be involved with. It helps keep our history going.

Our little town has gotten very small over the years. We have maybe 100 people now. In the summer we have a few more. No matter how big or small, we are all here for each other.

I'd like to thank all who helped with this project. We were able to put our family and history photos up at our pavilion on July third and fourth. I hope everyone enjoyed them. Sadly, we have no place to display them permanent-



ly in town.

Special thanks to Gary Smith who scanned all our pictures and redid my album of 198.

I'm still looking up my history. You never quit learning more. So if you live in a small town, we all have history. Go look for it. Keep searching.

Thanks to all — miigwech. Karen (Beckman) Frazier Naubinway "Land of Echoes"

Walking on...

SUSANNAH JOY DANKERT

Susannah Joy Dankert walked on unexpectedly Aug. 13, 2026, in Sioux Falls, S.D., leaving behind a family and a community whose lives were made brighter simply because she was in them. Her name was Susannah Joy, and she truly lived up to it. She had a way of bringing joy to the people around her, often without even realizing she was doing so. Susannah carried a mighty spirit within a beautiful soul, and her smile had a way of brightening any room. She was born Sept. 20, 1978.



Susannah had an adventurous spirit and an extraordinary ability to find beauty even in the midst of life's darkest moments. She understood that life was

imperfect, and chose to strive for grace over chasing perfection. She fought through years of health struggles with a strength that those who loved her will never forget. She was a powerful woman who fought long and hard. She faced life's challenges with a courage that was uniquely hers.

Above all else, family meant everything to Susannah. She was a beloved daughter, wife, sister, aunt, stepmother, grandmother, and friend. Susannah is survived by her parents, Dave and Lorelee Dankert; her husband, Paul Suttle; her stepchildren, Chafen, Austin, Grace, and Hope Suttle, and Quincy Pfister; her siblings, Jesse (Serenity Dankert) Liz (Chris Boris), and Joe (Amanda Dankert); her nieces and nephews Bodhi Boris, Marshall, Annabell, Oliver, Nick, and Chris Dankert; and her grandchildren, Halo and Nova Pfister. She also leaves behind her beloved dog, Nalani.

Susannah found beauty in the little things. She loved nature and could spend hours outside watching her hummingbirds visit and admiring her flowers as they beautifully developed in the sunshine. One of her most peaceful places was Sturgeon Bay, where she could spend countless hours walking, listening to music, and searching for beautiful pieces of washed glass along the shore. To Susannah, those little pieces of glass were treasures—small reminders that even something weathered and broken could still become something beautiful. That was Susannah. She saw beauty in what others might overlook.

Susannah's absence will leave a space that cannot be filled. Though her life ended far sooner than anyone was ready for, the love she gave will continue through every person she touched.

You are loved beyond words, missed beyond measure, remem-

bered for all the joy you gave us, but never forgotten! Rest peacefully, Susannah Joy. You were, and always will be, our Joy.

NANCY EILEEN STAFFELD

Nancy Eileen Staffeld, 79, of Dansville, Mich., passed away peacefully on Aug. 12, 2026, surrounded by the love of her family following a courageous battle with cancer.

Born Oct. 2, 1946, in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., Nancy was the daughter of William and Catherine Brady. She was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Edward Staffeld, and her parents.

Nancy is survived by her four children, Kristin (Darrin) Perkowski, Michael (Stephany)



Staffeld, Jeffrey (Jamy) Staffeld, and Douglas (Melissa) Staffeld; her siblings, Patricia McCafferty, Colleen Gossman, Janet (Jim) Mackie, and Dan (Karen) Brady; and her many beloved grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and extended family.

Nancy devoted her life to caring for others. A lifelong healthcare professional, she began her nursing career after graduating from St. Mary's Hospital School of Nursing and later earned bachelor's and master's degrees in nursing from Western Michigan University. Her career spanned emergency, trauma, orthopedics, psychiatric care, and healthcare administration, where she rose from department manager to director and ultimately Chief Nursing Officer.

A pioneer in Michigan's Rural Health Clinic Distinction Certification, Nancy helped advance access to quality health

See "Walking on," page 18

Walking on continued...

From “Walking on,” page 17
care for patients and families in rural communities. Even after retirement, she continued serving others by surveying Rural Health Clinics across the country and helping strengthen the care they provided.

Nancy’s professional accomplishments were significant, but her greatest legacy was the love she gave her family. She was a devoted mother who offered wisdom, encouragement, strength, and unconditional love. She had a remarkable ability to make others feel valued and cared for, bringing compassion, dignity, and humanity to everything she did.

ROBERT CHARLES ASH

Robert Charles Ash, 51, of Newberry, Mich., passed away unexpectedly Aug. 28, 2026. He was born Sept. 24, 1974, in Newberry.



Robert, known as “Bobby” to his family and friends, was a dedicated truck driver for J.B. Hunt. He was proud of his work and continued driving throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and until the time of his passing. His commitment to his job was a testament to his strong work ethic and dedication.

Bobby was a graduate of Newberry High School. He will be remembered and missed by his family, friends, and all who knew him.

He is survived by his mother, Barbara Schneider (Otto); brother, Pastor B.J. Ash (Kelly); nephews, Brandon and Alex Ash of Thompson, Mich.; and many cousins.

He was preceded in death by his father, Charles Ash; maternal grandparents, Charles and June Jerrick; paternal grandparents, Charles and Hazel Ash; and aunt, Carol Jerrick.

Cremation has taken place. In accordance with Bobby’s wishes, no service will be held. He will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered by those who knew and cared for him.

RAYMOND BOSLEY, SR.

Ray was born on Feb. 3, 1936, in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., to Carl and Elizabeth (Oberlin) Bosley. He had five brothers and one sister.



He was a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. While growing up in the Sault, Ray enjoyed music and participated in weekend gatherings of friends and family where music was played and dancing ensued. He also liked to remind his children that he once attended a concert in the Sault in his youth where he saw Jerry Lee Lewis open for Johnny Cash. Ray played high school football for the Sault High Blue Devils and was voted All-U.P. playing offensive guard. He recalled taking a ferry boat across the Mackinac Straits when his

team played in Petoskey, which was prior to the construction of the Mackinac Bridge.

Following high school, Ray enrolled in the U.S. Army and honorably served two years while stationed in Alaska. He continued to play football in the Army, traveling to other army bases to compete against other teams. After being discharged from the Army, he attended Northern Michigan University in Marquette, Mich.. While there, he met Ruth Quaal, a student from Ishpeming, Mich. They were married Aug. 19, 1961, in Ishpeming and resided in Hancock, Mich. early in their marriage. Ray and Ruth moved to South Range and then to Painesdale, both in the Copper Country, where they continued to raise their family of four children.

Ray began a 38-year teaching career at Jeffers High School in 1961. He taught primarily industrial arts, drafting, and driver’s education. He is remembered by his students for his humor and his expectation that they apply themselves to the skills and to the creative opportunities he presented during his classes.

Early in his career, he had the clock removed from over his classroom door, substituting it with one of his many inspirational plaques. That particular plaque read, “Time will pass. Will you?” Another of his many mantras for students was, “There are two ways to get to the top of an oak tree: Sit on an acorn. Or climb it.”

Ray was a member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Painesdale and Holy Family Church in South Range. He sang in the church choir with many good friends. Ray and his wife Ruth were both dedicated to their Catholic faith.

Throughout his life, Ray’s talents for furniture building, home remodeling, and building intricate model ships and small wood projects and games were always evident. He enjoyed building and using radio-controlled boats, and later on built and flew radio-controlled airplanes. Ray was also a life-long Green Bay Packer fan, eventually attending a memorable game at Lambeau Field with his sons. He also enjoyed attending the Experimental Aircraft Association Fly-In in Oshkosh, Wisc., annually, for many years.

In his later years, his grandchildren and great-grandchildren held a special place in his heart and in his life—always appreciating his time with them.

Ray was preceded in death by his wife Ruth; his parents; his son-in-law Michael Clouthier; and his brothers and sister: Teddy, Donna, Carl, Larry, and Rick.

He is survived by his children: Ray (Kriss) Bosley, Michael (Anita) Bosley, Marie (Cliff) Dessellier, and Patrick (Jennifer) Beausoleil. Grandchildren: Elizabeth (Will) Williams, Andrew (Jennie) Clouthier, Sarah (Seth) Keller, Jacob (Elle) Dessellier, Gabby (Jake) Brenke, Bruce (Jennifer) Dessellier, Eric Dessellier, Shannon (Bob) Matson, and Lindsay (Justin Dueweke) Clouthier. Great-grandchildren: Adalene, Michael, and Ben Williams; Gunner, Teddy, Alex, and Bodie Clouthier;

Tristan and Owen Keller; Gordy and Wren Vaskey; Gavin, Chase, and Brooks Dessellier; Mialy (Carley) Frauenhoff; Abby Brooks; and Donovan Dueweke. He is also survived by a brother Walter (Nancy) Bosley, sisters-in-law Sandy Bosley and Cheryl Bosley, and numerous nieces and nephews and other family members through marriage.

For the past few years, Ray received supportive care from the At Home Companions home-care staff and from Copper Shores Meals on Wheels. He also appreciated the assistance provided by many friends.

A mass of christian burial for Ray was on March 2, 2026, at St. Ignatius Loyola Catholic Church of Houghton. Spring burial was held at the Mt. View Cemetery in South Range.

To view this obituary or to send condolences online to the family, please visit www.memorialchapel.net.

The Memorial Chapel Funeral & Cremation Service – Mt. View Chapel of South Range assisted the family with the arrangements.

JEFFREY A. RADER II

Jeffrey A. Rader II, 37, of Michigan City, Ind., formerly of Rossville Ind., passed away Saturday, Aug. 15, 2026. He was born Jan. 23, 1989, in Sault Ste Marie, Mich. to Jeffrey A. Rader and Sue Graham.



Jeffrey attended Rossville High School. He was a member of the Sault Ste Marie Tribe of the Chippewa Indians. He worked at Indiana Packers and then as a tattoo artist for many years. Jeffrey was an avid Green Bay Packers fan, a talented artist and enjoyed drawing, cooking, camping and being outdoors. He was an intelligent young man, and though he had his struggles in life, he loved others and had a giving heart.

Jeffrey is survived by his mother; sister, Barbie (Noe) Cuevas; sons, Taylor Rader and his mother, Bridgett Arman; and twin boys, Armani and Aryan Price; niece, Isabella; nephew, Frankie; and many aunts, uncles, cousins; and best friends, Cody, Forester and Nelson.

He was preceded in death by his father; a sister, Taylor Rader; and the mother of his twins, Candace Price.

A visitation was held on Aug. 21, 2026, at Day & Genda Funeral Home, Bodine Chapel, in Rossville, Ind.

Pastor Dan Murphy officiated the service.

Messages of condolence may be left at www.dayandgenda.com.

MARK STEPHEN PISKORZ

Mark Stephen Piskorz, 71, died at his home in Scottsboro, Ala., on Sunday, June 28, 2026. One moment in this world, then arriving suddenly in the next, he died just like he would have wished, working outdoors under the trees.

Mark is survived by his wife of 41 years, Lee Piskorz, his son,

Will Piskorz, and his daughter Bethany Coulston (Paul). He also leaves behind his brothers Rick Piskorz, Alan Dale (Deb), Gary Lee (Emily), as well as, nieces, nephews, and many cherished family and friends.



He was preceded in death by his mother and father, John and Dorothy Piskorz, and his brothers Butch Piskorz (Lois) and Chris Piskorz (Patsy).

Mark was born July 15, 1954, in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. Raised in St. Ignace, with the Mackinac Bridge out his window, Mark enjoyed all the outdoor activities available to him. He always recalled his childhood with humor and genuine fondness, believing that for a young boy, there was no better place to call home.

Mark graduated from LaSalle High School in St. Ignace in 1972, and went straight to work as an ironworker in the mines around the Upper Peninsula, Wisconsin, and Minnesota.

During this time, he took sky-diving and scuba diving lessons. He didn’t shy away from risk, and was eager to learn a new skill.

When Mark was 23-years-old, he left Michigan to work on the road, traveling all over and acquiring many wild stories and great memories as an industrial mechanical tradesman.

In 1982, Mark met the love of his life, Lee, and she changed the trajectory of his future. One month later, they committed to a life together, and Mark never looked back, considering marriage the best decision he had ever made. After moving to Scottsboro, Mark and Lee eventually welcomed their son, Will, in 1986, and their daughter, Bethany, in 1990.

Mark loved his children unconditionally, and they were his pride and joy. If Will or Bethany showed an interest in something, he wanted to be supportive. Though he worked long hours, he tried his best to be in attendance at all their activities. He was proud to be able to provide more than just the necessities, and always wanted his children to know that they could turn to him in times of need. It brought him great joy and peace to know both of his adult children were settled in their own lives, and that Bethany had found a wonderful husband in Paul. Mark’s greatest desire was for his children to be happy with the choices they made, no matter what they were.

Mark eventually started his own industrial maintenance company called High Mark Contracting. He truly cared about his employees and considered them friends that were more like family. Mark proved to be a fair and honest employer that valued integrity over greed. His knowledge and skills, paired with his problem-solving abilities, were his keys to success. There was no harder-working man than Mark Piskorz.

Mark was authentic. What you saw was what you got, and he didn’t feel the need to impress others. In fact, he preferred to stay in the background and shied away from attention and praise. Mark’s most notable characteristic was his servant’s heart. He never hesitated to help those in need, and consistently volunteered his time and energy to make life better for others.

When Mark finally retired in 2020, he got to spend more time in one of his favorite places, his home workshop. He stayed busy every day, often working on a major project, but other times doing what he called “piddling.” He took pride in being the one everyone came to when they needed something. If you had a problem, Mark had an idea how to solve it, and the materials and know-how to accomplish the solution.

In retirement, he tapped into his creative side making small, intricate wooden boxes, copper wire trees, and imaginative Cribbage boards. He took art classes and loved visiting galleries and museums. Attending concerts, watching old cowboy movies, playing Euchre, and following college football were among his favorite pastimes.

He enjoyed and prioritized travel, and his love of giant trees led him out West to the largest of them all. He felt very fortunate to have visited over a dozen National Parks, plus other places of natural beauty.

Mark was a devoted husband, loving father, loyal friend, and proud member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. The world was a better place with Mark in it, and he will be sorely missed by all who were blessed and honored to know him. Mark is, and always will be, greatly loved. In accordance with his wishes, Mark was cremated, and a celebration of life took place on Saturday, July 11, 2026, at First United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall in Scottsboro, Ala.

MICHAEL ANTHONY PERAULT

Michael Anthony Perault, 62, born on Mackinac Island, Mich., “Mikin Minis,” Jan. 9, 1964, to Deward S. Perault and Marcella M. Keller, walked on Aug. 20, 2026.



Surviving Mike are his son, Anthony Perault of Mancelona, Mich.; daughter, Summer Rain Perault of Indiana; four brothers, Deward “Chip” Perault of St. Ignace, Mich., John “Jaabet” Perault of St. Ignace, Gordon Perault of Mancelona, and William Perault of St. Ignace; and many nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Michael was half-blood Mackinac Band Ojibwe/Ottawa and a lifelong member since the tribe’s inception. He loved to fish and hunt and was an avid stone collector and artist.

He was a veteran of the U.S. See “Walking on,” page 19

Walking on continued...

From “Walking on,” page 18
Army, where he was a missile silo technician, serving in Germany near the Russian border.

He was a maintenance worker at Silver Sands Resort for 20 years.

He had an avid love for motorcycles, of which he owned many. He loved to ride with family and friends. A memorial ride is being planned with Red Rum Motorcycle Club.

This tragedy has struck family and friends deeply. He will be missed by all who knew him.

Burials will take place Sept. 21 at 2:30 p.m. in St. Annes Cemetery on Mackinac Island and Oct. 23 at the Holy Cross Cemetery in Cross Village.

Contact the Perault family for further time and information on the Cross Village service.

Baa Maa Pii Kowaabmin Miinwaa Maeka
(We will see you again at some point, Michael.)

LINDA MARY MCKERCHIE

Linda M. McKерchie, 74 of Kincheloe, Mich., unexpectedly passed away July 13, 2026, at Corewell Health-Heart Center in Grand Rapids. She was born in Saginaw, Mich. on Aug. 3, 1951, to parents Frank & Elaine (Galonska) Brogan.

Linda grew up in Saginaw and attended St. Mary’s Cathedral high school and graduated in 1969. Her first husband, Danny Sawyer II, preceded her in death in Oct. of 1992. She found love again and on Sept. 8, 2000, Linda married Russell McKерchie at the Point Iroquois Lighthouse on the bay in Brimley, Mich.

Linda was an avid reader, crocheter and thrifter. She enjoyed

walking the beaches for glass and other treasures, visiting lighthouses and loved birdwatching, but her passion was caring for her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She loved playing games and toys with the kids and kept them busy for hours having fun adventures. She especially loved the weekly sleepovers with her great-grandson Lukas. Nurturing came very easy to her, taking care of us is what she loved to do. She also found joy in managing the “Jack and his Crew” goat fan Facebook group.

She is survived by her husband Russ; sons: Dan (Lisa) Sawyer and Steven (Tina) Sawyer; daughters: Paula (Denise) McJohnson and Shannon Sawyer; stepsons: Russ (Sheryl) McKерchie, James McKерchie and Michael (Christina) McKерchie; siblings: Ron Brogan, Marilyn Markey, Susan Call, Mike Brogan & Kathy Gembrowski.

Also surviving are her grandchildren: Jenna (Kaidan), Elle (Andrew), Eli (Bella), Hailey (Phil), Caden, Landon (Kaitlyn), Cara, Lauren, Jett, Tyler (Brittany), Marissa (Sean), Bonnie, Jacob, Dakota (Kevin), Logan (Matt), Trevor, Brienna, Myah, Ella and Lucas; numerous great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents Frank and Elaine Brogan and siblings Ruth Powell, Larry Brogan and Joanne Brogan.

A graveside service took place Sunday, Sept. 6, at Donaldson Cemetery on M129 in Sault Ste. Marie. Please keep her loved ones in your hearts and prayers as they grieve.

GLORIA JEAN (PAVLAT) KANGAS

Gloria Jean (Pavlat) Kangas, 71, of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., died on Aug 21, 2026, at Medilodge of Sault Ste. Marie. She was born on Dec. 26, 1954,

in Sault Ste. Marie, to Alois Rayfield and Katherine Margaret (Santigo) Pavlat.

Gloria grew up in Sault Ste. Marie and attended Sault Area High School. She later dedicated her life to her family as a proud homemaker, finding great joy in raising and caring for her children and grandchildren. Her family was a central part of her life, and she cherished the time spent making memories with those she loved.

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

In her free time, Gloria enjoyed playing cards, working on puzzles, and making trips to the casino, where she especially enjoyed playing bingo with Grandma Donna. She will be remembered for the love she shared with her family and the many memories she created with those closest to her.

Gloria is survived by her husband, Anthony Kangas; son, Kevin Pavlat of Sault Ste. Marie; daughter, Tammy Pavlat of Appleton, Wisc.; grandchildren, Jordan Pavlat, Andrew Anderson, Katherine Pavlat, Alyssa Pavlat, Cameron Pavlat, and Kylee Pavlat; great-grandchildren, Serenity, and Troy; sister, Rosalie (Lynn) Armstrong of Sault Ste. Marie; brothers, James (Kathy) Pavlat of South Hadley, Mass., Howard (Angie) Pavlat of West Virginia, Gene (Mar) Pavlat of the Philippines, Dale Pavlat of Michigan, and Phillip (Debbie) Pavlat of Sault Ste. Marie.

Gloria was preceded in death by parents, Alois and Katherine; and siblings, Larry Pavlat, Veronica CasKey, and Anton Pavlat.

A celebration of life was



held on Sept. 5, 2026, at the Niigaanagiizhik Ceremonial Building, located at 1 Ice Circle, Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan 49783.

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

FREDERICK WAYNE SMITH

Frederick Wayne Smith, 71, of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., died on July 26, 2026, at Hearthside Assisted Living in Sault Ste. Marie. He was born Oct. 29, 1954, in Sault Ste. Marie, to Fred and Frances (Causley) Smith.

Fred lived a life centered around family, simple pleasures, and the people he loved most. He was proud of his heritage and had a deep appreciation for his community and the values that shaped



his life.
Fred graduated from Sault High School. He was a devoted father of four children and treasured every opportunity to create lasting memories with them. He shared an especially close bond with his daughter, Kayla. Together they spent countless hours listening to music, sharing cups of coffee, smoking cigarettes, laughing, and simply enjoying one another’s company. Their relationship was built on unconditional love, enduring friendship, and countless memories that will forever be cherished by those who knew them.

Fred was a proud member of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians and valued the traditions and heritage of his people.

In his free time, Fred enjoyed playing card games, especially cribbage and solitaire. He was an avid fan of the television series “Ice Road Truckers” and rarely started a day without a good cup of coffee. He found happiness in life’s simple moments and will

See “Walking on,” page 20



Use Michigan’s Eat Safe Fish Guides.

Eating fish has great health benefits. But some fish may have high levels of chemicals in them that can build up in our bodies and cause health problems when we eat the fish. The Eat Safe Fish Guides can help you find fish lower in chemicals across Michigan. Follow the Eat Safe Fish Guides at Michigan.gov/EatSafeFish.



SAULT TRIBE CONSTITUTION

WHAT’S CHANGING?

The proposed Constitution contains changes involving:

- MEMBER RIGHTS ★ ELECTIONS
- RECALLS ★ RECORDS
- GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE
- REFERENDUMS ★ BYLAWS

SHOULD MEMBERS VOTE ON EACH CHANGE SEPARATELY?

WHAT IS MISSING?

EQUAL RIGHTS FOR ALL MEMBERS.

VOTE NO

FIND OUT ALL THE FACTS
READ THE EDITORIALS AT
SAULTTRIBEGUARDIAN.COM

Healthy teeth, healthy babies: *HELP PREVENT BABY BOTTLE TOOTH DECAY*

BY JESSICA A. RICKERT, DDS, ANISHINAABE DENTAL OUTREACH At birth

How many bacteria are in a newborn’s mouth? What types of bacteria are present? Zero! Newborns’ mouths are sterile! Bacteria are introduced by caretakers. That is why it is so important that family members have excellent dental health!

Clean teeth

You can help prevent your baby from getting cavities or developing what is called Baby Bottle Tooth Decay. Begin an oral hygiene routine within the first few days after birth. Start by cleaning your baby’s mouth by wiping the gums with a clean gauze pad. When your child’s

teeth begin to come in, brush them gently with a child’s size toothbrush and a small amount of fluoride toothpaste, about the size of a grain of rice.

For bottle feeding, place only formula, water, milk or breast milk inside. Never put baby to bed with a bottle. Take your baby to the dentist before age 1.

Dental emergencies

For all dental emergencies, it’s important to take your child to the dentist or an emergency room as soon as possible.

Here are some tips for if your child experiences a common dental emergency:

— For a knocked-out tooth, keep it moist at all times. If you can, try placing the tooth back in

the socket without touching the root. If that’s not possible, place it in between your child’s cheek and gum, or in milk. Call your dentist right away.

— For a cracked tooth, immediately rinse the mouth with warm water to clean the area. Put cold compresses on the face to keep any swelling down.

— If your child bites his tongue or lip, clean the area gently and apply a cold compress.

— Do not put aspirin on the aching tooth or gum tissues.

Thumb sucking

Sucking is a natural reflex and infants and young children may suck on thumbs, fingers, pacifiers, and other objects. If your child continues to suck after

age 5, it can cause problems with tooth alignment. Talk to the dentist or pediatrician about your child’s sucking habits.

Space maintainers

If a baby tooth is lost too early, there may not be enough room for adult teeth because of narrowing space. To prevent this from happening, the dentist may recommend a space maintainer to hold the space open.

Sealants

Sealants are a fast and easy way of protecting your child’s teeth. Like a raincoat in a storm, sealants are barriers to harm. Sealing a tooth is fast with virtually no discomfort.

Mouthguards

Mouthguards can help protect

your child’s teeth while playing sports. Mouthguards cushion blows that would otherwise cause broken teeth, injuries to the lips and face and even jaw fractures. Your dentist can make custom-fitted mouth protectors.

Braces

A bad bite is a condition in which the teeth are crowded and crooked, or the jaws don’t meet properly. This may become particularly noticeable between the ages of 6 and 12, when a child’s permanent teeth are coming in.

Eating and speaking are often affected. Bad bites impede the proper development of the jaws and make some teeth wear abnormally. Protruding teeth are at risk for chips and fractures.

Walking on continued...

From “Walking on,” page 19
be remembered for his love of family, his easygoing nature, and the special connections he shared with those closest to him.

Fred is survived by his children, Kayla Smith, Fred Smith, Virginia Smith and Shawna Quinn; grandchildren, Falcon Smith, Juneblee Daniele, and Audrey Smith; and sisters, Betty Smith and Maggie Rounds.

Fred was preceded in death by his parents, Fred and Frances; and siblings, Nancy Smith, Annloe Smith, and Tad Smith.

Memorial Gathering was held on July 29, 2026, at the Hessel Tribal Center, 3355 N. 3 Mile Road, Hessel, MI 49745. Family Life Funeral Homes – Sault Ste. Marie assisted the family with arrangements. Condolences may be given to the family at www.familylifefh.com.

CAMERON “SCOOTER” DAVID FERRARO

It is with deepest sorrow to announce that Cameron “Scooter” David Ferraro, 32 of Kincheloe Mich., passed away unexpectedly Aug. 19, 2026.

Cameron was born Aug. 16, 1994, in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., to Mark Ferraro and Rebecca (Streeter) Farago.

He grew up in Sault Ste. Marie and graduated from Sault Area High School, class of 2013.

You could often find Cameron playing video games, spending quality time with his children or doing anything outdoors.

He also enjoyed fishing, working on cars, bringing trucks out in the mud, riding on the trails and hanging out with few close friends.

Cameron is survived by the love of his life, fiancée, Shyanne Rickley; sons, Cartland Ferraro, Bentley Fegan, Archer Rickley, and Abel Rickley; daughters, Ava Farley and Alivia Rickley; mother figure, Sherry (James) Beaumont; father, Mark (Jodi) Ferraro; biological mother Rebecca (John) Farago; brothers, Carmine Ferraro, Aaron Sheppard, David (Lura)

Porter, Bryar (Cheyenne) Wayne; sister, Jessica Sheppard; grandparents, Charles Streeter and Nancy Streeter; uncles, Charles (Tricia) Streeter, Joseph (Deneen) Ferraro, Michele (Lonna) Ferraro; and aunt, Maria Ferraro.

Cameron was preceded in death by his grandparents, Leo (Mary) Ferraro and Carol (Burl) Ward.

Visitation was held Aug. 29, 2026, at Family Life Funeral Homes, 4951 S. M-129, Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., followed by the funeral service and burial. He was laid to rest at Riverside Cemetery.

Cameron is loved by so many and his absence has left a tremendous hole in many hearts. Comfort can be found in knowing he is at peace.

ARNOLD FREDERICK FRAZIER

Arnold Frederick Frazier, 91, of St. Ignace, Mich., passed away after a brief illness on Aug. 22, 2026. He was born on June 10, 1935, in Epoufette, Mich., to parents Charles and Isabel (Bellant) Frazier.

Arnold grew up in Evergreen Shores and graduated from LaSalle High School, St. Ignace.

Arnold began his career with the Michigan Department of Transportation, crewing car ferries before the construction of the Mackinac Bridge. In 1958, he married Lorraine Lowetz of Moran, Mich., and they began their family. Relocating to Iron River, Mich., Arnold worked as a highway inspector while they raised their four children. Arnold finished his 33-year career in Naubinway, Mich., where he and Lorraine had a home on Lake Michigan. Following his retirement in 1990, Arnold followed a family tradition and participated in commercial gill net fishing on Lake Michigan.

Arnold was a member of St. Stephen Catholic Church and the Knights of Columbus in Naubinway. Arnold was also a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and took an active role as a Tribal Elder. He was an avid outdoorsman and enjoyed hunting, fishing, trapping and snowmobiling. He also enjoyed baseball and coaching.

Arnold and Lorraine were mar-

ried for over 60 years and shared a love of traveling. Together, they visited Australia, Hawaii, Alaska, Germany, Italy, Canada, the Panama Canal and most of the continental United States. When at home on Lake Michigan, they enjoyed entertaining family and friends. Arnold was well known for his humor and storytelling.

Arnold is survived by his four children, Julie Frazier of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., Patrick (Margaret) Frazier of Trout Lake, Mich., Karen (James Teasdale) Frazier of Lansing, Mich., and Edward (Kelly) Frazier of Kingsford, Mich.; grandchildren, Charyl (Joe) Mehring, Alison Rewa, Amanda (Scott) Virden, Kristy (Kelly) Morrison, Kaitlin Frazier, Sara (Josh) Gallagher, and Matthew Frazier; great-grandchildren include, Gideon, Evangeline, Liam, Maya, Zelda, and Walter; siblings, Marlene Grondin, Kathy Lawnichak, Dee Frazier all of St. Ignace, and Ronald Frazier of Epoufette.

Arnold was preceded in death by his wife, Lorraine, parents, Charles and Isabel Frazier; brother, Charles Frazier; and grandson-in-law, Aaron Rewa.

Visitation was held on Sept. 5, 2026, at St. Ignatius Loyola Catholic Church, 120 Church St. St Ignace, MI 49781. Mass of Christian Burial and a luncheon followed. Arnold and Lorraine were laid to rest together at Naubinway Cemetery. A celebration of life honoring both Arnold and Lorraine was held at the Moose Lodge, 2999 Mackinac Trail, St. Ignace, MI 49781.

The family would like to extend a sincere thank you to the caring staff of Straits Area Senior Living Community in St. Ignace, Michigan, where Arnie resided for the past few years.

Condolences may also be extended to the family via the Family Life Funeral Home website www.familylifefh.com.

CALVIN LEW NOLAN

Calvin Lew Nolan, 41, of Rudyard, Mich., died Sept. 8, 2026, at Munson Medical Center in Traverse City, Mich. He was born Dec. 12, 1984, in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., to Mick Marble and Debra (Nolan) McDonald.

Calvin was raised by his mom, Debra, and stepfather, Ken McDonald, who played an important role in his life

Calvin loved hunting, fishing and having a good time. He was

known for helping others, having a big heart, and being the life of the party.

Calvin is survived by his daughter, Baylee; mother and stepfather, Debra and Ken McDonald; and several siblings, aunts, uncles, and cousins who will all miss him.

Calvin was preceded in death by his father, Mick Marble; grandmother, Shirley Nolan, grandmother, Patricia McDonald; great-grandmother, Clarice Steele; uncle, Tom Captain; and aunt, Vanda Nolan.

A visitation was held on Sept. 15, 2026, at Family Life Funeral Homes, 24549 S. M-129 Pickford, MI 49774 with funeral services immediately following.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Calvin’s daughter, Baylee, through an account established at Central Savings Bank.

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

CALEB DONALD JOHN GLENN COOK

It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of Caleb Donald John Glenn Cook, 38, on Aug. 27, 2026. He was born on May 29, 1988, in Grand Rapids, Mich., to Donald and Debbie (Hatch) Cook.

Caleb was intelligent, generous, kind-hearted, and so funny. He loved deeply and lived passionately, and when something or someone captured his heart, he went all in.

Above all else, Caleb’s daughter, Ella, meant everything to him. Being her dad was his greatest joy in life. She held a very special place in his heart, and he treasured the time they shared together. His love for Ella will continue to live on through her and through all the memories she carries of her dad.

Caleb also shared an incredibly special bond with his dad, Donald “Biz” Cook. He loved doing anything with his dad, and many of his happiest memories were made alongside him. Sadly, after losing



Chairman Lowes reports to the membership



AUSTIN LOWES
TRIBAL CHAIRMAN

Line 5 and tunnel project opposition

The Sault Tribe remains active in our opposition to Line 5 and the tunnel project. On Aug. 29, the tribe contributed \$15,000 to the Paddle Out for Our Future event at Kiwanis Beach in St. Ignace. The event was well attended by community members and leaders from several tribes. I was honored to speak at the event and participate in the paddle out to demonstrate our tribe’s opposition to Line 5 and the tunnel project.

During the Labor Day Bridge Walk, the Sault Tribe also participated in a Three Fires Confederacy demonstration to express this opposition. The day began with a water ceremony. When the bridge walk began, tribal leaders and citizens on both sides of the Mackinac Bridge walked toward the center to meet. At the center of the bridge, members of the Ojibwe, Potawatomi, and Odawa Nations came together to demonstrate their shared opposition to the environmental and cultural harm that Line 5

and the tunnel project represent. I’d like to thank Director Sue St. Onge for stepping up and representing the Sault Tribe during this event.

Health Authority Development

On Sept. 14, the tribe held its first workshop to discuss the creation of a Health Authority. If approved, this model would remove the board of directors from the Health Division’s organizational chain of command. This means that no one within the Health Division, including the Health Division CEO, would report directly to the board of directors.

Instead, a Health Authority would provide professional oversight of the Health Division. Individuals would be nominated by the chairman to serve on the authority and would then be subject to confirmation by the board. This model would allow individuals with relevant healthcare expertise and an understanding of the Health Division’s operations to provide oversight, rather than placing that responsibility solely with our board of directors, many of whom do not have professional healthcare experience.

Also motivating this potential change was the recent resignation of the Health Division CEO James Benko. With his resignation, the Sault Tribe will soon be hiring its third leader of the Health Division in four years. Something has to change, and I am 100% supportive of moving toward the Health Authority model. During the polling on removing the board of directors from the Health Division’s chain of command, Director Bridgett Sorenson was the only board member to oppose the change.

Constitutional Amendment Update

During the Aug. 31 board meeting, Director Kim Lee sponsored a resolution that would have rescinded the secretarial election to amend our Constitution. Had the resolution passed, it would have prevented our tribal citizens from voting on the proposed constitutional amendments within the timeline previously approved by the board.

It is important to remind our citizens that this timeline was unanimously approved by the board immediately prior to the last general election. Although they supported this before the election, they must have changed their minds after retaining their seats, otherwise this resolution wouldn’t have even been considered.

Thankfully, the resolution to rescind the election did not pass. I would like to thank the board members who voted against rescinding the election, including Directors Kim Gravelle and Mike McKerchie.

Although the resolution did not pass to cancel or postpone the secretarial election, the effort to rescind it did cause delays. The new tentative dates are as follows:

— Register to vote: Voter registration must be received by Oct. 19, 2026.

— Vote by mail: Ballots are expected to be mailed on or around Oct. 26, 2026, and must be returned on or before Nov. 19, 2026.

— Votes counted: Tabulation is expected to take place on or around Nov. 19, 2026, at the DreamMakers Theater at Kewadin Casino, Sault Ste. Marie.

Feeding America Food Pantry

I continue to coordinate the Feeding America food distributions in Sault Ste. Marie. Recently, I have also been in discussions with Feeding America regarding the possibility of establishing a permanent food pantry on our reservation in Sault Ste. Marie.

I am a passionate about increasing food security in our community. I will continue to keep our citizens updated as these discussions progress.

Venison Drive

The Unit 1 board members recently approved funding to cover the processing expenses for another venison drive this year. If you are a hunter and would like to donate one of the five deer you are permitted to harvest under the tribe’s inland hunting regulations, please contact Maher’s Little Meat Shop at (248) 310-0122. Maher’s Little Meat Shop is located at 4888 S. Baker Side Road in Sault Ste. Marie.

After you drop off your deer, the tribe will cover the cost of processing. We will then pick up the processed venison and provide it to elders through the Unit 1 Elder Center. The tribe held this drive last year, and it was a tremendous success. Processing costs came to approximately \$3.50 per pound, which demonstrates that the drive is a cost-effective way to provide locally harvested, Indigenous protein to our elders while supporting food sovereignty within our community.

U.S. Attorney Meeting – Sept. 22, 2026

On Sept. 22, I will be meeting with Timothy VerHey, the U.S. Attorney for the Western District

of Michigan. The Sault Tribe, like other federally recognized tribes throughout the United States, maintains a government-to-government relationship with the federal government. Tribal governments also have a unique relationship with federal prosecutors because federal law limits tribal criminal jurisdiction and sentencing authority in certain circumstances. As a result, serious crimes committed in Indian Country oftentimes fall under federal jurisdiction, making coordination with the U.S. Attorney’s Office critically important for public safety in our tribal communities.

I look forward to meeting with U.S. Attorney VerHey and discussing issues that affect the safety and well-being of our tribal citizens and communities.

New housing in St. Ignace

I am pleased to announce that the Sault Tribe Housing Authority was recently selected to receive a competitive Indian Housing Block Grant that will provide several million dollars to support the construction of several dozen new homes on property being developed in St. Ignace.

I am incredibly proud of our Housing Director, Mariea Mongene, along with the entire Housing Authority staff, who work tirelessly to improve housing security for our tribal citizens. I also have tremendous respect for our Housing Commission.

In addition to the St. Ignace development, the Housing Authority is also constructing an apartment complex in the Odenaang community in Sault Ste. Marie. I will continue to keep our citizens updated as these projects progress.

Board must move forward together as a team



MICHAEL MCKERCHIE,
DIRECTOR, UNIT I

I recently had the opportunity to attend the Youth Powwow, and it was wonderful to see such a great turnout. It is awesome to see so many of our youth involved, participating in our traditions, and spending time together in a way that helps keep our culture strong for generations to come. Seeing our young people take part and show their pride in who they are is truly encouraging and something our community should be proud of. Miigwech to everyone who helped organize the event, supported our youth, and made it such a great gathering.

As we move further into fall, I encourage everyone to take some time to enjoy the changing col-

ors, spend time with family and friends, and continue participating in the events and activities happening throughout our communities. These gatherings provide important opportunities to stay connected, support one another, and celebrate our culture and traditions together.

Upcoming Meetings for the Month (Subject to Change)

We have several scheduled It’s hard to sift through social media and know what’s really going on with our tribal politics. I’m not a fan of social media as I’ve previously stated several times. It’s a good tool to get information out to the membership but all too often it’s used to spread misinformation and opinion over fact, and fear-mongering gains a lot more attention and shares than just basic information sharing.

In the upcoming months, the membership will be exposed to a lot of different opinions regarding the constitutional re-write. The truth of the matter is that the entire board, with the exception of the newly elected members, have spent a considerable amount of time last year going through each line of the proposed Constitution. There was a lot of compromise and a lot of consideration given to each section — some board members were happier with some sections, and some were not, but

we worked through these and came up with this new proposal as a team.

With that being said, whether the membership decides to move forward with this, or whether the membership feels it isn’t quite right yet, is for the membership to decide. I have advocated since these discussions first took place that I feel our tribe needs a separation of powers to keep things in check; and I have and still whole-heartedly believe that a two-branch government would achieve that.

A two-branch government gives membership the right to challenge an out-of-control board and gives them constitutional protection from the board. It’s more aligned with our traditional values of decision-making being made by a council but also guarantees members rights with a separate court system. A three-branch is going to lead to more problems and will result in lengthy lawsuits. It also puts an elected leader in charge of personnel and staff, something one of our previously constitutional amendments by the membership choose NOT to do. Either way, our tribe is facing some growing pains as we navigate how to proceed.

But most believe, myself included, that time has passed and the membership gets to decide if

we go to a three-branch government or not.

That’s not to say that board members can’t discuss it, or that there was anything sinister going on. I honestly believe no board members were trying to rob the membership of their opportunity to vote on this. How we govern matters. How we handle opinions that differ from ours matters.

Blasting on social media and causing unnecessary fear and division under the guise of “transparency” doesn’t help our tribe. How we do our job matters — there is a respectful way to disagree and an immature/bully way.

We as a tribe, must grow past

these types of tactics. Our tribe is facing many issues; we need to balance our budget, protect our lands and waters, and make tough decisions on what priorities we can sustain in the future. But we need to do those together. Our board may have different opinions on how we get there, so that just means we all have to do better at communicating to each other on how to move our tribe forward.

Look for more information online regarding the upcoming constitution amendment vote. Miigwech and reach out to me if you’d like to discuss further and I will continue to use my voice on the board.

WIOA accepting applications for after school employment

The Sault Tribe WIOA Department is currently accepting applications for the Work Experience Program. Eligibility Requirements: Must be Native American between the ages of 14 to 21 and reside within the seven-county service area (Marquette, Alger, Chippewa, Luce, Mackinac, Delta and Schoolcraft counties).

If you are interested in applying for after school

employment, applications may be picked up at the WIOA office located at 2 Ice Circle, Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. or by contacting Brenda Cadreau at (906) 635-4767 or bcadreau@saulttribe.net. Applications are also available on the Sault Tribe website at <https://saulttribe.com/membership-services/education/download-files>.

Deadline to apply is Oct. 16, 2026.

What's next? The next steps in the process is that our tribe will send out an enrollment list of all eligible Sault Tribe voters 18-plus at the time of the election to the BIA. The BIA is in the process of printing out packets of information, along with the voter registration. The secretarial election is separate from the Sault Tribe elections, so if you want a vote, you **MUST** register in the secretarial election. Once registration is closed, the BIA will then immediately send out voting ballots to all of those who registered in the secretarial election with the election to be held on or around

After 15 years, the IE investment has finally paid us back and then some. The tribe has not made this easy on the IE family, it is due to the persistence of the Cadreaus and Boulleys involved in the project. To see their vision finally come to life, even when

In October, I will be attending the NCAI National Convention in Palm Springs, Calif., Oct. 18-22. This is an extremely important event for all of Indian Country as thousands of tribal leaders come together to discuss and vote on important issues that face us all. Participating is also essential to steering the conversation to topics that impact our tribe and our Bemidji Area. As a note, these meetings move around from year to year so they are in different parts of Indian Country to make them more accessible to tribes that may not have the capacity



The next Unit 5 Elder Meeting in Munising will be on Thursday, Oct. 1, at 11 a.m. at the Munising

Chi Miigwech,
Tyler Migizii Migwan
LaPlaunt
Unit 5 Director / Vice-
Chairman

The online portal will only be available from **Aug. 1 - Oct. 1, 2026**. If you do not complete the online form during this time, a paper form will be mailed to you which you must complete and return by mail to receive your 2026 Elder check.

Unit 3 Director Sorenson: The “Great Divide”



**BRIDGETT SORENSON,
DIRECTOR, UNIT III**

The board is notified as well as the membership of an upcoming meeting’s agenda on Thursday to meet the 5-day notice request. The Sept. 1 agenda came out with Director Lee placing a resolution on the agenda to pause the secretarial election until June 2027 until the board and membership had a 5-year projection of costs. The brow beating and bullying started with some current board members even calling people in units to have their members “get them back in line.” Threats of the next election were very prevalent even though a director’s priority should be due diligence.

God forbid if you have your own opinion and that scares the ones that have something to gain. The attack dogs are released (social media) and claim you are a liar or try to arrange a riot. Bottom line as far as this Constitution, nobody can give an accurate cost but both CFOs as well as the CEO do not seem comfortable at all with us being able to sustain the next 5 years without cuts or new revenue. One day it might be \$3-4 million and

then \$1.7 million when we are already running a deficit. Some like to think most of the membership doesn’t care if we are financially sustainable as long as you can sue in tribal court. I want members to be able to sue the pants off some of these elected officials too, but at what cost to the entire membership? During the meeting, new directors, Gravelle and St. Onge, did a great job speaking about all the bullying and attacking directors had been subjected to. The vote to pause the Constitution came down to almost all women supporting (except one) and all men opposing (except one). This was clearly a “Great Divide!” (7-6) with the chair’s vote.

This new document will change two items the membership has already voted on: previously, the members voted not to allow double dipping (board and chair working for the tribe). They also voted to separate the CEO and chair position. Now, board and chair will be allowed to get big jobs for the tribe as well as their elected salary. I can already think of who would get what.

One way some of the board and chair want to pay for the Constitution is by taxing housing and health, the two biggest priorities for the most vulnerable people in our tribe. It would be one thing to tax them to cover accounting, legal and or HR services, but I am sure it’s going to be much, much more. I am pretty sure this was one reason the health CEO resigned, because he was already being made to give millions in third-party revenue to balance the budgets and he didn’t get a say in it.

I understand we can use third-party revenue to pay for

these things but that doesn’t mean that we should or that they are a priority of the membership. I had asked to be able to hire an oncologist with all the members that suffer with cancer who may have to travel for services, but that didn’t happen. Members should be able to be consulted as to what you feel should be our focus. I also do not believe Health should be run like a business — we are a tribe first.

We, along with most of the entire country, are in a housing shortage crisis. So why tax housing when we can use that money to build and fix more housing as well as other housing programs. Make it make sense!

Other things to think about in the three-branch document are that the chair (ogema) will be able to bar members as well as approve FOIA requests. The preamble calls us the Baaweting Anishinaabek of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa. Members were not surveyed nor did we ask for name change suggestions. How much money will it cost to change our name on everything?

We know our enrollment currently doesn’t comply with the Constitution. Some people are members strictly based on Garden River Church Records; those members also do not qualify for a fishing license through the BIA. I had requested a workshop on this and it was done in closed session. There should be no reason if there are no names and addresses used that it could not have been discussed with members being privy to information. I didn’t see anyone screaming that it was a secret meeting or workshop. I absolutely realize that dealing with these types of issues is not easy but it sure didn’t stop the board from

disenrolling 600 people over the last 7 years or so. The web of lies and deceit continue to spread like wildfire almost as bad as the secrets and blackmailing. I can tell you I would never allow someone to dangle something over my head for a vote, job, an appointment, etc. You got romances in the chain of command that people just look the other way. I remember people running on “transparency;” must have been a buzz word!

They so badly want me off the Housing Commission, it is okay for board members to be on other committees. I am not even a dictator like others making demands of staff. They want to eliminate anyone with a voice or who will challenge their agenda. This document was pretty much the wishes of a few good boys that dominate the conversations.

So, they want to put all professionals on the Health Authority. Sounds good until they run it like a business and we are a tribe. They will be all about business instead of people and what matters to our members. We are so far away from where our ancestors would have wanted us to be. Disgusting!

I did bring forward a resolution for the tribe to ask MDOT to make a portion of US-2 in St. Ignace safer but lowering the speed limit, installing a roundabout or stop light as we have had two people lose their lives in our community this summer. This did pass unanimously and the tribe will join the other local units of government to force the state’s hand.

Our unit had a really good turnout for the week of the powwow. We had over 70 people make individual baskets and a

big community basket over a 4-day stretch. We hosted a Paddle Up event at Kiwanis Beach the morning of the Rendezvous at the Straits Powwow. All events were very well attended. Chi miigwech to all who coordinated and showed support. Unfortunately, I had back spasms during a few of the days and dropped in when I could.

Last week, we had the Unit 3 elder picnic. We had good BBQ style food, music by the Davenport and Bingo. Thank you to Lucinda, Laurie, and Krista for all their help facilitating and cooking.

For those seeking to have a septic or well replaced or fixed, and apply through the tribe, it is important to note that the priority for IHS (Indian Health Services) is new construction. So, when those projects have been completed and there is funding remaining, those that need fixing will then be served from the waiting list.

Sue and I will be hosting a community meeting on Monday, Sept. 21 at McCann from 7 to 8 p.m. We will have light refreshments and be available for questions or concerns.

Mark your calendar for Wednesday, Sept. 30, for the Annual Remembrance Walk for the Boarding School Survivors for Orange Shirt Day. Our event will take place at the St. Ignace Museum of Ojibwa Culture from 1 to 4 p.m. The walk will begin at 3:30 p.m. to Ace Hardware and back. We will have t-shirts for participants and a feast after the walk.

If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to bsorenson@saulttribe.net, bridgett91@yahoo.com or (906) 430-0536.

Unit IV director: Servicing YOU the members



**COLE GOUDREAU
DIRECTOR, UNIT IV**

Aanii, Unit 4 Members,
End of Summer
I hope all the kiddos had a fun summer and a great time at the U.P. State Fair. We were able to provide wristbands for 450 children this year. Miigwech to all who brought children to enjoy the day. We are hoping we can continue this in the future.

YEA
School is starting, which means our after-school YEA program is kicking off. I am excited for the kids who are able to attend the YEA and continue to learn our culture and have those active after-school activities. Shawn Anderson and Sarah Hoffmeyer and their support team are doing a great job managing

this program in the Unit 4 areas.
YEA Powwow Gladstone
It was great to see all our youth participating at the youth powwow in Escanaba. I would also like to thank Escanaba Housing, ACFS, tribal Health, and all the other vendors that showed up to support the powwow and had their booths set up. The kids battled some weather and stuck it out to have a great day. Miigwech to all involved!
Separation of Powers/Three-Branch Government

I am proud and excited to be part of the separation of powers and be able to continue the process of BIA review. Right now, registration forms will be sent out late September. Ballots will be sent out shortly after to our members for them to vote. Very exciting news, and again I am proud to be part of it and proud to support our unit’s voice.

Manistique Elders’ Bingo
Manistique Elders’ Bingo continues to do great. There were just over 30 participants this last week and the positive energy in the room was contagious! Again, this is all done by our elders who continue to show the outcome of hard work. Keep doing great things!

**Paddle for the Future/
Bridge Walk for Water**
I would like to say Chi

Miigwech to all of our members who were able to attend the Paddle for the Future, St. Ignace Powwow and the Bridge Walk for Water. Our very own Sue St. Onge led the charge and I am proud to be sitting next to her as a unit director. There is a reason her people voted her in and it shows. Miigwech for all you do, Sue! Look forward to continue to work with you!

Orange Shirt Day
The Marquette intertribal community invites everyone to take part in an awareness walk and gathering Sept. 30 at 6 p.m. The walk will start at the former Holy Family Orphanage at 600 Altamont St., Marquette Mich., to the Seven Grandfathers Sculpture at the spear dock. Please use downtown street parking. There is shuttle service available for those in need. Unit 4 has ordered 150 orange t-shirts in various sizes with the Every Child Matters logo. Please contact me or Director Barbeau for shirts. There will also be 300 shirts given out at the event.

Cultural Events Ahead
Our upcoming cultural events are below. Please contact Kelly Tovar with any questions.
Moccasin Work Shop: Escanaba, Sept. 19-20
Ribbon Shirt Workshop: Escanaba, Sept. 28

Corn Husk Dolls: Escanaba, Sept. 29
Leather Mittens: Manistique, Oct. 3-4
Beginners Sewing: Escanaba, Oct. 23
Elders Breakfast Escanaba
Escanaba Elders are inviting elders from Unit 4 to attend a breakfast at the the Escanaba Community Center Oct. 18. These gatherings are important for our community to share knowledge and ideas that will impact our unit in a positive way.

Please contact Brenda Kinnart to reserve a spot.
If you have questions or concerns, please contact Unit 4 Liaison Mary Jenerou or me. We are here for you.
Chi Miigwech!
Cole Goudreau: cgoudreau@saulttribe.net (906) 286-2966
Mary Jenerou (Unit 4 Liaison): mjenerou@saulttribe.net, (906) 450-7011
Kelly Tovar (Cultural Coordinator): ktovar@saulttribe.net, (906) 399-2308

Indigenous Foods Research in the Great Lakes Region

Oct. 22 at Marquette Tribal Community Center

Sault Tribe Health Division and Language & Culture present Indigenous Foods Research in the Great Lakes Region. Presentation and food demo featuring Indigenous foods with Dr. Martin Reinhardt and Tina Moses Thursday, Oct. 22, 10 a.m., Marquette Tribal Community Center, 204 Cherry Creek Rd. Lunch will be provided. Bring your own

dish bag and you could win a prize! First 30 registrants will get a cookbook.

To register, call/text Erin at 906-203-6343.

Brought to you by Sault Tribe Community Health Education and Good Health and Wellness in Indian Country grant. Made possible with funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Director reports Unit 4 updates and meetings



LARRY BARBEAU,
DIRECTOR, UNIT IV

Aaniin,
I hope everyone is having a wonderful September and enjoying the changing of the seasons. Fall is definitely in the air, with cooler mornings, the changing colors beginning to appear, and the beautiful transition from summer into autumn. This time of year, always brings a special feeling as we look forward to the many activities, gatherings, and traditions that bring our communities together.

I recently had the opportunity to attend the Youth Powwow, and it was wonderful to see such a great turnout. It is awesome to see so many of our youth involved, participating in our traditions, and spending time together in a way that helps keep our culture strong for generations to come. Seeing our young people take part and show their pride in who they are is truly encouraging and something our community should be proud of. Miigwech to everyone who helped organize the event, supported our youth, and made it such a great gathering.

As we move further into fall, I encourage everyone to take some time to enjoy the changing colors, spend time with family and friends, and continue participating in the events and activities happening throughout our communities. These gatherings provide important opportunities to stay connected, support one another, and celebrate our culture and traditions together.

Upcoming Meetings for the Month (Subject to Change)

We have several scheduled meetings coming up during the month of September and October, including board workshops and meetings, JKLFC meetings, Kewadin Gaming Authority meetings, Enterprise Authority meetings, Conservation meetings, and other tribal business.

Sept. 21, 2026 – Conservation Committee meeting starting at 5 p.m. in the Whitefish Point Room at Kewadin Casinos, Sault Ste. Marie.

Sept. 22, 2026 – Board workshop at 10 a.m. and the board meeting starting at 5 p.m. in the Whitefish Point Room at Kewadin Casinos, Sault Ste. Marie.

Oct. 13, 2026 – Board workshop at 10 a.m. and the board meeting starting at 5 p.m. in Escanaba.

Oct. 19, 2026 – Conservation Committee meeting starting at

5 p.m. in the Whitefish Point Room at Kewadin Casinos, Sault Ste. Marie.

Oct. 20, 2026 – Board workshop and Enterprise Authority meeting starting at 10 a.m.

Oct. 27, 2026 – Board workshop and KGA meeting starting at 10 a.m. and the board meeting starting at 5 p.m. in Munising.

Unit 4 Elder Meetings

We encourage all tribal elders to attend the elder meetings and stay connected with one another and our community.

The next meeting in Manistique will be held Oct. 14, at 12 p.m. EST at the Manistique Tribal Center.

The next meeting in Escanaba will be held Oct. 14, at 5 p.m. EST at the Escanaba

Community Center.

The next and last Elder Advisory meeting for the year will be held Oct. 16, at 1 p.m. at the Newberry Tribal Center.

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

Miigwech for your continued support and involvement. I wish everyone a safe, healthy, and enjoyable September. Take some time to enjoy the beauty of the changing season, and I hope to see many of you at upcoming meetings and community events.

Miigwech,
Larry Barbeau
Unit 4 Representative

Sault Tribe Health Division Presents:

2026 Flu Clinics

Check Flu & COVID clinic schedule for your area and Mark Your Calendars!

FREE Flu/COVID shots for:

- Sault Tribe members
- Members of a federally recognized tribe
- Health Division Employees

Flu Shots are a \$10 Co-Pay for Non-Native Spouses

Please wear short sleeves.

Flu and Covid Walk-In Clinic Schedule

SAULT STE. MARIE AREA:
Sault Kewadin Casino Dreammakers Theatre
Tuesday, Oct. 6, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. (Health Fair)

Nokomis-Mishomis Bldg., 2076 Shunk Rd.
Wednesday, Oct. 14, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Sault Tribe Health Center, 2864 Ashmun St.
Thursday, Oct. 29, 9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Friday, Nov. 6, 9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Monday, Nov. 16, 9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Monday, Nov. 23, 9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

KINROSS AREA:
Kinross Rec Center, 43 Wood Lake Rd.
Friday, Oct. 16, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

ESCANABA AREA:
Escanaba Community Center, 3721 Jingob St.
Friday, Oct. 9, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. (Health Fair)

Gladstone Tribal Health Facility, 2002 Minneapolis
Friday, Oct. 16, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

NEWBERRY AREA:
Newberry Tribal Health Center, 4935 Zee Ba Tik Lane
Monday, Oct. 5, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. (Health Fair)
Saturday, Oct. 24, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

DETOUR, DRUMMOND AREA:
EUP Fine Arts Hall, 245 S Erie St.
Thursday, Oct. 8, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. (Health Fair)

DeTour Tribal Health Center, 203 St. Mary's St.
Wednesday, Oct. 21, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Friday, Oct. 30, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Tuesday, Nov. 10, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

If you are not able to attend our flu clinics or health fairs, please call your Community Health clinic below to schedule an appointment.

HESSEL AREA:
Hessel Tribal Youth & Fitness Center, 1901 3 Mile Rd.
Friday, Oct. 9, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. (Health Fair)

Hessel Tribal Health Center, 3355 N. 3 Mile Rd.
Tuesday, Oct. 20, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Thursday, Oct. 29, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Thursday, Nov. 5, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

MANISTIQUE AREA:
Manistique Tribal Health Center, 5698 W. HWY 2
Friday, Oct. 2, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. (Health Fair)
Monday, Oct. 5, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. & 1 - 3:30 p.m.

MUNISING AREA:
Munising Tribal Health Center 622 W. Superior St.
Thursday., Oct. 1, 12 p.m. - 1 p.m.
Thursday, Oct. 8, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. (Health Fair)

ST. IGNACE AREA:
Kewadin Casino Tent, 3015 Mackinac Trail
Thursday, Oct. 1, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. (Health Fair)

Elder Meal Site, 3017 Mackinac Trail
Tuesday, Oct. 27, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

St. Ignace Health Center, 1140 N State St. (CONFERENCE ROOM)
Tuesday, Oct. 22, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Thursday, Nov. 19, 1 - 4 p.m.
Friday, Nov. 20, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

MARQUETTE AREA:
Marquette Tribal Community Center 204 Cherry Creek Rd.
Tuesday, Oct. 6, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. (Health Fair)

Gladstone Health Center.....	(906) 341-1836	Munising Tribal Health Center.....	(906) 387-4721
Hessel Tribal Health Center	(906) 484-2727	Newberry Tribal Health Center	(906) 293-8181
Manistique Tribal Health Center.....	(906) 341-8469	Sault/Kinross Community Health.....	(906) 632-5210
Marquette Tribal Health Center	(906) 225-1616	St. Ignace Tribal Health Center.....	(906) 643-8689
DeTour Health Center.....	(906) 442-0111		ext. 34531

CLIP & SAVE

Unit 3 rep says let’s move forward together



SUE ST. ONGE
DIRECTOR, UNIT III

The past few weeks have brought a lot of different community events, activities, and discussions to our tribal community. I was able to attend and participate in many of these gatherings in our communities. One thing that brought me hope this past month was seeing our people come together for the Paddle Out for the Future event and the Rendezvous at the Straits Powwow in St. Ignace. The Paddle Out for the Future was held on Aug. 29 at Kiwanis Beach, and Rendezvous at the Straits took place that same weekend. My heart was filled by the number of people in attendance at both events. I also attended the Gathering of the Eagles Pow Wow in Hessel on Aug. 15 and the grand opening of the new Natural Resources Division facility.

At the Natural Resource Division opening I was able to sit in on presentations about our wild rice (manoomin) restoration and

whitefish (adikameg) restoration projects. All these gatherings, activities and programs are opportunities to celebrate who we are, gather with our families, share our culture, honor our relationship with the water and the land, and remind ourselves of our responsibility to protect what has been entrusted to us. These moments of coming together matter. They remind me that, despite our differences, we share so much and I believe that we are stronger when we remember what connects us.

The difficult part of the past month has been the discussion and debate surrounding the proposed secretarial election. The board had voted unanimously in May to request the federally administered election, and the question of whether to rescind that authorization subsequently became the subject of considerable discussion. I know that my decision/vote may have disappointed or frustrated some of our members, especially because I had previously expressed my support for a three-branch system of governance. My position on the importance of a three-branch system has not changed. What changed was my vote on whether to move forward with the election at that time. I voted yes to rescind the authorization for the secretarial election because I believed that as an organization and as a board, we needed more time to fully identify and consider the issues, plan for the changes and make sure our citizens have the information and opportunity necessary to fully

understand the proposed changes.

If my decision makes me a liar in someone’s book, I’m sorry that is how they see me.

I know people will not always agree with every decision, and I respect that. I believe my responsibility is to listen to our people, ask difficult questions, remain open to learning, and make the best decision I can for our tribe. It is not simply to make the easiest decision or the one that will make everyone happy. My perspective changed after further discussion and reflection and that does not mean that I intended to mislead anyone.

It is important to recognize just how significant and difficult the work of creating a new constitution can be. A constitution is more than a document that describes how elections are conducted or how government is organized. It establishes the framework for how a government functions, how authority is divided, what powers different branches or offices have, how those powers are limited, how disputes are addressed, and how future generations can change or amend the governing structure. Creating a constitution means making decisions that can affect a community for generations. It requires us to ask difficult questions about representation, separation of powers, checks and balances, leadership responsibilities, accountability, membership rights, the relationship between branches of government, and the process for making future changes. Those are not simple questions,

and reasonable people can have very different answers. Our history as Anishinaabe reminds us that governance is not something that can be separated from our culture, traditions, responsibilities, sovereignty, and relationship to our people and our lands. Any constitution we consider should reflect who we are and what we believe our government should look like for future generations.

We are not always going to agree. That is part of being and working in a community. I hope in the future we can disagree with one another without losing respect for each other or forgetting the responsibility we share with our tribe and with the generations who will come after us. The good news is that our citizens are now fully engaged and examining the new proposed constitution with renewed interest. These dialogues are instrumental to the process. We will be hosting a potluck Unit 3 meeting on Monday, Sept. 21, at 7 p.m. at the McCann Building. Please come, bring a dish to pass, get your questions answered, and visit your community members and board representatives. These unit meetings will be held every third Monday of the month at 7 p.m. I hope to see you there.

I will end this unit report by speaking about one of the most meaningful moments for me from this past month. It would be an understatement for me to say that participating in the Three Fires Confederacy Water Walk across the Mackinac Bridge on Labor Day was a highlight of my sum-

mer. I walked along with about 1,000 other First Nations people from across the Great Lakes region who came together for the Labor Day Water Walk.

It was a powerful and historic moment when the Three Fires Confederacy met in the center of the bridge in ceremony, singing, dancing and drumming. That moment truly highlighted for me that while we may have different opinions about government, elections, policies, and the direction of our tribe; we also have a shared history, culture, responsibility to our ancestors, and an obligation to the generations to come.

The water walk fully put on display that we are still here, we are still moving forward, and we are stronger when we remember that we are walking together. While we will have our differences, we can still walk together. We can listen to one another. We can ask difficult questions. We can change our minds when we learn something new. That is the kind of community I want to help build, one where we can speak honestly, listen respectfully, and keep our eyes on what matters most: our people, our culture, our families, our sovereignty, and our future.

Miigwech for your continued support, for allowing me to serve our tribal nation, for holding me accountable, and for continuing to walk this road along with me. Let us keep moving forward together to build a nation in which all our citizens thrive. If you have questions or concerns, you can reach me by calling (906) 203-5654.

Gravelle: A personal update to tribal citizens



ASHLEY GRAVELLE
DIRECTOR, UNIT 1

I wanted to take a little time to talk with you about a few things that have come up recently and also explain a little more about my role as a member of the Board of Directors.

Over the past several weeks, I received quite a few calls regarding Elder Services. One concern I heard from several of our Elders was that they wanted a way to file a complaint when they felt they had an issue or concern that wasn’t being addressed.

After hearing those concerns, I spoke with our CEO and asked what could be done. From those conversations, the CEO and Elder Services Director worked together to develop a complaint process. I am happy to share that the process has now been implemented, and the complaint form and information about the process are available at Elder Meetings.

I want our Elders and all of our Tribal Citizens to know that when you call me, I do listen. I may not always be able to give you the answer you want, and I may not always be able to fix the problem myself, but I will listen and try to help you find the right avenue to address your concern.

That brings me to something else I feel is important to talk about.

I have received calls from Tribal Citizens asking me to step into individual situations or to call a department on their behalf. I completely understand why people ask me to do this. I ran for the Board because I care about our people. I like advocating for our membership, and helping people is simply part of who I am.

But I am also learning that sometimes helping means explaining what I cannot do as a Director.

As members of the Board of Directors, our job is to help direct Tribal operations, approve budgets, and establish our Tribe’s laws and policies. We provide oversight, but we are not supposed to take over the day-to-day responsibilities of our Directors and departments.

I cannot call a department and demand that they handle someone’s individual situation a certain way, nor can I overstep the Director responsible for that division.

There is also something very important that I think our membership should understand. Many

of our departments are required to follow privacy laws and policies. Just because I am a Board member does not mean I automatically have the right to someone’s personal information. In many situations, the department cannot discuss your case or personal information with me—and those protections are there for a reason.

What I can do is listen.

I can help you figure out who you need to talk to. I can help you understand what services may be available. I can ask questions about policies and procedures. And when I begin hearing the same concern from several Tribal Citizens, I can look at whether there is a bigger issue that we, as a Board, need to address.

That is where I really need your voices.

If there is a policy or procedure that you believe is creating unnecessary barriers for our Tribal Citizens, please tell me. Please tell the other members of the Board as well. If a policy isn’t working for our people, then we need to know about it so we can look at it, ask questions, and determine whether changes need to be made.

I wish I could fix everything for everyone who calls me. I truly do. One of the harder things for me in this position has been recognizing that sometimes I simply don’t have the authority to do what someone is asking me to do. I have laws, policies, and procedures that I have to follow too.

But please don’t mistake that for me not caring or not wanting to help.

I will continue answering your calls. I will continue listening to your concerns. I will continue asking questions. I will continue advocating for our people, and when I see something that I believe we can do better, I will continue working toward making those changes.

I am still learning every day in this position, and I appreciate those of you who continue to reach out, share your experiences, and trust me enough to tell me when you believe something needs to change.

At the end of the day, I believe we all want the same thing—a Tribal government that works for our people and a stronger future for our tribe.

Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians



2026 ~ Unit 1
Monthly Tribal Citizen Meetings
5 to 6pm ~ Monthly

Monday ~ October 5th
Nokomis Mishomis¹

Monday ~ November 9th | Nokomis Mishomis¹
Monday ~ December 7th | Nokomis Mishomis¹

¹ Unit 1 Elder Meal Site ~ 2076 Shunk Road, Sault MI

~ At Large & Zoom Option ~

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87035690724?](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87035690724?pwd=iqavaDUxG9YNb19OMIhLtgC4AS1gem.1)
[pwd=iqavaDUxG9YNb19OMIhLtgC4AS1gem.1](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87035690724?pwd=iqavaDUxG9YNb19OMIhLtgC4AS1gem.1)

One tap mobile
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IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS, PLEASE CALL MICHELLE MOORE, TRIBAL MEMBER LIAISON AT 906-635-6050.

Line 5 — doing the work; the sky is not falling!



AARON PAYMENT
DIRECTOR, UNIT I

Shut down Line 5!

On Saturday, Aug. 29, the chairman and I both spoke at the Paddle for Our Future event hosted and organized by Unit 3 board member Sue St. Onge. Nine total board members were in attendance. The chair did an excellent job framing this issue and the threat Enbridge Line 5 represents. Days earlier, he and his administration did a great job during a consultation session with the U.S. Army Corp as one of the last steps in permitting the tunnel project. But, as expected, it fell on deaf ears.

Recall earlier this summer, when the Michigan Natural Resource Department approved the tunnel permit despite Governor Whitmer’s assurances to Bay Mills President Whitney Gravelle this would not happen. Fortunately, the Michigan Supreme Court ruled that the permit was issued without regard to environmental considerations. Shortly after the governor let us down, I reached out to Lt. Governor Garlin Gilcrest to urge a reconsideration. Just days before writing this report, we saw a retreat with the governor now asserting opposition to building a tunnel.

Doing the work

As the son of a tribal commercial fisherman, this issue is especially important to me. As chairperson, I was extremely active as the then main tribal leader on the issue and spoke at over 20 rallies with Oil and Water Don’t Mix, For the Love of Water, and other environmental groups.

My relevant experience while living through the oil spill at the Kalamazoo River in 2010 while serving as executive for the tribe



there, gave me a keen insight. When the spill happened there, the Battle Creek Inquirer compared the emergency response to “Keystone Cops.” Over a million gallons of oil were allowed to leech into the river, endangering submerged Indian burials and causing a toxic area sufficient to force an evacuation. The estimated time to return the environment to the pre-spill ecology is over 100 years! Congressional hearings by my friend Rep. Mark Schauer exposed Enbridge’s several warnings to Line 6 and spills across land in the amount of over 1 million gallons of oil.

Pump and pray

This seems to be Enbridge’s operating philosophy. When the Line 5 easements were permitted over 73 years ago (23 years past life-expectancy) by the state of Michigan in an era when only three Michigan tribes were recognized, they never even considered consultation to gauge the potential impact on our treaty rights. Since that time, the U.S. Supreme Court Case U.S. v Michigan ruled we had a pre-eminent treaty right to the natural resources in the exercise of our treaty rights in Indian ceded territory. This is not welfare, as we exchanged nearly 14 million acres of land in the 1836 Chippewa Ottawa Treaty, or Treaty of Washington. During all consent decree negotiations for which I have been our lead tribal negotiator, I asserted a place-marker for our bottomland rights as well as riparian rights.

U of M spill simulation

According to scientists at the University of Michigan, when modeling all of the data points we have available, including water currents, temperature, and topology, a spill would quickly engulf

Mackinac Island. Evacuation would need to occur. Given the fresh water on the island comes from the surrounding Great Lakes, after returning to the island months later, bottled water would become a way of life for the foreseeable future. Rivers and tributaries for up to 150 miles of shoreline would be choked off. Atikameg (whitefish) would be eradicated decimating a centuries old way of life. In other treaty rights cases like the Culvert Case flowing from the Boldt decision in Washington State, the state of Michigan would likely have a level of liability for turning a blind eye to the threats Line 5 represents to our treaty rights. I am not an attorney, but I do know that upholding our treaty rights is meaningless if we don’t even try.

For whatever reason, the governor of Michigan allowed the permit issued in July 2026 to occur, she has since retreated. I realize the false lure of jobs that a tunnel represents to union workers and jobs. This is enticing but it cannot outweigh our interests as a tribe to uphold our treaty rights.

Assign the costs

In 2017, I urged the board to pay for an economic impact study of a spill at the Straits of Mackinac. The impact would be devastating. As most businesses finance to operate, a spill would likely take at least one or two seasons of tourism off line. Business loans and mortgages would come due nonetheless. The projected unemployment would rise to pandemic levels such that Michigan unemployment insurance would likely run out and taxpayers would have to cover the burden. Our way of life for fishing would be eliminated in the region for the foreseeable future. Even non-tribal “sporties” and recreational fishers would be impacted as the environment would be devastated.

Another telltale of what’s to come was the previous effort by former Governor Snyder to have a Tunnel Authority be placed on the Mackinac Bridge Authority. Taxpayers came out in droves to object to this and it was abandoned only to then suggest the creation of a Tunnel Authority. Enbridge appears to have no plans to cover the fixed or operational costs of such an authority.

Michigan taxpayers will be on the hook to cover the costs.

Over the years, I have testified that as a private company, Enbridge should have to cover liability insurance for the potential exposure when a spill happens. This has fallen on deaf ears across both Republican and Democrat governors. Big oil companies see this as “business as usual,” which means while they know the risks, they litigate to wear down their opponents. This is an unfair advantage as they rely on corporate welfare and subsidies with the benefit to private shareholders rather than taxpayers.

Most of the oil that courses through Line 5 does not benefit Michigan taxpayers. The U.P. is dependent on Propane. Enbridge has used this as a scare tactic. I have no issue with continuing to distribute propane across the U.P. on a temporary basis but it should stop at the Straits of Mackinac as the risk of a spill is just to great. It is a false narrative to push the argument that oil would have to be trucked across the bridge. Given most of the oil in Line 5 does not fuel Michigan, we can simply do without it. With the governor on board once again to “Shut Down Line 5,” we have a chance shut down Line 5.

Fear mongering constitutional amendments!

Contrary to those who are arguing we cannot afford a three-branch government, I contend that the sky is not falling. We hear a lot about the tribal budget deficit from those who simply do not understand government appropriations nor our tribal finances. The reality is different than what you are hearing. Before I left office in 2022 and before the pandemic hit, the tribe relied on a \$17 million annual pledge from casino revenues and about \$1 million from enterprises to help fund tribal operations, programs, and services.

In March 2020, the pandemic necessitated we close our casino doors to help stop the spread. At the time, I was first vice president of NCAI and helped secure over \$500 million from the federal government over two presidents to survive the pandemic. I know some are green with envy but my actions kept our tribe afloat

for several years and represents nearly 30 years of net casino revenues! Nearly all of the new developments like fitness centers, new housing developments, and other capital improvements came from this \$500 million. After I left office in 2022, the board apparently suspended the resolution Denny McKelvie and I wrote to guarantee 100% of net revenues for services. I have not been able to find that formal action taken.

Also, I learned that the casino did cash sweeps to address long standing capital improvements out of the \$17 million that was previously pledged for services. I have not been able to trace when this was voted on except that the board does approve by vote the cap ex budgets for facilities improvement. What I think happened, is that the decrease of the previous Tribal Support amount of \$17 million was never voted on but was somehow set at \$6 million during the pandemic and never returned to the \$17 million. Thus, we are losing out on \$11 million in net casino revenues (aka Tribal Support) annually, which is nearly what the supposed projected deficit is. While we claim to be back at pre-pandemic casino revenues, it stands to reason that the prior standing resolution that Denny and I introduced of \$17 million for services should be returned. In that event, we would not be facing a (on paper) deficit.

Finally, somewhere in this edition of the tribal news is an ad for our next Unit 1 In-Person and Virtual Tribal Citizen meeting. Join us on Oct. 3 in person at the Elder Center from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. or by going to the following link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87035690724?pwd=iqa-vaDUxG9YNb190MIhLtg-C4AS1gem.1>

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

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

1. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DtQH--7T--c>

2. <https://www.stignacenews.com/articles/water-is-life-environmental-activists-and-tribal-leaders-paddle-for-the-future>

Protecting the voice, well being of membership



KIMBERLY LEE,
DIRECTOR, UNIT II

Aanii,
I hope everyone is doing well as we move into fall. As we move into the next season, I want to recognize everyone who

continues to support our community, youth activities, elders, cultural gatherings, and programs. Volunteers who give their time and help behind the scenes make an incredible difference in our communities.

I’ll start with the contentious discussions surrounding the separation of powers and the implementation timeline. The board voted against rescinding the resolution I brought forward, which would have adjusted the timeline and provided additional time to ensure the information presented to members was current, accurate, and reflective of what we are learning in real time.

My support for reconsidering the timeline was never about stopping separation of powers, nor was it about taking away the membership’s voice. I would

never fight to remove your voice! Your vote matters! Your opinions matter! And your right to help determine this tribe’s future matters!

My responsibility as an elected representative also requires me to ask questions when permanent decisions could affect tribal finances, governmental operations, services, programs, employees, or protections that members rely upon. Our ancestors did not build our tribe around government for government’s sake. They built it around a responsibility to protect the people, care for the community, preserve our rights, and provide for future generations.

That responsibility must remain at the center of the decisions we make today. Separation of powers can be important for

accountability and checks and balances, but the structure itself should never matter more than the people it is meant to serve. Protecting the voice and well being of the membership are not competing responsibilities. Our government has to do both.

The board has made its decision, and I respect that decision. Moving forward, I will focus on collaboration. I will work with my fellow board members, our executive team, employees, committees, and, most importantly, our membership, to help ensure implementation is thoughtful, responsible, and in our people’s best interests. We may not always agree on every issue or on the best way to move forward. That is part of government. What matters is that we remain willing to listen to one another, work

together, and never lose sight of who we are here to serve.

Many important issues face our tribe, and I will continue to approach them by asking questions, gathering information, listening to members, and making decisions based on what I believe best protects our people and our future.

Our ancestors fought to preserve something for us. Our responsibility today is to make sure that whatever we build, change, or leave behind continues to strengthen that foundation for the generations who will come after us.

Miigwech for your time and trust.

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

Sault Tribe Natural Resources holds open house



Photos by Scott Brand

The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Natural Resources Division welcomed the public to its new home, located at 199 W. 3 Mile Road, with an open house on Sept. 8. Pictured above, from left to right are Mike Castagne, Russell (Rusty) Aikens, Ryan Klimstra, Leane Kinsella, Patricia Walker, Brandi MacArthur, Riley Jones, Rebecca (Becca) Lathrop, NRD Division Director Danielle (Dani) Fegan, Robin Bouschor, Jack Tuomikoski, Colton Hudak, Kali Krupa, Katelyn (Katie) Schultz, Nicholas Gordan, Tyler Walters, and Amy Schneider.



The Gidayaangwaami'idimin Ezhi-inawendiyang (Natural Resources Division) will house all programs including Fisheries, Wildlife, Environmental, Consortium of Cooperative Ecological Resilience and the NRD Administrative Team.

Administrative Assistant Patricia Walker will likely be the first person you meet when you visit the new facility.



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9

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HAYES

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WITH
SPECIAL GUEST
KARI LYNCH



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LIVE 2026

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