



Win Awenen Nisitotung

October 14, 2026
Falling Leaves Moon • Bnakwe Giizis
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Bahweting Bidajimowin • Official newspaper of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians



Photo by Scott Brand

Sault Tribe administration staff gathered outside the administration building Sept. 30 wearing their orange shirts in support of Orange Shirt Day, to honor Native children who endured the boarding school system and in remembrance of those who never returned home. See more Orange Shirt Day photos on page 15 of this issue.

Sault Tribe marks Orange Shirt Day with feast

BY BRENDA AUSTIN
SAULT STE. MARIE — Community members gathered Sept. 30 for the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians' Orange Shirt Day Community Feast & Talking Circle, an event honoring Native children who endured the boarding school system and remembering those who never returned home. The gathering, hosted by

the Sault Tribe Language and Culture Department and Advocacy Resource Center, was held at the Niigaanagiizhik Ceremonial Building in Sault Ste. Marie. The free event included a community feast and talking circle, with orange T-shirts provided to attendees. Orange Shirt Day is observed each year on Sept. 30 by tribal nations across North America

in remembrance of Native children who were forcibly removed from their families and placed in boarding and residential schools. More than 150,000 Native children endured the boarding school system, where many experienced physical, sexual and emotional abuse. The effects of the system created intergenerational trauma that

Native families and communities continue to experience today. The Sault Tribe encouraged everyone to wear orange in honor of boarding school survivors and the children who never returned home. Supporters were also invited to take part in the sixth annual Orange Shirt Day photo by wearing orange and posting photographs to the

Sault Tribe Advocacy Resource Center Facebook page. A separate Orange Shirt Day gathering was held in St. Ignace, where Sault Tribe elders took part in a remembrance walk at the Museum of Ojibwa Culture. The Sept. 30 observances carried a shared message: Remember the children. Honor the survivors.

Health Center expansion project breaks ground

BY SCOTT BRAND
The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians took a major step toward expanding the footprint and capabilities of its Health Division with a groundbreaking ceremony on Sept. 22, 2026, celebrating the beginning stages of the Sault Health Center Expansion and Renovation Project. The expansion and renovation will take place at the Sault Tribal Health Center, located at 2864 Ashmun Street in Sault

Ste. Marie, Mich. The project will include an approximately 30,000-square-foot addition to the south side of the existing 49,000-square-foot facility, which currently provides health services to tribal members and other eligible patients. In addition to the new construction, significant renovations and upgrades are planned throughout the existing health center. Indigenous Design Studio +

Architecture (IDS+A) will serve as the project's architectural and engineering team. IDS+A is a 100% Native woman-owned firm with five registered Native American women architects. Based in Albuquerque, N.M., the firm specializes in supporting Native communities through culturally responsive architecture and has completed numerous projects throughout Indian Country. The project's lead architect also has Ojibwe ties to the region and works from the Detroit metropolitan area.

Healer Gerard Sagissige reflected on the connection between the new Health Center expansion and the tribe's longstanding traditional healing practices. He described the nearby sweat lodge as the tribe's first medical facility and, while motioning toward the surrounding woods, recognized the natural environment as the tribe's first pharmacy. Interim Health CFO Joel Lumsden provided opening remarks, noting that the expansion will enhance the appearance and functionality of the health center while providing additional space and improving patient flow. These improvements are expected to increase efficiency and convenience for patients and staff while expanding access to health care services.

The project is anticipated to be competitively bid in accordance with the Sault Tribe's procurement policies, with contractor selection expected in late winter and construction anticipated to begin in spring 2027. In addition to the 30,000-square-foot expansion, the project will include substantial improvements to the existing health center. Renovations will focus on improving patient flow, increasing functional space for patients and staff, modernizing the facility, and creating a more efficient and welcoming health care environment. The project will help ensure the Health Division can continue providing high-quality, accessible health care to the community for generations to come.

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Photo by Scott Brand

Above, tribal dignitaries gather to break ground on the health center expansion project.

Munising elders treated to annual picnic



Pete and Kathryn Syers of Munising with their meals.



Gretta Donahue carrying two plates of food.



Big canopy keeps people out of the sun during the final elder picnic of the season.



Kenny "Ten Bears" McNally serving as the D.J. for the event.



People going through line at Munsing Elder Picnic.



Katie Peabody getting potatoes fresh from the oven.



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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 tribal 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 Committee – Two vacancies –

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:

MidJim Convenience Store
2205 Shunk Road
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

MidJim Convenience Store
3045 Mackinac Trail
St. Ignace, MI 49781

White Pine Lodge and Convenience Store
7889 E. W. M-28
Christmas, MI 49862

Tribal owned gas 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
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.

male – one 4-year term, one term expires October 2028

Elder Advisory Committee
Unit I – Sault – One regular vacancy (4-year term); two alternate vacancies (4-year term)

Unit II – Hessel – One regular vacancy (4-year term)

Unit II – Naubinway – One alternate vacancy (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 vacan-

cies (4-year terms)

Unit IV – Escanaba – One alternate vacancy (4-year term)

Unit IV – Manistique – One regular vacancy (4-year term); one alternate vacancy (4-year term)

Unit V – Marquette – One regular vacancy (4-year term); 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 – One regular vacancy (4-year term); one Alternate vacancy, term expires Aug. 2028

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

Unit IV – Escanaba – Four regular vacancies (4-year terms); one alternate vacancy (4-year term)

Unit IV – Manistique – Two regular vacancies (4-year term)

Unit V – Munising – Three regular vacancies (4-year terms); one

alternate vacancy (4-year term)

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

Enrollment Committee – One vacancy (4-year term)

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

Health Board – Two vacancies – one term expires May 2027, one term expires Sept. 2027.

Sault Tribe Election Commission – Four vacancies, three terms expiring Nov. 2030 and one term expiring Nov. 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.

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

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



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

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

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



Sault Tribe Member Newspaper Subscription Form

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

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Win Awenen Nisitotung

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

October 14, 2026
Falling Leaves Moon
Bnakwe 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.

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CHAC is located at 143 Arlington Street in Sault Ste. Marie, (906) 635-7483. In Newberry call (906) 293-8355 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.

Board passes resolutions in August, September

Aug. 18 meeting
The Sault Tribe Board of Directors changed the dates on two upcoming October meetings shuffling its schedule to accommodate a Murdered and Missing Indigenous Persons (MMIP) Summit in Traverse City. The Oct. 6 meeting, slated to be held in Escanaba, was rolled back to Oct. 13 to ensure a quorum was present. The Oct. 20, meeting, to be held in Sault Ste. Marie, was likewise moved back a week and will now be held on Oct. 27.

Elders throughout the seven-county service area will also see additional meals throughout the rest of the year as the board approved the FY 2027 Elder Services Meal Budget with a \$234,624 increase from third-party revenue. Naubinway and Newberry area residents will see their voucher system increased from one-meal per month to two. In Escanaba, Marquette and Munising, one meal a week will be offered. An additional \$3,500 was added to this budget from tribal support to fund door prizes for the upcoming holiday dinner season.

In other action, the board approved the following resolutions:

- Approved a Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 budget document totaling \$12,310,732 covering 41 different budgets with \$541,121 coming from tribal support.
- Approved FY 2027 Health Division funding at 2026 spend-

ing levels, encompassing 76 cost centers, for a period not to exceed Dec. 31, 2026.

- Approved FY 2026 budget for Broadband Reconnect4 with U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) revenue of \$1,074,612.
- Approved a FY 2027 budget for sanitation, earmarked for individual homeowners with well and septic tanks, with Indian Health Services (IHS) funds totaling \$500,000.
- Approved the FY 2027 budget for Indoor Air Quality with Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) revenue of \$3,000 to build approximately three dozen air purifiers and teach two courses related to this program.
- Approved a FY 2027 budget for Wildlife Management Institute with U.S. Fish and Wildlife revenue of \$14,997.92 to help monitor and assist the local bat population.
- Approved FY 2026 and 2027 budget modifications to reflect the true costs associated with the Marquette Community Center.
- Approved budget modifications for ACFS to utilize state of Michigan revenue, with provisions that will also allow for the creation of an assistant director position for the program while eliminating two vacant positions.
- Rescinded Resolution 2016-40 which governed the existing Emergency Conditions Policy and replaced it with a more streamlined version allow-

ing individual entities to make determinations in the event of bad weather or other extenuating circumstances.

- Authorized the Health Division’s acceptance of \$665,878 for the Rural Health Transformation Program.
- Awarded a contract to Automated Comfort Control in the amount of \$82,600, utilizing IHS funds to bring air conditioning units up to code at the Gladstone Health Center.
- Approved the FY 2026 Primary Substance Use Prevention Service Funding though the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services grant targeting tribal youth between the ages of 12 and 17.
- Accepted the Donaldson Trust Property donation which includes 18 acres on the Manistique Lake shoreline, 79.49 acres in the Section 28 forest; 39.64 acres in the Section 33 forest and 34.95 acres in Section 34 forest and turning them over to the Sault Tribe’s Natural Resources Division to manage.
- Amended Resolution 2012-245 which had declared tattooing, body piercing and other similar modifications illegal within the jurisdiction of the tribe. The amendment now allows these practices at cultural events provided the person doing the activity is duly licensed and insured.
- And, directed the Government Human Resources Department and Legal

Department to create a legislative attorney position and a judicial staff attorney position.

Sept. 1 meeting
The Sault Tribe Board of Directors approved several measures involving health care, natural resources, housing, public safety and tribal property during its Sept. 1 meeting in Sault Ste. Marie.

Resolutions approved include:

- Approved a fiscal year (FY) 2026 budget modification to Sault Ste. Marie Dental for personnel changes, funded by third-party revenue.
- Accepted \$40,300 from Yes-Rx to support Sault Tribe cancer patients with comfort items, pharmacy delivery and implementation needs, and community outreach about the Yes-Rx program. The resolution was amended to authorize the assistant health director, or designee, to execute necessary documents.
- Approved a Memorandum of Agreement with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to support restoration of manoomin, or wild rice, throughout the central and eastern Upper Peninsula for the benefit of wildlife and people.
- Approved a Memorandum of Understanding with the Global Center for Climate Change and Transboundary Waters to support students, postdoctoral fellows and researchers in tribal and university settings and develop research and educational initiatives sup-

porting tribally led conservation and sustainability efforts.

- Approved a limited waiver of the Sault Tribe Housing Authority’s \$50,000 liability limitation, replacing it with a \$9.4 million liability limit for one specific contract connected to a Low-Income Housing Tax Credit project. The Housing Authority must submit its proposed resolution addressing the limited waiver of sovereign immunity to the board before adopting it.
- Accepted the tribe’s 2025 Governmental Audit, presented by Dennis, Gartland & Niergarth, and authorized execution of documents associated with the audit.
- Approved the reallocation of American Rescue Plan Act funds among several interagency projects, including \$34,474.98 for the Natural Resources Building, \$83,506 for Unit 1 trailers and new construction and \$404,260.91 for the Unit 1 Apartment Building. Funds for the apartment project were reallocated from the Lodge of Hope Playground, Elderly Remodel, Sugar Island Powwow, Marquette Community Center and other agreements.
- Confirmed tribal ownership of the Woolworths Building, Min Waban Dan, at 531 Ashmun St. in Sault Ste. Marie as part of efforts to enroll the property in the Bureau of Indian Affairs 105(l) Program.
- Renewed life and disability

See “Resolutions,” page 5

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Hessel | November 13
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Manistique | Sundays Until January 10
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Tribe’s board of directors pass resolutions

From “Resolutions,” page 4

benefits through Hartford Life Insurance Company for three years at the rates included with the resolution.

— Authorized an application to the U.S. Department of Justice FY 2026 Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation for funding intended to improve public safety, criminal and juvenile justice and victims’ services in tribal communities.

— Requested that the U.S. Secretary of the Interior accept Strawberry Fields property in St. Ignace into trust for the tribe and declare the land part of the Sault Tribe reservation.

— Authorized up to \$20,000 from the Fishery Trust to purchase Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacons for licensed commercial fishers who meet a minimum requirement of 20 fishing days per year based on the previous two fishing seasons.

— Accepted the resignation of the Health Division CEO, effective Aug. 25. A separate proposal to appoint an interim Health CEO died for lack of support.

— Authorized the tribal chairman or designee to advocate for safety improvements

along U.S. 2 near St. Ignace. The resolution cites two deaths in the previous two months and calls for consultation with state and local officials about measures including lower speed limits and a stop light or roundabout.

— Approved the transfer of Commercial Captain License C-62 from Charles Matson to Katy Matson.

— Appointed Kimberly Hampton to the Child Welfare Committee for a term expiring in September 2030 and Christina Menard for a term expiring in May 2029, filling the seat vacated by Sherri O’Crotty.

The board also rejected a resolution to rescind Resolution 2026-145, while proposals authorizing the sale of the Sibley property and upholding membership voting rights and board accountability died for lack of support.

Sept. 22 meeting

The Sault Tribe Board of Directors made quick work on a lengthy agenda at the Sept. 22 meeting held at the Kewadin Casino and Convention Center passing the following resolutions:

— Established a Fiscal Year

(FY) 2026 budget for Primary Substance Use Prevention Services with the state of Michigan revenue in the amount of \$100,000.

— Increased the pay scale for Sault Tribe Youth Facility in an effort to recruit and retain qualified employees with the new competitive wages and retirement benefits.

— Established a FY 2026 budget for a Juvenile Probation Officer with state of Michigan revenue totaling \$133,960.22.

— Accepted the 2027 Indian Housing Plan.

— Authorized the Sault Tribe Natural Resources Division to apply for up to \$80,000 in Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act monies with a focus on the reintroduction and reestablishment of whitefish populations.

— Authorized the Sault Tribe’s Natural Resources Division to apply for Natural Resources Conservation Services Environmental Incentives Program with an eye toward increasing fish rearing capacity in the future with those funds.

— Approved a one-year contract with Jamie Massey for the removal of live salmon

and salmon carcasses from the Nunn’s Creek weir and will revisit extending the contract to a five-year term in 2027 to see if any other commercial fishermen are interested in participating in this harvest.

— Approved a data share agreement authorizing Coneflower to film on Sault Tribe lands as part of an upcoming series being produced for PBS.

— Authorized the Sault Tribe Health Division to partner with the University of Michigan School of Social Work and the John Hopkins Center for Indigenous Health to apply for National Institutes of Health funding.

— Authorized the Sault Tribe Education Division to apply for a 2026-27 Out of School Time grant.

— Approved a standard waiver of sovereign immunity and consent to enter into an agreement with PNC Bank.

— Authorized a lease proposal to the U.S. Department of Interior for the JKL Bahweting Anishnabe High School for new construction at 1301 Marquette Avenue in Sault Ste. Marie.

— Authorized the Governmental CFO and Payroll

Manager or their designee to execute all documents necessary to amend the 401k Plan as necessary to remain in compliance.

— Authorized all members of the Sault Tribe Board of Directors to participate in the National Congress of American Indians.

— Initiated an inquiry for establishing a Tribal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program.

— Authorized an application for FY 2026-27 funding in the amount of \$6,500 through the DTE Foundation.

— Authorized the Sault Tribe’s Transportation Department to request up to \$15 million in grant money through the U.S. Department of Transportation.

— Accepted the resignation of an appellate judge, effective Sept. 22, and tabled a resolution to appoint a chief judge for the court of appeals.

— Approved the Constitution Implementation Plan setting timelines in the event that the three-branch government model is approved by voters.

— Approved an Indirect Office Budget Modification for more coverage and flexibility at the administrative desk.

Nine Elder Sub-Committees double contributions to scholarship fund, four students awarded this year

Each summer, the nine Elder Sub-Committees from across the service area contribute money toward a scholarship for a student that just graduated from high school, and is planning on continuing his or her education at a trade school, college or university.

In the past year, the Elder Advisory Committee sought approval from each of the nine Elder Sub-Committees to double their contribution toward the scholarship fund. According to the Elder Advisory Committee Chairperson, Unit IV Manistique Elder Tom Tuffnell, “We wanted to try and help more in any little way that we can. The cost of everything is going up.” The contribution allowed the EAC to bless four young Tribal Youth with a scholarship this year.

and culturally respectful to every patient/client. It is important for me to create safe spaces where people will feel comfortable to fully be themselves.”

Sayer is a graduate of Osage High School in Osage, Iowa, and plans to pursue a degree in psychology at the University of Northern Iowa. Her essay detailed her desire to blend her culture and community as part of her education. “I am also majorly interested in learning about and improving mental health in minorities, specifically native communities

Grace Mattson, Adeline Sayer, Evan Massaway, and Craig Thomas Henry Whalen are the recipients of the 2026 Elder Advisory Scholarships. Congratulations!

such as my own. My Ojibwe background has inspired me to understand the depth to which my degree in psychology will allow me to help treat my community and assist those struggling with their own mental health journeys.”

Massaway is a graduate of

Houghton High School, with plans to attend the University of Michigan College of Engineering. He noted his community involvement has played a large part in his future plans. “My experiences in scouting, community service, and leadership have taught me that knowledge is most useful when it is used to help others. As an Eagle Scout and senior patrol leader, I learned how to organize people, solve problems, and work toward goals larger than myself.”

Lastly, Whalen is a graduate of Newberry High School,

with plans to attend Bay Mills Community College to start his journey toward his career goal of becoming a pharmacist. His class opportunities in high school have contributed toward his career goals. “I really enjoy my Native American education class. Learning about medicine wheels and natural herb medicines intrigues me. It’s a long journey to becoming a pharmacist, but I know it’s what I want to do.”

Congratulations to the 2026 Elder Advisory Committee Scholarship winners!

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by Susan Askwith

It's October already!

Where have the days gone?!

These are considered *alive*, so we say
 N'da waabmaa ... I see it (that's alive)
 N'da waabmaag ... I see them

I see the **moon**.

I see ghosts.

I see witches.

I see cats.

I see spiders.

I see apples.



October is such a sensual month - all the sounds and smells, and the feel of fresh crisp air. It has been described as the season of sweatshirts and second helpings. **Min-wendaagozin!** (Have a good time!)

N'da waabndaan ... I see it (that's not alive)

I see sweatshirts.

I see pumpkins.

I see candy.

I see skeletons.

I see fires.

I see Halloween *decorations*.



1 good pinch of salt. (*ziitaagan*)



Preheat oven to 350° F. Set out a 9 x13 baking dish. Peel and slice apples **super thin**. Put them in the dish. Top with all other ingredients. Toss to combine. Cover loosely with tin foil. Bake for 45 minutes. Carefully remove foil and bake 10-15 minutes more until apples are fork tender (especially in the center) and slightly caramelized. Enjoy with whipped cream or ice cream!



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

There are so many plots there.

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TOGETHER WE CAN HELP KEEP FOOD ON THE TABLE.

If you're getting SNAP food assistance benefits, are you getting the right amount? When it's time to update your information, it's important to report any changes to your income, employment, family situation or address.

Learn more at Michigan.gov/FoodAssistance.



Hiawatha Forest seeks public’s help for reforestation

CONE COLLECTORS GET PAID TO HELP WITH TREE PLANTING PROGRAM

GLADSTONE, Mich. — Many people across the Upper Peninsula are familiar with forest work on the Hiawatha — whether it’s noticing prescribed fires on forest lands, connections to local business, such as mills, or seeing logging trucks on local roads. These activities are part of how the Forest Service improves forest health – but reflect only part of the management process.

Reforestation, which means planting new trees to replace those harvested or lost, is an important follow-up step that supports healthy forests for people, wildlife, and the land.

Pinecone Collection: Help Grow Tomorrow’s Forests

Your pinecones can help shape the next generation of forests on the Hiawatha. By collecting jack and red pinecones this fall, you’re directly contributing to reforestation —planting the trees that will stand tall for decades to come. The seeds inside these cones will become the young pines that protect wildlife habitat, support local outdoor traditions, and keep our forest landscapes healthy for future generations.

Beginning Oct. 7, and ending Nov. 25, or when collection goals have been met, you can bring cones to the Munising, Rapid River, or St. Ignace District offices. Prices are:

Jack pine: \$80 per bushel,
Red pine: \$110 per bushel.
Cones should be free of twigs, branches, needles and other debris. Excessive amounts of debris will reduce the estimated volume of cones and lead to reduced payment. Cones also should be free of insect bore holes, and should be stored in a cool, dry place and be delivered as soon as possible after collection.

Collecting Guidelines and Drop-Off Details

Tips for successful cone collecting:

Cones must be collected within the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Collection is allowed on Hiawatha National Forest lands, but specific maps will not be provided.

If collecting on state, county, or private land, you may need permission or a permit. Collectors are responsible for obtaining any required approvals.

Cutting down trees or pruning branches to collect cones is illegal on the Hiawatha National Forest.

Keep cones from different locations in separate bags. Collectors must be able to identify where cones were gathered.

Payment by check will be made within one week of drop-off. Same day payment may be available depending upon

staff availability. Make an appointment at least 24 hours in advance to drop off your cones on open days by calling one of the contacts below.

Munising open: Oct. 7 and 21; Nov. 4 and 18

Rapid River open: Oct. 14 and 28; Nov. 12 and 25

Hiawatha National Forest seeks public input on Grand Island planning

GLADSTONE, Mich. — Hiawatha National Forest invites residents, businesses, and visitors to help shape the next phase of planning for Grand Island National Recreation Area, as the forest re-engages to refine draft management strategies developed from community input gathered in May 2025.

“For generations, people have ferried to Grand Island for quiet beaches, cliffside views and time in the forest. We’re inviting you to review and refine draft strategies — so any decisions protect what people love while keeping access practical and safe,” said Forest Supervisor Shannon Rische.

Join Us! Provide Input on the Future of Grand Island

A public meeting will be held on Oct. 21 from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Alger Parks and Recreation building at 413 Maple St. in Munising, Mich. All are invited to attend, as a wide variety of

St. Ignace open: by appointment only

Contact your local office and ask for the point of contact to schedule a drop-off or ask questions:

Munising — Steve Jastrzemski, (906) 387-2512, ext. 1028; or Ryan Sabo, (906)

387-2512, ext. 1024
Rapid River — Joe Smith, (906) 474-6442, ext. 2130; or Ally Crouch, (906) 474-6442, ext. 2143
St. Ignace — Marjorie Allmaras, (906) 643-7900, ext. 125; or Josh Leduc, (906) 643-7900, ext. 126.

perspectives will be essential to the success of this project.

What we’re creating together

Hiawatha National Forest is partnering with the National Park Service’s Denver Service Center to develop a comprehensive visitor use management plan that supports an enjoyable recreation experience and maximizes benefits to the local community.

Together, we hosted public meetings in May 2025 and gathered input; we then built draft strategies from that feedback that are ready for your review and refinement.

Your input will inform this plan for long-term vision and future management options. This process is not a National Environmental Policy Act environmental analysis; any implementation actions may require NEPA review and additional public comment.

Why we are doing this

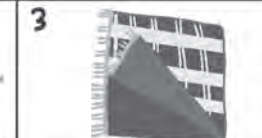
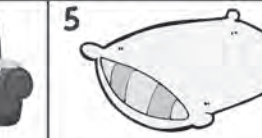
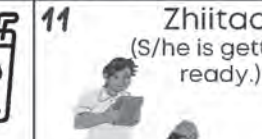
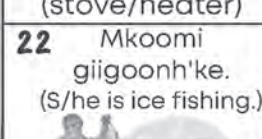
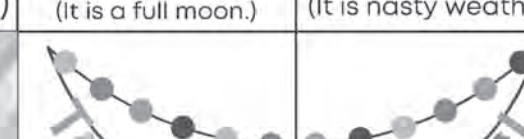
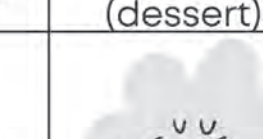
Grand Island sits about a half mile off Munising in Lake Superior — close enough for an easy ferry ride, yet quiet enough to retain a backcountry feel that people value.

The island’s 13,500 acres of sandstone cliffs, pocket beaches, hardwood forests and inland lakes are part of why families have crossed over for generations. Your voice, and the voice of other community members, is essential to ensuring the plan reflects community values while keeping access practical and safe.

Visitation has climbed from roughly 2,000 a year in the 1990s to more than 20,000 a year in recent seasons, creating pressure on sensitive natural and cultural resources and challenging infrastructure and the quality of the visitor experience.

Learn More: For additional information, visit our website at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/hiawatha>.

BAASHKAAKODIN GIIZIS - FROZEN MOON NOVEMBER 2026

NIIZHWAASO GIIZHIGAT	NTAM GIIZHIGAT	NIIZHO GIIZHIGAT	NSWO GIIZHIGAT	NIIWO GIIZHIGAT	NAANO GIIZHIGAT	NGODWAASWO GIIZHIGAT
1  Gibeyiing giizhigat. (Daylight savings time ends.)	2  nangoonhsag (stars)	3  waaboowaan (blanket)	4  Nwebi. (S/he is resting/napping.)	5  pkweshmowin (pillow)	6  manoomin (wild rice)	7  ezhi-dgongeng gegoo (recipe)
8  niibiish (leaf)	9  Oodetoo. (S/he is going to town/ window shopping.)	10  mkoomiins (icicle; ice cube)	11  Zhiitaa. (S/he is getting ready.)	12  aanakwat (cloud)	13  baashkaminsigan (preserves/jam)	14  N'giisaadendam. (I am sorry.)
15  gzhaabkizigan (stove/heater)	16  Waawaashkesh'ke. (S/he is hunting deer.)	17  Zhimaaganish Giizhigat (Veterans Day)	18  mshkiigomitig tamarack	19  Biiskan g'bootsinan. (I am putting on my boots.)	20  Gsinaa. (It is cold outside.)	21  N'segaajige. (I am decorating.)
22  Mkoomi giigoonh'ke. (S/he is ice fishing.)	23  Mishkepo. (It is wet snow.)	24  Mooshkaneshin Dibiki Giizis (It is a full moon.)	25  Niiskaadat. (It is nasty weather.)	26  HAPPY THANKSGIVING Miigwechiwe Giizhigat (Giving Thanks Day)	27  mizise (turkey)	28  washkobang (dessert)
29  goonens (snowflake)	30  giizhigong (in the sky)					

Sugar Island veterans memorial faces repeated vandalism, littering on South Brasser Road

By **BRENDA AUSTIN**

Community members are asking for an end to repeated littering and vandalism at the Sugar Island Veterans Memorial on South Brasser Road.

The memorial, known locally as the “Stoneman,” has been marked with graffiti and had trash intentionally discarded in front of it over the past several years, according to information provided by Sugar Island resident Randy Menard.

The memorial was erected in the early 1990s by Bill Montgomery of CCMS

Construction during construction of the Emergency Road Project, which later became South Brasser Road.

Menard said tribal members Chip MacArthur, Darrel Menard, Tony Willis and Joe Menard also contributed to the Stoneman’s history in the late 1990s when they gave him a hat.

The property where the memorial stands belongs to the Jennette family. Its caretaker, 89-year-old Harold Belanger, is a lifelong Sugar Island resident and Army veteran who has been among those cleaning debris from the site.

Several residents and veterans have helped care for and maintain the memorial over the years, including veterans Buncie Germain, Eran Menard, and Randy Menard, who recently completed cleaning and repainting the memorial.

According to the information provided, Michigan State Police indicated littering could result in a \$500 fine and possible jail time. Anyone who witnesses further vandalism or littering at the memorial is asked to contact the Michigan State Police post in Sault Ste. Marie.



Veterans Buncie Germain, Eran Menard, and Randy Menard all recently cleaned and repainted the memorial.

Sault Tribe’s Drug Court holds graduation ceremony



Photos by Scott Brand

Nathan Causley gets a handshake from Chief Judge Caroline LaPorte after graduating from drug court.



In addition to his certificate, Nathan, with his mom, received a pendleton blanket and basket.



Nathan’s family celebrated his 362 days of sobriety following the graduation ceremony feasting on Buffalo Wild Wings and cake.

Sault Tribe Housing gathers for annual training, photo



Sault Tribe Housing Authority employees gather for annual training.

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Walking on...

JOHN THOMAS WASELESKI II

John Thomas Waseleski II (born Squires), 72 of Chesterfield, Mich., passed away peacefully on Sept. 16, 2026, after battling cancer. John was born June 25, 1954, on Mackinac Island, Mich., to Joyce Gallagher and Robert E. Squires, and was later adopted by Gladys (Couch) and John Waseleski. He grew up with his beloved sister, Beverly Hudgins. John was the proud father of John Patrick Borke, Bernadette (Joey) Morrin, and Maximilian (Tiffany) Waseleski. He adored being a grandfather to Maelynn, Aiden & Kira.

If you knew John (Jackie to his friends), you knew he was impossible to forget. As a baby, he was put on a boat and famously ended up adrift in the Detroit River — a fitting start to a life full of colorful stories. He grew up between Southeast Michigan and Florida and spent much of his life working with his hands: in heating and cooling, in the family’s restaurant The Royal Touch on Groesbeck, and in construction and home remodeling. For the last 25 years he worked at the family’s Shipping Channel Marina — as a yard master and all-around general jack of all trades.

John loved life, and he loved living it. He was happiest on or in the water — swimming, boating, diving, or just putting around a marina. One of his favorite stories was the time he hitchhiked from Florida to New York to attend Woodstock, a three-day journey that said everything about his willingness to chase an experience. He was a classic rock fan, especially Jimi Hendrix, and had a soft spot for wolves, eagles, cheeseburgers, and shark teeth. John was incredibly proud of his Native American heritage and would frequently visit the Indian reservation up in the U.P. through the years.

Friends would describe John as charismatic, sociable, funny, and more than a little sassy. John had a gift for conversation and a genuine interest in the people around him — he could make anyone feel welcome within minutes of meeting him.

He will be remembered for his stories, his laughter, his stubbornness, his generosity, and the countless memories he created with the people who loved him.

Rest peacefully, John. Your adventures may be over, but the memories you leave behind will last forever.

A celebration of life will be held Oct. 10, from 2 until 6 p.m. at the Salty Dog Marina - 49028 Jefferson Ave., Chesterfield, with food being served at 3 p.m.

Cremation arrangements in care of Jowett Funeral Home - 57737 Gratiot, New Haven.

Jowett Funeral Home is privileged to serve the Waseleski Family. To send flowers or a memorial gift to the family of John T. Waseleski II, please visit our Sympathy Store.



PIERRE PATRICK PAYMENT

Pierre Patrick Payment, 54, of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., died on Sept. 24, 2026, in Brimley, Mich.

He was born March 9, 1972, in Sault Ste. Marie, to James and Lois (Smith) Payment.

Pierre grew up on Sugar Island and later began working on tugboats throughout the Great Lakes, beginning a career that kept him close to the water and the outdoors. Pierre became a proud father to his son, Cameron, and later spent many years traveling throughout the United States with his first significant other, Kelley.

After Kelley’s death in 2019, Pierre met Amy, and the two made their home in Pennsylvania. Following Amy’s passing, Pierre returned to his hometown of Sault Ste. Marie. Although he had officially retired, Pierre was never one to sit still for long. He continued doing what he enjoyed, cutting trees with Top Notch Tree Service and staying active.

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

Pierre found happiness in the simple things in life, especially camping and spending time outdoors. He was a strong, determined man who lived life on his own terms and was always ready for the next adventure. When he couldn’t be outside, he enjoyed settling in to watch his favorite movie, Lonesome Dove.

Pierre is survived by his son, Cameron Waite of Sault Ste. Marie; mother, Lois Payment; brothers, Ed Payment of Hessel, Mich., and Steven Payment of Sugar Island, Mich.; sisters, Krista Jones, Sandra St. Onge, and Andrea Payment, all of Sugar Island; the mother of his son, Aneen Stallman; and numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins. Pierre also leaves behind his beloved dog Smokey.

Pierre was preceded in death by his father, James Payment; sister, Karen Payment; brother Nathan “Toddy” Payment; sisters-in-law, Myrl and Deb Payment; and significant others, Amy Swanderski and Kelly Shahata.

Memorial Mass was held on Oct. 3, 2026, at St. Mary’s Church, 377 Maple St., Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., with a luncheon following at the Sugar Island Community Center, 6401 E 1 ½ Mile Rd, Sugar Island, MI.

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

BLAIR JULIUS PEMBLE, JR.

Blair Julius Pemble, Jr., lovingly known as “Uzz,” passed away unexpectedly and peacefully at his home in St. Ignace, Mich., Sept. 12, 2026, at the age of 77.

Born Oct. 7, 1948, Uzz was the son of Blair Pemble, Sr. and



Rita (nee Furlott) Pemble. A life-long resident of St. Ignace, he built his life filled with family, friendships, hard work, and a love of golf and sports. Uzz was known for his sense of humor, kindness, strong work ethic, and he was a naturally gifted golfer who was humble about his game.

Uzz had a way of making people feel welcome and was someone his family and friends could count on. He cherished the time he spent with the people he loved and took great pride in his family. Uzz was a man with a generous heart and always had a witty one-liner that would leave you with a smile.

We all loved our time on the golf course with him. In fact, some of his last days were spent doing what he loved most, playing golf. The course was a place that could easily be called his second home. Over the years, if you asked, he would humbly share that he had five holes-in-one! Golf was truly his passion. It was a place where he found community, shenanigans, and created endless memories with his friends and family.

Off the course, you would find Uzz reading the newspaper, watching the Detroit Lions, PGA tournaments, or just about any sporting event. He had an incredible memory and a way with numbers, remembering dates, scores, stats, and timelines that most of us would have long forgotten. Ask him about the past and chances were good he would tell you exactly what happened.

Growing up, Uzz attended Ursuline Academy through the 8th grade and graduated from LaSalle High School in 1966. He loved being on the basketball court and was the neighborhood kid shooting hoops well into the darkness. He attended Muskegon Business School and worked briefly for the family business, Pemble Bros. Wholesale, before being drafted into the United States Army. He proudly served during the Vietnam era, stationed in Germany from April 1969 to January 1971.

When he returned from military service, Uzz continued his career with the family business where he was sharp, driven, and skilled in his work. He later worked for Kewadin Casino in St. Ignace. Uzz truly enjoyed visiting with and taking care of customers. His kids also knew there were some perks to working alongside Dad as he could be counted on to slip them their favorite candy bar.

Uzz was a lifelong member of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians, and a longtime member of the St. Ignace Golf & Country Club.

His greatest joy was his family. He was a devoted and loving father, grandfather, son, brother, and uncle. He is survived and forever remembered by his son, Jesse Pemble of St. Ignace; his daughters, Anna (Max) Bauer of Denver, Colo., and Ellie (Tim) Karre of Arvada, Colo.; and his grandchildren, Alexia Pemble, Eliam Hyslop, Blaire Karre, and TK Karre. Uzz was also awaiting the arrival of his first great-grandchild due in November. He is also survived by his sisters, Sue



Hakola of St. Ignace, Jeanne St. Onge of Denver, Colo., Glenda Pemble of Scottsdale, Ariz., and Barbara Pemble of Denver. He leaves behind many nieces, nephews, and cousins, as well as his special aunts, Bernice Bickham of St. Ignace and Connie Mayer of Rudyard, Mich.

Uzz was preceded in death by his parents, Blair and Rita Pemble; his brothers, David Pemble and Bruce Pemble; his sister, Bonnie Ryerse; his brother-in-law, Donnie Hakola, and his nephew, David Ryerse.

His unconditional love, laughter, and steady presence will be deeply missed and forever carried in our hearts.

A memorial gathering was held on Oct. 7, 2026, at St. Ignatius Loyola Catholic Church, in St. Ignace, Mich., followed by a Memorial Mass and luncheon in the church parish hall.

A memorial took place at St. Ignatius Loyola Catholic Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you simply remember Uzz with an act of kindness, a funny story, or a round of golf with someone you love.

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

ELIJAH TYLER ALEXANDER MCMILLAN

Elijah Tyler Alexander McMillan, 12, of Escanaba, Mich., passed away on Sept. 18, 2026 surrounded by his loving family at Children’s Wisconsin Hospital in Milwaukee.

Elijah was born on Aug. 10, 2014, with his twin sister in Escanaba, the son of Aleshia Boye and Tyler McMillan.

Elijah attended sixth grade at Nah Tah Wahsh PSA & Hannahville Indian School in Hannahville. He loved gaming with his brother and cousins and listening to music. His favorite music artists were: Lil Peep, Juice WRLD, King Von, Lil Durk, Eminem, and Polo G. Eli loved watching sports with his family, including NBA, NFL, and UFC. He was a big fan of Steph Curry and the Philadelphia Eagles. He was always up for random adventures and walks. He harnessed a lot of bravery from an early age, even climbing trees to the very top. Eli was known to bring light and laughter to the room, even in the darkest moments, with his goofiness and sense of humor. His bright smile will forever be remembered.

Elijah is survived by his mother, Aleshia Boye (Allen Demeuse) of Escanaba; father, Tyler McMillan (Nichole Stodola) of Escanaba; twin sister, Arayah McMillan; sibling Cheyanne Tate, TJ McMillan, Denzel Menghini, Isaiah McMillan, Abel McMillan, Skyler McMillan (on the way), Karter Demeuse, Kobe Demeuse, and Kyliee Demeuse; and grandparents: Mike (Angie) Casey, Tonia (Boyd) Nelson,



Jackie (Travis) Maki, and Edward (Barb) McMillan. Elijah is also survived by many Aunties, Uncles, and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his great grandfathers Larry Boye and Lyle Martin, his great papa Bruce Nelson, and his great grandma, “fruit snacks,” Marlene. And additional great grandparents, Virginia Ansell and Harold Brazeau and Mary “Popeye” Hietikko and Ronald Borchert. A celebration of Elijah’s life took place on Oct. 10 with a meal following at the Sault Tribe Community Center in Escanaba.

The Skradski Family Funeral Homes of Delta County are assisting Elijah’s family. To offer an online message of sympathy please visit www.skradskifuneral-homes.com.

GLORIA VALLIER KEMP

Gloria Vallier Kemp, 79, of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., died Oct. 1, 2026, at MyMichigan Medical Center in Sault Ste. Marie.

She was born Aug. 5, 1947, in Manistique, Mich., to Marvin and Leatha (Patterson) Vallier.

Gloria graduated from Manistique High School. While working for Lake Superior State University, she earned her bachelor’s degree in business administration. She later temporarily moved to Mt. Pleasant, Mich., where she attended Central Michigan University and earned her Master of Business Administration.

Gloria was a gifted artisan who enjoyed playing games with family and friends and traveling whenever and wherever possible. She enjoyed her work at Lake Superior State University and with the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians. She worked for Kewadin Casinos for more than 20 years before moving into the governmental side of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians, where she continued working until her retirement.

Gloria believed that learning was fun and continued to expand her knowledge throughout her career. She earned certifications in various fields depending on the position she held.

Gloria will be deeply missed by many, especially her son, Marvin “Butch.”

Gloria is survived by her son, Marvin “Butch” Kemp of Sault Ste. Marie; sisters, Joan Thompson of Manistique, Susan (Chuck) Truitt of Chatsworth, Ga., Sandra Brown of Centralia, Wash.; brothers, Wayne (LuAnn) Vallier of Manistique and Earl (Sue Thayer) Vallier of Clare, Mich. and St. James City, Fla.; three grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and many nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Gloria was preceded in death by her husband, C. Ernest Kemp; parents, Marvin and Leatha.

Per Gloria’s wishes there will be no services held.

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

See “Walking on,” page 11

Brooklyn celebrates three

Brooklyn McCall,
wishing you a
happy 3rd birthday!
Love mom, dad,
Mason, Nathaniel, & Raymond
We love you!



Brooklyn is
turning three
on Oct. 30!

Wishing you
a happy 3rd
birthday.

Nonna & Papa
We love you!



Happy birthday Ashlynn & Scott!

Sault Tribe siblings are celebrat-
ing their birthdays this October!
Scott “Mr. Man” Brown Jr. is cel-
ebrating his first birthday on the
14th, while his big sister Ashlynn
is turning 5 on the 28th.



Walking on continued...

From “Walking on,” page 10
**JULIE ELLEN (WEST)
McGAFFIGAN**

Julie Ellen (West) McGaffigan, 73, of Swartz Creek, Mich., passed away suddenly Aug. 7, 2026, at McLaren Flint. A visita- tion was held on Aug.15, 2026, at Sharp Funeral Homes in Swartz Creek. A private burial took place at Sunset Hills Cemetery in Flint, Mich. In honor of Julie, the family kindly asked that guests wear bright or pastel colors to the visitation celebrating the joy and light she brought to the lives of those around her. In lieu of memorial contributions, the family asks that flowers be sent in Julie’s memory, as she loved the beauty and joy that flowers brought to the world.

Julie was born on July 17, 1953, in Flint, the daughter of William and Anna (Styes) West. She spent much of her life in Swartz Creek and graduated from Swartz Creek Mary Crapo High School. Julie was a gifted and passionate artist who found great joy in creating, appreciating, and sharing art with others. She enjoyed teaching art and design and touched the lives of many through her creativity and encour- agement.

Julie attended Mott Community College and the University of Michigan-Flint. During her college years, she was given the extraordinary opportunity to study abroad at the Florence Academy of Fine Arts (Accademia di Belle Arti e Liceo Artistico Firenze) in Florence, Italy, from 1973 to 1974. Her love of art and design remained a lifelong passion.

Julie’s interests were as var- ied and creative as she was. She loved design, art, movies, music, and gardening. She appreciated all forms of art—whether it was something hanging on the wall, music playing on the radio, or a beautiful piece displayed on the mantel. She had a natural gift for making the world around her more beautiful and found happi- ness in surrounding herself with things that inspired her.

Julie was also deeply spir- itual and was always thinking of others. She was a supportive and encouraging friend to many of her fellow artists, celebrating their work and cheering them on. She took great pride in helping make her class reunions spe- cial, working to make them the

best they could possibly be for her childhood classmates. She enjoyed giving thoughtful gifts and doing the little things that made the people she loved feel remembered and special.

Above all, Julie’s greatest joy was her family, whom she loved deeply and unconditionally. She loved being a wife, mother, and grandmother. She is survived by her loving husband of 51 years, Thomas; son, Brent McGaffigan; daughter, Dr. Hilary Manees and her husband, Dr. Christopher Manees; grandson, Bryce Manees; mother, Anna West; sis- ter, Deborah Weiershauser; and several nieces, nephews, extend- ed family members, and dear friends.

Julie also had a very special place in her heart for her beloved Shetland Sheepdogs. She loved all of her “sheltie babies,” past and present, and cherished them as members of her family. Julie was preceded in death by her father, William West, and her brother, Billy West.

Julie’s generous heart, cre- ativity, kindness, spirituality, and unwavering love for her family will be deeply missed. Her abil- ity to find beauty in the world, encourage others, and make the people around her feel loved and special will remain a lasting part of the lives she touched. She leaves behind a beautiful legacy of love, art, friendship, and fam- ily that will be forever remem- bered. Tributes may be shared at www.sharpfuneralhomes.com.

JOHN ROBERT CAUSLEY

John Robert Causley, 56, of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., passed away Sept. 12, 2026.

He was born on a stormy night in Petoskey, Mich., on Jan. 18, 1970, to his father John Causley Jr., who preceded him in death, and mother, Janice Jonas.

John grew up in Hessel, Mich., and the surrounding areas. He attended Cedarville schools. In school he played basketball, base- ball, and football which began a lifelong enjoyment of sports.

Following high school, John served in the United States Marine Corps from 1989 to 1993. He was proud of his service and treasured the friendships he formed with fellow Marines, sev- eral of which remained an import- ant part of his life long after his service ended.

Following his time in the ser-

vice, John returned to St. Ignace Mich., and began his lifelong pas- sion and profession of carpentry. He was very meticulous in the work he did and made a very positive impact on many lives over the 34 years he worked in Northern Michigan.

Outside of work, John enjoyed golfing, traveling, and especially fishing. He shared many adventures with the love of his life, Kristi Harwood-Causley. He had a feisty spirit, a stubborn streak his family knew well, and a generous heart. Those closest to him knew that alongside his determination was a protector and a man willing to help not only the people he loved, but people he barely knew.

Most of all, John loved his family. He was an exceptional grandparent to 11 grandchildren, and he prioritized his family over all else. He cared deeply about his parents, siblings, children, and loved his wife of 15 years more than words could describe. John is survived by his wife Kristi, mother Janice Jonas, father in-law Daniel Harwood (Jane), his children; Madysin Causley, Taylor Causley, Shannon McMillan, step-children Robert Little (Rachelle), Richard Little (Chelsea), his siblings; Lana Causley-Smith (Steve), Theresa Causley, Lucinda McFarland (Richard), Crystal Causley, Miranda Causley, Shalenia Causley, Michael Causley, and his grandchildren; Asher Causley, Layla Cooper, Tyler Richardson, Tameria Richardson, Joey McMillan, Jaylyn McMillan, Dani Little, Janie Little, Zoey Kelly, Isla Baltz, Lincoln Little and many special nieces and nephews.

John has made a generous donation to the gift of life and in place of flowers or gifts, please make donations in honor of John to the Wounded Warrior Project.

Visitation, services and a lun- cheon were held Sept. 26, 2026, at the Sault Tribe Cultural Center Niigaanagiizhik Ceremonial Building in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.

ANNA MAE WEST

Anna Mae West, 96, of Swartz Creek, Mich., passed away Aug. 17, 2026. Funeral services were held Aug. 21, 2026 at Sharp Funeral Homes in Swartz Creek with Rev. Bessie Hope officiat- ing. Those desiring may make

contributions to the Alzheimer’s Association.

Anna was born Oct. 12, 1929, in Epoufette, Mich., the daughter of Leslie R. and Ellen Rachel (Prout) Styes. She married William A. West July 23, 1950 in Flint and he preceded her in death on Jan. 2, 2004. She had resided in the Swartz Creek area since 1944. She retired from GMSPO on March 1, 1993, where she had worked for 38 years. Anna was a member of Spiritual Episcopal Church of Owosso, Sault Ste. Marie Chippawa Tribe, U.A.W. Local #659, Swartz Creek V.F.W. Auxiliary Pot #3720, Red Hat Society, and the Red Feather

Organization. She enjoyed gar- dening, cooking, baking, walking on the beach, traveling, and her animals.

Surviving are her daugh- ter, Deborah Kay (Craig) Weiershauser of Swartz Creek; grandchildren, Dr. Hilary Dawn (Dr. Chris) Manees, Brent McGaffigan, and Sarah Nicole (Jake) Alexander; great grandson, Bryce Austin Manees; and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; daughter, Julie McGaffigan; son, Billy West; and several siblings. Tributes may be shared at www.sharpfuneral-homes.com.



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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.

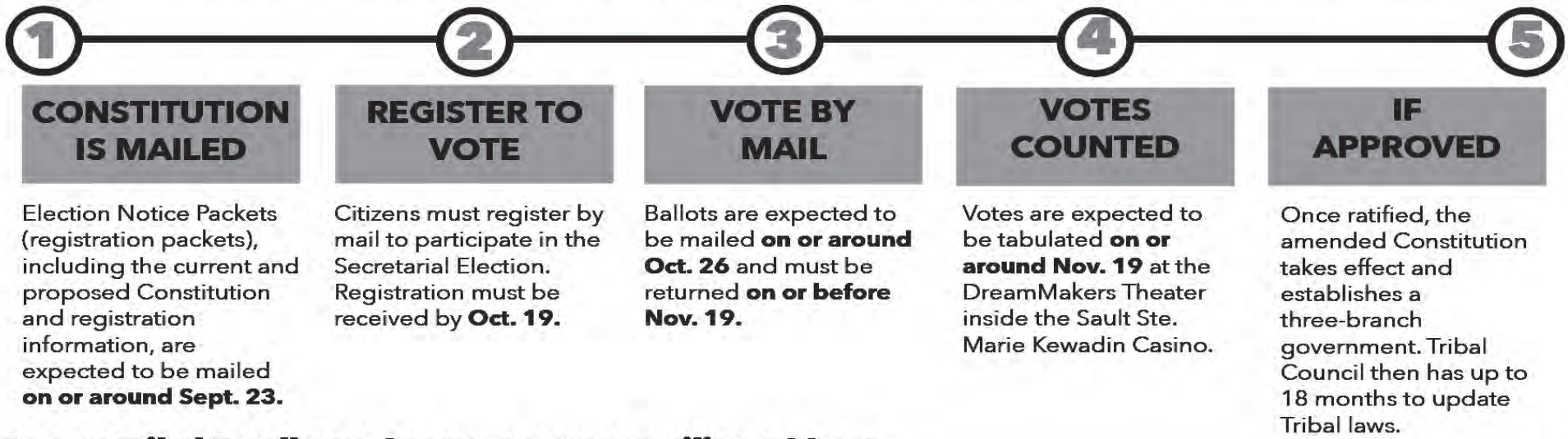
What Would Change? The Proposed Three-Branch Government

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

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

Sault Tribe Language and Culture thriving in Unit 5



Amber Waboose delivered a quill and birchbark workshop in Munising where participants created their own custom designs.



A perfect day for a field trip as the Sault Tribe Language and Culture crew led this group over to explore Munising Bay's Grand Island.



The Grand Island trip also included a bus ride allowing passengers to see various attractions.

Three of the completed crafts were featured in the photo submission.

Photos by Stacie Chambers



Grand Island visitors gather for a group photo.



And enjoyed their time on a remote beach.



Another stop along the way.



Above and below, Katy Matson leads the fish cleaning workshop.



Hands on experience was gained.



Above, Bud Biron leads the hand drum workshop. Below, finished products on display.



Big Bear hosts 30th anniversary celebration Sault Tribe shows off its orange on Sept. 30



Photos by Scott Brand
Hunter Ramos and Andrew Oke of the Lake Superior State University Laker Hockey Team passing out skates.



Courtney McCoy and Darcy Cooke of the LSSU Women's Hockey Program.



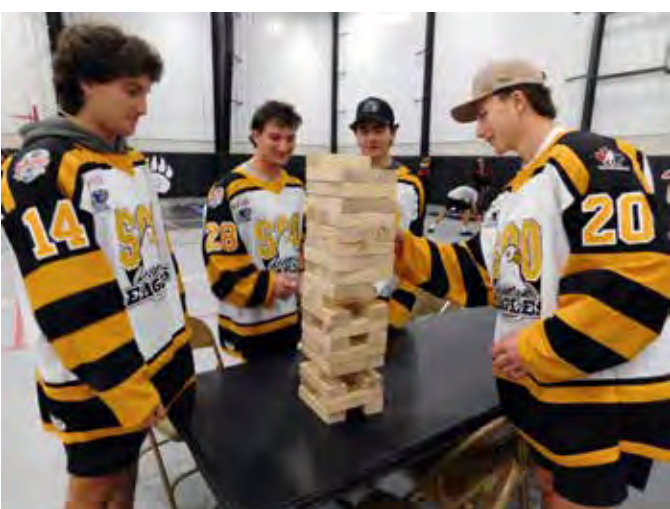
Submitted by Marlene Glaesmann
Above: The Marquette Tribal Health Center and Marquette Tribal community celebrated Orange Shirt Day for "Every Child Matters." One hundred tribal community members wore orange to walk from the old orphanage to Gitchi-Gumi in support of this cause with the Teal Lake Drum (above) gathering near Lake Superior at the "Seven Grandfathers" Memorial Park. Above, right: Marquette Health Center staff gathered to show their orange, (L-R) Jason Nunez, Jayne Beauchamp, Kerry Schulz, Amy Havel, Tammy Garrow, Gabi Tyner, Rory Lemanek, Dawn Hogan, Kaylee Major.



Photo by Lona Stewart
Above: In honor of Orange Shirt Day, the tribe's managers and directors wore orange at the monthly Direct Reports meeting.



The Soo Indians greeted guests during the event.



The Soo Eagles playing a round of oversized Jenga.



Above, the Sault Blue Devils scrimmage on the NHL Rink with members of the Soo Indians and other walk-ons. Below, the Olympic Rink was open for all levels of skaters.



On Sept. 27, the Big Bear Arena celebrated 30 years of operation inviting the public to the facility for a fun-filled afternoon of skating, games and light refreshments.



Photo by Diane Maleport
Big Bear team — (L-R) Brendan Peters, Donald Starnes, Holly Moorehead, Cameron Jones, Sheri Laaksonen, Morgan Torres, Elizabeth Salsbury, Tammy Graham, Neil Krull, Kim Russo, Joe Brown, Shelby Smith and Greg Hoglund.



Matt Vassar lacing up the skates for his daughter, Julianna, 7.



A young skater stays upright with assistance.



Melissa Causley of the Youth Education and Activities (YEA) Program joined by Diane McLeod-Maleport of Sault Tribe's Higher Education Department



Frank Blisset III and daughter, Astrid, 8, found the cupcake table to their liking. Below, Raya Cheeseman with 7-year-old son, C.J.



Photos by Brenda Austin
RECOVERY WALK — (Left, Above and Below) Sault Tribe Behavioral Health's 16th Annual Recovery Walk was held Sept. 24 at Big Bear Arena in Sault Ste. Marie. Participants received a free t-shirt made for the event and enjoyed pizza, face painting and kids games.



Sault Tribe YEA visits Gladstone for September powwow



Lexi Wellman, 11, of Escanaba was one of the early arrivals for the powwow and enjoyed parading her walking dinosaur through Gladstone's Pioneer Park before the action began.



Ashley Brinkman and Dorothy Poplawski man the Anishinaabek Child & Family Services (ACFS) booth with help from Malaki, 4, of Manistique.



Willow Gwaltney, 6, of Manistique, poses with Youth Education and Activities (YEA) Staff Member Sara Giles.



YEA members prepare to serve as flag and staff bearers ahead of Grand Entry.



Mentoring the young participants, the more experienced members prepare to lead them in.



Top left, all ages represented during Grand Entry. Top right, The Migizi Singers from Sault Ste. Marie.



Clockwise, A whirlwind of color was on display as the YEA youth enjoyed the Sept. 12 powwow along the banks of the Escanaba River in Delta County.



Photos by Scott Brand



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.



Up to date addresses sought, update with Enrollment

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

Abear, Kevin E
Abidin, Cody A
Ackley, Amanda M
Adamczak, April L
Adamczak, Kaine M
Adams Jr, Donald H
Adkins, Aaron C
Agawa, Joanne L
Agy, Gary M
Aikens, Lita M
Aikens, Michael E
Aikins, Jeremy A
Ailing, Summer S
Akers, Brandon D
Akers, Crystal M
Alderman, Jessica R
Alexander, Aleesia M
Alexander, Cody P
Alexander Jr, Fred M
Alexander, Laurie J
Alexander, Logan H
Allen, Haley M
Allison, Stephen W
Alvarado, Chelsi G
Amis, Richard N
Andary, Wesley J
Anderson, Brian S
Anderson, Charles F
Anderson, Mitchell E
Anderson, Theran J
Andrews, Mary E
Andrews, Tammy
Anguilm, Anthony P
Anthony Jr, Daniel R
Anthony, John R
Anthony, Kathryn
Anthony, Stanley W
Appelt, Renea M
Archer, Jessica C
Arentz, Adam N
Armstrong, Leah R
Arnold, Andrew G
Arntz, Debra E
Arseneau, Lawrence R
Aultman, Inez A
Bach, Andrew J
Backus, Anthony J
Bailey, Lynn
Baker, Cameron R
Baker, Chelsey D
Baker, Cody T
Baker, Daniel V
Baker, Lindsey M
Baker, Vince W
Ballingash, Joshua R
Banks, Bailey J
Banks, Carrie L
Banks, Cherie L
Bannister, Lisa M
Barbeaux, Alora D
Barber, Gary L
Barber, Robert A
Barens, Charlene A
Barker, Melanie F
Barnes, Jonah M
Barr, Brian J
Barr, Kyle T
Basse, John C
Basse, Patty M
Bates, Derek J
Batho, Bryanna L
Baynton, Kenneth J
Beaudry, Bradley A
Beaudry, David M
Beaudry, Jennifer L
Beaudry, Katie M
Beaudry, Taylor J
Beaumont Jr, Neal J
Beckley, Cheryl A
Beckman, Jason J
Beckman, Kristin A
Bedrick, Mildred A
Behling, Gary M
Beigel, Leon J
Belanger, John R
Belanger, Kyle J
Belisle, Danny L
Bell, Gerald W
Bellant, Andrew E
Bellant, Charles M
Bellant, Jason R

Bellant, Johnathon A
Belonga, Francis J
Belonga, Kasten J
Belonga Jr, Kenneth J
Belonga, Maria M
Bem, Kristina L
Benedict, John A
Benedict, Kristen N
Benedict, Marcus A
Benedict, Travis L
Bennett, Brian G
Benoit, David A
Bensinger, Justin R
Bensinger, Nathan J
Benson, Ryan C
Benzie, Bruce M
Bergh-Hetrick, Hunter W
Bernard, Joshua M
Bernard Jr, Lawrence G
Berry, Rachel M
Bicknell V, Gerald A
Bicknell, Gerald L
Bigelow, Michael P
Biron, Gary B
Bisbee, Elizabeth I
Blair, Brandis L
Blake, Shane M
Blanchard, Anna R
Blanchard, Noah L
Blevins, Tavaris A
Bloodworth, Dylan C
Bluemlein, Michael G
Boahbedason, Francis J
Bobee, Dustin E
Bobee, Joseph F
Boda, Anthony C
Boden, Jessica J
Bodwin, Rebecca A
Bogart, Marc N
Bogue, Mikalee K
Bohn, Bethany A
Bohrer, Michael G
Bonnier, Brenda L
Bonno, Clyde A
Bood, Lawrence H
Borland II, William L
Bosley, Bryce M
Boston, Julie A
Bouchard, Ann M
Bouchard, Ashley N
Bourasaw, Angela R
Bourasaw, Peter J
Boursaw, Caitlin R
Boursaw Jr, James D
Bouschor-Wright, Darcie L
Bowen, Hannah M
Boyd, Tina M
Boyer, Tyler J
Brace, Shelby D

Bradburn, Leonard R
Brady Jr, John F
Braley, Sharon L
Brandemihl, Joe K
Brandt, Caleb M
Brasseur, Bernie D
Brasseur, Felicia M
Brauer, Edward A
Brenchley, Frederick K
Brewer, Karen
Bridges, Cody J
Bridson, Taylor E
Brigman, Rod R
Brimmer, Samuel L
Brodeur, Jonathan M
Brody, Tara J
Brooks, Corey M
Brothers, Bayley T
Brothers, Keith A
Brown III, Benjamin J
Brown, Bertha
Brown, Bruce A
Brown, Bryan J
Brown, Crystal M
Brown, Cynthia A
Brown, Gregory
Brown, Kimberly I
Brown, Laurie A
Brown, Lloyd
Brown, Micah D
Bruce, Jordan T
Bruce, Joshua D
Brunet, John T
Brungraber, Erich V
Bruning, Austin R
Bryce, Thomas S
Bugg, Charles R
Buggy, James D
Bunker Jr, Thomas D
Burcicki, Jason P
Burfield, Michael D
Burger, Deborah C
Burke, Betsy M
Burke, Michael T
Burke, Patrick K
Burling, Susan M
Bushong, Russell A
Cadotte, Amber L
Cadotte, Clarence
Cadotte, Jerry
Cadotte, Justin D
Cadreau, Erica L
Cadreau, Erik G
Cadreau, Margaret
Cadreau, Michael D
Cadreau, Paul M
Cadreau, Teresa A
Cafek, Scott J

Cagle II, Jon B
Cairns, Michael A
Calderon, Nicole A
Calkins, Gavin M
Campbell, Barton T
Campbell, Erica L
Campbell, Gregory D
Campbell, John K
Campbell, Shawna M
Cantrell, Kandy M
Cantrell, Kaycee D
Cantrell, Mykel A
Carlson, Kristi R
Carpentier Jr, Charles H
Carr, Christopher D
Carr, Kevin J
Carr, Rebecca S
Carr, Sarah C
Carrothers, Michelle C
Carson, Matthew A
Carter Jr, Donell L
Carty, John W
Cary, Peter M
Case, Brian R
Caswell II, Shawn T
Cates, Julia M
Causley, Jane M
Causley, Shalenia M
Cervera, Angela A
Cervera, Claudia E
Chamberlain, Tait A
Chappa, Morgan R
Chappell, Carol L
Charbeneau, Rosemary E
Charron, Jordan M
Chingwa, Michael L
Christensen, Robert O

Church, Krystal L
Clark, Aubrey C
Clark, Gabriel R
Clark, Joshua P
Clark, Robert J
Clark, Robin L
Clark, Scott O
Clark, Stephanie A
Clement, Lacey D
Cline, Chelsie E
Collard, Sean
Collier, Sarah M
Collins, Braiden M
Conly, Hillery L
Cook, Desiree D
Cook, Laura A
Coons, Ashley N
Corbiere III, Emery J
Corbisier, Christopher R
Corbisier, Megan M
Corp, Damion B
Corp, Isaac L
Corp, Sam R
Coughlin, Francis R
Cournaya, Anna M
Cournaya, Brad
Cournaya, Jerry L
Cournaya, Michael T
Courtney, Terri M
Cox, Tina M
Cozart, Angela L
Crawford, Dominic C
Crawford, Dusty B
Cregar, Sonya M
Crook, Daniel A
Crook, Kellie M

See “Bad addresses,” page 18

Advertisement



WHY VOTE NO: What tribal members need to know before voting on the new constitution

A Three-Branch government is not the problem. Giving up our rights is.

While our Tribal government can—and should—have a strong system of separation of powers that does not mean Tribal Members should be required to approve an entirely new Constitution simply to obtain a three-branch government.

The proposed Constitution contains far more than a separation of powers.

We believe those major changes deserve to be considered individually—not bundled together into one YES-or-NO vote.

OUR CONCERNS ARE ABOUT YOUR RIGHTS.

We believe the Constitution should clearly guarantee:

— **Equal opportunity for qualified Tribal Members to seek elected office regardless of their address.**

— **Equal opportunity for qualified Members to apply for Tribal programs and benefits.**

— **Protect the Right to Tribal Records.**

Tribal Members should have a clear, strong, and enforceable right to access Tribal government records and information.

The proposed Constitution should **protect—not remove—the rights currently provided under By-Laws Article III, Section One.**

Government transparency is essential to accountability. Members should be able to understand how decisions are made, how Tribal resources are managed and how their government is serving them.

These rights should not depend on future decisions by Tribal officials or changing government policies.

A Constitution should protect Members’ rights—not leave them to be decided later.

**Please VOTE NO.
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Bad addresses continued...

From “Bad addresses,” page 17

Cross, Ashley L
Cross, Carrie L
Cross, Heather M
Crothers, Brandi J
Crowder, Collin R
Crowder-Simmons, Laura J
Cruz, Anthony R
Cruz, Helen S
Cruz, Rhonda B
Cryderman, Robert J
Cucchetti, Anthony P
Cumming III, Robert M
Cunneen, Aylex L
Currie, Dillion L
Curtis, Rachel M
Cvengros, Jason S
D’Agostino, Jessica A
Daman, Zackery R
D’Angelo, Jacob M
Darnell III, Charley B
Darnell, Mickie J
D’Autremont, Jenna M
D’Autremont, Joshua A
Davenport, Joshua R
Davenport, Lorrie A
Davenport Jr, Roger A
David, Dawn M
Davis, Martin O
Davis, Micki J
Deel, Skylar R
Delia, Cory M
DeLong, Stacy M
Delp, Brittany L
Demrose, Jennifer S
Demrose, Samantha J
Deneau, Jacob D
Denman, Robert J
Derusha, Nathan M
Desarmo, Scott C
Dessenberg, Billy L
Dessenberg, Christopher P
Desy, Bradley R
Deuman, Glenn E
Deverney, Kari K
Deverney Jr, Matthew M
Devitt, Todd C
Dewar, Debra L
Deweerd, Leslie A
Dewitt, Matthew R
Diamond, Zoe-Michelle S
Dietz, Mark O
Dilworth, Lawrence M
Dine, Sean R
Dingess, Jason E
Dingress, Nathan L
Dixon, Randall W
Dobos, Anastasia J
Doe, Joseph R
Dolly, Amaris M
Doucette, Lynn M
Doyle, Vickie S
Drayer, Nicole M
Duffiney, Douglas J
Dunklee, Faith A
Dunleavy, Leah
Dunn, Seanna M
Dutcher, Kathryn R
Eastman, David F
Eastman, Tracy L
Eaton, Gregory A
Eckhart, Victoria
Ecklund, Daniel M
Edenburn, Jamie L
Edgerly, Joseph T
Edmonds, James B
Elliott, Connor W
Ellis, Danielle M
Emery, Eric R
Emmons, Carrie D
Enright, Geoffrey M
Erickson, James S
Erskine, John D
Ettawageshik, Joel Q
Ettawageshik, John L
Everson F, Timothy
Ewalt, Jessica M
Ewing, Taylor A
Fairchild, Dakota M
Faragher, Elaine R
Fater, Amber C
Feathers, Cooper J
Feathers, Randall J

Fenwick, Raeann M
Ferree III, Richard A
File, William M
Finke, Elizabeth L
Fischer, Dale A
Fischer Jr, David A
Fischer, Dawn A
Fischer, Jeanie M
Fish, Nicole M
Fish, Sonya L
Fish, Tyler L
Fisher, Crystal A
Fleek, Savannah R
Florek, Zachary M
Flynn, Patrick
Folsom, Clay R
Ford, Deborah M
Fortin, Sabryna N
Foster, David W
Foster, Heidi F
Foster, Kimberly A
Foster, Matthew T
Fountain Jr, Richard J
Fouracre, Douglas V
Fox, David R
Fox, Dawn M
Fox, Tammy L
Fraley, Christopher M
Fralick, Jonathan E
Franklin, Nichelle R
Franklin, Scott A
Fraser, Nathaniel A
Frato III, Joseph A
Frazier, Christopher L
Frazier, David J
Frazier, Dylan J
Frederickson, Erik M
Frick, Melissa M
Frick, Stacy J
Fricke, Jchon E
Frisina, Andrew C
Furness, Nicholas M
Fusco, Gabrielle A
Gagnon, Lynne M
Gale, Danny M
Gale, Mario R
Gallagher, Shayla M
Garcia, Michael R
Garcia, Robert A
Gardner, Justin Z
Gates, Jeremy E
Gates, Katherine J
Gates, Kelly J
Gates Jr, Larry D
Gates, Shawn J
Gaus, Tina L
Gee, Juanita M
Geiger, Sonja M
Gereau, Lawrence E
Gereau Thompson, Dakota L
Germain Jr, Michael J
Gerou, Anthony R
Gerou, Duane T
Gervais, Courtney S
Gervais, Dorothy G
Ghee, Benjamin M
Godin, Lena
Goers, Scott A
Goetz, Jordan M
Goffus, Michael P
Gokey, Michael S
Gokey, Todd S
Gollehur, Dennis P
Gomez Jr, Jose A
Goodnight, Mercy E
Goodwin, Josie L
Gorny, Adrien L
Gorny, Ariana R
Gorny, Dawn R
Gorny, Derrick B
Gorny, Kevin J
Gorny, Michael S
Gorny, Shelby C
Gorny, Thomas L
Gotts, Nicholas J
Gouine, Gerald H
Gould, Tucker J
Grathwohl, Randall E
Gravelle, Tyler F
Green, Amber L
Green, Andrew C
Green, Anthony C
Green, Heather A
Green, Richard G

Green, Samantha
Green, Sheri A
Greer, Joshua W
Gregg Jr, Peter H
Greggs, Jason J
Gregory, Richard J
Gregurash, Karissa J
Grenke, Robert S
Griessmann II, Horst G
Griessmann, Silka A
Groetsema, Peyton J
Groh, Vicki J
Groleau, Jessica L
Groleau, Matthew M
Grondin, Charles J
Grondin, Thomas J
Grotewold, Brenden G
Haanpaa, Scott L
Hackworth, Jonathon A
Haggadone, Sandra J
Hall, Shantelle R
Hallesy, James F
Hamilton, Heather M
Hamilton Jr, James L
Hamilton, Kevin L
Hamilton IV, William A
Hamp, Ashley A
Hannah, Michele L
Hansen, Marianne
Hansen, Sherri A
Hanson, Peter J
Harden IV, Roscoe W
Hardwick, Bradley M
Hardwick Jr, Gerald F
Hardwick, Jeremy C
Hardwick, Lance D
Hardwick, Sharon L
Hargis, Christopher D
Harned, Todd
Harrington II, Henry J
Harris, Bruce K
Harris, Patricia A
Harrison, Melinda M
Hartrick, Tim M
Hascall, Bryan J
Hascall, Stanley
Hatch, Mark H
Hatch Jr, Michael J
Hatch, Susan
Havens, Travis S
Hayden, Samantha J
Hayes, George A
Hayes, Kimberly J
Hazen, Susan M
Head, Cedric S
Heckert, Douglas W
Heckert, Leon L
Hedges, Brad
Heider, Bobbi L
Height, Tricia
Heldt, Jason W
Helms, Clinton J
Helms, Michelle J
Hendrickson, Angela C
Henry Jr, Stanley N
Henry, Tammie J
Herman, Elizabeth G
Herman, Jennifer A
Hernandez, Amber M
Herrman, Christina E
Herrman Jr, Kevin L
Herro, Gary L
Herro, Lance J
Hershey, Kenneth
Heximer, Alicia K
Heximer, Kristina L
Heximer, Larry G
Hibner, Nathaniel T
Hickman, Isabella P
Hicks, Allex B
Hill, Daniel L
Hill, David J
Hillman, Judy G
Hoath, Stephanie L
Hoffman, Brenan D
Hoffman, Gina L
Hogan, Rachel L
Hoig, Kyle J
Hojnowski, Ronald A
Holbrook, Camren R
Holbrook, Catelynn E
Holland, Sherrie A
Hollman, Jessica L
Holmberg, Brandy L

Holmberg, Buddy A
Holmberg, Patti A
Holmes, Donald J
Holmes-Johnson, Dorothy A
Hood, Autumn J
Hood, Jennifer
Hood, Ryan D
Hoover, Jackie M
Hoover Jr, Thomas G
Horning, Andrew J
Hough, Cody A
House, Christopher B
Howard, Deanne M
Howard, Elizabeth K
Howard, Shalynn N
Howell, Daniel J
Howell, Nicholas W
Hubbert, Boston J
Hubbert, Catherine M
Hudson-Leon, Katherine I
Hudspeth, Scott A
Huffaker, Connie J
Hughes, Nikole K
Hutte, Cecelia N
Huynh-DeWitt, Chase T
Hyde, Benjamin C
Hylo, Dana W
Hylo, Jaclynn S
Hylo, Lee A
Hylo, Maribel L
Icenhower, Audrey M
Idalski, Crystal L
Ingleston, Michael M
Irwin, Tracy L
Isaacson, Georgine M
Isaacson, Jessica V
Jackman, Bryce R
Jackson, Charles D
Jackson, Destiny C
Jackson, Jennie M
Jackson, Jessica R
Jackson, Joshua R
Jacobe, Dawn M
Jacquet, Justin J
Jago, Felecia V
Javner, Bradley J
Jewell, Ashley
Jewell, Brandon
Jewell, Jenny L
Jewett, Andrea L
Jochman, Carolyn M
Johnson, Bradley P
Johnson Jr, James L
Johnson, Jenna M
Johnson, Vernon G
Johnston, David J
Johnston Jr, Donald J
Johnston, Lynette G
Johnston, Paige M
Jones, Crystal L
Jones, Paul E
Jones, Yvonne R
Jonker, Joseph D
Joseph, Edward J
Juska, Jason A
Kangas, Natasha K
Kaplan, Gregory F
Kartes, Jeffrey J
Kartes, Kristin L
Kee, Jared R
Kee, Jeremy R
Keiser, Jessica J
Keller, Stephen A
Kelly, Carrie
Kelly, Heather L
Kelly, Rachel F
Kelly, Thomas J
Kemp, Darryl A
Kemp, Russell A
Kempf, Cory M
Kenny, Stephanie M
Kerr, Harvey T
Kerridge, Bryan W
Kerridge, Cheryl A
Kerridge, Jeffery S
Kerridge, Jeffrey J
Kerridge, Trafton G
Kesick, Tristin J
Keyandwy, Ronald D
Keyandwy, Shaine A
Kibble, Brian L
Kilstofte, Tammy K
Kimmins, Amanda M
King, Brenden I

King, Carole A
King, Frank R
King, Hayley J
King, Shane M
King, Timothy G
Kinney, Harold W
Kinney, Shane N
Kittel, James D
Kivisto, Douglas J
Klikuszewski, Mark E
Klikuszewski, Michael J
Kline, Justin M
Komarnizki, Jason A
Komendera II, Erik E
Komendera, Jacquelynne A
Konkel, Cynthia E
Kopacki, Marcia L
Kordish, Nicholas V
Koski, John T
Kotarski, Stephen R
Kotarski, William J
Kowtko, Corey E
Krajewski III, Frederick G
Kravis, Valerie K
Kresnak, Michelle A
Krill, William M
Krueger, Margie L
Krueger, Steven D
Krummich, Christopher R
Kruszewski, Todd A
Kuhn, Shelby L
LaBlance, Maro L
LaBranch, Tracy L
Labron, Charles E
Laceby, Lawrence W
LaCombe, Amanda E
LaCombe, Jason W
LaCoy, Jennifer A
LaCross, Mariah J
LaFave Jr, John C
LaFear, Hunter W
LaFear, Shelby R
LaFear, Tara J
LaTour, Patrick
LaTour, Zoe Y
LaVake, Jessie L
Law, Talon S
Lawless, Jennifer A
Leach, Kerry M
Leask, Corianne M
Leatherman, Naomi P
LeBlanc, Christopher J
Ledy, Adam G
Lee, Amber N
Lee, Autumn B
Lee, Jacquelynn Y
Lee, Rodney J
Lehman, Kaylee D
Lemieux Jr, Edwin J
Lenius, Dana L
Lesatz II, David A
Lesatz, Matthew L
Lesch, Jacob W
Leszczynski, Aaron B
Leveille-Gaillard, Lori J

Leverance-Harrison,
Kaylee A
LeVernois-Myette, Yvonne
Levesque, Ernest P
Lewis, Allan J
Lewis, Anna M
Lewis III, Kevin C
Lewis Sr, Kevin C
Lewis, Kody L
Lewis, Matthew L
Lewis, Michael E
Lewis, Raymond M
Lewis, Robin J
Lewis, Shiann M
Lewis, Tina M
Libby, Douglas L
Libby, Nicholas A
Lichtenberger, Rebecca M
Liebrecht, Stacie M
Lindeblad, Travis W
Lipponen, Gregory A
Lipponen, Shirley J
Lipponen, Tyler J
Littell, Andrea K
Littrell, Christopher A
Livermore III, JD
Livermore, Mark J
Lockhart, James M
Lockwood, Benjamin A
Lockwood, Jason B
Lockwood, Jeffrey F
Lockwood, Jessica A
Lockwood, Stephanie D
Lockwood Jr, Timothy J
Long, Jeremy H
Lorenz, Carolyn S
Lorenz Jr, Lee A
Love, Glenn M
Love, Jennifer M
Lucarelli, Gina M
Lucas, Michael J
Luczyk, Gerald P
Luna, Rebecca L
Luttenberger, Robert W
MacArthur, Tracy L
MacDonald, Andrew P
MacDonald, Michael J
Madding, Matthew W
Malin, Allison R
Maloney, Tia M
Maniaci, John M
Mann, Jamie L
Mansfield, Falyn E
Marcus, Nathaniel B
Mariella, Lana C
Marker, Jeremy M
Marshall, Chadwick
Marshall, Christine M
Marshall, Kimberly A
Marshall, Thomas E
Martin, Devin C
Martin, Jessica M
Martin, Sierra D
See “Bad addresses,” page 19

The family of John R. Causley thanks you—

To everyone who called, sent cards/messages, kept us in your prayers, brought food, prepared food, and offered a helping hand in any way. Every act of kindness, no matter how big or small, meant more to us than I can put into words.

A very special thank you to everyone who helped make his service such a beautiful and meaningful day. Because of all of you, it became a special time for our family and friends to come together, share memories, celebrate his life and honor the man he was. It is a day we will always remember.

A special heartfelt thank you to Bill Prevost for all the extra time, help and care you gave to our family and arranging John’s Military service. Your kindness and willingness to be there when we needed you will never be forgotten.

During one of the hardest times in our lives, you reminded us how blessed we are to have such loving and caring people surrounding us. We are deeply grateful for every one of you.

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts,
Kristi Harwood-Causley & Family

Bad addresses continued...

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Martineau, Allen R
Marx, Heather L
Massaway, Catherine V
Massey, Christopher M
Masta Jr, Kenneth A
Mastaw, Kevin
Matson, Michael J
Matteson, Jennifer A
Matteson, Richard C
Mattson, Melanie A
Maudrie Jr, Lawrence F
Mayville, Nicholas A
McCabe, Jordan A
McCarthy, Kenneth P
McCarthy, Krystal D
McCarthy, Richard J
McClanahan, Amanda A
McClara, Chelsie M
McClellan, Jade A
McClellan, Ronald P
McClelland, Gary W
McClusky, Adam J
McClusky Jr, Ronald R
McClusky Jr, Victor S
McCondra, Raymond P
McCondra, Ronald K
McCormick, Cory L
McCoy, Adam D
McCoy, Amanda J
McCoy, Crystal L
McCoy, Gina K
McCoy, Lisa M
McCoy, Lisa M
McCoy, Shawn M
McCoy, Trevor J
McCrory, Jesse J
McCrory, Patrick J
McCuaig, Lisa
McCune, Victor A
McDaniel, Kyle W
McDermott, Edward J
McDonald, Brent S
McDonald Jr, John
McDonald, Tom
McDonnald, Mechelle D
McFadden, Shanon E
McFarland, Danielle N
McGahey, Josie A
McGahey, Justin A
McGahey, Mason D
McGahey, Nicolette M
McGinnis, Jason S
McGowan, Ashley N
McGowan, Nichole M
McGruther, Brittany J
McGuire, Susan A
McIntire, Joseph A
McIntyre, Trisha A
McKerchie, Caleb R
McKerchie, Debra A
McMillan, Tyler A
McNally, Leon V
McNally, Natalie J
McNeely, Kayla M
McNeely, Wednesday L
McRorie, Gary T
McSweeney, Tommy L
Mellon, Adrianna J
Melvin, Lorea L
Menard, John R
Menard, Nicole D
Mendoskin, Rose M
Merchant, Donald E
Merchant, Jean C
Merchberger, Karl P
Merchberger Jr, Ronald D
Merrifield, Daniel A
Metivier, Evelyn A
Metivier, Lynette S
Metivier, Paul
Meyer, Shara R
Meyers, Cathy J
Michaels, Violet L
Michelin, Joshua J
Middleton, Elizabeth S
Middleton, Jeremiah G
Miles, Richard J
Miller, Caleb M
Miller, Christopher L
Miller, Frank I
Miller, Gary B
Miller, John P

Miller, Joseph D
Miller, Matthew D
Miller, Michael J
Miller, Shyann M
Miller, Zachary J
Minder, Jessica A
Minesal, Mary J
Minner, Amy E
Miron, John A
Misiak, Joel M
Moffatt, April M
Moilanen, Jerrod T
Monk, Jennifer D
Montague, Lark L
Montgomery, Cheryl
Montgomery, Debra S
Montgomery, Mitchel R
Montgomery, Robert
Montgomery, Robert
Montgomery Jr, Sharon E
Montgomery, William
Moody, Ashley A
Mooney, Joseph P
Moore, Bernard J
Moore, Bonnie A
Moore, Stephanie M
Morris, John P
Moses, Joseph J
Mosher, Tempeste J
Mraz, Thomas J
Mueller, Melissa A
Mullendore, Carolyn M
Mumby, Skyler J
Murkot, Jeffrey L
Murphy, Amanda M
Murray, Benjamin A
Murray, Charles E
Murray, Janelle A
Murray, Louis A
Muscoe, Buffy F
Musser, David A
Myers, Doris A
Myotte, Andrea M
Myotte, Michael P
Nadeau, Ryan A
Nagelkerk, May
Neal, Brandon L
Neal, Cathy L
Neal, Helena N
Neal, Linda A
Nedwash, Daniel R
Nedwash, Samantha H
Neelis, Jeffrey C
Neelis, Rebecca S
Nelson, Brandon L
Nelson, Sarah A
Nemec, Marcella A
Nemecek, James D
Nesberg, Diane
Nesbitt, Rebecca L
Ness, Drew A
Newell, Patricia R
Nichols, Bobbie J
Nichols, Lily M
Nichols, Tayton A
Nickerson, Kamryn K
Nicklay, Ellen S
Nikunen, Alicia
Nikunen Jr, Anthony J
Nolff-Petoskey, Aaron L
Nolff-Petoskey, Timothy A
Norville, Heidi R
Novak, Scharleigh K
Novak, Star M
Nylund, Ashley M
Oakley, Wendy L
O’Berry, Bryan K
O’Berry, Cheyenne J
O’Berry, Conary T
O’Berry, Mark D
Obey, William D
O’Brien, Kyle W
O’Connor, Melissa S
Odgers, Jamie A
Odum, Brian P
Okopski, Scott R
Olson, Joshua J
Olson, Karra A
Olson, Scott A
O’Neil, Brian K
O’Neil, Jonathan P
O’Neil, Paula J
Onorato Jr, Leonard J
Ooten, Joseph L
Ortman, Vanessa M

Osogwin, Kristina B
Osogwin, Laurie A
Ott, Tricia M
Overland, Paul E
Owens, Darlene M
Ozant, Gregory K
Paciocco, Stephen J
Page, Carmen R
Page, Lisa A
Palsky, Andrew L
Papasan, Shasta D
Paquette, Karilyn K
Paquin, Carolyn J
Paquin, James C
Paquin, Jennifer M
Paquin, Kathleen M
Paquin, Michelle
Paquin, Sonya L
Paquin Jr, Thomas J
Pardee, David L
Pardee, Sarah M
Parish III, William W
Parker, Jakob R
Parker, Kristalynn M
Parrish, Glenn R
Paschall, Karen L
Passage, Amanda J
Passage, Dane A
Passage, David R
Passage, Kelly J
Patterson, Randal J
Pattison, Scott R
Patzner, Karen S
Paulsen, Camie A
Pavlat, Kevin W
Pawlowski, Austin M
Payment, Ann M
Payment Jr, Leo J
Payne, William L
Peaine, Jeremiah J
Peake, Barry M
Peake, Tyler A
Pearo, Terry D
Pederson, Denise M
Peffers, Anne E
Peltier, Timothy P
Peltonen, Greggory F
Peltonen, Mary E
Pennington, Jennifer E
Penrose, John L
Perkins, Angela L
Perkins, Dustin M
Perlaki, David L
Perrault, James D
Perry, Curtis
Perry Sr, Joseph P
Perry, Michael J
Perry, Raymond A
Perry, Robert F
Person, Amanda J
Persyn Kubitski, Marie A
Peters, Carrie M
Peters, Gwendolyne E
Peters, Kenneth D
Peters, Timothy J
Petersen, Edward G
Petoskey, Kayla R
Phillips, Amber M
Phillips, Doris M
Pierce, Katherine L
Piippo, William D
Pilcher, David J
Pilcher, Michael A
Plastino, Carla
Plastino, Kevin J
Platt, Alexis M
Platt, Jennie M
Polzin, Kayla L
Poole, Lisa R
Porter, Amy L
Potter, Kevin M
Potter Jr, Richard
Pounders, Barbara L
Povey, Dell E
Powell, Patricia S
Powell, Vivien L
Powers, Janine A
Powers, Justin R
Powers, Karlee E
Prater, Brian L
Pratt, Katherine A
Pratt, William J
Pressley, Jeffery N
Prevost, Joseph I

Prevost, Mikel J
Price, Jennifer L
Proctor, Michael D
Prout, Christopher J
Pryor, Joshua W
Puckett, Geoffrey D
Quinlan, Gabriell F
Quinn, Joseph D
Quinn, Suzanne M
Radford, Sharon D
Radomile, Mandy M
Raisanen, Jeanne R
Rakoniewski, Lathen S
Randazzo, Carter A
Randazzo, Emma I
Randazzo, Jill M
Rapelje, Marissa A
Ray, Linda S
Reed, Nathan C
Reed, Nathan R
Reeder, Wendy L
Reffruschinni, Adrienne
Reffruschinni, Garret M
Reffruschinni, Rhonda R
Regan, Kelly L
Reid, Michael P
Reimer, Lony F
Reimer, Sky B
Renelt, Christopher L
Repp, Steven D
Reser, Robert J
Reser, Timothy A
Resterhouse, Chelly R
Resterhouse, Dennis
Resterhouse, Mia L
Resterhouse, Micheal R
Richards, Jeanette
Richards III, Robert R
Richardson, Lee A
Richter, Andrew S
Rike, Benjamin T
Rike, Jamison M
Rittenhouse, Bonnie K
Ritter, James B
Ritter Jr, Stephen K
Rivard, Loretta J
Rivers, Elizabeth M
Rivers, John N
Rivers Jr, John N
Roach, Caden A
Roath, Erika D
Roath Jr, Michael W
Robbel, Sara G
Robbins, Jacob S
Robbins, Jessica L
Robbins, Jillian R
Robbins, Merlin S
Robertson, Bryce Z
Robinson, Liam N
Robitaille, Joseph P
Robles, Jamie L
Robson, Taylor M
Rocheftor, Korine R
Rodgers, Sean L
Rogers, Charles E
Rohlf’s, Debra J
Rosati, Michell
Ross, Dominic P
Ross, Lindsay A
Ross, Rita M
Rosson, Brant J
Roth, Elise M
Roution, Steve J
Rowles, Theresa M
Rowles Jr, Thomas A
Roy, Darren T
Roy, James L
Roy, Jarrett J
Ruditis, Thomas J
Ruegg, Katherine A
Rumsey IV, Charles E
Rumsey, Erin J
Ruperd, James K
Rutledge, Robert W
Ryckman, Barbara
Ryder, Cameo T
Rye, Mitchell A
Ryerse, Jon R
Sabias, Joshua R
Salo, Angelica M
Salo, Daniel C
Salo, Kathrine G
Samuel, Debra E
Samuel, Shawn M

Sanchez, Onalee M
Sanders, Brandi C
Sanderson III, Robert J
Sanford, Brooke P
Sanford, Randy S
Sarbou, Steve E
Sari, Destry V
Sari, Jeffery M
Saunders, Donald
Savoie, Eric F
Savoie, Morgan S
Sayles, Lucas R
Schadel, Jennifer E
Scharp, Alexis L
Schell, Debra L
Schmid, Raymond L
Schmidt, Justin R
Schneider, Jordan W
Schnurer, Zackery R
Schoenleber, Scott M
Schroeder, Alanna J
Schroeder, Connor W
Schuetter, Britney L
Schultz, Brook L
Schultz, Katrina M
Schulze, Michael J
Schwartz, Nina K
Schwecke, Amanda L
Schwecke, Lynnea D
Schwiderson, Lance M
Scimemi, Sara J
Scobey, Daniel M
Scobey, Peggy M
Scobey, Rebecca J
Scott, Derek T
Scott, Jack T
Scruton, Robert W
Sebastian, Blaine A
Sebastian, Glenn H
Secreast, Anna M
Seymour, Alycia L
Seymour, Christopher M
Seymour, Dion R
Seymour, Michael S
Seymour, Michelle C
Seymour-Nance, Amy L
Sharp Sr, Thomas J
Shaw, Jeremy R
Shaw, Kyle R
Shaw, Trevor O
Sheehan, Jennifer L
Sheffler, Nancy C
Shenk, Ashlee L
Sheppard, Joy R
Sheppard, Kristy L
Sherlund, Cory L
Sherman, Abigail C
Shields, Edwin R
Shipman, Abigail F
Shoner, Dalton P
Showan, Maryann P
Shutler, Travis J
Sicotte, Cecilia L
Siersma, Eric S
Sigelko, Danielle M
Simmonds, Kelly J
Simonetti, Lindsay A
Simpson, Kelly S
Simpson, Mindy L
Sims, Kathryn V
Sims, Mary E
Skipper, Kimberly K
Skrzypek, Joseph M
Skupin, Lalona I
Slabaugh, Joan B
Sliger, Valerie L
Smith, Alfred L
Smith, Austin M
Smith, Brian L
Smith, Honey S
Smith, Karan A
Smith, Steven R
Smith Sr., William J
Smith-Slowski, Joshua A
Snow, Brittany A
Snow, Cody J
Snow, Jacob J
Snow, Kaiden L
Snowbeck, Duane B
Snowberger, Brandon L
Snowberger, Nathaniel D
Snyder, Nathan M
Sosnowski, Martin O
Sosnowski, Paul M
Soule, Adam D
Spangler, Barry L

Spangler, Casey L
Spiker, Justin R
Splan, Joel A
St Louis, Benjamin O
St. Amour, Sue A
St. Andrew, Adam R
St. Andrew, Amanda J
St. Andrew, Charlie A
St. Andrew, Jacobb F
St. Andrew, Timothy C
St. Germain, James R
St. John, Michelle D
St. John, Scott W
St. Louis, Robert F
St. Louis, Wayne A
St. Onge, Joshua P
St. Onge, Robert C
Stadler, James K
Stamper, Tonya M
Stanga, Loreena J
Stauty, Jamie L
Steele, Gail J
Steele, Matthew J
Steindl, Kyle T
Stevens, Kelly M
Stevens, Niksaun A
Stevens, Tammy L
Stewart, Anthony J
Stewart, Cherrie J
Stewart, Helen R
Stewart, Robert J
Stone, William A
Storey Jr, Kenneth J
Strack, Alexia M
Strasser, Kendra J
Stratton, Kiley A
Stropich, Rikki A
Sturm, Christian A
Styskal, Zachary R
Summerfield, Chelsye M
Summers Jr, John P
Summers Jr, Wilfred G
Swinehart, Scott E
Swisher Jr, Terry A
Sydow, Brian P
Sylvester, Susie
Synett, Gary A
Tadgerson, Steven C
Taig, Patricia L
Tallman III, Edward L
Tallman, Jeremy C
Tarrence, Kinya R
Taurianen, Andrew L
Taylor, Ashley N
Taylor, Matthew S
Teague, Bryan A
Techmeier, Derek S
Teeple, Helen M
Teeple, Jeffrey R
Tell, Nicholas R
Terry, Brandon M
Tervo, Andrew P
Tess, Anne M
Thayer, Angela M
Theel, Travis D
Theel, Tyler T
Therault, Cole M
Therault, David T
Therrien, Joseph C
Therrien, Samantha J
Thomas, Derrick P
Thomas, Nicholas E
Thomas, Robert R
Thompson, Christoph C
Thompson, Francis R
Thompson, Shaunda R
Thrasher, Danelle J
Tierson, Dustin J
Tipton, Bradford R
Tobin, Lucas A
Tolliver, Claude
Tolliver, Jeffrey
Tolliver, Sylvia
Torgerson, Alicia M
Tracy, Bryon L
Tracy, Christopher A
Tracy, Kimberly N
Tracy, Melissa A
Trapp, Jessica M
Tromblay, Darren D
Tromblay, Dustin D
Tromblay, Jeananne M
Trombley, Amy L
Trombley, Michael E
Trudeau Jr, Roger R
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Chairman Lowe’s report to the membership



AUSTIN LOWES
TRIBAL CHAIRMAN

SAMHSA TRIBAL TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

From Sept. 15 to 17, I participated virtually in the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration’s (SAMHSA) Tribal Technical Advisory Committee (TTAC) meeting. This committee provides tribal leaders with an opportunity to advise SAMHSA on how federal behavioral health programs, policies, and funding can better serve Native American communities.

I was fortunate to have Dr. Karen Alexander, a Sault Tribe citizen and clinician with Sault Tribe Behavioral Health, serve as my technical advisor during this meeting. Dr. Alexander brings valuable clinical expertise and firsthand knowledge of the behavioral health challenges facing our tribal communities.

I am grateful to Dr. Alexander for her willingness to serve alongside me and share her professional expertise. I also appreciate the opportunity to represent our tribe in discussions that have the potential to improve behavioral health services for Native Americans across the country.

SAULT TRIBE VENISON DRIVES – UNITS 1 AND 4

I am excited to announce that Unit 1 will once again host our annual venison drive! Last year’s drive was a tremendous success, providing locally harvested venison to our Unit 1 elders. This initiative combines our treaty-protected hunting rights with food sovereignty, food security, and our responsibility

to care for our Elders. Tribal citizens in Unit 1 who are interested in donating venison should contact Maurer’s Little Meat Shop, which is located on Baker Side Road in Sault Ste. Marie, to arrange a drop off. Their number is (248) 310-0122. The tribe will cover the processing costs, and I will pick up the processed venison and deliver it to our Unit 1 elder center for distribution to our elders free of charge.

I am equally excited to announce that Unit 4 will be hosting its own venison drive this year! This initiative was spearheaded by Director Cole Goudreau, with support from Director Larry Barbeau.

Tribal citizens in Unit 4 who are interested in donating venison should contact Don St. John at (906) 450-5171 to arrange the drop off. This processor is located at 7909 W. Frankovich Road in Manistique. Directors Goudreau and Barbeau will coordinate the pickup and delivery of processed venison to the Unit 4 elder centers for distribution.

HEALTH DIVISION CEO INTERVIEWS

As previously reported, our Health Division CEO, James Benko, resigned toward the end of the summer. James served our tribe during a period of considerable growth and modernization within the Health Division.

During his tenure, James was involved in numerous important initiatives, including establishing the Health Division’s Human Resources Department, transitioning to the NextGen electronic health records system, planning the Health Division’s annex expansion, acquiring the former Roy Electric property to expand our healthcare campus, and expanding healthcare services in Marquette. I want to personally thank James for his service to our tribe and his contributions to these initiatives.

The tribe is currently interviewing candidates for the vacant CEO position. Selecting the right individual is critically important, as our Health Division provides essential services to thousands of tribal citizens and plays a central role in the overall well-being of our communities. When a candidate has been selected and hired, I will provide an

update to our membership. **PROPOSED HEALTH AUTHORITY** The board of directors is currently workshopping establishing a health authority to oversee the management of our health division. under this proposal, the health authority would replace the board of directors as the primary governing body responsible for overseeing Health Division operations. I strongly support moving toward a model in which our healthcare system is overseen by qualified individuals with professional healthcare experience.

Our Health Division is an increasingly complex organization. It operates medical clinics, behavioral health services, dental programs, pharmacies, and other critical healthcare services throughout our service area. Managing an organization of this size requires specialized knowledge of healthcare administration, clinical operations, finances, regulations, and long-term planning.

While our elected board of directors has an important role in tribal government, being elected to the board does not mean an individual has the professional background necessary to oversee a large healthcare system. If the board establishes a health authority and our proposed constitutional amendment is adopted, my office would nominate qualified tribal citizens with healthcare expertise to serve on the authority, and the board would confirm them.

I firmly believe this would improve how our tribe manages healthcare. It would allow qualified professionals to provide oversight while ensuring that our Health Division remains accountable to our tribal government and, most importantly, the citizens it serves.

BIA SECRETARIAL ELECTION AND CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM

Our tribe is currently participating in one of the most consequential elections in our history.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) is administering a secretarial election that will allow our citizens to decide whether to amend our Constitution and fundamentally change how our tribal government operates.

For decades, our tribe has operated under a system in which nearly all governmental authority is consolidated within the board of directors. The proposed constitutional amendment would replace this corporate board-style structure with three separate branches of government, establishing meaningful checks and balances and providing our citizens with rights and opportunities they do not currently possess.

Among the most important proposed changes are the ability for tribal citizens to elect their judges rather than having judges selected by the board of directors; granting citizens standing in Tribal Court to challenge the tribe when their rights are violated; establishing professional authorities to oversee tribal businesses and healthcare operations; providing citizens with the ability to recall ineffective elected officials; lowering the threshold required to challenge board decisions through referendum; and allowing citizens to initiate constitutional amendments by collecting the required number of signatures. These are substantial improvements over our existing governmental structure.

To participate in this election, you must register with the BIA, even if you are already registered to vote in regular tribal elections. The BIA, not the Sault Tribe, is administering this election, and they require a separate voter registration process. Registration forms have been mailed to tribal households directly from the BIA. If you have not received a voter registration form, please contact the BIA’s Sault Ste. Marie office at (906) 632-6809.

The deadline for the BIA to receive voter registration forms is Oct. 19, 2026. Ballots will be mailed Oct. 26, and they will be counted Nov. 19. I strongly encourage every eligible tribal citizen to register, participate, and vote YES for constitutional reform.

There has never been another opportunity in our tribe’s history for our citizens to have this much direct influence over the structure of their government. The decisions we make today will shape our government for generations. We owe it to our children, grandchildren,

and future generations to establish a system that is accountable, transparent, and designed to protect the rights of our people.

ACCURACY AND PROFESSIONALISM IN BOARD UNIT REPORTS

Over the past several months, I have found myself increasingly concerned about misinformation and personal attacks appearing in some board members’ unit reports, particularly as they relate to our proposed constitutional amendment.

Our tribal newspaper is an important resource for our membership. Our communications staff work hard to produce a professional publication that informs our citizens about tribal operations, programs, and governmental decisions. I believe elected officials have a responsibility to respect that work by ensuring the information they publish is accurate and professional. Unfortunately, that standard has not always been met.

In her most recent unit report, Director Bridgett Sorenson made several statements that I believe warrant correction. First, Director Sorenson suggested that passage of the proposed constitutional amendment could allow elected officials, including myself, to obtain additional high-paying tribal positions while continuing to collect our elected salaries.

This is a reference to what is commonly called “double dipping,” a practice that was prohibited through a previous secretarial election because of the conflicts of interest it creates. Director Sorenson’s statement about double dipping is 100% incorrect, and the tribe’s general counsel addressed this in an open meeting and on camera last month. This can be found on the tribe’s YouTube channel, where our recorded meetings are kept.

Director Sorenson has missed more in-person constitutional workshops than any other board member. While every elected official is entitled to their opinion regarding constitutional reform, I believe those opinions should be grounded in facts.

I am equally concerned by Director Sorenson’s repeated

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Bad addresses continued...

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Trudel, Brandon D
Trudell, Candice R
Trumbley, Alexandria R
Turman, Diane M
Turner, Michelle M
Turner, Torey A
Vagts, Blaine W
Van Doorne, Sonja S
Van Horn, Eddie J
Vanassche, Lauren E
Vanatta, Kelly M
Vandenbrooks, Laura A
VanGinkle, Dylan M
VanGinkle, Erik D
Vanhouten, Kevin L
Vanier, Tina M
Vanningan, Dawn M
Vanluven, Seth M
VanPutten, Regina L
Vanzile, Sherri L
Vargas, Cassandra M
Vermillion, Amanda J
Vieau, Gary D
Vigil, Garrett A

Vincamp, Lisa A
Vincamp, Ryan S
Vincent, Ashlee M
Visnaw III, Charles A
Visnaw, Michael A
Vizineau II, Brian N
Vogel, Jacob A
Vogel, Sarah M
Vore, Joseph M
Vore, Taralynn A
Vore, Whitney C
Waara, Kai W
Wabanimkee, Cinthia J
Wachter, Brent W
Wachter, Olivia C
Wagner, Sherrie R
Walker, Katrina J
Walters, Timothy R
Wambach, Leigha N
Wandrie, Jason P
Ward, Anthony W
Ward, Jonathan E
Warmbier, Wendy J
Warner, Julie A
Warner, Michael J

Watkins, Courtney C
Watson, Daniel L
Watson, Michelle D
Watson, Sara M
Weatherly, Mary H
Weber, Daniel B
Wegener, Percilla M
Weissgerber, Julia A
Welch, Michael L
Welchner, Brittany A
Welchner, Jennifer M
Welchner, Johnathon E
Weller, Fox M
Weller, Jason B
Weller, Tatum L
Werkheiser, Jamin A
West, Michael J
Weston, Charmaine T
Westphal, Daniel N
Westveld, Holly J
Whalen, Patrick T
White III, Daniel
White Jr, Gerald R
White, Katherine M
White, Kurt A

White, Michael J
White, Nicholas A
White, Randy P
Wiese, Laura A
Wiggs, Marissa R
Willey, Kevin L
Williams, Anthony H
Williams, Jeremy J
Williams, Joshua C
Williams, Lisa J
Williams, Ralph J
Williams Jr, Shane L
Williams, Troy A
Willingham, Jody L
Willis, Jennifer M
Willis, Kristina M
Willis, Krystal G
Willis, Melissa A
Willis, Stephanie L
Wills, Tyler S
Willson, Jennifer L
Willson, Susan M
Wilson, Adam R
Wilson-Lennox, Trevor D
Winemiller, Leslie C

Wingett, Andrew J
Wiseley, Patricia L
Witgen, Rebecca E
Wolfe, Erica J
Wolfinger, Joseph M
Wolfinger, Shyla J
Wood, Eavon M
Wood, Michael T
Woods, Michelle K
Woodworth, Tami L
Working, Levi R
Wozniak, Joshua D
Wright, Amelia H
Wronikowski, Preston S
Wychopen, Trenten J
Yancy, Pamela J
Yanda, Jamie L
Yaroch, Benjamin J
Yell III, Francis H
Young, Laurie A
Zastrow, Daniel E
Zatorski, Todd R
Zeedyk, Logan R
Zolling, Kimberly M
Zulski, Jennifer L

Government-to-government consultation on OVW



ASHLEY GRAVELLE
DIRECTOR, UNIT 1

I had the opportunity to attend the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) Government-to-Government Consultation and provide consultation on behalf of our tribe. I am grateful anytime I have the opportunity to represent our people in these spaces, because it gives us a chance to make sure the voices and concerns of our membership are heard directly by those making decisions at the federal level.

Our tribe receives funding

from the Department of Justice, and we rely on DOJ programs to support critical services within our community. One example is our Advocacy Resource Center, which provides free services to anyone impacted by violence, power, and control. These programs are not simply funding sources, they directly impact the safety and well-being of our members, victims, survivors, children, and families.

One of the major issues we addressed during consultation was the Department of Justice’s proposed consolidation of the grant-making functions of the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, the Office of Justice Programs, and the Office on Violence Against Women. The stated purpose of this consolidation is to reduce administrative burdens and streamline the grant process.

While I absolutely support reducing unnecessary administrative burdens on tribal nations, the Sault Tribe does not support this consolidation. More importantly, we raised serious concerns that consolidating OVW in this manner

is contrary to federal law. Congress was very clear when it established the Office on Violence Against Women. The law specifically states that “the Office on Violence Against Women shall be a separate and distinct office within the Department of Justice, not subsumed by any other office.”

That language matters.

Congress intentionally protected OVW’s independence because of the importance of its mission. An office dedicated to addressing domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, and related violence should maintain the specialized knowledge, relationships, and focus necessary to serve victims and survivors, including those in tribal communities.

Reducing paperwork for tribes is something we can and should work toward, but it should not be accomplished by disregarding the protections Congress specifically put into law or by weakening an office that tribal nations and survivors rely upon.

I was also able to advocate for several other issues that are deeply important to our people.

We called on the Department of Justice to fill critical positions necessary to address the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons (MMIP) crisis. Native families have waited far too long for answers, accountability, and meaningful action. Addressing MMIP cannot simply be something we continue to talk about. It requires people in these positions who are committed to working with tribal nations, law enforcement, communities, and families.

We also advocated for improving justice for abused Native children. Protecting our children must always be one of our highest priorities. Native children who experience abuse deserve a justice system that protects them, supports them and their families, and holds those who harm them accountable.

Another important concern we raised was federal agencies improperly overriding tribal court decisions. Tribal courts are an exercise of our inherent sovereignty. A true government-to-government relationship requires the federal government and its agencies to recognize and respect the lawful decisions and authority of tribal

courts.

These are only a few of the issues we brought forward during consultation.

For me, attending a government-to-government consultation is about much more than simply having a seat at the table. It is about using that seat.

It means speaking up when something could negatively affect our people. It means protecting the programs and services our families depend upon. It means defending our sovereignty and our tribal courts. It means advocating for our children, our victims and survivors, and our missing and murdered Indigenous relatives. Most importantly, it means making sure decisions that affect Indian Country are not made without hearing directly from tribal nations.

I am thankful for the opportunity to represent the Sault Tribe and our membership in these conversations. I take that responsibility seriously, and I will continue to advocate, ask difficult questions, and speak up for our people whenever I am given the opportunity to make our voices heard.

LaPlaunt attends HHS Tribal Advisory Committee



TYLER LAPLAUNT
DIRECTOR, UNIT V

Aanii, Boozhoo,

October offers an opportunity to reflect on what it means to belong to a community. As Anishinaabe people, our connection to one another is something we live through our actions. It is present when we make room for someone at our tables, reach out to a person who has been quiet, or take the time to hear another person’s story or teaching. These everyday gestures matter. They help create a community where people feel welcomed, valued, and confident that they have something to contribute.

This month, I encourage each of us to consider how we can help strengthen that sense of belonging. We can ask for guidance, offer encouragement, and make space for the voices and experiences of different generations. We can also recognize the people whose steady efforts often go unnoticed, but whose kindness and commitment make a difference in our lives. Gidinawendimin “we are all related” reminds us of the relationships we share and the responsibility we have to care for them. May our words and actions this October give that connection a meaningful place in our daily lives.

decide the future structure of our tribal government. This election asks whether we will adopt an amended constitution establishing three co-equal branches of government: legislative, executive, and judicial. As your representative, I believe leadership has a responsibility to inform, prepare, and listen. The authority to choose our government’s structure belongs to you, the people. I encourage every eligible member to read the proposal, ask questions, and approach this decision with care for both our present needs and the generations who will inherit the outcome.

Participation begins with registration. You must register specifically for this Secretarial Election, even if you have voted in previous Tribal elections. Please keep these upcoming dates in mind:

- Monday, Oct. 19: Voter registration must be received.
- Friday, Oct. 23: Final registered voters list scheduled to be posted.
- Monday, Oct. 26: Ballot packets scheduled to be mailed to registered voters.
- Thursday, Nov. 19: Ballots due; tabulation scheduled that evening.

The BIA administers this election through the Secretarial Election Board and sets the official deadlines. Those deadlines are binding; tribal leadership cannot extend them or make exceptions. Follow the instructions in your official election packet and allow sufficient mailing time. Our website and Facebook page will continue sharing information to help members stay informed, but the official BIA election materials govern the entire process.

Alongside this historic vote, we now have an 18-month transition plan in place to guide the work of bringing our laws and codes into alignment if the amended constitution is approved and federally certified. This is a positive and necessary step toward making the proposed structure work in practice and will eliminate any disruption in services. Our planning addresses immediate responsibilities, the legislation needed during the transition, and preparations for the 2028 election where the constitution will be fully enacted and in place. There will be challenges, we will get things wrong and have to fix them, but having a plan gives us a clear direction and a way to measure our progress. Our responsibility is to prepare carefully so that, if members choose this change, we are ready to carry out their decision.

I also intend to bring forward a resolution empowering the Elder Advisory Committee and Election Commission to develop a redistricting plan for our units at the Oct. 27 meeting in Munising. Members in Unit 5 and Unit 4 Marquette County have raised countless concerns about boundaries that leave them feeling disconnected from representation in their own communities. Those concerns deserve thoughtful attention and meaningful public input. My proposal will also call for a census every 10 years, helping us respond to changes in our population and communities. As we consider our government’s future, we must also consider how every member’s voice can be heard within it.

This moment calls on all of us to take an active role. Whatever your position on the proposed constitution, your participation matters. Read, register, and VOTE! The decision belongs to you, OUR people, and each ballot is an opportunity to help shape the future we will share together.

Advocacy updates

In September, I attended the Department of Health and Human Services Secretary’s Tribal Advisory Committee (HHS STAC) meeting as the Bemidji Area Delegate, addressing concerns across every division of HHS. One of my strongest priorities was the 340B rebate pilot project. I raised this issue directly with Secretary Kennedy and got his attention on the need to find



Unit 5 Director Tyler LaPlaunt, Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr., IHS Director Mark Cruz.

a way to exempt tribes or hold us harmless from this pilot and any future projects. Our health programs depend on these resources to serve our people, and I pressed for protection that recognize our unique circumstances and the federal government’s obligations to tribes. Bringing this concern directly to the secretary was an important step. Securing those protections remains the work ahead. What this pilot program would do is put the burden of the full cost of life saving prescriptions on our Health Division up front, and require us to reimburse the cost through big pharm. I highlighted this as the antithesis of what his MAHA movement was supposed to be doing.

I also raised serious concerns with the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health (OASH) about proposed changes to the 2030 Census. My message was clear, any changes that undermine an accurate demographic count could devastate Indian Health programming and other programs across the country that rely on

population-based funding formulas. Tribes fought for decades to be adequately counted, and we cannot afford to lose that progress. I told HHS officials they should be raising red flags and ringing alarm bells on this issue. An inaccurate count can have consequences for funding and services that will last generations.

On Oct. 8 and 9, I will be attending the Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes (MAST), where I will again address Tom Engels, administrator for the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), about the 340B issue. HRSA is the agency in charge and this will be a direct follow-up to STAC to determine whether progress has been made toward a full Tribal exemption. I intend to keep this issue in front of federal leadership and press for a clear answer on how our health programs will be protected.

On Oct. 18-22, I will be attending the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) Annual Convention in Palm Springs, Calif. The agenda includes regional caucuses, committee and subcommittee meetings, general assemblies,

See “LaPLaunt,” Page 24

Chairman: Orange Shirt Day honors our Indigenous children forced into boarding schools

From “Chairman,” Page 20

attempts to characterize board disagreements along gender lines. In her report, she described a vote to pause the constitutional process by stating, “The vote to pause the constitution came down to almost all women supporting (except one) and all men opposing (except one).” She further characterized the constitutional amendment, which has been in the works for roughly 20 years, as “pretty much the wishes of a few good boys.”

I find these statements disappointing and inappropriate. Our elected officials should be debating policies, structure, budgets, and proposed legislation. We should not be misusing our tribal paper to suggest that disagreements are the product of gender-based divisions.

Our staff work hard to maintain the standards of our tribal newspaper, which is mailed to thousands of households every month. Lowering that standard with unit reports that contain blatant sexism and false information to stall constitutional reform is unacceptable, and our tribal citizens deserve better.

ORANGE SHIRT DAY

On Sept. 30, our tribe joined Indigenous communities throughout North America in recognizing Orange Shirt Day, also known as the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation in Canada.

Orange Shirt Day honors the Indigenous children who were forced into boarding and residential schools, remembers those who never returned home, and recognizes the survivors and families who continue to live with generational trauma from these institutions. The day also serves as an important opportunity to educate the public about the history of forced assimilation and the lasting harm caused by policies intended to separate Indigenous children from their families, languages, and cultures.

This year, the Sault Tribe hosted Orange Shirt Day marches in St. Ignace and Marquette, along with a feast in Sault Ste. Marie. I was especially honored to carry the Sault Tribe flag during the St. Ignace march alongside boarding school survivor Kim Fyke. It was also incredibly meaningful to listen to boarding school survivors share their experiences during our

feast in Sault Ste. Marie. Their willingness to speak about painful chapters of their lives ensures that these histories are not forgotten.

I want to thank everyone who helped organize these events, everyone who participated, and especially the survivors who shared their truths with our community. Every Child Matters.

LAKE SUPERIOR STATE UNIVERSITY DISTINGUISHED YOUNG ALUMNI AWARD

On Oct. 24, I will have the honor of receiving Lake Superior State University’s Distinguished Young Alumni Award. This award recognizes an alumnus under the age of 40 who has demonstrated meaningful professional accomplishments and contributions through their career.

I graduated from LSSU in 2012 with a bachelor’s degree in political science before continuing my education at Michigan State University, where I earned a

master’s degree in clinical social work. Receiving this recognition from my alma mater is deeply meaningful to me. LSSU played an important role in shaping the path that ultimately led me to public service and tribal leadership. My time at the university helped develop my understanding of government, public policy, and the importance of serving others.

As someone who grew up in this community, I am especially proud of the opportunities LSSU

continues to provide students throughout the Eastern Upper Peninsula and beyond. I am also incredibly grateful for the mentors, professors, colleagues, friends, and family members who have supported and encouraged me throughout my educational and professional journey.

I am proud to receive this award, and I look forward to continuing to serve our citizens and the communities that have given me so much.

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.

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)

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

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

Moving ?



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

CLIP & SAVE

Concerns about the amended new constitution



**LANA CAUSLEY-SMITH,
DIRECTOR, UNIT II**

I would like to speak again about the new constitution that we have voted to send to the BIA requesting it to conduct a secretarial election for a complete new constitution with a three-branch government and many other changes. This was a long process in the making and I was around for every rewrite that never saw the light.

Today, we have a newly written constitution completed and written by the board of directors (including the chair). You will be asked to register to vote on this; you should have received this registration in the mail to send back. You will then receive the new document to review and vote your choice for this new form of government. I have consistently said that we could not sustain a brand-new entire rewrite of the constitution — hell, we can't even be accountable or manageable in our day-to-day now. I've always advocated for single amendment so that we can handle the change and be solid with a plan and ability to function without chaos. I've spoken to many executives, team members and members — our tribe is not prepared for the entire rewrite. I cannot answer how much it will cost. I cannot answer how we can or will handle the amount of code changed. There is an approved 18-month process but I cannot answer who will remain employed in executive positions. I cannot answer how the court will function once we as a legislative body and executive body can make claim against each

other. And, so many other items. I want change, too! My consistency has been to separate the court and have a judicial branch and leave the other two to work and unify together. My fear moving forward is a complete breakdown of communication and a sloppy mechanism that will halt our growth and further create questions on transparency and accountability, I absolutely recognize it's not good now! It has NOT gotten better. It's the same or even worse than what the members are privy to.

My report is being written as I'm in a place of frustration. I see good people wanting better growth for us but in reality we come up short. I'm one vote at that table and as there are videos, reports and communication where I speak my mind. I advocate for the needs and the fairness and I represent exactly like I have grandchildren that belong to this tribe, because I do and it matters greatly to our future. I've been around quite some time and have seen a lot. I always say, when I come home after a long day of meetings, I sleep good knowing I spoke, I advocated, I debated and at the end of the day I depend on those feelings that I used my abilities and commitment to our people. With that being said, we meet weekly to go over the financial plans moving forward, cost estimates had been anywhere from \$1.7 million to \$7-8 million for full implementation. Once the document reaches your home, please read in entirety the changes that will occur.

If you would like to talk about the changes or discuss thoughts about the direction, please reach out. It's a time of change I'm just hoping we do it right and just to protect the people of this tribe.

Although we have had the heavy lift of the new constitution on the agenda, the past month has brought many good things for our tribe and unit the past summer months.

We finally completed the grand opening of our new wellness center to house our youth education staff who were literally in standing room only in the space they had and have some

aim at fitness in the community. We have simply outgrown the small center and people gathering and holding events has always grown and that demonstrates the commitment we have in our communities. This place is for all in Unit 2 and other areas so I encourage and invite everyone to come and take pride in our growth. An official ribbon cutting took place with a very special opening with prayers and drums. Chi Miigwech to all involved. This will be a place for our future leaders to learn and grow and our community to come together for years to come.

We also built a new teaching lodge for our grounds and opened that during our powwow this year. It was done traditionally with members of the community taking the time to harvest the cedar, strip the wood, bend and construct together as a community. This build together with our annual Gathering of the Eagles Powwow was a very special, ceremonial time for many of us. I've attached a few of my own pictures for you to see and again, would like to thank all of our helpers who came to assist and everyone who spent the days with us to carry on our traditions at the gathering.

Director Lee and I attended the Line 5 rally to advocate and educate and also show our support and commitment to keep our Great Lakes secure and safe. Director St. Onge took the lead in the gathering and brought many together to help hold a ceremony at the water with the woman and this was a part that should always be recognized, it's much more than videos and pictures. It was a song and prayer to protect and offer our deep thankfulness to the water. I was very happy to take part in that traditional moment and say Chi Miigwech to the woman that led and attended. We can not forget the significance of doing these ceremonies.

I have been contacted by members in the Naubinway area about hosting a canoe making workshop with a local artist. I approached the Naubinway Elders and the commitment to this is a 2-3 day stretch. We would like to see if community members would like to take part in this before we commit to this large-scale event. I am talking with others and if we cannot hold it in that area, we will try to make it a neutral location where many can attend and take part, possibly in Newberry. I will update when I have more information. Please reach out to Director Lee or I if you are interested in taking part in the build. We are trying for a spring date to host this event.

Fall is here and the time is changing for everything to rest for the winter, please make sure to attend any fall ceremonies for feast and honor and sharing food for our ancestors. This is so important for them and for us. If you would like to meet or talk with me, please reach out and I will be available to you: lcausley@saulttribe.net or (906) 322-3818.

Please take good care of each other. Baamaapii.
Lana Causley- Smith



The community came together to build a new teaching lodge in Hessel.



This year's Hessel powwow was warm and welcoming.



Former Unit 2 Rep. Catherine Hollowell cut the ribbon on the new Hessel Community Wellness Center. Below, Mukkwa Giizhis Drum at the opening.



Home for a visit, and a hug.

Fall brings a strong connection to our ancestors



SUE ST. ONGE
DIRECTOR, UNIT III
Fall is here.

It has been a very busy September, but I have always loved what fall brings to the Upper Peninsula. There is something about this time of year that creates a deep sense of preparedness. The days grow shorter, the temperatures begin to drop, and we are reminded that winter is just around the corner.

Fall is the season of harvest, gathering, and preparing. It is a time to harvest from our gardens, fish, hunt, gather berries, and make sure we have what we need for the long winter ahead. For me, it is also a time when I feel the strongest connection to my ancestors.

I think about the generations who came before us and how closely their lives followed these same cycles. They watched the seasons, understood the land, harvested when the time was right, and prepared for the long, cold months ahead. In many ways, we are still following those same cycles today. There is something deeply grounding about knowing that the things we are doing now are connected to practices that our ancestors also relied upon for survival and well-being.

I, myself, have been closely monitoring the local wild cranberry patch and watching the grapes ripen in my yard, waiting for each to reach its peak time for harvesting. There is patience involved in harvesting. You cannot rush the land. You must pay attention, watch, and understand when the time is right.

I was fortunate to be gifted bear fat from a local hunter following his successful hunt. I rendered approximately 70 pounds of fat and yielded about 40 pounds of oil. It was a tremendous amount of work, but also a meaningful reminder of the generosity and sharing that has always been an important part

of our community. If you would like some bear oil, contact me as I would be happy to share what I have.

We have been busy as a board of directors this fall, preparing for the work and responsibilities of the changes ahead. There are several important matters before us, including the upcoming Secretarial Election and the continued work surrounding the creation of a Health Authority Board.

Both issues are extremely important because they have the potential to directly affect our people, our services, and the future of our tribal community. As leaders, we have an obligation to take the time necessary to understand these issues, ask difficult questions, and make decisions that put the long-term interests of our people first.

Health Authority and Code Review

Along with planning for the code changes that may be necessary if we move to a three-branch system of governance, we have also been reviewing code related to the creation of a new Health Authority.

As we move forward in developing what a Health Authority would look like and how it would operate, I would strongly caution us against viewing healthcare primarily through a business lens.

Financial sustainability matters. We have a responsibility to manage resources carefully, make sound financial decisions, and ensure that our healthcare system is sustainable for future generations. But financial sustainability cannot become the measure by which we define success in healthcare.

The people we serve are not revenue opportunities. They are our patients, our families, our elders, our children, and our community members. They are people who often seek healthcare during some of the most vulnerable and difficult moments of their lives. That distinction matters.

When financial priorities and patient needs come into conflict, which one drives the decision? What evidence are we using to determine whether the decisions we make are improving access, quality, safety, and patient outcomes?

Before we move forward with a Health Authority, I believe we need to be very diligent about clearly defining those measures of success.

What does improved health-

care look like for our community?

Does it mean that our members have better access to primary care? Are we reducing waiting times for appointments? Are our elders able to receive the care they need close to home? Are our children receiving appropriate preventive and behavioral healthcare? Are we improving outcomes for people living with chronic conditions? Are we providing culturally responsive care? Are patients treated with dignity and respect?

These are the questions that should be at the center of our conversation.

We absolutely have a responsibility to steward our resources wisely. But we also have a responsibility to make sure that efficiency does not come at the expense of compassion, dignity, access, quality, or patient care.

I am not suggesting that finances do not matter. They do.

I am asking that we put finances in their proper place.

When healthcare is viewed primarily as a business or as a potential source of profit, there can be serious risks for patients. Those risks can be even greater in rural and tribal communities, where healthcare resources are often already limited and where access to specialty services and other forms of care can be difficult.

Health is connected to the overall well-being of our community. It is connected to cultural identity, family, housing, food security, transportation, mental and behavioral health, and the ability of our people to live healthy and productive lives.

A successful Health Authority must balance financial sustainability with patient needs, cultural respect, equity, accessibility, quality, and the priorities of the community it serves. We have an opportunity to create something that truly reflects the needs of our people, but we need to be thoughtful about the foundation we build it upon.

These conversations are important, and I believe our community deserves transparency and an opportunity to understand what is being proposed and why. I also believe we need to be very intentional about the foundation we establish.

Before we establish a Health Authority, I believe these measures for success should be clearly defined. We should know what we are trying to accomplish,

how we will measure it, and most importantly, how we will hold ourselves accountable for the outcomes.

I am not opposed to sound business practices in healthcare. I am opposed to allowing business principles to become the primary lens through which we determine the value of healthcare. I think we should put the safeguards in place to protect against that.

Money should support good healthcare. It should not define what good healthcare is.

This is particularly important for rural and tribal communities. Our healthcare challenges are different from those of large urban systems. We often have fewer providers, fewer specialists, greater distances to travel, transportation barriers, limited resources, and significant challenges recruiting and retaining healthcare professionals.

A Health Authority has the potential to strengthen healthcare delivery for our people. But that will only happen if we establish it with the right priorities from the beginning.

We have an opportunity to build a system that is financially responsible and compassionate; efficient and accessible; accountable and culturally grounded. With the right perspective and vision, we can become the gold standard for healthcare in the U.P.

Secretarial Election

By the time this edition of the paper is published, many of us will be waiting for our ballots for the Secretarial Election to arrive in the mail.

When your ballot arrives, please do not delay returning it. Delivery times vary and sometimes take longer than normal.

Elections are one of the most important ways our citizens determine the direction of our government. Please take the time to review the information provided with the registration packet, understand the proposed changes, and make sure your voice is heard by filling out your ballot once it arrives and promptly returning it.

Housing Grant

I am pleased to share some great news regarding housing:

We have received confirmation that we will be receiving a \$7.5 million grant to build 26 housing units on the St. Ignace Savard property.

This is tremendous news for our community because we all understand how desperately these

homes are needed and how significant the housing shortage has become. Safe, affordable, and adequate housing is not simply a convenience, it is foundational to the health and stability of individuals and families.

I want to thank the Housing Authority and the board of directors for all their hard work in securing this funding and moving this important project forward. I would also like to personally recognize Director Bridgett Sorenson for the tremendous amount of time and energy she has dedicated to helping address the housing crisis in our community.

This funding represents more than 26 new homes. It represents opportunities for families, stability for our community, and another step toward addressing a need that has been growing for many years. Chi Miigwech to everyone who has worked so hard to make this possible.

Unit III meeting

Our next unit meeting will be held on Monday, Oct. 19 at 7 p.m. Light refreshments will be provided.

I encourage you to come and speak with your representatives. Bring your ideas, your thoughts, your concerns, or simply come to find out what is happening in our community.

Our tribe is strongest when our citizens are engaged and willing to have conversations with one another. We may not always agree but listening to one another and making sure our voices are heard is an important part of moving forward together.

As we move into fall and prepare for the winter ahead, I am reminded that preparation is not only about gathering what we need to get through the cold months. It is also about preparing our community for the future. Our ancestors understood the importance of planning ahead, caring for one another, respecting the land, and making sure there would be enough for those who came after them. Those responsibilities are still ours today.

As always, if you would like to contact me or set up a meeting, please reach out. I am always willing to listen and talk through your questions, concerns, or ideas.

You can reach me at (906) 203-5654.

I hope you can take time to enjoy the beauty and colors of fall.

Miigwech.

From “LaPLaunt,” Pg. 21
and Native youth policy dialogues. These discussions provide opportunities to build support around the concerns I am carrying forward. Protecting tribal health resources, defending accurate census counts, and ensuring federal policies respect tribal sovereignty and treaty obligations. I will continue to bring the needs of our tribe and the Bemidji Area into those conversations while listening to the priorities of other.

Tribal nations and the young people who will carry this work forward. If there is one thing I learned in advocating for our people, you must be relentless and show up. The moment your voice

stops advocating for an issue, the conversation is over.

On Nov. 17-18, I will attend the Food is Medicine conference in Washinton, D.C., leading into the NIH Tribal Advisory Committee meeting. We will debrief on the conference and discuss how the NIH can better support tribes with research related to food systems and their redevelopment. My focus will be on research guided by tribal priorities which is work that respects our knowledge, strengthens our ability to rebuild our food systems, and connects access to nutritious and traditional foods with the health of our communities. I am optimistic that

somewhere in HHS we will find funding to finally begin our Food Sovereignty program in full force. Whether it starts as a research project or disease prevention, I’m going to keep pushing.

Cultural Events

If you are interested in helping to teach a workshop, teaching, or looking for something that isn’t yet provided in Unit 5, please reach out to Stacie Chambers at schambers1@saulttribe.net or (906) 379-8061.

UNIT 5 WINS

As many of you in Munising can see, site work has begun on the reservation. For the next several years you will see the reservation fully come to life with new

housing, community center, and hopefully a new YEA building for our children. I am so excited to see this through for this community. Housing anticipates the additional housing to fully meet the current needs. You no longer have to take my word for it, you can watch this beautifully unfold with your own eyes.

Elder meetings and meals

The next Unit 5 Elder Meeting in Munising will be on Thursday, Nov. 5, at 11 a.m. at the Munising Tribal Health Center, followed by the luncheon at 12 p.m. The next Unit 5 Elder Meeting in Marquette will be on Thursday, Nov. 5, at 5 p.m. at the Marquette Tribal Community Center, fol-

lowed by the dinner at 6 p.m. Marquette is open to both Unit 4 & 5 Elders of Marquette County. Please feel free to join if you aren’t already a part of these gatherings.

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

Tyler Migizii Migwan LaPlaunt

Unit 5 Director / Vice-Chairman

tlaplaunt@saulttribe.net, (906) 440-8294

Reporting on Unit 3 issues, events, and activities



**BRIDGETT SORENSON,
DIRECTOR, UNIT III**

Housing has been successful in being awarded another grant. This one is for \$7.5 million to be able to build 26 units on the Savard Property in St. Ignace. The planning will begin soon as to what type of low-income units will be built in 2027. The Savard

Property infrastructure is nearing completion. This is going to be a beautiful site. The project came in over budget with the dynamite that needed to happen with the rock, so some of the paving and sidewalks will be completed in the near future with transportation funding.

At the last board meeting, the board approved a budget modification to increase the wages at the St. Ignace Detention Facility. There was also an approval to provide the MERS retirement benefits to those team members as well. Hopefully this helps with recruitment and retention.

On Sept. 30, we held a Remembrance Walk and Ceremonies at the Museum of Ojibwa Culture. This was the fourth year and despite the weather, we had 150-200 people throughout the day. The St. Ignace Police Department fol-

lowed the walkers as well as a shuttle for those who had trouble walking. We had a great feast put on by Jr’s Grill as well as giveaways.

The Indigenous Education Initiative group had an informational tent as well as Sault Tribe Community Health. Chi miigwich to Mukwa Giizik, Tony Grondin, Russ Rickley, Bill Conrad, Caden Colegrove, our YEA, and all others for all contributing to offer support to our survivors.

Also, to the committee made up of Kim Fyke, Marilyn Wakefield, Tom & Francie Wyers, Jamie Andress and myself.

We will have a community ghost feast on Saturday, Oct. 24 at the McCann School from 12 to 3 p.m. We are asking people to please bring a dish to pass and also to help setup and clean up.

Please contact me for any inquiries.

Sue and I are having monthly Q&A sessions with light refreshments at the McCann School on the third Monday of the month at 7 p.m.

On Veteran’s Day we do a removal of the flags ceremony, placing wreaths on the veteran graves at the Wequayoc Cemetery, along with a feast. Schedule will be 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Many of you have hopefully received your constitutional packet from the BIA. Over 40, 500 were mailed out. You need to fill out the registration card and mail it back in ASAP in order to be able to vote. Even if you do not support the document, please send in the card and vote NO on the ballot.

As I have said all along, I do not support this document or a three-branch government. Do

you realize out of the 12 tribes in Michigan only two have three-branch governments and they are both constantly in court? Another interesting fact is that of about 35 Midwest Alliance Sovereign Tribes (MAST), a handful of them all have three-branch governments. Again, if this system was so great, why are three-branch governments in the minority?

This document is not what the constitutional convention committee wrote and worked on; this is a board-driven document that is not balanced. There is no 5-year financial projection. I don’t know many people that think the U.S. government is a great model either.

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

Harvesting the work of today, preparing for tomorrow



**COLE GOUDREAU
DIRECTOR, UNIT IV**

Aaniin, Unit 4 Members,
Fall is here

It’s my favorite time of year! Leaves are changing and harvest season is in full swing. Whether you’re hunting, fishing, or gathering, please remember our elders and those who are no longer able to provide for themselves or their families. Fall just isn’t a time of harvest, it’s a time of community and family. Honor the gifts pro-

vided by the land and water, and pass our knowledge and traditions on to the next generations.

Promises made/promises kept

During my campaign, I had stated my stance on taking a tribal vehicle and not claiming mileage. I have done that when a vehicle is available and if it wasn’t I did not claim mileage. We are fortunate enough our tribe provides nice vehicles for its employees to utilize when available. I urge all employees to do so, if possible, to save our tribe money.

When on Zoom meetings, I turn my camera on when voting or talking when our bandwidth allows me to do so. There are times that the camera will cause a delay when you’re trying to talk and I am forced to turn it off. I will continue to utilize the camera going forward during the times I cannot attend in person.

Halloween safety

With Halloween around the corner, please be safe when trick-or-treating with the kids. Be alert,

be visible, pay attention, and have fun!

Venison drive Unit 4

We are a proud to partner with Sault Tribe member Don St. John to process 10 donated deer and distribute fresh venison. Together we honor our elders and support our community. The donations to St. Johns will start Oct. 10. Deer must be field dressed before dropped off. Once processed, Director Larry Barbeau and myself will pick the meat up and distribute it to Unit 4 elder lunches. The distribution date will be posted soon. Address and contact information is posted below. Miigwech to anyone who donates!

Separation of powers/three-branch government

I am hoping that members have received their election notice packets. Please fill out the packet and get it mailed back ASAP. This secretarial election is separate from our regular tribal elections, so you must register specifically for this election to vote.

Below are key dates to be aware of over the next two months.

Sept. 23 – Election notice packets mailed

Oct. 19 – Voter registration due

Oct. 23 – Final registration voters list posted

Oct. 26 – Ballot packet mailed

Nov. 19 – Ballots due/tabulation night

Manistique Elders Bingo

BINGO is still full steam ahead thanks to all the volunteer work done by the elders. I continue to hear great things and it’s nice to see that cafeteria area filled with community members having fun! Keep up the great work!

BINGO is held every second and fourth Monday of the month. Doors open at 10:30 a.m. Cards start selling at noon, and play starts at 1 p.m.

Orange Shirt Day

A heartfelt Miigwech to all of our tribal members, families, staff, and community members who participated in Orange Shirt Day. By wearing orange, we honored the survivors, remember the children who never made it home, and recognize the lasting impacts these institutions have had on Native families and communities. EVERY CHILD MATTERS!

Cultural Events Ahead

Our upcoming cultural events are below. Please contact Kelly Tovar with any questions.

Beginner’s Sewing Escanaba Oct. 23

Flute Workshop Escanaba Oct. 24

Spirit Drum Workshop Escanaba Oct. 25

Color Steam Lab Escanaba Oct.27

Jiibay Wiikongewin Ceremony/All Drum Sing Along (Spirit Supper) Escanaba Nov. 1

Unit 4 Elder Events

Manistique Elder Sub-Committee Meeting Oct 14, 12-1 p.m.

Escanaba Elder Sub-Committee Meeting Oct 14, 4-5 p.m. (BINGO 2:30-3:30 p.m.)

Newberry All Units-Elder Advisory Committee Meeting Oct 16, 1-2 p.m.

Unit 4 BOD Meeting Escanaba

Oct. 14. Workshop 10 a.m.-5 p.m., BOD Meeting 5-7 p.m .

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

Brenda Kinnart (Escanaba Elder Committee) (414) 731-8607

Don St. John (Venison Drive) (906) 450-5171

Drop off Address: 7609W Frankovich Rd Manistique, MI 49854

Reviewing Unit 2 October events



**KIMBERLY LEE,
DIRECTOR, UNIT II**

Aanii, I hope everyone is doing well and enjoying this beautiful time of year. A lot has been happening in Unit 2, I wanted to share a few updates.

Our Youth Education & Activities program held its Spooky Scary Haunted House on Oct. 3 at the Makoons Community Wellness Center in

Hessel. I was glad to help out and be part of the event. It was great seeing our youth and families come together, have fun, and enjoy time with one another. Miigwech to everyone who helped make it happen. The center is now open, go check it out if you haven’t had the chance.

From Oct. 9 through 11, I’ll be joining our elder group for a fall color tour to the Keweenaw Peninsula. I’m looking forward to spending time with our elders, taking in the scenery, and connecting with them outside of our regular meetings.

Our Language & Culture Department has several activities coming up in October and November. The Advanced Beading Workshop will continue on Oct. 11, 18, and 25. Two Porcupine Quill Medallion Workshops will be held with Amber Waboose. Each workshop is limited to 10 individuals. Contact (906) 635-6510 or email ecollins@saulttribe.net to get your spot. The Hessel workshop

is Oct. 24 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Hessel Community Center. The Newberry workshop is on Oct. 25 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Newberry Community Center.

Craft nights

Newberry Community Craft Night Oct. 28 and Nov. 18.

Hessel Community Craft Night on Oct. 14 and Nov. 4 .

Hunting season is upon us, please be very careful when you’re outdoors, even if you are not the one hunting. Wear visible clothing, stay aware of your surroundings, and use extra caution in the woods. To all our hunters, stay safe, be safe, good luck, and have a great season.

Miigwech for your time, continued support, and involvement. I hope to see many of you at upcoming events. Wishing everyone a safe, healthy, and fun fall.

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

Up to date members’ addresses sought!

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

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

Let’s make history as a founders of a new era



AARON PAYMENT
DIRECTOR, UNIT I

I was 7 years old when the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and Their Heirs was granted federal recognition and 10 years old when our Constitution was ratified by a vote of people. Last year, the tribe celebrated its 50th Anniversary since adopting its current Constitution. It was a celebration when it was first adopted as it opened access to federal funding for programs and services when many of our tribal communities lived in poverty. It was nonetheless a forced process by the U.S. government characterized by a colonial and oppressive government that dictated a corporate charter government on us if we wished to be recognized at all. I share this as the draft constitution being mailed to you to vote by Nov. 19 is a threshold moment in our history as it is of our own drafting and choosing.

TAKE BACK YOUR TRIBE

What is in front of us is our collective tribal citizen opportunity to rise up and take back our government not only from an oppressive federal government, but also a board of directors for whom some (not all) are desperate to retain a unitary form of government to have discretionary authority over your lives. Right now, you have NO legal recourse should the tribal board choose to disenroll you. Without getting into the details, I

was forced to resign from office in 2022 after a record setting number of votes for chairperson just two years earlier. Of course, the adverse impact of a censure investigation (that cost over \$150,000 and found nothing) changed my life and threatened to destroy my reputation and career. Even more important was that it violated your most sacrosanct right — your right to vote for your top elected official in the tribe.

Around the same time as the political coup and retribution campaign for exercising my U.S. Constitution First Amendment right to free speech and while exposing corruption related to the “sole source vendor” contract scheme, the then board of directors violated your second most sacred right — your right of referendum, and excused away over 150 signatures that were duly submitted to put that issue to a vote of the people. This is not the first time as the tribal board in Dec. 2016 violated your right of referendum after the senior attorney advised them that the petition was valid, over 300 Sault Tribe citizens lost their right of referendum when the board simply voted to invalidate the petition.

STOP LYING TO THE ELDERS!

Most recently, out of sheer desperation, Unit 3 Board Member Bridgett Sorenson lied to the elders in a makeshift Unit 3 meeting that has not been held in years, to tell them that if the new constitution passes, it will return the practice of double dipping even though the plain language in the new constitution expressly prohibits serving in more than one position across the three separate branches of government. When asked this question at a public tribal board meeting, the General Counsel Ryan Mills made clear that this was simply not true. Many Unit 3 voters have called for Sorenson’s resignation for lying to the people on this issue.

When the General Counsel clarifies, it is not a difference of opinion, the conclusion: It is a lie!

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

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

PLEASE VOTE FOR A
3 BRANCH GOVERNMENT!

TRIBAL CONSTITUTIONS 101 Q & A

Dr. Aaron A. Payment, MPA

To illustrate the importance of a separation of powers and a differentiation between our current autocratic oligarchical structure versus a 2-branch and a 3-branch, I will layout the arguments in a Q&A. Recall that in addition to holding a doctorate degree, I have a Master's in Public Administration which is an equal or greater qualification that a law degree when talking about public policy and government.

Question (Q): Given the Sault Tribe 2005 Constitutional Convention Committee and Elder Advisory Board have consistency put forward and endorsed a 3-branch separation of powers, why have Sault Tribe voters been denied our right to vote on amending the Constitution?	Answer (A): Ask yourself who stands to lose (discretionary authority) and who stands to gain. Currently, the Board writes the laws, interprets the laws, and enforces the laws. There is a great deal of power in this singular discretionary authority. Members deserve real due process recourse. Your rights should not be up to the discretion of the Tribal Board of Directors. With a three branch separation of powers, you will have legal rights that are enforceable. Currently, you have no such rights and they are not enforceable.
Q. Isn't adopting a separation of powers just following the "white way" or system of the colonizers?	A. The notion that we are looking to adopt a foreign balance of powers is offensive and devoid of understanding our Tribal history. The US form of democracy was patterned after the <i>Iroquois Confederacy Great Law of Peace</i> . Our people, the <i>Anishinabek</i> people are part of the larger <i>Algonquin</i> in language, culture and beliefs which also includes the <i>Iroquois</i> . So, voting for a 3-branch separation of powers is going back to our indigenous ways to ensure no singular individual or entity has sole and discretionary power
Q. Who does the power rest with under the current one branch of the Sault Tribe government and who would it rest with under a 3-branch separation of powers?	A. As strange as it sounds, currently the Chairperson has no authority over any operations of the Tribe despite the fact that Members expect the buck to stop with the Chair. Currently, if you have an issue with the governance of the Tribe, you bring it to the Board who have discretionary authority which in many cases is arbitrary and capricious and inconsistent from issue to issue. Too often, this is influenced by if you are related to a Board Member or if they believe you voted for them. The Board are elected lay-people. We hire qualified individuals into positions in the administration. Too often Board micromanagement is the result and again based on favoritism or nepotism.
Q. If the Constitutional Convention Committee and Elder Advisory have consistently recommended a 3-branch separation of powers, why are some pushing a 2-branch version?	A. While establishing an independent judicial branch from the legislative branch is <u>necessary it is not sufficient</u> . Leaving the Chairperson and Administration under the thumb of the Board will result in continued gross micro-management. It is an arrogant idea that once elected, you are an expert in all areas as a practitioner. Humility as one of the 7 grand father teachings is unfortunately in short supply once elected.
Q. Under our current system, what can happen if the Board does not like the outcome of a Tribal Citizen challenge to protect their Constitutional rights?	A. The saying the, " <i>the Board giveth, the Board taketh away</i> " means that if the Board does not like the outcome of a court case, currently the Board can fire the judge and prosecutor and vacate the court ruling. This is no way to operate as a Government.
Q. When all Tribal voters everywhere elect the Chairperson, doesn't that position have the authority to ensure our programs operate efficiently and that the budget is balanced and not overspent?	A. Currently, the Chair has <u>NO authority</u> and supervises no one. This surprises most as you expect the Chair to ensure follow up on your issues and ensure good delivery of service. Our Current Chair holds a Master's in Social Work which makes him an ideal advocate and top administrator to oversee delivery of services. When we elect our Chair, we expect that the position comes with the requisite experience and authority to manage the operations of the Tribe and be the lead executive.
Q. If a 3-branch separation of powers is enacted, won't that lead to filing charges in Tribal Court that will further erode government unity?	A. This is like saying, we should not enact laws to hold sexual assailants accountable, because we fear a flooded with sexual assault complaints. Using the argument that we should not have due process because tribal citizens will exercise their rights is insulting. If our rights are not violated, we will not need to file a cause of action.
Q. In the past, 8 of the 13 current Members of the Board proposed a three-branch separation of powers in their election platforms. What happened that they campaigned on a separation but now apparently do not support a 3-branch separation of powers?	A. Power corrupts, absolutely power corrupts absolutely. Over the years, I have seen some elected leaders with good motivations get a taste of power and abandon their platforms. I have not named names; go back and read their election promises in the Tribal paper and see for yourself. Hold them to their word!

MICROMANAGEMENT IS AN UGLY THING

The micromanagement that occurs and the animus and *oppositional defiance* that Chairman Lowes now faces, makes clear that the hate directed toward me while I was Chair was never about me. Instead, we have an autocratic reign of a government unwilling to allow themselves to be held accountable. The intrusion of a Board of Directors to micromanage hires and fires and day to day operations makes for a system of less accountability not more.

The recent example of the mistake to not pay the developer settlement final payment in 2025 and end up with an additional \$10 million liability happened because of a diffusion of responsibility of those who were responsible to make the payment. Reporting to 13 bosses just does not work as it diffuses responsibility. A clear line of authority and responsibility would have ensured the payment was made and saved us \$10 million! With a current projected Tribal deficit, that \$10 million could easily cover 3 years to balance the budget.

NO GOOD REASON; ONLY “FORKED TONGUE” EXCUSES!

Listen intently to any argument to try to persuade you that no change is needed or that a 2-branch separation of powers will suffice. There are no good reasons to not proceed to a Citizen vote, only excuses. We elect our Chair and expect the Chair to have the authority to oversee the administration of the Tribe. The old saying, "*too many chiefs and not enough Indians*" seems to apply. It's time to honor the Tribal voters' selection of the Chair and vest the position with the requisite authority a 3-branch separation of powers will ensure.

Behavioral Health award



KIM GRAVELLE,
DIRECTOR, UNIT I

Aaniin,
The Behavioral Health Department received a newly awarded grant through the Primary Substance Use Prevention Services, which is funded through the state of Michigan Opioid Healing and Recovery Fund.

This is a newly awarded one-year Primary Substance Use Prevention Services grant. The funding will be used for substance use disorder/opioid use disorder prevention programs targeting

youth ages 12 through 17. The program prioritizes strengthening families as the first line of prevention and is aimed at delaying the initiation of alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use among youth. The focus will be on serving tribal youth, families, and communities with culturally responsive programming that will entail skill building, family engagement, after-school and summer-based programming and mentorship. The goal is to expand positive extracurricular activities, build decision-making skills, particularly for families impacted by substance use or overdose.

For more information, you can contact Behavioral Health at (906) 635-5200, ext. 41324.

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

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

Miigwech,
Kim Gravelle

2025 POLL
RESULTS
ARE THE
BEST
PREDICTOR
OF 3 BRANCH
VOTE

56%
[3 Branch]
25%
[2 Branch]
19%
[1 Branch]



Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians
2026 ~ Unit 1
Monthly Tribal Citizen Meetings
5 to 7pm

Monday ~ November 9th
Nokomis Mishomis¹

Next Meeting: Monday ~ December 7th | Nokomis Mishomis¹

¹ Urk 1 Elder Meal Site ~ 2075 Shunk Road, Sault, MI

~ At Large & Zoom Option ~

<https://us05web.zoom.us/j/84828137290?pwd=vStFqZokmjeQWnk69gU0PFgrrCj.1>

Meeting ID: 848 2813 7290

Passcode: 322943

One tap mobile

+13092053325,,84828137290#,,,*322943# US

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

**SAULT TRIBE
HEALTH DIVISION
PRESENTS**

FALL HEALTH FAIRS



**Flu and Covid Vaccines
Health Information
Tribal & Community Booths
Health Screenings
Giveaways
Grand Prize Drawing
Lunch 11:30-1:00**

ALL EVENTS HELD FROM 10-2

**10/1/26- ST. IGNACE KEWADIN CASINO TENT
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



KEWADIN CASINOS
ENTERTAINMENT

HUNTER HAYES

THURSDAY
OCTOBER 22



EVENT CENTER



WITH
SPECIAL GUEST



KARI LYNCH

TICKETS.KEWADIN.COM

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7



41st Anniversary

Win Your Share of \$15,000 CASH

All Customers Receive One FREE Entry for CASH Draws

CASH DRAWS START AT 2 P.M.
Win up to \$1,000

GRAND PRIZE CASH DRAWS
START AT 9 P.M.
Win up to \$2,000

Champagne, cake,
hors d'oeuvres
and drink specials!



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

MANISTIQUE • ST. IGNACE • SAULT STE MARIE • HESSEL • CHRISTMAS



RODNEY CARRINGTON

LIVE 2026

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21

EVENT CENTER
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