



Win Awenen Nisitotung

August 19, 2026
Rapsberry picking Moon • Mskominike Giizis
Vol. 47 • No. 8



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

Sault Tribe Golf Scholarship Classic raises more than \$114,000 for the Tribal Scholarship Fund

By JESSICA DUMBACK

SAULT STE. MARIE
— Golfers from Michigan, Minnesota, New York, and Wisconsin came together July 24 for the 25th Annual Sault Tribe Golf Scholarship Classic, raising more than \$114,000 to support educational opportunities for Sault Tribe members.

“Our Tribal Scholarship Fund is one of the most meaningful investments we can make in our future. Every scholarship awarded represents an opportunity for one of our members to pursue their educational goals, strengthen their skills, and bring that knowledge back to benefit our tribal community. The continued success of the Golf Scholarship Classic is a testament to the generosity of our sponsors, golfers, volunteers, and supporters who share our commitment to creating opportunities for future generations,” said Chairman Austin Lowes.

Hosted by the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and Kewadin Casinos, the annual event benefits the Tribal Scholarship Endowment Fund, which provides scholarships to tribal members pursuing higher education. The fund distributes 5% of its balance annually, and this year 70 scholarships will be awarded. Since its inception, the fund has helped provide more than 500 scholarships to tribal



Winners of the 25th Annual Sault Tribe Golf Scholarship Classic Men's Division were from The France Firm: Cory Metro, Johnny McDonald, Chuck France, and Gary Christensen (L-R).

members pursuing their educational goals.

The two-day event began Thursday evening with a reception at Kewadin Casinos & Convention Center, sponsored by PNC Bank, where participants registered for the tournament, viewed silent auction items, and enjoyed complimentary hors d'oeuvres.

The tournament officially teed off Friday morning with a shotgun start. In the Mixed

Division, U.P. Engineers & Architects claimed first place with a score of 59, followed by CompEdge with a 67 and Helen Newberry Joy Hospital with a 68. In the Men's Division, The France Firm finished first with a score of 58, followed by Hunt's Maintenance and Services with a 59. Rodenroth Motors also finished with a score of 59 and earned third place following a scorecard playoff.

Throughout the day, golfers



Winners of the 25th Annual Sault Tribe Golf Scholarship Classic Mixed Division were from the U.P. Engineers & Architects: Svetlana Belleau, Jeremy Gagnon, Marc Disano, and Heidi Kelly (L-R).

competed for hole-in-one prizes, including cash awards up to \$25,000 and a chance to win one of two vehicles sponsored by Rodenroth Motors and Soo Motors. Participants also enjoyed a putting contest sponsored by Meritain, lunch provided by The Huntington National Bank, beverages sponsored by Reyes Coca-Cola Bottling and RSM US, and an awards dinner sponsored by Gordon Food Service.

Celebrating its 25th year, the

Sault Tribe Golf Scholarship Classic continues to be a signature event that brings together golfers, sponsors and community partners in support of tribal education. The Sault Tribe extends its sincere appreciation to all who contributed to the success of this year's event.

The 2026 Golf Scholarship Classic was coordinated by Bill Connolly, Jessica Dumbach, Jeff Holt, Sheila Kibble, Jennifer Markey, and Ashley Samuelson.

Food pantry awarded 2% monies for fresh produce, fruit

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

In the latest round of funding, the Alger County Food Pantry (ACFP), located in Munising, was awarded \$8,204.65.

“It's really a godsend,” said Volunteer Schedule Manager Bonnie Syers. “This is a critical funding source and it really helps

with our budget.”

In making the request for funding, ACFP representatives noted, “Some of our balance will be used to purchase fresh produce and fruit. In an area hard hit with snow and cold, it's important for families to consume healthy fruit and vegetables.”

Volunteers purchase fresh produce from local stores during the winter months and rely on Alger County farmers to meet their needs when their crops are in season.

In 2025, according to an ACFP fact sheet, there were 1,181 requests for food assistance averaging just under 100 per month. They estimate that approximately 239 individuals benefit from the program each month including 2,046 adults and 810 children for the year.

“Sault Tribe 2% funding is our main sustainable funding source,” ACFP observed. “Without 2% funding, we would still serve those in need, but the amount of food needed would not be available.”

The ACFP serves all residents in Alger County and relies on a numerous partners to

maintain this program including the Christmas Casino Food Drive, The Salvation Army in Marquette, the Munising Fire Department Community Food Drive, donations from

Munising Hospital and a huge \$15,000 donation from the Christ Lutheran Church.

“Together we are doing our best to feed those in need,” wrote Supply Manager Kim Swanberg.



Photo by Scott Brand

Carol Eglisier and Bonnie Syers (L-R) volunteer at the Alger Community Food Pantry in Munising.

www.saulttribe.com

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**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

Committee vacancies — Sault Tribe volunteers needed!

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

Anishinaabe Cultural Tribal gas, cigarette discount locations

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

Tribal owned gas stations offering gas and cigarette discounts:

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

Tribal owned gas stations offering gas discount only:

- University BP, 301 W. Fair Ave., Marquette, MI 49855
- Not tribal owned stations offering gas discounts only:***
- Kinross BP, 4440 Tone Road, Kincheloe, MI 49788
- Cedar Pantry, 159 W. M-134, Cedarville, MI 49719
- Sunoco, 13975 M-28, Newberry, MI 49868
- Manistique Oil Company, 216 Deer Street, Manistique, MI 49854
- Carnes Eco Fuels, 2300 Ludington St., Escanaba, MI 49837

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>

Each page provides clear instructions. Ensure that any page featuring the ‘Save’ button is saved accordingly. Pay attention to the drop-down menus, they can help make navigating the application easier. You can download your driver’s license, state ID, utilities, and other important paperwork through this portal.

Contact the Food Distribution Program at (906) 635-6076 or (888) 448-8732.

Win Awenen Nisitotung

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

August 19, 2026

Raspberry-Picking Moon Mskominike Giizis

Jennifer Dale-Burton.....Editor

Sherrie Lucas.....Secretary

Brenda Austin.....Staff Writer

Scott Brand.....Staff Writer

Win Awenen Nisitotung welcomes

Committee – Two vacancies – male – one 4-year term, one term expires October 2028

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

Conservation Committee – Non-Commercial Fisher – Two vacancies (4-year terms)

Education Committee – One vacancy (4-year term)

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

Unit II – Newberry – One regular vacancy, term expires

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

July 2029; one alternate vacancy (4-year term)

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

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

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

Elder Subcommittees

Unit I – Sault – Two regular vacancies – one term expires September 2029, one 4-year term

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

Unit II – Naubinway – Two

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-

regular vacancies – one term expires May 2027, one 4-year term; one alternate vacancy (4-year term)

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

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

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

Unit IV – Manistique – One

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.

regular vacancy (4-year term)

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

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

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

Health Board – Two vacancies – one term expires May 2027, one term expires September 2027

Sault Tribe Election

Commission – Four vacancies, 3 terms expiring November 2030 and one term expiring November 2028 (please indicate which length of term you are seeking).

26359
Cell: (906) 259-3862
mmoore@saulttribe.net
Clarence Hudak
Lambert Center, St. Ignace, (906) 643-2124
chudak@saulttribe.net
Mary Jenerou
Manistique Tribal Center, (906) 341-8469
Munising Tribal Center, (906) 450-7011
mjenerou@saulttribe.net

Membership liaisons answer your questions

Q: I heard the tribe might be starting hunters’ safety classes. If so, when would they begin?

A: The Natural Resource Division’s Wildlife Program is currently working with Sault Tribe Law Enforcement to establish a hunters’ safety program for 2026. Plans are to hopefully offer two courses in August, with the goal of expanding the program next year. NRD staff have been coordinating with the Native American Fish and Wildlife Society’s Hunt Safe Program to certify instructors for the program. An announcement will be made when dates and times are established.

Q: Will the tribe help me with setting up a Power of Attorney and plan for my estate? I’m not wealthy but I want to be sure my property does not end up in probate.

A: The Sault Tribe does not have any programs that assist with estate planning for the members. However, there is a source called Michigan Indian Legal Services out of Traverse City that can help members do estate planning if you meet a certain income level. Services can be at no charge for those who are income eligible. You can visit their website at www.mils3.org to explore what resources are available.

Members can call (231) 947-0122 to conduct an intake to find out if they qualify.

WAN ONLINE

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

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

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

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

First/Middle/Last Name

Date of Birth

Date of Death

Murdered/When/Where

Perpetrator Name if known:

If Missing:

Nickname/Alias

Date Last Seen/Went Missing

Physical Description

Distinctive Physical Features

Vehicle Information

Any information would be appreciated.

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

Name: _ _

Address: _ _

City: _ _

State and Zip Code: _ _

Phone: _ _

Email: _ _

☐ new subscription
☐ change of address

☐ digital subscription OR
☐ print subscription

DOB : _____

Red #: _____

(red # on your card)

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

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

Win Awenen Nisitotung is funded by the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and is published

12 times a year. Its mission is to inform tribal members and the public about the activities of the tribal government, membership programs and services and cultural, social and spiritual activities of Sault Tribe members.

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

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

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

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

Advertising: \$8.50/column inch.

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

Video series preserves Sault Tribe elders’ stories

By Brenda Austin
A video series produced by the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians is preserving the memories, teachings and personal histories of tribal elders for future generations. “Nebwaakaajig: An Elder Interview Series,” was created by Joseph Street, director of video production for the tribe’s Communications Department. Street developed the project after

discovering elder interviews recorded on VHS tapes and other early media stored in the Communications office’s media library. “When I first started in this position, I was interested in the kinds of projects that were done for the tribe in the past,” Street said. The older recordings inspired him to revive the practice by interviewing current tribal elders will-

ing to share their stories. As he developed the concept, Street said he expanded the interviews into a documentary series that combines elders’ personal recollections with relevant historical context. The series is intended to preserve each elder’s perspective while passing their experiences and teachings to younger generations. “It’s a way to create and leave each of our elders with a legacy that will provide knowledge and a worldview for generations to come,” Street said.

Each episode begins with the elder introducing themselves and sharing information they would like viewers to know, such as their Native name and when and where they were born. Street then invites participants to discuss their families, including their siblings, parents and grandparents. Those conversations help document ancestral lineages and connections within the tribal community. The interviews also explore the elders’ memories of growing up, attending school, working and

building relationships. Participants may talk about Native teachings passed down to them, historical events they witnessed and the political conditions that shaped the tribe during their lifetimes. Street allows elders to speak for as long as they wish and adds historical information when it can help viewers understand the events or subjects being discussed. At the end of each interview, Street asks a set of five questions. The elder is then invited
See “Elders,” Page 8

Elders! Enroll online for your 2026 check

Beginning Aug. 1, 2026, eligible tribal members can enroll online to receive their 2026 elder dividend. The online portal will be available Aug. 1 through Oct. 1, 2026. If you will be 60 years of age or older by Dec. 31, 2026, you are eligible to enroll. To complete your online form: 1. Visit www.saulttribe.com. 2. Click on the “Elder Form” link. 3. Complete the online form and select “Submit.” 4. Once your form has been successfully submitted, you will receive a confirmation/ reference number. Please keep this number for your records. Once you have received your confirmation number, your form is complete, and you will be registered to receive your elder dividend check in January 2027. If

you complete the online form, you will not receive a paper form in the mail. The online portal will only be available Aug. 1 through Oct. 1, 2026. If you do not complete online during that time, a paper form will be mailed to you. You will then need to complete and return the paper form by mail. Important Reminder: If you move after submitting your elder form but before your check is mailed in January 2027, please contact the Enrollment Department to update your mailing address. Keeping your address current will help ensure your elder dividend check is delivered without delay. If you have questions or need assistance with the online portal, please contact the Enrollment Department at (906) 632-8552 or email Stacey Synett at ssynett@saulttribe.net.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY — The Unit I Sault Elders celebrated their August birthdays at the Unit I meeting this month, with ice cream cake purchased by the Unit I Elder Sub-Committee. Celebrating another trip around the sun are Unit I Elders (L-R) Dianne Compo, Joann Nault, Ron McKechnie and Nancy Lowes.

SATURDAYS IN SEPTEMBER ● ALL SITES

High-Seas Heist

WIN YOUR SHARE OF
OVER \$92,000
CASH AND CREDITS

HOT SEAT DRAWS START AT 2 P.M.
WIN UP TO \$200 KEWADIN CREDITS

PUNCH-A-BUNCH PROMOTION STARTS AT 8 P.M.
WIN UP TO \$400 CASH

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

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

BLAZING SUMMER BUCKS
All Sites | Saturdays in August
Win Your Share of \$155,000 CASH & Credits

ELECTRIFYING FRIDAYS
St. Ignace | Fridays in August
Electric Bike Giveaway Every Friday in August

PIRATES GOLD
All Sites | Thursdays in September
Win Your Share of Up to \$20,000 Credits

TGIF! THANK GIFTS IT'S FRIDAY
Manistique | September 25
All Customers Receive One
FREE Prize Draw Entry

TOURNAMENTS
Check out our Full Schedule of Exciting Tournaments | Visit kewadin.com/gaming/tournaments

KEWADIN ADVANCEMENT TOURNAMENT
Sault Ste. Marie | Mondays in August
Daily Prize Pool \$400 CASH & 105,000 Bonus Points

**KEWADIN ELITE
SLOT TOURNAMENT**
Sault Ste. Marie | First Tuesday Monthly
Daily \$300 CASH & 130,000 Bonus Points

GOLF & PLAY
Hessel | Bear on the Mountain Golf Course
Purchase 18-hole Round of Golf Receive
\$10 Kewadin Credits
With same day receipt

GOLF & STAY
St. Ignace | Bear on the Mountain
June 1 - September 30
Two-Night Stay, \$40 Kewadin Credits, \$20 Gas &
Two 18 Hole Rounds of Golf with Cart

SOO LOCKS BOAT TOUR PACKAGE
Kewadin Casino Hotel - Sault Ste. Marie
Sunday - Wednesday
Two-Night Stay, Two Original Soo Locks Boat
Tour Tickets, \$20 Kewadin Credits, \$20 Dining
Credits & Complimentary Happy Hour Beverage

FOOD & DRINKS
SAULT STE. MARIE
The Eatery
Fresh Start Breakfast Club | Fahrenheit 906
Northern Wok – Coming Soon
Black Rock Bar & Grill™
First Light Café

RAPIDS SPORTS LOUNGE
GOLF SIMULATOR
Reservation Times are Available by Calling 906-259-3781.
Visit our Facebook Page for Hours & Pricing

HAPPY HOUR & DRINK SPECIALS
Come in for Watch Parties, Live Entertainment,
Drink Features, and More. Visit our Facebook Page for More Information
Point requirements for all promotions. See Northern Rewards Club to register and for more details.

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\$25
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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**.



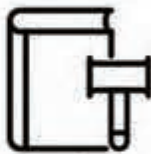
What is a Secretarial Election?

Sault Tribe citizens will soon be voting “yes” or “no” on if the Sault Tribe Constitution will be amended to create three seperate and 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) are required by the federal government and Article X of the Sault Tribe Constitution to make amendments affecting the way the Sault Tribe is governed.



What Would Change? The Proposed Three-Branch Government

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



Legislative
Makes Laws

- Adopts Tribal laws
- Approves the Tribal budget
- Adopts Tribal regulations
- Legislative body:
Tribal Council



Executive
Carries Out Laws

- Implements Tribal laws
- Manages Tribal government
- Delivers services to Tribal citizens
- Executive leader:
Tribal Ogemaa



Judicial
Inteprets Laws

- Ensures due process
- Resolves legal disputes
- Reviews laws for consistency with the Constitution
- Courts:
Trial and Supreme Court



How the Secretarial Election Process Works

Once the Secretarial Election Board is established, the election process moves through a series of steps before the results are certified by the U.S. Department of the Interior.



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

Anishinaabemowin 2026

“Simply by changing your habitual vocabulary, you can instantly change how you think, how you feel, and how you live.”
— Tony Robins
Choose positive words. Say them in Anishinaabemowin.

Niibin!
Minwaasige miinwaa gizhinaamide.
Madaabii zhaa-daa.
G’daa bagizo-mi odi.
G’daa noopwaan-ke
miinwaa g’daa wiisinimi gojiing.

(Really, we don’t have a word for picnic. We say what we’ve enjoyed from earliest times — we eat outside **G’wiisini-mi gojiing.**)

It’s summer!
It’s hot and *humid*.
Let’s go to the beach
We can swim over there.
We can pack a lunch
and we can have a picnic.



Miskominike Giizis Raspberry-picking Moon

by Susan Askwith



Maanda ezhi-nokiimagak!

This is the way it works!

Here are some pointing words for items considered alive:
maaba=this **gonda**=these
aawi=it is **aawiwag**=they are

These pointing words are used for items not considered alive:
maanda=this **nanda**=these
aawan=it is **aawanoon**=they are

Weneshii maanda?
Miijim kookibinaagan aawan maanda.
Baakaakwenh e-zaazgokwaadek aawi maaba.
Piniik nanjigan aawan maanda.
‘Gookooshensak biinji waaboo’aan’ aawanoon nanda.

What is this?
This is a picnic basket.
This is fried chicken.
This is potato salad.
These are ‘pigs in a blanket’.
This is ketchup.
This is watermelon.
These are cherries.
These are cookies.
This is water.
This is iced tea.
This is pop (soda).



Ketchup aawan maanda.
Eshkdamoonh aawan maanda.
Wiigwaasminan aawanoon nanda.
Bkwezhigaansak aawiwag gonda.
Nibiish aawan maanda.
Dkaagamik niibiishaaboo maanda.
Menwaagamik aawan maanda.



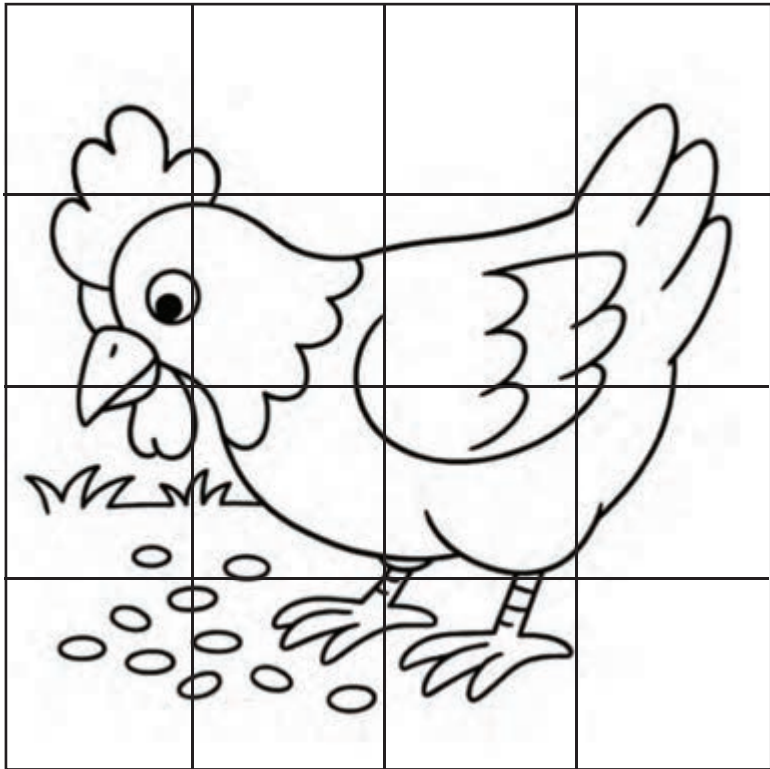
Fun Fact: If you name a food **baakaakwenh** (chicken), it is considered alive even though that chicken is dead and cooked: **aawi maaba**.

Humor: AKA the living dead! However, if you name it **baakaakwenh wiiyaas** (chicken meat), it is then not considered alive because meat is an inanimate word: **aawan maanda**!

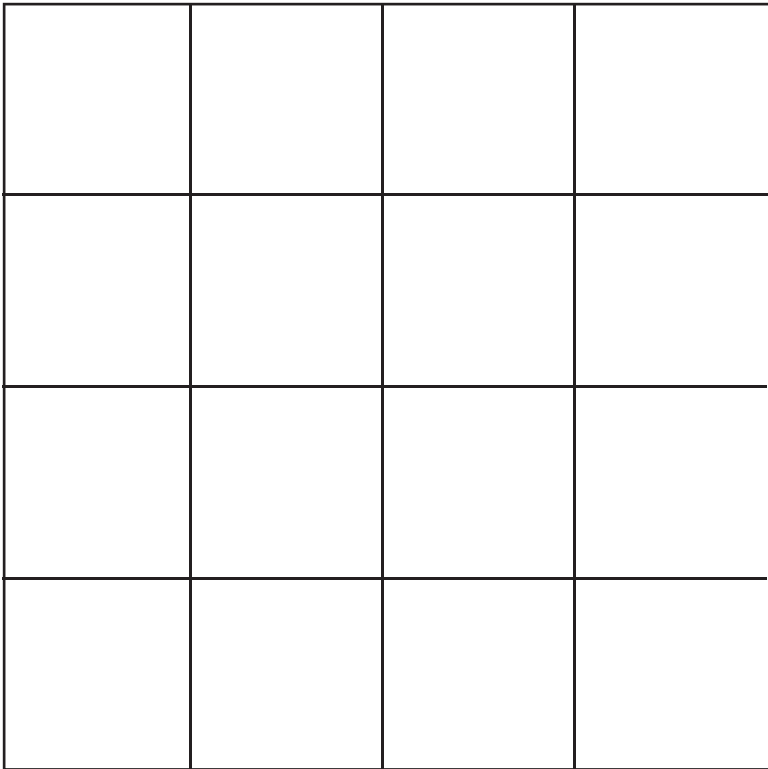
The same idea works for **giigoonh** (fish).

Mazinibii’igen maaba baakaakwenh.

Draw this chicken. So, live chicken (maaba) would only become inanimate if it is called a “chicken drawing.”



Minawaanzin Have fun!



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

aa sounds like the a in *awesome*

a sounds like the a in *about*

ii sounds like the e in *be*

i sounds like the i in *dip*

oo sounds like the o in *go*

o sounds like the oo’s in *book*

e sounds like the e in *Ed*

g sounds only like it does in *go*

We underlined the syllables that get the emphasis.

Pronounce all the letters. Big deal: these combinations: **nh, ns, ny** in a word signal the previous vowel is said nasally. The ‘n’ in these is *always silent*, but you pronounce the second letter. It’s only a sign to say the previous vowel nasally - as if you have a stuffed-up nose!

Aambe, baapin! (Come on, laugh!)



Jim and Joe were having a picnic in a jungle. A crocodile appeared and began to attack Jim. He yells, “Shoot it!” “I can’t,” said Joe. “I’m out of film!”

What do you call someone who’s afraid of picnics?

A basket case!

My friend likes picnics on a sandy beach. I prefer it in a grassy park. We can’t seem to find common ground.

Fall fasting camp announced for 2026

Fall Fasting Camp and the fall Women’s Fast for Mother Earth will take place Sept. 30 through Oct. 4 this fall. Led by the Sault Tribe Health Division’s Traditional Medicine Program, fasting camp is offered in the spring and fall each year at the Mary Murray Culture Camp on Sugar Island.

Sugar Island is located in the

St. Mary’s River and is a township of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. The Women’s Fast for Mother Earth is a one-day fast from sunrise to sunset while praying for Mother Earth. This fall, it will take place Oct. 3.

This fast was introduced by the late Adam Lussier as a way of helping the Earth in the face of all those things that harm it, such

as pollution, climate change, and habitat destruction. At sunset when the fast is over, organizers will hold a sweat lodge and feast for the fasters.

During the fasting camp beginning Sept. 30, participants will fast for one to four days as determined by the traditional healer. Some are experienced fasters while others are beginners.

Participants must be 18 or older unless accompanied by an adult. Organizers ask that ladies remember moontime teachings.

For more information, to ask questions, or to register for one of the camps, call (906) 632-0236.

To make an appointment with the traditional healer, call (906) 632-0236.



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TRADITIONAL
MEDICINE PROGRAM

FALL Fasting Camp

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30TH –
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4TH
@ Mary Murray Culture Camp,
266 Homestead Rd. Sugar Island, MI

MUST BE 18 YEARS OR OLDER, ANYONE UNDER
18 MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT

TO REGISTER OR FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL
906-632-0236

Sault Tribe Health Division

WOMEN’S FAST FOR
MOTHER EARTH

TRADITIONAL MEDICINE PROGRAM

FASTING BEGINS AT
SUNRISE AND ENDS
AT SUNSET,
FOLLOWED BY A
SWEAT LODGE AND
FEAST.

OCTOBER 3RD 2026
@ MARY MURRAY CULTURE
CAMP, 266 HOMESTEAD RD.
SUGAR ISLAND, MI

- MUST BE 18 YEARS OR OLDER, ANYONE UNDER 18 MUST
BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT.
- PLEASE REMEMBER MOONTIME TEACHINGS.

TO REGISTER OR FOR MORE INFORMATION
PLEASE CALL
906-632-0236

Sault Tribe Health Division

Traditional Medicine Program

GERARD SAGASSIGE

2026 September Healer Clinic Schedule

September 1,14,15,21,22
Sault Ste. Marie Health Center
(906)632-0236

Wednesday, September 2nd
St. Ignace Health Center
(906)643-8689 or (877)256-0135

Wednesday, September 16th
Manistique Health Center
(906)341-8469 or (866) 401-0043

Wednesday, September 23rd
Hessel Community Center
(906)484-2727

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

WAABAAGAA GIIZIS - SEPTEMBER 2026

NIIZHWAASO GIIZHIGAT	NTAM GIIZHIGAT	NIIZHO GIIZHIGAT	NSWO GIIZHIGAT	NIIWO GIIZHIGAT	NAANO GIIZHIGAT	NGODWAASWO GIIZHIGAT
		1  kinoomaadii- gamig ([the institution of] school)	2  E-kinomaa-gozid n'daaw. (I am a learner/student.)	3  zhiibiigenaatig (writing tool)	4  mziniganan (notebooks, books, papers)	5  jidmoonhag (squirrels)
6  mitigwaab (bow)	7  E-nokijig Giizhigat (Labor [the ones who work] Day)	8  sipinigan (scissors)	9  mijimenjigaanhs (laptop)	10  zaag'iganing (at the lake)	11  Pkibinaan. (S/he is picking fruit [other than berries].)	12  zasweminan (chokecherries)
13  kajgaatewin (umbrella)	14  bashkizigan (gun)	15  bkokan (arrows)	16  mishiiminak (apples)	17  jiishkaam- igagan (rake)	18  Aangwaamzin! (be careful)	19  Ashiishmaajii! (Good grief!)
20 bine (ruffed grouse) 	21 Giiwse. (S/he is hunting.) 	22 Ntam Dgwaagin (First day of Autumn) 	23  mookmaan e-giinaag (sharp knife)	24  waawaashkesh wiiyaas (venison)	25  Giigoonhke. (S/he is fishing.)	26  Mooshkaneshin Dibiki Giizis (It is a full moon.)
27  manoomin (wild rice)	28  mshkiigominan (cranberries)	29  mashkodewashk (sage)	30 Zaawmingaande Bagwan Giizhigat (Orange Shirt Day) 			

Elders needed for cultural-historical interviews

From “Elders,” Page 4

to say what they would like to be remembered for and to leave viewers with an inspiring final message.

Old photographs, videos and other visual materials supplied by the participant may be incorporated into the completed episode. Street said he is always looking for older photographs that can help bring an elder’s story to life. He can scan photographs at the filming location so participants do not have to surrender possession of them.

Filming is arranged around the elder’s schedule and comfort. Interviews have been recorded in elders’ homes, at Kewadin, at Niigaanagizhik Ceremonial Building and through Zoom. Street said he is also willing to travel to participants when necessary.

Elders interested in participating may contact the Communications Video

Production office at (906) 632-6398 or email Street at jstreet@saulttribe.net.

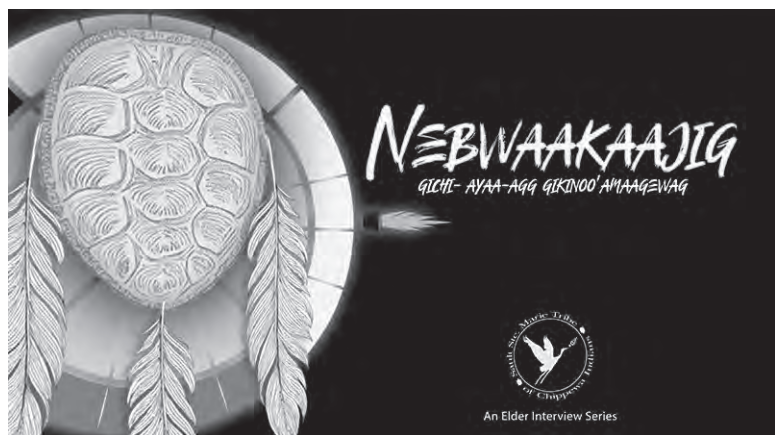
Completed episodes are available on the official Sault Tribe TV YouTube channel. Viewers can find the series under the channel’s Playlists tab by selecting “Nebwaakaajig: An Elder Interview Series.” Five episodes have been released for public viewing. Three additional episodes are being completed and are expected to be released in the near future.

Although the series focuses on one elder at a time, Street said recurring themes have begun to emerge among the interviews. Members of the tribe’s newer generation of elders often share memories involving the same major events, including the tribe’s federal recognition and other developments in its political history. Those connections could eventually provide mate-

rial for a longer, feature-length documentary.

Street said such a project could highlight particular periods in tribal history as well as aspects of the culture that have been lost or changed. A larger documentary would require a different approach. Rather than centering each episode on one individual, it would organize elders’ recollections around a historical event or subject. “With the information I’m gathering from the series so far, there are many things that could and should be given more light,” Street said.

The individual interviews are creating a growing record of tribal history told by the people who lived it. Each episode gives an elder an opportunity to preserve not only names, dates and events, but also the experiences, relationships and teachings they want their descendants and community to remember.



TRIBAL ELDERS INVITED TO SHARE THEIR STORIES

Sault Tribe elders who would like to preserve their memories, teachings and family history are invited to participate in “Nebwaakaajig: An Elder Interview Series.”

Interviews are scheduled at the elder’s convenience and may be filmed wherever the participant feels most comfortable.

Previous sessions have taken place in elders’ homes, at Kewadin, at Niganiighzhik and over Zoom.

Joseph Street, director of video production for the tribe’s Communications Department, can also travel to elders when necessary.

To schedule an interview, contact the Communications Video Production office or email Street at jstreet@saulttribe.net.

Funding available for independent producers to train Native youth in film and media

LINCOLN, Neb. –Vision Maker Media (VMM), the premier source of media by and about Native Americans since 1976, is offering funding to independent producers or Native youth organizations who have an interest in training Native

Sorenson gets a big miigwech

A big miigwech for our Unit 3 Representative Bridgett Sorenson for her commitment, dedication and community involvement by caring for our unit members.

Bridgett went downstate with a handicap bus to pick up one of our Unit 3 elders and brought him home from the hospital, getting a handicap ramp to help this family in their desperate need.

Our Unit 3 representative does so much for our unit and community. You can always find Bridgett doing whatever she can to help out, always with a big smile or laughter. She is also a great bingo caller. Thank you, Bridgett, for being the kind person you are.

A Unit 3 elder,
Ilene O. Moses,
St. Ignace, Mich.

Member seeking old Win Awenen Nisitotung issues

Do you have a stack of old tribal newspapers in your garage or attic?

Sault Tribe Elder Sandra Dunnebacke is interested in talking to you. She is most interested in the issues that are not available online in the tribe archives: from January through July 2007 and anything from before February 2005.

Sandra lives in Lansing, and is always happy to find a reason to make a trip to the Sault.

Send her an email at sadunnebacke@gmail.com, you’ll make a new friend and recover that corner in the back room.



Photos by KU Native Storytelling Workshop

Above: The Worak Horak Summer Film Camp.

youth in short-format media story development and production.

“Native heritage and Native perspectives must be prominent on all of today’s media platforms. For that reason, the Native Youth Media Project is one of the most important initiatives that Vision Maker Media has launched in our 50-year history,” said VMM CEO and President Francene Blythe-Lewis.

“Native youth can build upon



KU Native Storytelling Workshop

the cultural storytelling talents of their elders while achieving invaluable media expertise and personal life skills. We are grateful to all independent producers or Native youth organizations who apply to join this effort.”

VMM’s call for the Native Youth Media Project includes experienced independent producers or Native youth organizations working with Native youth ages 15-21. The intended goal is for Native youth to produce a media piece focused on topics such as health and wellness,



Alaska Teen Media Institute's Spirit of Youth.

science, climate and environment, education, art, culture, history, language, and empowerment.

Finished projects will then be shared in a local community setting and the screening format will be determined by the independent producer or Native youth organization.

Interested independent producers or Native youth organizations can apply for up to \$25,000 in funding support. All completed projects should be in an exhibitable digital format and archived in the highest quality available.

Eligible independent producers or Native youth organizations must be U.S.-based and the call is open year-round. For the guidelines and online application, please visit: <https://visionmakermedia.org/fund-your-film/>.

VMM has trained over 500 youth in its fifty-year history. VMM provides a creative outlet for self-expression, builds powerful mentoring relationships, and fosters leadership and public speaking.

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Soo Co-op Credit Union awards 2026 Nick Gerrish and BMCC Scholarships

Soo Co-op Credit Union (SCCU) is proud to announce the recipients of its 2026 Nick Gerrish Scholarships, awarding four scholarships to outstanding student member-owners as they pursue their higher education goals.

For 40 years, the Nick Gerrish Scholarship Program has helped SCCU member-owners further their education by providing financial assistance to students demonstrating academic achievement, leadership, and community involvement. As part of the application process, applicants submitted an essay outlining their future career goals and explaining how the scholarship would help them achieve those aspirations.

“We are honored to support these exceptional students as they pursue their educational dreams,” said Lynda Ellis, president and

CEO of Soo Co-op Credit Union.

“Each recipient has demonstrated a strong commitment to their future, and we are proud to invest in their continued success.”

The recipients of the 2026 Nick Gerrish Scholarships are:

- Drake Stec, \$2,500
- Ashley Dzelak, \$2,500
- Granger Desormeau, \$2,500

The Bay Mills Community College Scholarship, awarded annually to an SCCU member-owner attending Bay Mills Community College, was presented to:

- Jessie Maeder, \$1,500

Since its inception in 1986, the Nick Gerrish Scholarship Program has awarded more than \$289,000 in scholarships to Soo Co-op Credit Union member-owners, helping students achieve their educational and career goals.



Left to right: Joy Hill, Chief Financial Officer, Soo Co-op Credit Union; Lynda Ellis, President/CEO, Soo Co-op Credit Union; scholarship recipients Ashley Dzelak, Drake Stec, Granger Desormeau, and Jessie Maeder; and Melissa Atkinson, Chief Operating Officer, Soo Co-op Credit Union.

Village of Newberry holds “Name the Moose,” children’s contest for grades four through 12

BY SCOTT BRAND

“Something very pressing has come to our attention,” began a Facebook post from the Village of Newberry on May 6. “Our moose mascot cannot remember their name! After a long time searching their memory (and probably the woods), Moose decided the only solution was to ask the community for help. That’s where you come in.”

The “you,” in this case, was identified as the children 4-12 years old who either reside in the Village of Newberry or attend Tahquamenon Area Schools.

The “Name the Moose” participants were instructed to color a moose and offer their suggestions “calling on the creativity of our youngest residents to help give Moose a name they’ll never forget.”

A May 29 deadline was set

Jeffrey Bailey graduates

Jeffrey A. Bailey (right) graduated from Northern Michigan University on May 2, 2026. He earned a Master of Science in athletic training and has accepted a position with a company in Grand Haven working in his chosen career.

Bailey is a proud member of the Sault Tribe. Attending his graduation ceremony were his mother April (Bailey) Olson, his brother Arron Bailey, and his grandparents, Kenneth and Inez (McCoy) Bailey.

Congratulations
Jeffrey!



Above: Jackson Hood received a moose stuffy and an official Village of Newberry hat at the meeting he attended with his Nana, Lori Williams, great-grandmother Shirley Kowalke and cousin Jessie Maeder. Right: Jackson’s coloring sheet submission.

for the contest, but the winner was not announced until mid-June, setting the stage for the July 21 celebration at the Newberry Village Council meet-

ing where Jackson Hood was recognized for his name “Mooz,” pronounced like multiple “moos” from a cow.

“He had several common

names on a list and he talked with me about Native names and what they might be like,” said Jackson’s Nana, Lori Williams.

“We did a little research and found that, according to that research, in the Anishinaabe/Ojibwe language a moose is called or referred to as, ‘Mooz.’”

“I helped him look it up but he made the choice himself and is very proud of it,” continued Williams. “In the Anishinaabe/Ojibwe language, ‘Mooz’ means ‘Twig Eater,’ which of course is exactly what a moose is and what they do. They browse and literally eat twigs.”

Jackson, who will be going into the fifth grade at the Tahquamenon Area Public Schools when the summer draws to a close, is a member of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians.



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Shackleton and Kindle publishing present *The Legend of Kineauwis*, a Mackinac Island fantasy

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

A grueling Michigan winter gave Patricia Shackleton the idea for a summer adventure rooted in Mackinac Island, Anishinaabe traditions and the spirit world.

Her new book, “The Legend of Kineauwis,” follows an Anishinaabe teenager who spends the summer with her grandmother, Nokomis. What begins

as a reluctant stay becomes a journey beneath the island, where Kineauwis and three Little People travel through limestone caves and hidden spirit paths.

Along the way, Kineauwis encounters Mishipeshu, the Water Panther, and Sabe, a forest guardian associated in the story with honesty and the Seven Grandfathers teachings. She also

searches for black wampum, helps free drowned spirits trapped beneath the island and learns that respect can accomplish what force cannot.

By the end of the summer, she has become more confident and has begun to understand her responsibilities to her community and the natural world.

“I wanted to develop a contemporary legend that is positive and inspirational,” Shackleton said. “I find joy in creating new stories.”

Shackleton describes the fantasy as “an Ojibwa ‘Lord of the Rings.’” She said she also sees the book as an opportunity to introduce Anishinaabe and non-Anishinaabe readers to the Seven Grandfathers virtues and to ideas about peace, respect and living in balance.

Readers of Shackleton’s earlier book, “How the Little People Stole My Wampum,” will recognize several characters, but she said each book is designed to stand on its own.

Shackleton completed “The Legend of Kineauwis” on April 14 and began the publishing process in early June. She said plans call for the book to be offered in six languages and distributed through Amazon’s Kindle Publishing through about 70 platforms in digital, paperback, hardcover and audiobook formats. As of Aug. 10, The Legend of Kineauwis is available on Amazon by searching Patricia Shackleton, or the book’s title.

The formatted manuscript also features Shackleton’s photographs and illustrations.

Shackleton hopes Kineauwis’



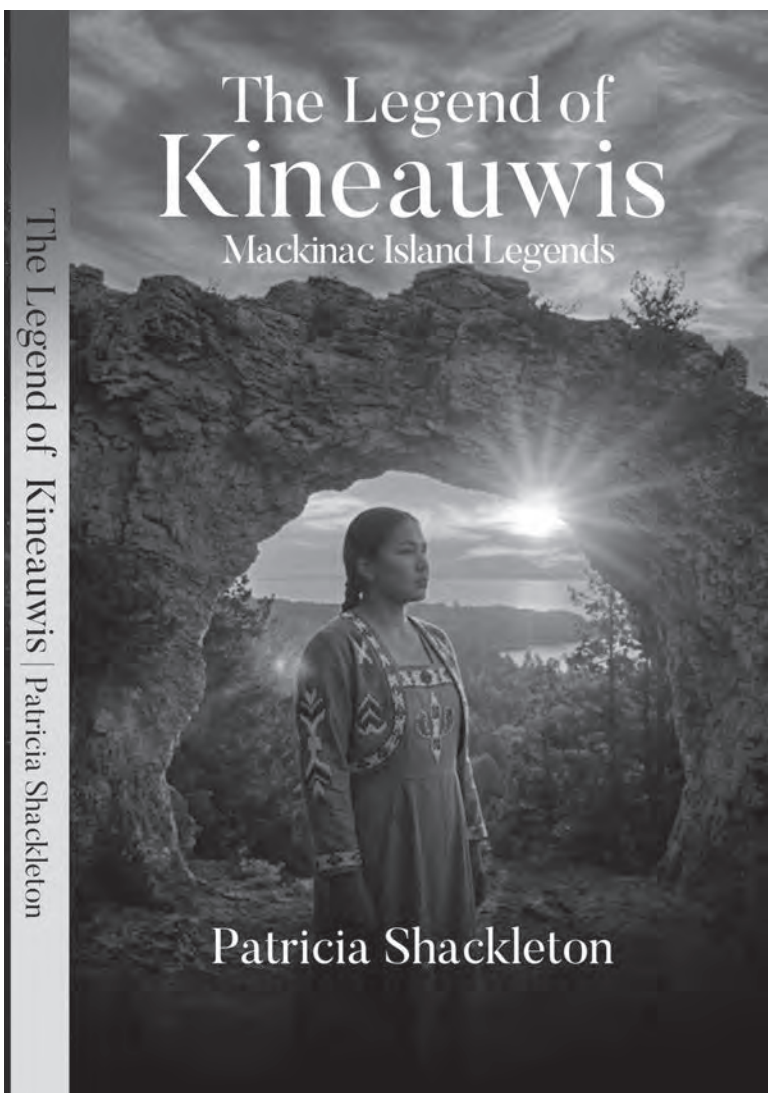
One of the illustrations Shackleton used in the book.

journey will entertain readers while encouraging them to consider the importance of respect, cooperation and caring for the natural world.

“I wanted to develop a contemporary legend that is positive and inspirational,” she said. “I want to share a bit of the positive vibe of this book with the com-

munity.”

Shackleton said, “I have dedicated the book to my mother, Evelyn Shackleton. She was a great orator and storyteller. As you read the book, the Little People will turn to Kineauwis and say ‘What’s next?’ That’s my mother’s voice. This book is a response to her question.”



Board passes resolutions at August 4 meeting

The Sault Tribe Board of Directors officially named the new facility in Hessel, designed to house the fitness center and the Youth Education and Activities (YEA) Program at its Aug. 4 session. The Makoons Community Wellness Center, using the Ojibwe word for “bear cub,” was adopted after consulting with the Hessel Elder group and the tribal community.

In other action the board:

— Approved a fiscal year (FY) 2026 budget modification to Medical Insurance for an increase in the use of fund balance totaling \$3,557,767.48 addressing anticipated potential expenses for the calendar year.

— Approved the establishment of a FY 2026 budget under the heading Cyber Claim in preparation for an \$8,040,000 insurance payment as a result of the 2025 cyber attack.

— Approved a FY 2026 budget modification to Elder Heating Assistance for a \$70,320.13 increase funded by third-party revenue and tribal support.

— Approved a FY 2026 budget modification to the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) for a transfer of \$140,974.95 from the Opioid Settlement Fund to cover staffing changes to meet increased case loads and approved the establishment of a FY 2027 budget for ICWA with

Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) revenue of \$196,955 and a transfer of Opioid Settlement Funds of \$349,016.49 and \$124,975.18 from Tribal Support.

— Established a FY 2027 budget Challenge Cost Share with federal U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) revenue of \$24,989.90 working with the U.S. Forest Service to study low-land ecological systems in the Hiawatha National Forest.

— Approved FY 2026 budget modification to Conservation Management for a transfer of \$49,722.70, a FY 2026 budget modification to Public Safety totaling \$24,516.03, and a FY 2026 budget modification to the Juvenile Detention Center in the amount of \$23,141.28, all from Opioid Settlement Funds.

— Approved FY 2026 budget modifications involving third-party revenue of \$169,326.67 for Marquette Medical Nursing.

— Approved FY 2026 budget modifications for Emergency Preparedness utilizing more than \$15,600 in revenue from the state of Michigan.

— Amended the bylaws for the Sault Tribe’s Housing Authority Commission.

— Awarded Superior Sealcoating Inc. a contract for \$72,913 from BIA Transportation Maintenance Program funds for sealcoating and line painting at the Tribal Health Center and Big Bear.

— Awarded a \$755,116 contract to Payne & Dolan Inc. for the Escanaba Housing Roads Reconstruction Project.

— And, adopted a docking policy establishing a formal process for docking or mooring on Sault Tribe property and made minor amendments to Tribal Code Chapter 21: Hunting and Inland Fishing adjusting season dates and bag limits.

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.



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“The highest compliment we can receive is an introduction to friends and family.”

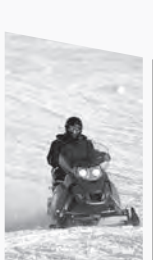
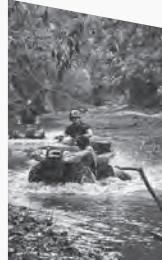
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Keeping children connected to community

FROM ACFS

When children cannot safely remain in their parents’ care, one of the first questions asked is whether a relative or someone close to the family can care for them. This is known as a Relative First approach, and it is an important part of how Anishnaabek Community and Family Services works with children and families.

Relative First means looking to grandparents, aunts, uncles,

adult siblings, extended family members, and others who have a significant relationship with the child. Within our Tribal community, this may also include godparents, family friends, or other trusted adults considered family.

Placement with someone familiar can provide comfort and stability during a difficult time. It can also help children remain connected to their family, culture, community, school, traditions, and other important relationships.

A Relative First approach does not mean a child can automatically be placed with any relative. The child’s safety and individual needs must always be carefully considered. Potential caregivers are assessed to determine whether they can provide a safe, stable, and supportive home.

Finding relatives begins as early as possible and continues throughout the case. Even when a relative cannot provide a home,

they may still be able to support the child and help maintain important family connections.

When a relative is not available, ACFS works to place the child with a Tribal foster family whenever possible. This helps children maintain their cultural identity and sense of belonging while their parents work toward reunification or another permanent plan.

There is an ongoing need for foster families within our Tribal

community. ACFS is looking for caring individuals and families willing to provide children with safety, stability, guidance, and support during a difficult time.

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

Thank you, local businesses

Thank you to the local businesses that donated to this year’s governmental employees team building picnic on Aug. 7: Tanglewood Golf Course, two rounds of 9 holes with cart Sault Historic Sites, Tickets to historic sites Bear on the Mountain Hessel Golf Course, two 18 holes w/ cart for two people

Pennys Kitchen, two gift cards Franks Place, gift card Cup of the Day, BOGO gift card and free latte Clydes, gift card Nevilles, gift card Pure Country, gift card, shirt and hat Applebee’s, three gift cards Arona Home Essentials, swag

bag Facilities, gift baskets Hotel, two show tickets, hotel, and dinner packages Palace, three gift cards Antlers, gift card Lume, swag bag Kewadin Casino, two one-night stay, concert tickets, and \$60 food packages Miigwech!

Sault Tribe Special Election Board



The Sault Tribe Special Election Board held its first meeting July 21 at the Sault Kewadin Casino. The Sault Tribe Board of Directors had appointed the individuals after a random drawing of applicants. Nick VanAlstine has been appointed BIA representative and chairman of the group. Representing Unit 1 is Carolyn Dale, Unit 2, Jacquelyn Minton, Unit 3, Colleen Utter, Unit 4, Timothy Derwin and Unit 5, Taylor Spade. At large representatives are Clarence Hudak and Emily Smith. From left to right are Colleen Utter, Jackie Minton, TJ Derwin, Clarence Hudak, Emily Smith and Carolyn Dale (Nick VanAlstine and Taylor Spade not pictured).

Soo Co-op Credit Union celebrates Fifth Annual Christmas in July

SAULT STE. MARIE, Mich. — Soo Co-op Credit Union (SCCU) recently celebrated the fifth year of its annual Christmas in July campaign, continuing a tradition that has become a meaningful way to give back to the communities it serves.

Throughout July, the SCCU team spread kindness through random acts of generosity. Employees surprised commu-

nity members with gift cards and treats, supported local first responders and organizations, participated in community events, and encouraged others to pay that kindness forward.

What began as a simple way to brighten someone’s day has grown into an annual initiative that reflects Soo Co-op Credit Union’s commitment to serving its members and strengthening

the community beyond financial services.

As Christmas in July celebrates its fifth year, the campaign continues to demonstrate that even the smallest acts of kindness can make a lasting impact.

To learn more about SCCU’s 2026 Christmas in July campaign, visit www.soocoop.com/christmasinjury/2026.



During its Christmas in July campaign, the SCCU team stopped by the Big Bear Youth Summer Recreation Program to talk with students about the importance of saving and building strong money habits at an early age.

Happy birthday, Mason!

Happy 6th birthday, Mason!

Love, Nonna & Papa



Fall will be here before you know it and a new ride will get you to that favorite hunting spot and haul that bait! Stop by and see us today!

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August is National Breastfeeding Month

The United States Breastfeeding Committee designates August as National Breastfeeding Month, so designated by the United States Breastfeeding Committee. The American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Dental Association recommend nursing for the first year of a baby’s life. Why? Nursing is a healthy choice for both moms and babies, with many benefits, including a fast and strong bond between baby and Mom. Breastfeeding reduces the risk for baby bottle tooth decay. This type of tooth decay often occurs when a baby is put to bed with a bottle containing formula, milk, or fruit

Partnership expands community access to Naloxone

The Sault Tribe Behavioral Health Division has partnered with Anishinaabek Community and Family Services (ACFS) to expand access to Naloxone in the community. A Naloxone Harm Reduction station is now located in the front entrance of the ACFS building located at 2218 Shunk Rd. Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. This location is accessible 24/7, allowing anyone

The Sault Tribe Behavioral Health Division has partnered with Anishinaabek Community and Family Services (ACFS) to expand access to Naloxone in the community. A Naloxone Harm Reduction station is now located in the front entrance of the ACFS building located at 2218 Shunk Rd. Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. This location is accessible 24/7, allowing anyone

Whether you’re looking to boost your energy, manage stress or build healthier daily habits, the choices you make today and every day can help you feel better tomorrow. Michigan State University Extension offers the Chronic Disease Self-Management Program, which is called Personal Action Toward Health

juice. The ADA found that babies who were exclusively breastfed for 12 months or more were less likely to have teeth alignment issues such as open bites, cross-bites, and overbites. Still, a breastfed baby may need braces someday. Other factors, including genetics, pacifier use, and thumb sucking affect alignment. But why not control those factors that you can control? **Breast milk and baby**

- Is easier for babies to digest than formula
- Is the best source of nutrition for baby
- Changes to meet the nutri-

to obtain this life-saving product. A second Harm Reduction station is now located at the ACFS office located at 60 Kincheloe Dr. Kincheloe, Mich. This location is only accessible during business hours. If you need naloxone or would like to have some on hand just in case, please reach out to the Sault Tribe Behavioral Health Division at (906) 635-6075.

(PATH) in Michigan. These educational programs are designed to help people living with chronic conditions (and their caregivers) gain confidence, develop practical skills and take an active role in their health. Curious if PATH is right for you or someone you care about? Discover the tools to help you take control of your health and improve your quality of life. For more information on diabetes or making healthy lifestyle changes, visit MSU Extension’s Food and Health website at: [https://www.canr.msu.edu/food_](https://www.canr.msu.edu/food_health/)
[health/](https://www.canr.msu.edu/food_health/).

tional needs of a growing baby.
 — Helps protect baby from infection and illnesses like ear infections by providing immunities from Mom to the baby
 — May lower a child’s risk of obesity and asthma
 — Can also help lower baby’s risk of sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS).
 — Breastfed infants tend to have fewer speech problems than bottle-fed infants
Breastfeeding and Mom

- Moms who breastfeed have lower rates of ovarian and breast cancer
- Moms who breastfeed have lower rates of high blood pressure
- Moms who breastfeed have

lower rates of Type 2 diabetes
 — Breastfeeding helps the Mother’s body return to normal and decreases blood loss after the baby is born
 To get ready to breastfeed, while mom is pregnant, she can:
 — Talk to the doctor or midwife about breastfeeding
 — Do her own research
 — Ask family members for support
 — Realize that in the first couple of months, babies need to nurse every few hours, even at night
 — Learn about breast pumping, especially if mom wants other family members to be able to feed the baby

— Find out how to eat healthy while breastfeeding
Once baby is born
 — The doctor, nurse or midwife know that immediate skin-to-skin contact with baby is important, and nursing is the best way to do that
 — Nurse whenever baby is hungry
 — Ask health professionals for help anytime. They can answer questions about nursing.
 Breast milk is the perfect food for your baby. Breastfeeding gives mom and baby a closeness that is delightful. The emotional satisfaction is intense and is so unique for each mom and her baby, truly a time to be cherished.

Thank You to Our Sponsors

The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians extends its sincere appreciation to our generous sponsors, dedicated volunteers, and hardworking committee members whose support made the 25th Annual Sault Tribe Golf Scholarship Classic a tremendous success! Your commitment to higher education and the future of our tribal members helped make this year’s event one of our most successful to date.

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Sault Tribe Language & Culture Upcoming Activities Calendar

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

- Ogichidaa (Warrior) Camp (Aug 1-2)
- Sacred Medicines Teachings (August 10)
- Community Drum & Dance Social (Aug 13)
- Ogichidaa-kwe Camp (Aug 22-23)
- Gill Net Tying Workshop (Aug 28-29)
- Ceremonial Meal Teachings (Sept. 14)
- Baawating Language Conference (Sept 17-19)
- Woodland Style Canvas Paining (Sept. 26)
- Orange Shirt Day Event (Sept. 30)
- Porcupine Quillwork Medallion Workshop (Oct. 3)
- Sacred Bundle Teachings (Oct. 5)
- Men's Retreat at MMCC (Oct. 9-11)
- Fall Ceremony & Gathering (Oct. 17)
- Jiibay Feast (Ghost Supper) (Nov 1)

Unit 2 - August, September & October (2026) - Questions? Email ctreleavem@saulttribe.net

- Hessel Community Night (Aug 12)
- Hessel Powwow (Aug 14-16)
- Newberry Community Night (Aug 26)
- Kincheloe Drum Dance Social (Sept. 9)
- Hessel Sweat Lodge Build (Aug 29)
- Advanced Beading Workshop (Sept. 13, 20 & 27)
- Hessel Community Night (Sept. 16)
- Birch Bark & Quill Medallions - Hessel (Sept. 16)
- Newberry Community Night (Sept. 23)
- Birch Bark & Quill Medallions - Newberry (Sept. 26)
- Advanced Beading Workshop (Oct. 4, 11, 18 & 25)
- Hessel Community Night (Oct. 14)
- Newberry Community Night (Oct. 28)

Unit 3 - August, September & October (2026) - Questions? Email ccolgrove@saulttribe.net

- Sewing Workshop (August 1-2)
- Sewing Workshop (August 4-5)
- Ribbon Shirts & Skirts (August 22-23)
- Community Pot Luck (August 27)
- Rendezvous at Straights Powwow (Aug 28-30)
- Feasting & Feast Kit Teachings (Sept. 19-20)
- Orange Shirt Day Event (Sept. 30)
- Birchbark Baskets w/ Ron Paquin (Oct. 3)
- Anishinaabemowin Hike at Sand Dunes Trail (Oct. 10)
- Leather Mittens Workshop (Oct. 24-25)

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

- Crafts & Pot Luck - Manistique (August 29)
- Crafts & Pot Luck - Escanaba (August 30)
- Ojibwe Bingo - Manistique (Sept. 5)
- Ojibwe Bingo - Escanaba (Sept. 20)
- Ribbon Shirt - Escanaba (September 28)
- Mitten Workshop - Manistique (Oct. 3-4)
- Flute Workshop - Escanaba (Oct. 24-25)

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

- Kitchi Miniss Jingtamok (August 8)
- Kitchi Miniss Trip (August 19)
- Culture Night - Marquette (Aug 13 & 27)
- Hand Drum Workshop - Marquette (Aug 15)
- Birchbark Quilling Workshop - MQT (Sept. 12)
- Ribbon Jean Jackets - MQT (Sept. 13)
- Fish Cleaning Workshop - Munising (Sept. 19)
- Art Workshop w/ ARC - Marquette (Sept. 27)
- Culture Night - Marquette (Sept. 10 & 24)
- Pucker Toe Moccasins - MQT (Oct. 10-11)
- Ribbon Shirt Workshop - Marquette (Oct. 14)
- Woodland Flute Workshop - Munising (Oct. 17)
- Indigenous Foods Presentation - Marquette (Oct. 22)
- Culture Night - Marquette (Oct. 8 & 22)

29th Annual Sugar Island Powwow held on July 17-19



Hoop dancer amazes spectators.



Elder Bea Jackson in front of the flagbearers.



Photos by Jennifer Dale-Burton
Dancer Mike Hatch in the arena during grand entry.



Friends Yolanda, Angeline and Becky hang out.



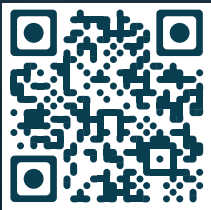
Young crafters Tony and Jim sell their bracelets.



Head dancers Melissa Causley and Abe Bouschor.

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Clear Lake Education Center hosts West End Culture Camp 2026 Kitchi-Miniss Jingtamok celebrated at Bay Furnace



An estimated 100 people attended the inaugural West End Culture Camp on Clear Lake July 25-26 including 70 members of the Youth Education and Activities (YEA) Program. Above, attendees prepare to make bracelets, chokers and necklaces to take home.



Dalis, 12, and Kinsleigh, 14, both of Escanaba, work on their chokers.



Caden Colegrove of St. Ignace provided step-by-step instructions for the students as they made their medicine pouches.



Above and below, a steady hand and careful eye were required to fashion the medicine bags



Boys playing basketball.



Mikey Herro, Hunter Shaver and Karsyn Wymer with Miles Jones in front.



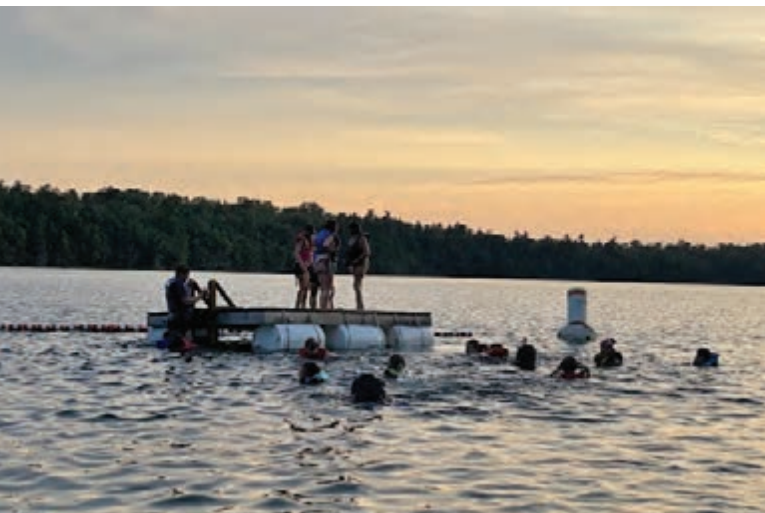
Eilyn Perry, Axel Bronson, Kynyn Forejt, Nora Storm and Willow Richardson gather after completing their crafts.



Above, the true heroes of the event kept everyone's bellies full. Ashley and Jeani Reffruschinni making pizzas to feed the crowd on Saturday. Below, Laura Bouschor packing ham and cheese sandwiches for the students to enjoy on their ride home.



Director of Language and Culture Cody Jodoin broke out a lawn chair while fishing from the camp's dock. He did confirm there were bass in Clear Lake during his visit.



The raft was a popular destination for a sunset swim.



Joe Ojibway instructing YEA kids to play Baagaadowewin (traditional lacrosse).



Guests enjoying their dining experience.



Lauryn, 7, and Camryn, 8, with their finished medicine bags.



Lining up for Grand Entry at the Munising Powwow on Aug. 8. In addition to the usual flags and staffs that are carried in to most powwows, the Sault Tribe's four colors — white, yellow, red and black — flags were carried by young members of the Youth Education and Activities (YEA) Program.



Dr. Martin Reinhardt explains to those in attendance the significance of the eagle whistle utilized during the ceremony.



Above and below, regalia on display.



YEA Manager Lisa Burnside with husband Cal arrived early to make sure they had a good seat for the event.



Jeremy Burnside, U.S. Marine Corps Purple Heart recipient served as Master of Ceremonies along with Jr. MC Harper May Miron, 9, of Manistique.



Dr. Katy Matson was the Head Female Dancer tutoring Mary Goetz, 11, of Munising for this role.



A steady breeze off of Lake Superior brought the flags to life as participants prepared to post the colors.



Above, the Teal Lake Singers perform an Inter-Tribal dance, while below the Ice Circle Singers follow up with one of their own.



Above, Frog Hills made the trip from Bay Mills. Below, Mukwa Giizhik also ventured west to sing.



Rebekah, 10, of Gwin and Brooklyn, 12, of Hessel.

Makoons Community Wellness Center opens

On Aug. 3, the new Hessel Community Wellness Center opened its doors to the public registering more than a half-dozen members in less than an hour.

“We want to be a leader in community wellness for Native and non-Native people,” said Unit II Director Lana Causley-Smith as she welcomed guests to the new facility.

The structure, which has a footprint of nearly 11,000 square feet, is home to various exercise machines, free weights and high-tech treadmills, along with a mini-gymnasium for basketball and other indoor activities.

Another wing of the building will serve a home for Youth Education and Activities (YEA) Program providing a gathering place not only for those in Hessel, but all Unit II students



This YEA group was the first to tour their new home on Aug. 3

from Drummond Island, DeTour Village, Pickford, Rudyard, Naubinway, and Newberry.

The building also has a large kitchen, designed for YEA, that eventually may be accessed by the public for future events, such as wedding receptions, graduation parties or family reunions, pro-

vided the users adhere to the drug and alcohol-free policy.

Causley-Smith expressed her gratitude to a number of individuals including the Sault Tribe Board of Directors, fellow director Kimberly Lee, the Hessel Elders community and Unit II YEA Coordinators for guiding

the project and singled out a former director as well: “Catherine Hollowell was instrumental in bringing this to fruition.”

A large groundbreaking ceremony was held in May 2025 clearing the way for McGahey Construction to begin the build, culminating 14 months later with

the soft opening on Aug. 3.

On Aug. 4, the Sault Tribe Board of Directors passed a resolution naming it the Makoons Community Wellness Center. “Makoons” is the Ojibwe word for “bear cub” or “baby bear.”

“The Makoons Community Wellness Center is a significant step forward for our people’s health and happiness. It’s a place where everyone can enjoy themselves,” said Director Lee after the official name was approved.

“Youth, teens, and elders can participate in several activities and exercise, and it’s a great way for us to stay healthier, connect more, and build a stronger community now and for future generations.”

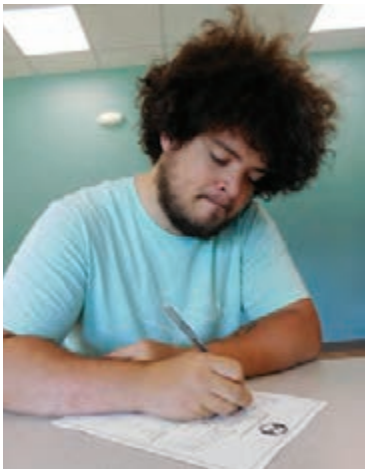
A ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the opening of the new facility has been scheduled for Aug. 28 2026.



Jim Francis of Hessel enjoying a snack at the soft opening.



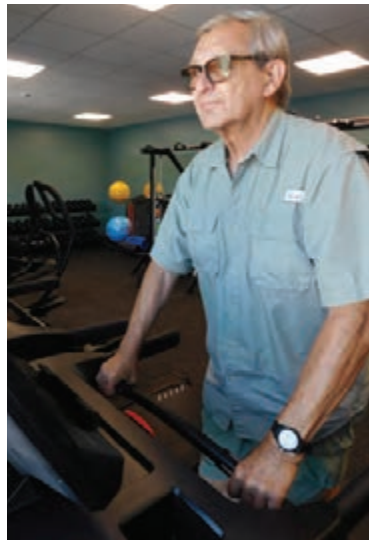
Madison Rivera of Hessel with 1 ½-year-old Sero Windsor, one of the youngest visitors of the day.



Shay Lee-Backus filling out paperwork to become one of the first to register for a membership.



Terrie Milligan of Hessel.



Tod Krino tests a treadmill.



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Sault Tribe holds inaugural Hunt Safe program

On Aug. 12, the Sault Tribe Natural Resources Wildlife Division, in conjunction with Sault Tribe Law Enforcement, conducted its first Hunt Safe program with more than 20 students graduating with their hunter’s safety certificates.

“We are really excited to be able to offer this,” said Katie Schultz of the Sault Tribe Wildlife Program. “It’s a pretty awesome thing.”

The pilot program offered a one-day course to provide future hunters with safety instruction required by state and tribal regulations. Twenty-two individuals, including four adults, were enrolled in the program where they were instructed in the safe-handling of firearms, identifying their target and even how to clean and care for their guns.

“They will be able to hunt in Michigan and all 50 states,” said Schultz of those who successfully completed the course, “as well as Canada and Mexico.”

All of the participating instructors were certified through the Native American Fish and Wildlife Society.

The Hunt Safe Program is only offered to members of the Sault Tribe. Those that complete it will be issued a Hunter Education Card bearing the Sault Tribe logo.

“We will be printing those within the next week,” said Schultz.

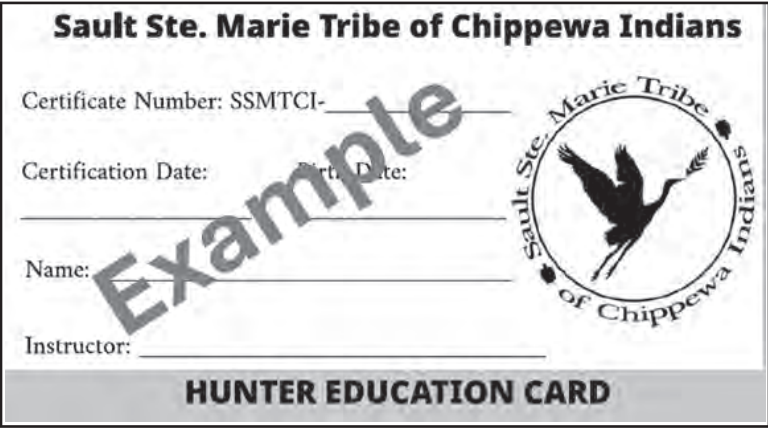
Young hunters on the west end of the seven-county service area will have their opportunity to take the Hunt Safe Program on Aug. 25 in Manistique. Due to the demand, the Sault will be hosting a second Hunt Safe course on Aug. 27. Spots are still open for both dates.

The Hunt Safe Program is offered free of charge.

Space is limited for both of the upcoming events. For registration forms, course availability, and questions contact Leane Kinsella at (906) 632-5040 or at lkinsella@saulttribe.net.



On Aug. 12, the Sault Tribe Natural Resources Wildlife Division, in conjunction with Sault Tribe Law Enforcement, conducted its first Hunt Safe program with more than 20 students graduating. Young hunters on the west end of the seven-county service area will have an opportunity to take the program on Aug. 25 in Manistique. The Sault will be hosting a second Hunt Safe course on Aug. 27. Right, an example of the hunter education card.



Community invited to Sault Tribe NRD Manoomin Community Seeding Event in mid September

The Sault Tribe Natural Resources Division invites all community members to gather this September for a special Manoomin (wild rice) Community Seeding Event focused on connection, ceremony, and caring for our relationship with manoomin.

Through community involvement, ceremony, and hands-on stewardship, participants will have the opportunity to help restore manoomin beds and nurture its return for future generations. This gathering provides a chance to learn, reconnect with the water, and give back to the

ecosystem that sustains us. Participants are encouraged to bring water-friendly gear and come prepared for changing water conditions. While seeding areas are typically accessed by kayak or canoe, shallow water levels in previous years have required some areas to be reached by wading. A limited number of kayaks, canoes, waders, and life jackets will be available for participants. Light refreshments will also be provided.

The event is anticipated to take place during the second or third week of September. The final date will be determined based on



the availability of seed from our distributors following the annual manoomin harvest, honoring the natural timing of the harvest cycle. Once seed is available and

conditions are suitable, the confirmed date and additional event details will be shared.

Stay connected through Sault Tribe Seven Generations social



Graphic by Nicole Maleport media channels for updates as the harvest approaches and plans are finalized.

Tracking contaminants in upper Great Lakes fish

The Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority (CORA) continues to track contaminants in fish from the 1836 Treaty ceded waters of the upper Great Lakes.

According to Environment Coordinator Mike Langendorf, CORA annually takes samples from Lake Huron, Lake Superior or Lake Michigan on a three-

year rotating basis. “These fish are then prepared for analysis and sent to an independent laboratory for testing,” reported Langendorf. “Each fish was tested for mercury and PCBs, which have historically identified as contaminants that can impact human health. In addition, testing was also conducted for the presence of PFAs/PFOs, as this chemical family

has more recently recognized as having a significant potential to adversely impact human health.”

CORA began testing for PFAs/PFOs in 2021 and has completed an assessment across all three of the upper Great Lakes and has determined that lake trout and whitefish had very low levels of PFOs and in some cases there were no PFOs detected. Mercury and PCBs were

found in fish filets, but remained at levels consistent with previous testing and even declined slightly in some samples.

“The results of these comparisons showed level of PFOs detected in the average fish from the 1836 waters was 10 times less than Michigan’s average fish,” reported Langendorf.

CORA regulates fishing within the 1836 Treaty Ceded waters

of Michigan and takes action to protect, preserve and enhance the fishery on behalf of the five tribes which signed the Treaty of Washington: Bay Mills Indian Community, Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, and the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

Winter cover crops: Preparing your garden for spring

BY SARAH ZEILER, MSU EXTENSION

After the fall harvest, many home gardeners pack up their tools and wait for spring. But this quiet season is actually a great time to improve your soil using winter cover crops.

These crops grow in the cooler months and offer benefits like erosion control, weed suppression and improved soil fertility. Some die off naturally in winter, while others survive and need to be managed in spring.

Cover crops that work
Several cover crops are well-suited for planting after fall harvest in the Midwest. These crops grow in cool weather and

have proven to offer strong benefits for soil health.

— Oats: Oats are a popular winter-kill cover crop. They grow fast, suppress weeds and add organic matter to the soil. After dying off in winter, they decompose and enrich the soil for spring planting.

— Cereal Rye: Rye is winter-hardy and survives cold temperatures. It grows deep roots that loosen compacted soil and suppresses weeds. In spring, it must be mowed or tilled before planting vegetables.

— Garden Peas: These legumes fix nitrogen in the soil and grow quickly in fall. They die off with frost, leaving behind nutrients for

spring crops.

These crops are ideal for Michigan and other Midwestern states, where fall planting windows are short and winters are cold.

What doesn’t work
Some cover crops are less effective for winter use, especially in cold climates.

Daikon Radishes (Oilseed Radish): While not ideal for winter survival, daikon radishes are useful in fall. Their deep taproots break up compacted soil and improve drainage.

Radishes are best used to open up the ground before winter, especially in areas with heavy foot traffic or poor drainage. However, they die off in winter and should

not be relied on for spring weed suppression.

The rotting radishes can also be smelly and cause problems with neighbors. The radishes may also harbor diseases and pests for your spring brassica crops like cabbage and broccoli.

Tips
— Plant cover crops as soon as possible after fall harvest.
— Use a rake or hand-crank s preader for even seed distribution.
— Ensure good seed-to-soil contact for germination.
— Avoid planting crops from the same family as your spring vegetables to reduce disease risk.

Other Uses
Winter cover crops offer more

than just soil protection. They also help with:

Compost: Dead cover crops like oats and peas can be added to compost piles. Their biomass breaks down quickly and adds nutrients.

Pest Control: Some cover crops suppress weeds and reduce pest pressure. Rye, for example, creates a mulch layer that blocks weed growth and discourages pests.

Soil Building: Cover crops improve soil structure, increase organic matter, and enhance water retention. Radishes and rye are especially good at loosening compacted soil and improving drainage.

Walking on...

SANDRA ADAIR THORIN



Sandra Adair Thorin, 76, of St. Ignace, Mich., died July 12, 2026, at home. She was born May 30, 1950, in St. Ignace to Patrick and Wanda Joy (Pemble) McGuire.

Sandra grew up in St. Ignace where she began her education at Ursuline Convent and Academy before graduating from St. Ignace LaSalle High School. She met the love of her life, Curtis Thorin, on what was supposed to be a double date at the Windjammer. As fate would have it, the ladies switched dates, and the rest was history. Sandra and Curtis were united in marriage on June 23, 1973, at St. Ignatius Loyola Catholic Church in St. Ignace.

Together they raised two children while following Curtis during his military service, always doing their best to remain close to the community they loved. After his discharge from the military, they returned home to St. Ignace, where Sandra began a career as a bus driver for LaSalle High School. She faithfully transported generations of students for 30 years. Toward the end of her career, she also drove for the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians before retiring in 2022.

A devoted member of her community, Sandra generously volunteered at the local food pantry, supported the Hope Chest, and was always willing to lend a helping hand to area churches, especially St. Ignatius Loyola Catholic Church.

Sandra found joy in life’s simple pleasures. She loved watching westerns on television, tending to her flower gardens, and gathering around the table for card games, especially Uno. She was well known for making what many considered the best dinner rolls around. Above all else, Sandra treasured her family. Her granddaughter, Ameesa, was the light of her life and brought her endless happiness. Sandra also had a memorable story she loved to tell about somehow catching a salmon with nothing more than a baseball bat, a tale that never failed to bring smiles and laughter.

Sandra is survived by her son, Curtis (Pam Anton) Thorin of Chicago, Ill.; daughter, Jennifer Thorin of St. Ignace; granddaughter, Ameesa Thorin of Mount Pleasant, Mich.; and her beloved dog, Milo.

Sandra was preceded in death by her husband, Curtis; parents, Patrick and Wanda; and sister, Linda Fenwick.

A memorial mass was held July 18, 2026, at St. Ignatius Loyola Catholic Church, in St. Ignace.

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

ROBERT “BOB” LEONARD PARRISH

Robert “Bob” Leonard Parrish, 90, of Bay Mills, Mich., died at his home Aug. 2, 2026. He was born on Dec. 27, 1935, in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., to Clarence and June (Carrick) Parrish.



Bob grew up in Bay Mills and graduated from Brimley High School. He proudly served his country in the United States Marine Corps, where he was stationed at Camp Pendleton during the Korean War. After returning home from military service, he married Irma Cameron, and together they raised their family. Throughout his life, Bob held many jobs that he enjoyed, but he was most proud of the Parrish Fish Store, which he established with his sons.

Bob is survived by his daughter, Lynda (Jason) Pesola of Brimley, Mich.; son, Rory Parrish of Bay Mills; grandchildren, Eric (Lisa) Burt of Traverse City, Mich., Rachel Lyons of Brimley, Robert Burt of Bay Mills, Tara (Dennis) Parrish of Sault Ste. Marie, and Brook Pesola of Brimley; great-grandchildren, Eve, Matthew, Andrew, Burt, Quentin and Neva Lyons, as well as the two whose names he could never remember, so he affectionately called them “#1” and “#2”: #1 Shiloh Dutcher and #2 Delicia Sparks.

Bob was preceded in death by his wife, Irma; daughter, Lorri Burt; and sons, Robert Parrish Jr, Roger and Richard Parrish; and parents, Clarence and June.

Visitation was held Aug. 6, at St. Kateri Tekakwitha Church, on Lakeshore Dr., in Brimley, Mich. A mass of Christian burial immediately followed.

Bob’s final resting place will be at Mission Hill Cemetery in Brimley.

Memorial contributions may be made in Bob’s honor to the Salvation Army, 132 W. Spruce St., Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783. Family Life Funeral Homes – Sault Ste. Marie assisted the family with arrangements. Condolences may be given to the family at www.familylifefh.com.

MICHAEL HARRY ALLARD

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

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



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

He loved being on the water and spent countless hours doing what he enjoyed most.

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

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

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

Mike’s legacy lives on through the memories he created, the lessons he taught, and the love he shared so freely. We will miss his smile, his stories, his laughter, and his unwavering love for his family.

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

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

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

Visitation was held on June 9, 2026, at the Niigaanagizhik Ceremonial Building, 11 Ice Circle, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783, continuing until June 10, 2026, when the Traditional Ceremony was held.

A mass of Christian burial was held on June 11, 2026, at Holy Name of Mary Pro-Cathedral Catholic Church in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.

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

To send flowers or a memorial gift to the family of Michael Harry Allard please visit our Sympathy Store.

MIKALA “MIKKI” JO (EBY) MESSER

Mikala “Mikki” Jo (Eby) Messer, 65, of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., passed away peacefully surrounded by the love of her family. She was born on Jan. 20, 1961, in Sault Ste. Marie

to Theodore and Patricia (Menard) Eby.

Mikki was a devoted wife, mother, daughter, sister, and friend who spent her life taking care of the people she loved. She devoted herself wholeheartedly to her husband, Gary Messer, and their children, Jack Messer and Olivia Rowe, who were the center of her world.



Mikki showed her love through caring for others. She was always cooking, cleaning, doing favors, or finding a way to make someone’s life a little easier. She rarely sat still and was happiest when she was doing something for someone else. She was always there for her friends and family and could be counted on whenever someone needed her.

Mikki spent more than 30 years working at Sault Tribe Head Start, where she prepared meals for the tribal youth and became a familiar and caring presence in the lives of generations of children. Her work was a reflection of the nurturing person she was; she took pride in caring for others and found purpose in helping create a warm, welcoming environment for the children she served. Her dedication to the program and the families in her community was a meaningful part of her life and legacy.

Outside of work, Mikki found joy in the simple things, days at the beach, cake decorating, celebrating birthdays, and the family traditions she held so dear. She loved bringing everyone together for holiday meals and especially loved Christmas. She took great joy in finding the most thoughtful and amazing gifts for the people she loved and in spoiling her children, even well into adulthood. Every Christmas brought her famous Christmas cookies; a tradition filled with love that her family will cherish and continue for years to come.

Mikki is survived by her husband, Gary Messer; son, Jack (Kaela) Messer; daughter, Olivia (Donovan) Rowe; mother, Patricia Eby; and her siblings, Nanette (Lisa) Clark, Ted (Connie) Eby, Lori Randazzo, Douglas (Laurie) Eby, and Kristi (Shane) Bailey.

Mikki was preceded in death by her father, Theodore Eby. Rather than a traditional funeral service, Mikki’s family hosted a Celebration of Life in her honor on Aug. 14, 2026, at 313 Club, 313 Ashmun St. Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783. Family and friends were invited to come together to share memories, celebrate Mikki’s life, and honor the love and joy she brought to so many people.

Mikki spent her life taking care of everyone else. Her greatest legacy will be the love she gave so freely, the people she helped, and the countless lives she touched. She was always there. She always cared. And she will be loved and missed forever. The family would like to extend their deepest gratitude to Hospice of the EUP, where Mikki spent

her final two weeks. Their compassion, care, and support brought comfort not only to Mikki, but to her entire family during an incredibly difficult time.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made in Mikki’s memory to Hospice of the EUP, 308 W. 12th Ave. Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783.

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

LINDA SUE (LEASK) TURNER

Linda Sue (Leask) Turner, 66, passed away unexpectedly on Aug. 10, 2026, at Schoolcraft Memorial Hospital in Manistique, Mich. She was born May 22, 1960, in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., to Edward “Chum” and Shirley (Scales) Leask.



Linda was a woman whose greatest joy came from her family. She loved spending time with her family and grandchildren. Her love was unconditional and her heart was generous. Her presence brought comfort and warmth to everyone, fortunate enough to know her. As a mother, she was devoted, caring and endlessly supportive. As a grandmother, she brought a special kind of love; one filled with patience, laughter, hugs with countless treasured moments. Her children and grandchildren were the pride and joy of her life. Her love will continue to live on through each of them.

Linda also had a passion for the game of pool. She loved the fun, competition, and camaraderie that came with being around the pool table. Whether she was playing a friendly game with family and friends or enjoying the challenge of a well-placed shot, some of her happiest memories were made laughing, talking, and enjoying good company while playing the game she loved.

Linda is survived by her children, David (Amber) Turner, Brandi Sturm, and Ronnie (Tiffany Jones) Stebleton; significant other, James Bogie; grandchildren, Ashlynn, Brock, Laila, Nicholas and Aubree; sister, Angie; brothers, Joe (Leask) and Mike (Connie) Leask; brother-in-law, Oscar Oraziatti; along with numerous nieces and nephews who will all miss her dearly.

Linda was proceeded in death by her parents, Chum and Shirley Leask; and siblings, Cheryl (Leask), Sharon (Oraziatti), David Leask and Mark Leask.

Linda’s family invited family and friends to attend a Celebration of Life on Aug. 15, 2026, at Huck’s Pub & Grill, 11358 W. H 40 Rudyard, MI 49780.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Family Life Funeral Homes, 24549 S. M-129 Pickford, MI 49774, to assist Linda’s family with burial expenses.

Though Linda’s family’s

See “Obits,” page 19

Walking on, continued

From “Obits,” page 18
hearts are heavy with her passing, they find comfort in knowing that her love, wisdom, kindness, and beautiful memory will remain with them always. She leaves behind a legacy of love that will continue through generations.

Linda will be remembered every time her family stops at a casino, gathers around a pool table or dinner table, shares a laugh, or simply enjoys the company of the people they love. Family Life Funeral Homes – Sault Ste. Marie assisted the family with arrangements. Condolences may be given to the family at www.familylifefh.com. To send flowers or a memorial gift to the family of Linda Sue (Leask)Turner please visit our Sympathy Store.

HERMAN CHARLES SHAMPINE
Herman Charles Shampine, 76, of Cheboygan, Mich., passed away peacefully July 24, 2026, at McLaren Northern Michigan Hospital in Petoskey, Mich. Born in Cheboygan Aug. 10, 1949, Herm was the son of Charles and Ruth (Neumann) Shampine. A lifelong resident of the community he loved, Herm shared 35 years with his long-time companion, Tina Merchant, whom he married on Dec. 22, 2025, in Cheboygan.



Herm was a hardworking man whose career reflected both skill and dedication. He worked for Durocher Dock and Dredge (later Kokosing) for more than 40 years, traveling throughout the United States for all types of marine construction projects. Over the years, his work duties included everything from diving to operating equipment. His expertise in the industry was well-known and he was well-respected by his coworkers who all knew him as “Cap” for his long-time role as a tugboat captain. After a proud and steady career, Herm retired in 2015. Herman was a gifted mechanic who could coax just about anything back to life, from snowmobiles and lawn mowers to whatever machine happened to be giving everyone else a headache. He was always tinkering with something, and his projects had a way of following him indoors. It was not unusual for a motorcycle or snowmobile to become temporary living room décor, or for a carburetor to receive careful attention right there on the kitchen table. In Herm’s world, if something needed fixing, any room could become a workshop. Although Herm spent much of his life working on the water, his connection to it reached far beyond any job. Raised among the lakes and rivers of Northern Michigan, and the son of a commercial fisherman on the Great Lakes, fishing was woven into the fabric of his life. When he was on the water, casting a line, he found peace, relaxation, and genuine joy, and when the catch was good, the promise of a fish fry

made it even better. Herm spent countless hours on Mullett Lake, whether he was out in a boat on a warm summer evening or watching tip-ups on the ice in the quiet of winter. Even after years spent living on the road in a camper for work, Herman still enjoyed camping. The Upper Peninsula held a special place in his heart, and Brimley and the Sault were among his favorite places to stay, especially where he could watch the freighters pass by from the comfort of his camp chair. He treasured the times when his children and grandchildren camped with him, gathering around the campfire, cooking out, and simply enjoying one another’s company. Family camp at Aloha State Park each summer was a tradition he looked forward to sharing with the whole “Shampine Tribe.” He and his family, along with his sisters and their families, gathered each summer for a few days of delicious meals around the campfire, corn hole tournaments, a lot of fun, and wonderful memories. When he was not on the water or at a campsite, Herm enjoyed taking off on his motorcycle for a ride around Northern Michigan, snowmobiling with family and friends, and watching NASCAR. His favorite driver was always Jeff Gordon in the No. 24 Chevrolet. Whether he was outdoors, on the road, or relaxing with a race on, Herm found joy in the simple pleasures that brought his favorite people together. Above all, Herm loved his family. He took great pride in his grandchildren and loved being part of their lives, whether he was cheering them on at sporting events, attending school activities, or spending Saturdays at the bowling alley watching them compete in tournaments. He was proud of each of them in their own special way. Herm also showed his love through cooking for his family. He was an excellent cook known for his soups, but his true specialty was fish. He was always ready to bring everyone together for one of his famous fish fries, where good food and family made his heart full. Herm will be remembered as being fiercely independent, wonderfully stubborn, and truly one of a kind. He had a generous heart, a deep love for his family, and a willingness to do anything for the people he cared about. Those who knew him will smile as they remember his many sayings and bits of advice, especially, “Keep the slimy side down!” Even in passing, Herm continued to give of himself, helping others through his gift as a tissue donor with Gift of Life. He was also deeply proud of his Native American heritage and his membership in the Chippewa tribe. Herm leaves his wife, Tina Merchant; his daughter, Penny (Will) St. Amour; and his son, Joe (Christy) Shampine, all of Cheboygan. He will be deeply missed by his grandchildren, Mindy (Goran) Nikolovski, Trisha Woodgate (Delos) Cripps, Darin Woodgate, Salena (Tod) Schramm, Ethan Shampine, Brady Shampine, and Peyton Shampine; and by his

great-grandchildren, Mirra Cripps and Kai Nikolovski. Herm is also survived by his sisters, Rosemary Tracy, Linda (Dan) Johnson, Chrissy (Tony) Sutterley, and Phyllis (Dave) Brandt, all of Cheboygan; his sister-in-law, Tami Morrow; his brothers-in-law, Ron Griggs, Todd (Donna) Merchant, Tony Merchant (Cheryl), and Troy (Bridget) Merchant; and many nieces and nephews who will remember him with love. He was preceded in death by his father, Charles Shampine; his mother, Ruth Shampine Plaunt; his stepfather, Ray Plaunt; and his sister, Bev Griggs. In keeping with Herm’s wishes, his family honored him in the Native American tradition of the Chippewa tribe. Friends and family were invited to pay their respects at Herm’s home July 27. Those wishing to express sympathy may consider a memorial donation in Herman Shampine’s memory to McLaren Home Care and Hospice. As the sun sets but leaves a radiant glow, we say goodbye but left behind are precious memories of an amazing man and a life well lived. Until the next port when we cross decks again – Fair Winds and Following Seas, Dad. **DON. J. “BUZZY” GEISLER** Don. J. “Buzzy” Geisler, 64, of Eau Claire, Mich., passed away July 23, 2026, at his home surrounded by his family. A visitation with Buzzy’s family took place on July 27, 2026, at the Starks & Menchinger Chapel in St. Joseph, Mich. A funeral service took place July 28, 2026, at the funeral home with Matthew Starner officiating. Burial followed at Shanghai Cemetery. Memorial contribution may be made to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105 or Corewell Health Hospice. Those wishing to leave an online condolence may do so at www.starks-menchinger.com. Buzzy was born on Jan. 19, 1962, to Don and Nancy (Dorow) Geisler in St. Joseph. He graduated from Eau Claire High School and continued his education at Lake Michigan College. He worked for the Berrien County Road Commission for almost 37 years. He started as a truck driver working all the way to his most recent role as Superintendent, prior to his retirement. On Oct. 26, 1985, Buzzy married the love of his life, Lorreen James, at Grace Lutheran Church in St. Joseph. Together they had one son, Joshua, who he loved very much. Buzzy was a proud lifelong member of the Eau Claire community. He served his community in many ways, from coaching many local sports teams all the way to becoming the President of the school board. He also enjoyed being with his family members spending time in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula along with his great friends who live there.



Buzzy is survived by his wife of 40 years Lorreen Geiseler; son Joshua Geisler; siblings, Denise (Rob) Ceccon, Lori (Steve) Fairbanks, Lenard (Christina) Tidey, Debora (Jim) Watson, and Dawn (Eric) Wang; numerous nieces & nephews; and numerous great-nieces and nephews. Buzzy was preceded in death by his parents, Don Geisler and Nancy Hahn. **CINDY MARIE MANSE** Cindy Marie Manse, 67, of Brimley, Mich., died July 6, 2026, at MyMichigan Medical Center in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. She was born April 28, 1959, in Baraga, Mich., and was soon adopted by Thomas and Mable Manse of Sault Ste. Marie. Cindy grew up in Sault Ste. Marie, where she attended St. Joseph Catholic School before attending Sault Area High School and graduating from Rudyard High School. In 1975, she married Charles Sharp Sr., and together they were blessed with four wonderful sons who became the center of her world. Throughout her life, Cindy dedicated herself to serving others, working in a variety of customer service and retail positions, including at the Valley Camp and Frost Doughnuts, before retiring from Bay Mills Resort & Casino. No matter where she worked, Cindy was known for her warm smile, kind heart, and genuine compassion for those around her. A woman of deep faith, Cindy was a devoted member of both St. Mary’s Catholic Church and St. Joseph’s Roman Catholic Church. Her faith was a guiding force in her life and was reflected in the kindness, generosity, and love she shared with others each day. Above all else, Cindy treasured the time she spent with her family. Being surrounded by those she loved brought her the greatest happiness. She found joy in the simple blessings of life, spending time outdoors, attending church, crocheting thoughtful gifts, cooking and baking delicious meals, and opening her heart to anyone in need. Cindy had a nurturing spirit and was always willing to lend a helping hand, offer words of encouragement, or simply be there for someone who needed comfort. Her selfless nature, unwavering love for her family, and compassionate heart will be remembered and cherished by all who had the privilege of knowing her. Cindy is survived by her sons, Charles (Julie) Sharp of Kincheloe, Mich., Kevin (Emily) Sharp, and Thomas Sharp, both of Sault Ste. Marie; grandchildren, Kevin Sharp Jr., Kalob Sharp, Kody Sharp, Charles Sharp III, Chaz Sharp, Tyler Romeri, Camden Rau, Aubree Rau, Bristol Rau, Jeffrey Sharp II, Ashley Petit, Brandon Sharp, Kylie Broten-McLean, Anjelie



Latour, Thomas Sharp Jr., Jade Sharp, Elena Stuart, Elijah Stuart, and Ava Stuart; along with many great grandchildren; and partner, Thomas Deluca. Cindy was preceded in death by her son, Jeffrey Sharp; grandson, Johnathon Sharp; granddaughter, Annabel Stuart; parents, Thomas and Mable; and sister, Judy Smith. Visitation was held on July 29, 2026, at Family Life Funeral Homes and was followed by funeral services. Family Life Funeral Homes – Sault Ste. Marie assisted the family with arrangements. Condolences may be given to the family at www.familylifefh.com. **ROSE MARY (HOGARTH) BRABANT** Rose Mary (Hogarth) Brabant, 63, of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., died June 8, 2026, at the Ball Hospice House in Sault Ste. Marie. She was born Oct. 18, 1962, in Sault Ste. Marie, to John and Marie (Mendoskin) Hogarth. Rose grew up in Sault Ste. Marie and attended Sault Area High School. She worked for many years at Northern Linen and later retired as a supervisor from DDC OMNI. Rose was a proud member of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians. Rose enjoyed a variety of crafts and was especially talented at crocheting, beading, and basket making. She cherished spending time with her family and loved cooking and preparing meals for those she cared about. Her creativity, kindness, and devotion to her loved ones will be fondly remembered by all who knew her. Rose is survived by her sons, William Hogarth of Sault Ste. Marie, Christopher Brabant of Franklin Park, Ill., and Donald Brabant of Sault Ste. Marie; grandchildren, Julius St. James, Leland Hogarth, Ryan Brabant, and Payton Brabant; siblings, Betty Caron of Windsor, Ont., Evelyn Cardamoni of Sault Ste. Marie and Irene (Larry) Pavlot; and lifetime friend, Julia Rawlings. Rose was preceded in death by her parents, John and Marie; brother, John Hogarth; and brothers-in-law, Tom Caron and Joe Cardamoni. A memorial gathering was held on June 23, 2026, at Family Life Funeral Homes in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. The memorial service immediately followed. Memorial contributions may be made in Rose’s honor to Ball Hospice House, 308 W. 12th Ave., Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783. Rose’s final resting place will be Wilwalk Cemetery on Sugar Island, Mich. Family Life Funeral Homes – Sault Ste. Marie assisted the family with arrangements. Condolences may be given to the family at www.familylifefh.com.



A statement from the chairman: Sault Tribe reacts to USACE Line 5 decision

Yesterday was a dark day for Tribal Nations across the Midwest. It is a dark day for the Great Lakes, the environment, and all those who hold a special place in their hearts for the Straits of Mackinac.

Oaths have been broken. Tribal sovereignty ignored. The federal government's Indian trust responsibility disregarded.

The United States Army Corps of Engineers has approved a key permit Enbridge needs to construct a tunnel beneath the Straits of Mackinac. A tunnel that threatens to unearth and violate the bodies and spirits of our ancestors who have been at rest since long before colonization.

And all this betrayal for what? The benefit of a Canadian mega-corporation worth billions of dollars? Under the guise of a national energy emergency?

Thankfully, construction cannot begin at this time. The Michigan Supreme Court recently vacated permits issued by the Michigan Public Service Commission. Enbridge must reapply and go through that permitting process again.

So, despite the Corps' decision, this project has by no means been given the green light to begin construction.

Enbridge also has a long history of broken promises and spilling millions of gallons of oil. Let us not forget the disasters near Kalamazoo, Mich., and Grand Rapids, Minn. Two of the largest inland oil spills in United States history occurred under Enbridge's supervision, spilling nearly 2 million gallons of oil combined.

Is this the fate that awaits Line 5 and the Great Lakes tunnel project?

We can only pray to the Creator that it is not.

The Straits of Mackinac have been sacred since time immemorial.

Anishinaabe people see the Straits as multidimensional. It is home to both the physical and the superphysical. The two are interwoven as one. We cannot have one without the other. It has been this way since Creation.

Our stories tell of Mackinac Island being the first land to appear after the Great Flood receded. As far back as we can trace our oral histories, the Straits have held significant cultural meaning to Anishinaabe people. For centuries, the area was a hub of trading networks and a place for ceremony.

The water, plant and animal life, spirits, and our ancestors and their belongings buried there are not simply resources to be dis-

posed of to fulfill a government permit.

We must care for our ancestors and protect the Straits. This is integral to our way of life. If Enbridge begins boring a 4-mile-long tunnel beneath the Straits of Mackinac, it will disturb and uproot venerated areas. For us, these are the bones and spirits of our grandparents, our Ogemmag, our leaders, and honored

Ogichidaag, our warriors.

For Enbridge, it may be another load of earth moved during construction.

For us, it is our ancestors.

And when people visit Lake Michigan during the summer if construction is ever underway and hear the constant hum and feel the vibration of industrial

equipment for months on end, we will know what lies beneath it.

Our ancestors. The Straits, and all the Great Lakes, should never have been threatened by Line 5 to begin with. The irreversible harm that could be caused to the Straits of Mackinac, and the physical, mental, and spiritual burden tribal communities would bear while recovering our resting relatives, cannot be dismissed as another cost of construction.

We do not trust Enbridge. And we are deeply disappointed by the Corps' decision to grant Enbridge the permit needed to take the next step toward construction.

That disappointment is made greater by the process that brought us here.

On Monday, following short notice, the Sault Tribe was granted one hour of virtual consultation with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Our subject experts voiced concerns about the tunnel, the permitting process, treaty rights, our ancestors, and the cultural and environmental consequences of this project.

Following that consultation, we were given just 24 hours to submit written comments.

We made our position clear. There should not be oil pipelines underneath the Straits of Mackinac.

We know the coming years may be difficult for everyone who values the Great Lakes. But we are not done fighting.

In fact, if there is a silver lining throughout this process, it is that Michigan's 12 federally recognized tribes have never been more united. Just this Tuesday, leaders and representatives from all 12 tribes assembled at Bay Mills to discuss our shared concerns and strategies for responding if the Corps issued Enbridge's permit.

On Wednesday, we received that answer.

And we cannot overstate how shortsighted we believe this decision is.

In 1836, our ancestors signed the Treaty of Washington. That treaty is federal law. The record, including the Corps' own findings, shows that construction and operation of Enbridge's tunnel would diminish treaty-protected fishing, access, cultural practices, ceremonies, ancestral relation-

ships, and the resources and conditions that make those rights meaningful.

Consultation does not supply tribal consent.

Our treaty rights are not expendable.

The United States made a promise in 1836. The Army Corps had an opportunity and a responsibility to uphold that promise. With this decision, the Corps has

failed to honor its treaty obligations.

But this decision is not the end. The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians will continue to stand with our sister tribes.

We will continue to protect our treaty rights. We will continue to protect our ancestors. And we will continue to defend the Straits of Mackinac and the Great Lakes for the generations yet to come.

Our stories tell of Mackinac Island being the first land to appear after the Great Flood receded. As far back as we can trace our oral histories, the Straits have held significant cultural meaning to Anishinaabe people. For centuries, the area was a hub of trading networks and a place for ceremony.
— Chairman Austin Lowes

HONOR A LOVED ONE WHO ATTENDED A NATIVE AMERICAN RESIDENTIAL BOARDING SCHOOL



PLEASE SEND ADVOCACY RESOURCE CENTER YOUR
LOVED ONE'S INFORMATION:

NAME: ESTHER JOHNDROW-ROBERTS-COOPER

SCHOOL/DATE ATTENDED:
ASSININS ORPHANAGE FROM AGE 12-15 (1911-1915)

SOMETHING SPECIAL:
Esther had 6 children and lived to be 98 years old.
She never mentioned her time at Assinins.



Your loved one's name and photo will be added to a display on September 30, Orange T-Shirt Day, to honor and remember our loved ones who attended residential boarding schools. Names and photos will also be added to the Sault Tribe's "Win Awenen Nisitotung" monthly newspaper to honor your loved one.

Please send photos and information to ARC's Community Educator Jess Gillotte-King at jgillotte@saulttribe.net or comment on the post on ARC's Facebook page with your photo and information.
www.facebook.saulttribeARC 906-632-1808

SAULT STE. MARIE TRIBE OF CHIPPEWA INDIANS YOUTH EDUCATION & ACTIVITIES (YEA)

YOUTH POW WOW SATURDAY SEPT 12TH 2026



A family-Friendly Youth Pow Wow honoring
Anishinaabe culture through dancing,
drumming, music and community.

11:00 am - Registration
12:00 pm - Grand Entry
4:30 pm - Feast
(Times subject to change)

Ziibing Pavilion
Pioneer Trail Park
6822 US Highway 2, 41 & M35
Gladstone, MI 49837

Open to the public,
everyone is welcome to
join us and honor our
beautiful Anishinaabe
Culture. All ages are
welcome!

Free Admission
Youth Dancers
Drumming
Name blessing for pavilion
Traditional Food/Feast
Culture activites

Vendors welcome please contact Sarah 906-203-5888

THIS PROGRAM IS MADE POSSIBLE BY A GRANT AWARDED BY MILEAP UNDER
32n OST GRANTS PRGRAM

Chairman Lowes reports to the membership



AUSTIN LOWES
TRIBAL CHAIRMAN

Lansing Community Event and Downstate Meeting

On July 20, the Sault Tribe hosted a community event for our tribal citizens living in the Lansing area. Our Language & Culture Division played an important role in the event, bringing dancers who demonstrated and shared the different styles of powwow dancing with those in attendance. A drum was also present, representing the heartbeat of our people.

The tribe provided dinner for everyone in attendance, and an entire bison was distributed to tribal families to take home. Beyond the cultural activities and food distribution, the event provided an important opportunity to meet directly with our downstate citizens, hear their concerns, answer questions, and discuss what is happening within our tribe.

The following day, on July 21, the tribe held its annual downstate meeting. I remain a staunch supporter of continuing these meetings and finding additional ways to engage our citizens who live outside our seven-county service area. The majority of our tribal membership lives outside our service area, and this is something to remember when we make our decisions.

Capitol Hill visits

On July 23, I traveled to Washington, D.C., to meet with Senator Gary Peters, Senator Elissa Slotkin, and Congressman Jack Bergman to discuss several important issues facing the Sault Tribe.

One issue I raised was the growing threat that prediction markets pose to tribal gaming. I also provided each of these individuals with an update on the Line 5 tunnel project and discussed the significant impact this project would have on the Sault Tribe.

Our concerns with the tunnel project extend far beyond the environmental risks associated with boring a 4-mile-long, 22-foot-diameter tunnel beneath a bedrock, which has never been done before in the United States. Beyond this, I am deeply concerned about the potential disturbance of unmarked Native American burial sites around the Straits. Our ancestors were buried in places overlooking the water. Dogs specially trained to locate human remains have flagged hundreds of potential burial sites in the area. This project would disturb these burial

sites, and the damage couldn't be undone or mitigated. These are the resting places of our ancestors, and they deserve to remain undisturbed and protected.

I conveyed to our congressional delegation just how serious this issue is for the Sault Tribe. In my view, the destruction or disturbance of our ancestors' graves would represent one of the most profound contemporary harms that could be inflicted on our tribe. Protecting the Straits is therefore not simply an environmental issue, but it's also an issue of culture, history, and our responsibility to those who came before us.

Line 5 and tunnel project update

On Aug. 10, I represented the Sault Tribe during consultation with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers regarding the proposed Line 5 tunnel permit. I was joined by the tribe's general counsel, repatriation specialist, and Natural Resources director. Board Members Cole Goudreau, Sue St. Onge, and Aaron Payment also attended.

I was extremely disappointed with how the Army Corps handled this consultation. The tribe requested consultation on Aug. 6 (Thursday). On Aug. 7 (Friday), we were notified that the Corps had agreed to consult with us, however, they scheduled the consultation for Aug. 10 (Monday). This provided the tribe with only one business day to prepare.

The Corps also would not accommodate an in-person consultation and instead required the meeting to occur virtually. A federal decision as consequential as whether to permit the Line 5 tunnel deserves meaningful, face-to-face, government-to-government consultation. I firmly believe this consultation should have occurred in person at the Straits of Mackinac—the very place that would be impacted by the proposed project.

On Aug. 11, I traveled to the Bay Mills Indian Community to meet with tribal chairpersons from across Michigan to discuss how our tribal nations will con-

tinue working together to oppose Line 5 and pursue its decommissioning. Newly elected Unit 3 Board Member Sue St. Onge attended as well and has proven to be a valuable asset to our tribe's work on this issue.

The board of directors also recently authorized my office to join Line 5-related litigation without requiring a separate board vote each time. This will allow the tribe to respond quickly when legal action is necessary. It will also help prevent our tribe from missing opportunities to join cases.

My office is also working closely with our Communications Department to provide written and video updates as developments involving Line 5 and the Tunnel Project occur. Additionally, the tribe is contributing \$15,000 to support Paddle for the Future, a Line 5 demonstration taking place Aug. 29 from 9 a.m. to noon at Kiwanis Beach in St. Ignace.

Line 5 and the proposed tunnel have significant implications for our treaty rights, sovereignty, cultural resources, and the waters that our people have depended upon since time immemorial. I will continue to keep our citizens updated on this issue.

Administration for Children and Families

I previously reported that I was appointed chair of the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) Tribal Advisory Committee (TAC). ACF is an important federal partner for Indian Country, providing funding for child welfare, Headstart, family assistance, and many other programs that directly serve our tribal citizens and families.

Serving as chair of the committee provides our tribe with greater access to ACF leadership and the federal offices responsible for administering many of these critical programs. This creates an opportunity to strengthen those relationships, address ACF related issues more efficiently, and better advocate for the needs of our tribe and Indian Country

as a whole.

Tribal leaders serving on advisory committees such as this are able to select a technical advisor to assist with their work. I selected our ACFS Director Jamie Moran, who also has a social work background and brings valuable experience working directly with the programs and families impacted by ACF policies and funding.

Jamie and I attended our first in-person meeting together on Aug. 4 and 5. The experience was extremely valuable, and we established connections with several offices within ACF that could expand services for our tribal citizens. I am excited about what this role can mean for our tribe and will continue providing updates as this work progresses.

Constant negativity in unit reports

A growing theme in Director Sorenson's recent unit reports has been her references to a "good old boy" network within tribal leadership. In her most recent report, she suggested that gender may have played a role in her not being selected as Vice Chairperson. Because the board's vote resulted in a tie that I was required to break, I think it is appropriate for me to explain why I cast my vote the way I did.

My decision had nothing to do with Director Sorenson's gender. It was based on her lack of involvement in some of the major issues, consultations, and inter-governmental work facing our tribe. I was elected to the board in 2020 and elected chairman in 2022. During my four years as Chairman, Director Sorenson has not attended any of the following:

- Monthly Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority (CORA) meetings,
- JLLJ litigation,
- Consultations regarding Line 5,
- Annual consultation with the U.S. Attorney,
- Annual consultation with Michigan's Attorney General,
- Annual Capitol Hill visits in Washington, D.C.,
- Quarterly United Tribes of

Michigan (UTM) meetings,

— Quarterly Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes (MAST) meetings,

— Meetings with U.S. Senators and members of Congress when they visit the tribe,

— Annual I-500 legislative meeting with state representatives and senators.

These meetings and consultations involve some of the most consequential issues facing our tribe, including treaty rights, sovereignty, litigation, federal and state policy, and our government-to-government relationships. They also require extensive preparation to ensure that we are informed and prepared to advocate effectively for our citizens. These opportunities are not limited to the chairman or vice chairperson. Board members can participate and become engaged in this work as well.

That is why I cast my tie-breaking vote for Tyler LaPlaunt. Tyler and I do not always agree, but when it comes to this work, he has consistently been willing to roll up his sleeves, prepare, participate, and advocate for the tribe. Director Sorenson is entitled to disagree with the board's decision.

However, suggesting that the board's vote was motivated by gender is not accurate, appropriate, or fair.

Enjoy the remaining summer

I hope everyone enjoys the remaining weeks of summer. It has been a pleasure spending time with so many of our tribal citizens, elders, employees, and families at our powwows, elder picnics, employee appreciation events, and other gatherings throughout our communities.

These events are always a great reminder that one of the best parts of serving as chairman is simply having the opportunity to visit with our people. I hope everyone has a safe and enjoyable remainder of the summer, and I look forward to seeing many of you at upcoming tribal events.



Tribal leaders from the 12 tribes across Michigan came together at Bay Mills Indian Community Aug. 11 to discuss opposition to Line 5.

Barbeau reports on Unit 4 meetings and events



**LARRY BARBEAU,
DIRECTOR, UNIT IV**

Aaniin,
I hope everyone is having a wonderful Aug. and enjoying the final weeks of summer. Aug. has continued to bring opportunities for our tribal members and staff to spend time with loved ones, participate in community events, and enjoy the beauty of the summer season. We hope many of our families have had the opportunity to attend and enjoy the many Pow

Wows taking place throughout the summer, celebrating our culture, traditions, and community together. As we move toward the end of summer and prepare for the fall season, I want to wish everyone a safe, enjoyable, and memorable remainder of August. Miigwech to everyone who continues to contribute to and strengthen our community.

Upcoming meetings for the month (subject to change)

We have a few scheduled meetings coming up for the months of August and September; including, board workshops and meetings (one in Munising), JKLFC meetings, Kewadin Gaming Authority meetings, Enterprise Authority meetings, Conservation Committee meetings, etc.

Aug. 4 – Board workshop at 10 a.m. and the board meeting starting at 5 p.m. in the Whitefish Point Room at Kewadin Casinos, Sault Ste. Marie.

Aug. 11 – Board workshop/ JKLFC meeting starting at 9

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

Aug. 17 - Conservation Committee meeting starting at 5 p.m. in the Whitefish Point Room at Kewadin Casinos, Sault Ste. Marie.

Aug. 18 – Board workshop/ Enterprise Authority meeting starting at 9 a.m. and the board meeting starting at 5 p.m. in the Whitefish Point Room at Kewadin Casinos, Sault Ste. Marie.

Aug. 25 – Board workshop/ KGA meeting starting at 9 a.m. in the Whitefish Point Room at Kewadin Casinos, Sault Ste. Marie.

Sept. 1 – Board workshop at 10 a.m. and the board meeting starting at 5 p.m. in the Whitefish Point Room at Kewadin Casinos, Sault Ste. Marie.

Sept. 8 – Board workshop/ JKLFC meeting starting at 9 a.m. and the board meeting starting at 5 p.m. in the Whitefish Point Room at

Kewadin Casinos, Sault Ste. Marie.

Sept. 15 – Board workshop/ Enterprise Authority meeting starting at 9 a.m. and the board meeting starting at 5 p.m. in the Whitefish Point Room at Kewadin Casinos, Sault Ste. Marie.

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

Sept. 22 – Board workshop/ KGA meeting starting at 9 a.m. and the Board meeting starting at 5 p.m. in the Whitefish Point Room at Kewadin Casinos, Sault Ste. Marie.

Unit 4 Elder Meetings

We encourage all tribal elders to attend the elder meetings. The next meetings in Manistique will be held Aug. 12 and Sept. 9 at 12 p.m. EST at the Manistique Tribal Center. The next meetings in Escanaba will be held Aug. 12 and Sept. 9 at 5 p.m. EST at the Escanaba Community Center. The Elder

Advisory meetings are Aug. 21 and Sept. 18 at 1 p.m. EST at the Newberry Tribal Center.

Contact information

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

As we move into Aug. and look ahead to September, I encourage Unit 4 members to stay engaged and connected with our tribal community. This time of year, brings many opportunities to attend meetings, take part in community events, and participate in cultural activities. Your involvement helps keep our community strong and ensures that the voices, ideas, and priorities of our members continue to be heard. Please continue to reach out with any questions, concerns, or suggestions, as your feedback is an important part of the work we do. Miigwech for your continued support and involvement. I wish everyone a safe and enjoyable August and a positive start to the fall season.

Sorenson reports on board meeting, Unit 3 events



**BRIDGETT SORENSON,
DIRECTOR, UNIT III**

The entire board traveled to the Lansing meeting with our executive staff. Cody Jodoin and Kevin Leonard did an excellent job of coordinating space at MSU to host dinner and a cultural expo with dancers and drummers from the area. There was about 100 at-large members in attendance for a traditional meal. The guests also received bison.

We held a workshop and meeting the next day. There were maybe a dozen members that came for the community meeting. I think it is important to meet with members downstate but will always advocate against a meeting vs. a Q&A. We could have combined the dinner with a Q&A and just had one day of expenses. As always, it is nice to meet people that we may hear from but never see in person. Thanks to all who took the time to drive over to Lansing to spend time with us.

On July 28, we held our weekly workshop where we discussed many issues and then attended the groundbreaking at Odenaang for the 20-unit apartment complex. It will be a beautiful building and I hope we can eventually build one in each unit. There is a huge need for single or couples for housing.

At the Aug. 4 board meeting, the chair was gone to Idaho with

the ACFS Director and the vice chair was on a family vacation. Once again, they tried to have a man chair the meeting, Mike as treasurer, but Ashley as secretary comes first. Mike knows this and supported that role. Ashley did chair the workshop and meeting and did a great job.

Topics discussed during the day were proposed 2027 Schedule A budgets, which did not include Health. These budgets are just shy of \$12 million and include about \$540,000 of tribal support (means funding is from the casinos and businesses). We met with the Health CEO, which included staffing shortages and recruitment/retention efforts. We were introduced to the new chief judge and staff attorney which are both Sault Tribe women. On the agenda was also the Constitution.

Our General Counsel Ryan Mills went through the timeline of completion by Dec. 25, 2026, for the vote. The BIA had asked for a 90-day extension. The chief judge did stay for the Constitution discussion as well as the new magistrate (worked as a Sault Tribe officer for 18 years). There were many concerns with the timeline. Apparently, the date the vote is tallied, the three-branches will go into effect even if codes are not in place. There is an 18-month period to get all codes in place following the vote.

The board is going to start meeting every Monday afternoon to discuss the codes. A few of us have asked for a resolution to be written so that the board as well as the court can have their own attorneys during this process.

The Legal Department would rather they do all the work until the official split where the Legal Department will fall under the executive branch. Many of us believe we each need our own representation to comb through these codes.

As I have been saying for the

past year, I DO NOT support a three-branch government. We had decided a year ago to have reviews of each branch so we could have member input on what the best structure is for our tribe. The three branches were put together and legal did not bring the two-branch structure forward. I believe if we were doing our due diligence, both structures would have thoroughly been discussed and vetted, and we should have had discussions with other tribes on their pros and cons with their structures. Yes, the members did poll for a three-branch government but they didn't have the proposed document and see what this board or actually the prior election board agreed on. This was pushed forward due to the election and trying to push their agenda. The power-hungry board and chair are the ones that are pushing this so hard.

Essentially, the current board of directors will become tribal council and pass laws and budgets. So, when members who are used to contacting board members with concerns or employment, housing, programs or services, the board member will not be able to do much other than refer that person to the division as we will no longer be in their chain of command. The chair will have control over all the government divisions. Like it or not, members are used to being able to contact their board rep when they feel they aren't being heard or need an advocate. I am trying to be blunt about what members can expect. Frankly, even if I held the chair position, I would rather have 12 other people weighing in on things rather than one person.

At least now if you feel like you can't talk to one director, you could contact another one. In this case, it will only be one person. I am also sure that those board or council members that the chair likes will have advan-

tages.

We recently were made aware of the Chair working with a family on the donation of an island in Les Cheneaux called Lone Susan. It apparently has a rustic cabin on a small piece of land. The tribe voted in Lansing to accept this donation. We were not provided if we will be able to put this land into trust or what the taxes may be under a new owner. You may only be able to access by canoe or kayak, too. It seems that he is all about buying any land that he can hunt on. He mentioned at the groundbreaking to other board members about opening up some hunting on Odenaag. He has also admitted he has cameras on many pieces of land the tribe owns. I am not sure if that also applies to all members if they wish to do the same or not. Sometimes I see these as benefits to the individual but, hey, I'll donate ya some meat.

I have also requested the board have a workshop with Enrollment in regards to the Garden River Church records in regard to those that only can tie to that document for Enrollment when no other church records are solely being used. Last September, the general counsel advised us that didn't comply with the Constitution.

The Savard housing infrastructure project is coming along nicely. It is so big since it was cleared. What a blessing to have in our community. I do not recall such a project since the St. Ignace Rez was built. Fingers crossed we get grant funding to build units for 2027.

I had an elder reach out to me a few months ago about planter boxes that the residents at the elder complex were provided last year and if those who lived at another complex could get one. I am sorry that this process has taken so long but I am told they will be accepting applications to be able to provide these for next year through Community Health.

Some of the approved resolutions at the Aug. 4 meeting were naming the new fitness/activity center in Hessel after a bear cub, adopting a dock policy for tribally owned docks and amending Tribal Code Chapter 21 with some season changes, bag limits and furbearers providing a lower jaw instead of a full skull.

We approved a budget modification to use some opioid settlement funds to help the ACFS division with ICWA funding. They told us they have about 500 cases a year in 23 states and 32 counties. That is a lot of work and dedication in protecting our children!

We have changed the date of the Elder Unit 3 Picnic to Wednesday, Sept. 9 at the Elder Complex beginning at 11:30 a.m. We will be having lots of good food and Bingo as well as possibly some music.

The Rendezvous at the Straits Powwow will be held at the Little Bear Arena on Aug. 28-29. Grand Entry will take place on both days at 12 p.m. There will also be a Paddle for the Future rally on Aug. 29 at Kiwanis Beach from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. We will also be having a community basket workshop on Aug. 26-29 at the Ojibwa Museum from 12 to 6 p.m. daily.

Sue and I will be holding a Unit 3 Q&A with refreshments on Monday, Sept. 21, at 7-8 p.m. at the McCann School. We plan to meet monthly on the third Monday of the month unless our tribal schedule conflicts.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me with any questions or concerns at bsorenson@saulttribe.net, bridgett91@yahoo.com or (906) 430-0536.

Anyone in St. Ignace that has a child 3 or 4 years old, please consider enrolling them in the tribe's Head Start program so they can learn some of our culture and language. There is a bus driver for transportation as that has been an issue in the past.

Director Gravelle reports on new board role



ASHLEY GRAVELLE
DIRECTOR, UNIT 1

Dear Tribal Citizens,

It is hard to believe that my first month as a member of the board of directors has already gone by. I wanted to take a few moments to share some of what I have been working on and to thank all of you for your kindness, encouragement, and patience as I settle into this new role.

On July 6, 2026, I was officially sworn in as a member of the board of directors. During our first official meeting, we elected our officers. Director Tyler Laplaunt was elected vice chair, Mike McKerchie was elected treasurer, and I was truly honored to be elected secretary. Thank you to my fellow board

members for trusting me to serve in this capacity.

The following day, we held our first workshop and board meeting. Since then, every week has been filled with workshops, meetings, studying our Constitution and Tribal Code, answering emails and phone calls, listening to our membership, and learning something new every day.

One of the first things I wanted to do was visit several of our tribal departments and introduce myself. It was important to me to begin building relationships with the people who work so hard every day to serve our tribe. I have also spent many hours reviewing board packets, researching agenda items, and comparing them with our Constitution and Tribal Code so that I can make informed decisions.

I have also had the opportunity to help with Feeding America, attend our Conservation Committee meetings, participate in Board Orientation, and learn more about the work each department does. I attended the Purchasing Department bid openings, worked alongside Director McRorie and our Legal Department on a future resolu-

tion we hope to bring forward.

One meeting that especially inspired me was with Director McRorie and a tribal citizen who shared ideas about preserving and teaching our traditional language. Their passion was contagious, and it reminded me how much knowledge and wisdom exists within our own people.

I also had the privilege of traveling to Lansing for the Drum & Dance Exposition and Dinner Gathering. The event was beautifully organized, and it was wonderful seeing so many people come together. After one of our board meetings, we also held a question-and-answer session with tribal citizens. I truly enjoyed hearing everyone’s thoughts, concerns, and ideas. Those conversations are important, and I appreciate everyone who takes the time to share them.

One of my favorite experiences this month was spending time with a couple of our elders listening to their thoughts and ideas and receiving teachings from them. This meant more to me than I can put into words. I also attended the Unit 1 Elders Subcommittee meeting and appreciated hearing their questions and concerns.

I am excited to see the Unit 1 monthly tribal citizen meetings begin again and hope many of you will be able to attend.

Throughout the month I also helped weed the Elders Community Garden alongside Chairperson Lowes and Director McRorie.

On Aug. 4, I had the opportunity to chair my first board meeting. I will admit I was nervous, but I am incredibly grateful for our staff and my fellow board members, who were supportive throughout the day. It was a learning experience I will never forget.

There are many important projects currently moving forward. The board continues working on water protection and preparations are underway for the next phase of construction at Kewadin Casino.

I know this update only touches on a small portion of what has been happening during the past month, but I wanted you to know that I have been working hard to learn this position and serve you to the best of my ability.

I also want to be honest with all of you. Before becoming a board member, I was sometimes one of the people who was critical of the board. Now

that I have had the opportunity to sit in this seat, I have gained a much deeper appreciation for just how much work goes into serving our tribe. That doesn’t mean we always get everything right, but I have seen firsthand the amount of time, preparation, and dedication that goes into every meeting and every decision.

Most importantly, I want you to know that I value hearing from you. Sometimes the conversations are difficult, and sometimes feedback is hard to hear, but I believe constructive feedback helps us become stronger and mindful. I will always do my best to listen with an open mind and an open heart.

If you would like to meet, visit, or simply share your thoughts, please reach out to me via (906) 203-5160. I would be more than happy to sit down with you.

Thank you again for your trust, your support, your prayers, and your encouragement as I continue learning and growing in this role. It is an honor to serve our tribe, and I look forward to working together for the good of our people.

Miigwech,
Ashley Gravelle
Unit 1 Board of Directors

Goudreau on listening, leading, following up



COLE GOUDREAU
DIRECTOR, UNIT IV

Aanii Unit 4 Members,

As summer winds down and our children prepare to return to school, I’m honored to reflect on a month of progress, partnership, and gratitude within our Unit 4 community. Stepping into this role has been a meaningful journey—I’m still getting my feet wet, but I’m inspired by the dedication I see every day.

Fair fun for our children

Director Barbeau and I are excited to share that we’ve secured wristbands for Unit 4 children to attend the UP State Fair on Thursday, Aug. 20, during Honored Citizen Day. We hope our youth enjoy this special day before heading back to school. Supporting memorable experiences for our children is always a priority.

Welcome, Krystal Goudreau NP!

We’re thrilled to welcome Krystal Goudreau to the Manistique Tribal Health Center as a Nurse Practitioner. Krystal is a local to Manistique and a Sault Tribe member. She previously served in the Health

Division as an RN, then furthered her education to become a primary care provider serving our community. Her expertise and commitment to our members make a significant difference, and we look forward to all she will continue to accomplish.

Celebrating our team

This month, Unit 4 hosted the Kewadin Casino, Governmental, and Health Picnic—a wonderful opportunity to show gratitude to our dedicated employees.

No matter the role you provide within the tribe, your hard work and sacrifice are deeply appreciated. Seeing so many long-term employees in our facilities is a testament to your commitment. Please join me in thanking our team for being first in class!

Honoring our elders

Both Manistique and Escanaba elders enjoyed their summer picnics—a time to connect, celebrate, and plan for the months ahead. I am continually humbled by our elders’ leadership. Their wisdom, love, bravery, respect, honor, humility, and truth guide us all. Chi Miigwech for your ongoing support!

Manistique Elders Bingo

I’m excited to report that Manistique Elders Bingo continues to grow, now boasting 40 participants. This success is thanks to our dedicated elders who organize and coordinate the event. Your enthusiasm and hard work are making a real impact—keep it up!

Expanding trail access

Thanks to the tireless efforts of Kewadin Casino General Manager Wanda Barbeau and

collaboration with local, state, and federal organizations, a new trail system is being established. This will allow ATV/UTV and snowmobiles to travel from Manistique to the casino, and even provide easier access to Sault Ste. Marie and St. Ignace. This new trail will also benefit future campground visitors and outdoor enthusiasts. Chi Miigwech to everyone involved in making this vision a reality.

Protecting our waters: Line 5 update

The Michigan Supreme Court ruled 6-1 against the state permit for Enbridge’s proposed Line 5 and sent the matter back to the Michigan Public Service Commission for further review. This is an important step in protecting our treaty rights, water, and identity. Our Chairman, Board of Directors, and legal counsel continue to work with other tribes and government agencies for a lasting solution. Each unit has contributed \$3,000 to support this fight. Please join us at the Water Ceremony Rally in St. Ignace at Kiwanis Beach on Aug. 29 from 9 a.m. to noon as we advocate for our waters.

Three-branch government progress

Work continues with the BIA on the secretarial election for our three-branch government. As the largest such election east of the Mississippi, we are taking every step to ensure a fair and efficient process. Updates will be shared as they’re available.

Cultural events ahead

Watch for upcoming events—including ribbon skirt, mitten, and flute workshops, as well

as community potlucks and craft nights. Flyers will be posted soon. For details, reach out to our Cultural Coordinator, Kelly Tovar.

A New School Year

To our children heading back to school: I wish you a safe, successful, and inspiring year. To the parents, grandparents, teachers, and staff who support our youth—Miigwech for your encouragement, patience, and guidance. Keep a lookout for the Unit 4 Y.E.A after-school pro-

grams!

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

The Sault Tribe and Sacred Waterways present

Paddle for the Future

Flotilla to Stop Line 5
Come protect the water!
glwbn.org/waterways

*Water Ceremony Rally
Traditional Food
Kayaking
Drums
Art*

*All are welcome
byo feast bundle*

Sat. Aug. 29th, 2026
9 am - Noon
Kiwanis Beach
St. Ignace, MI

Lee gives Line 5 update, reviews Unit 2 events



KIMBERLY LEE,
DIRECTOR, UNIT II

Aanii,
I hope everyone is enjoying the last stretch of summer and finding time to spend with family, friends, and community. August is a busy month across Unit 2, with several opportunities to gather, celebrate, and stay connected. I want to share a few important updates, upcoming events, and opportunities for our members to gather.

Line 5 Update
Line 5 remains a strong and important issue for our tribe, our communities, and the future of the Great Lakes. The proposed tunnel under the Straits of Mackinac is about much more than just a pipeline. It involves our water, our treaty rights, our culture, our ancestors, and what

we want to leave behind for generations to come.

In addition to those concerns, it is deeply troubling to consider how this project could affect places that hold cultural significance, including burial sites and other historic and sacred locations. Disturbing the places where our ancestors are laid to rest is not simply a construction issue. These sites carry deep cultural and spiritual significance and deserve to be treated with the utmost respect and care.

I know our members have different views on Line 5 and the proposed tunnel, and those perspectives deserve to be heard. But no matter where someone stands on the project itself, tribal nations need to have a real and meaningful voice when decisions could impact our treaty waters, cultural sites, and the resting places of our ancestors.

The Straits have held significance for Anishinaabe people long before pipelines or state borders came into existence. Protecting these waters and culturally significant places is part of our responsibility to those who came before us and to those who will come after us.

As we move forward, I will continue listening to our members, advocating for our treaty rights, and pushing for meaningful government-to-government consultation. Progress should not

come at the expense of our ancestors, our culture, or our responsibility to safeguard the lands and waters that have supported our people for generations.

There will be a Paddle for the Future event on Saturday, Aug. 29, 2026, from 9 a.m. to noon at Kiwanis Beach in St. Ignace. If you are able, I encourage you to join. This cause is bigger than any one person, group, or generation. It is about what together we choose to protect and leave behind.

Makoons Community Wellness Center
The Makoons Community Wellness Center in Hessel, located in front of Bear on the Mountain Golf Course, marks an important advancement for the health and well being of our community. It provides a space for youth, teens, elders, and families to stay active, connect, and be a part of a variety of activities that strengthen our community today and for future generations.

The center is now open to tribal members Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Plans are also underway to implement a key fob system for expanded gym access, along with future membership opportunities for the surrounding community.

We invite everyone to join us for the Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting on Aug. 28 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Come see the

new space, celebrate this exciting addition to our community, and learn more about what the Makoons Community Wellness Center has to offer.

I hope to see you there!

A chi miigwech to everyone who helped make this a reality. This space represents what can happen when we continue investing in our people, our families, and the future of our communities in a positive way. Only together can we achieve good things for our people.

Unit 2 Elder Picnics
We are looking forward to spending some quality time with our Unit 2 elders at this year’s Elder Picnics. These gatherings are always a wonderful way to come together, enjoy a meal, visit with one another, and be reminded of what makes our communities so special.

This year’s Unit 2 Elder Picnics will be held throughout our area:

Naubinway: Wednesday, Aug. 26 at 5:30 p.m.
Hessel: Thursday, Aug. 27, at 11:30 a.m.
Newberry: Friday, Aug. 28, at 11 a.m.

Our Elders hold the most important place within our communities, carrying knowledge, stories, experiences, and traditions that continue to guide us for generations to come. Creating opportunities to gather, share a

meal, laugh, visit, and simply enjoy each other’s company is vital

I hope to see many of you at this year’s picnics. There is nothing like a few days of good food, great conversation, and time spent together.

As summer begins to wind down, I am grateful for every opportunity we have to come together as a community.

Whether we are protecting the waters and places that have sustained our people for generations, creating new spaces for our families to thrive, or sitting down to share a meal with our elders, each of these efforts is connected by the same responsibility. To honor who we are, where we come from while building something meaningful for those who come after us.

Chi miigwech to members, staff, volunteers, elders, and community members who continue to show up, lend a hand, share their voices, and care for one another. I look forward to seeing many of you at the upcoming events throughout the month. As always, please continue to reach out, ask questions, share your concerns, and stay involved. Our communities are strongest when we work together.

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

Standing together for the water: *Paddle out for the future*



SUE ST. ONGE
DIRECTOR, UNIT III

As I write this unit report, I find myself looking out across the Straits of Mackinac. I am reminded how fortunate I am to call this beautiful place home. I often tell people that it was Nibi and Aki that called me back. I am grateful every day for the privilege to live here and I understand that with that privilege comes great responsibility. For me, that responsibility begins with the water.

As Anishinaabe people, we have always understood that we are not separate from the water. We are part of a relationship with it. We did not create that relationship, and we do not have the right to walk away from it. The waters are not an abstract idea to me. They are outside my door. They are the waters our children swim in and the waters that have carried our stories, teachings, food, medicines, and prayers for generations. The Straits do not belong to one person or one place. They are part of a relationship that existed long before any of us

were here and, if we honor our responsibilities, will exist long after we are gone.

That is why the discussions surrounding the proposed Line 5 tunnel project under the Straits of Mackinac matter so deeply to me. When I think about Line 5, I do not just think about a project on a map. I think about home, responsibility, and what it means to care for a place that has sustained our people for generations.

But Line 5 is only one of the many challenges facing our Great Lakes. We are witnessing increasing industrial development along our shores, as well as multiple proposals for large scale data centers and the water demands that come with those. There are also concerns about water withdrawals and diversion efforts, pollution, invasive species, and the impacts of a changing climate. Clearly, protecting our freshwater is not about responding to one project at a time. We must recognize that the overall health of the Great Lakes is connected to the health and future of our people.

The status of our whitefish populations is also concerning. For generations, whitefish have sustained our people physically, culturally, and spiritually. Today, declining populations, changing lake conditions, invasive species, and habitat loss are placing this treasured relative under increasing and extreme pressure. When our whitefish are struggling, it should be a grave reminder to us that the health of our waters and the health of our people are inseparable.

Caring for the water has never been simply an environmental

issue. It is a sacred responsibility. The health of our lakes is reflected in the health of our fish, wildlife, communities, and future.

A responsibility we all carry
I also want to speak directly to our tribal citizens who may work for Enbridge, whose families depend on jobs connected to the pipeline, or who believe that a Line 5 tunnel is the best path forward. I understand that these issues are not always simple. Jobs matter. Families matter. Economic security matters. We can disagree about projects and still recognize one another as relatives. My plea is not to turn against one another. Rather, it is for us to remember who we are.

Before we are employees, workers, contractors, advocates, or supporters of any particular project, we are Anishinaabe people. Our relationship with Nibi and Aki carries responsibilities older than any corporation, pipeline, political administration, or economic opportunity. I ask our relatives who support Line 5, or who work for Enbridge, to consider that relationship with an open heart.

What would our ancestors ask of us? What would we tell our grandchildren if the waters were harmed? What responsibility do we carry for the relatives who cannot speak for themselves—the fish, birds, plants, and water?

This is not about questioning anyone’s loyalty to their family or community. It is about remembering that our responsibilities extend beyond this moment.

A job can provide for a family today, but the water must sustain our people tomorrow and for gen-

erations we will never meet.

These threats to our freshwater are bigger than any one project, tribe, or community. No nation should have to carry this responsibility alone, but none of us can afford to step away from it. We should be able to have these difficult conversations without anger or shame, and without forgetting our kinship. I believe we have an opportunity and an obligation to bring our people together around the threats facing our waters, our way of life, and our communities.

We need our tribal leaders together.

We need our elders’ wisdom and vision.

We need our youth at the table.

We need our communities connected, because the water has always connected us.

I believe this is a moment for unity among tribal nations and Indigenous communities throughout the Great Lakes region. We are stronger when we stand beside one another, share knowledge, lift up one another’s voices, and work together to protect the waters that connect us all. Our connections to the water may be different, but our responsibility is shared. We inherited this responsibility from those who came before us, and now it is ours to carry for those who come after us.

We have to ask ourselves what we want to be able to tell those generations. I do not want to tell them that we saw this moment coming and simply hoped someone else would act. I want to tell them that we listened. That we stood together. That we remembered who we are. I want them to

know the taste of fresh whitefish. I want them to hear the sound of paddles crossing the Straits. I want them to know the teachings, stories, and relationships that have connected our people to these waters since time immemorial.

That is what the seven generations means to me. It is a reminder that our decisions today reach far beyond our own lives. We are caretakers for those who came before us and for those who have not yet arrived. This is why we are gathering and would like to invite you to gather with us.

Please join us for Paddle Out for the Future. It is a peaceful gathering to honor and protect the waters of the Straits of Mackinac. It is an opportunity to come together in solidarity, strengthen our relationships, and remind one another that we do not have to face these challenges alone.

Paddle Out for the Future Saturday, Aug. 29 9 a.m. – Noon Kiwanis Beach St. Ignace, Mich.
Bring your kayak, canoe, or paddle board, or come and stand in solidarity with us and the water. Everyone is welcome.

The Rendezvous at the Straits Water Protectors Powwow will directly follow, with Grand Entry scheduled for 1 p.m. on Aug. 29.

The water has always connected us. May it now call us to stand together. For the water. For our communities. For our ancestors. For the generations yet to come. For the next seven generations.

I hope to see you there.

Chi Miigwech,
Sue St. Onge

No king(s) on the rez! Support a three-branch gov’t



AARON PAYMENT
DIRECTOR, UNIT I

HEALTHY NEW FOCUS

With a longer-term journey back to good health expected, I’ve decided to shift my focus and my approach to the positive in order to manifest healing for me personally and for our tribe as we evolve to a more responsible and lasting form of government with the impending three-branch separation of powers vote. While the timeline is a little delayed, **YOU MUST STILL REGISTER TO VOTE** if you want your voice heard. I know with confidence that if tribal voters register to vote and vote, we will cross the threshold like many other modern tribal governments with a three-branch separation of powers steeped with the underpinnings of our traditional egalitarian governance.

While some are still working to sabotage a three-branch, they do so at their own peril as those who are campaigning against what the people want have lost significant numbers of votes in the last several elections. See for yourself in past editions of the Sault Tribe News online. One incumbent is getting just over half the votes he/she once got. Not listening to the people when all units and at large polled for a three-branch in a landslide, will undoubtedly result in losing your seat. I’ll stop there to keep it positive; there can be nothing more positive than to listen the people, and vote accordingly.

“BLAME THE CHAIR” NO LONGER WORKS

Over the years, I have grown used to the “blame the chair” approach to shift responsibility from the tribal board table. Recently, I heard the argument that under the new three-branch

government that we will end up with a dictator as ogema (chair) who will have unchecked power to fire people. This is what we have now but with the board as the unitary one-branch government. In political science, this is called an “oligarchy” or “dictatorship” and is our current form of government under a federal government forced corporate charter with a board and chair rather than an ogema and tribal council. Currently, key team members report to the tribal board and have no due process or labor protections. All team members should have these protections.

ENACTING TRIBAL LABOR LAW

With the three-branch separation of powers impending, the next big initiative is enacting tribal labor law to protect all team members in tribal government programs and services, enterprises and gaming. With the new Constitution, you and I will have the right to initiate such reforms so the people can vote to approve. Justification: Prior to 1998, no such grievance or appeal procedures existed in our tribe. Another board member [who worked outside of the tribe] and I pushed to create our appeal policy. At the time, management willfully fired about one-third of our employees annually which cost us an exorbitant \$3 million annually in unemployment just for the discretion to fire our own people without due process for grievances. In 1998, I collaborated with an attorney in tribal legal to write our grievance and appeal procedures. This was the best we could do at the time but it is just not good enough to protect your job. In 2008, right after I left office for four years, the then-board voted to suspend all team members appeal rights. The appeal rights and procedures remained suspended for the full four years I was out of office. **FOUR YEARS!** We need to enact tribal labor laws that do not depend on who is in elective office. I acknowledge that some layoffs had to occur given the financial crisis then, but four years with no labor rights is extreme. This happened which means it can easily happen again under our one-branch or two-branch government. Whether you get your job back should not depend on the board. In one case, a department direc-

tor physically assaulted a tribal woman team member. I saw the pictures of her battered face. The case was so serious that the local prosecutor requested the state AG assign a special prosecutor. Then the assailant repeatedly called and harassed the victim and threaten her job and her family members’ jobs. This was brought to me by tribal Legal and HR with the justification to terminate the assailant so I recommended to the board to fire him. Because of politics, just the opposite happened and 10 board members voted to let the alleged woman beater keep his job. Shortly after returning to work, he fired the victim’s father. Right now, whether or not you get fired or have appeal rights should not be left the discretion of the board or chair. It should be the law.

A LEGAL RIGHT TO YOUR JOB!

Over the next several months, I will be gathering support for enactment of tribal labor law that guarantees you your right to your job if you show up and do a good job. I also support certain management decisions being subject to grievances like raises or promotions. While nepotism is no longer as prominent as it once was, cronyism and favoritism remain and deny you a fair shot. I envision these decisions being governed by administrative law with a right to appeal up to an administrative law judge and ultimately to an independent judicial branch. My first master’s was in public administration, which is a degree to learn the Administrative Procedures Act and public personnel management. I have been advocating for labor protections my entire career. If you support this movement, please contact me to lend a hand. I am still focusing on healing and positive thinking in order to fully heal from cancer but I still need to do my job to protect our members and team members. I know there are a few board members who will support this movement. Please resist when certain other board members try to sabotage this effort. The only thing they can say is...“Trust me, I’ll get you that promotion or your job back.”

Whether or not you have a job should not be based on patronage that depends on kissing up to politicians. Did you know board

members serve on the termination appeals board? I’ve seen board members exercise retribution in the decisions on whether or not to reinstate team members. It should be your right and not the discretion of the board. Stay tuned as this will be my first tribal citizen initiated constitutional amendment after we vote to establish a three-branch separation of powers. By the way, without a three-branch vote, neither you nor I as citizens have any rights to initiate such positive reforms like tribal labor law. This is why this is so critical to our future as a real and true sovereign tribal government which depends on a three-branch separation of powers.

JKL HIGH SCHOOL \$1.5M VOTE

While I am grateful for the vote to appropriate \$1.5 million from the JKL Fund Balance (previously known as the building fund), I want to make clear this is precisely what the funds are for. Voting to follow through on what you told us you wanted via poll in 1993 and the board voted on in 1996 — namely a K-12 school system — is what we have said all along. I thank the board for

voting on what we said we would do. My hope going forward is that some don’t slow the progress such that we don’t open our doors in 2027 or at all. A tribal board election is always around the corner and Unit 1 members have made clear they expect us to follow through. We currently educate the majority of K-8 grade Sault Tribe members in the district at JKL. It does not make sense for us to do all this prep to allow them to enter a system after 8th grade where the Native American drop out rate remains the worst of all students. Yes, there have been improvements but why deny our high school students the academy of excellence that is JKL.

Next month, I will elaborate on the recent Line 5 Michigan Supreme Court ruling and our tribe’s new or renewed approach to join the effort to **SHUT DOWN LINE 5**.

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

Chi Miigwech,
— Aaron
(906) 440-8946, aapayment@saulttribe.net

Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians



**2026 ~ Unit 1
Monthly Tribal Citizen Meetings**

5 to 7pm ~ Monthly

Thursday ~ August 6th | Kewadin Whitefish Point Rm²

Thursday ~ September 3rd | Kewadin Whitefish Point Rm¹

Monday ~ October 5th | Nokomis Mishomis²

Monday ~ November 9th | Nokomis Mishomis²

Monday ~ December 7th | Nokomis Mishomis²

¹ Kewadin Casino ~ 2186 Shunk Rd., Sault, MI | ² Unit 1 Elder Meal Site ~ 2076 Shunk Road, Sault MI

~ At Large & Zoom Option ~

**[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85782325742?](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85782325742?pwd=uJheJnlebmd3FT4Gf09Ks5Bdy2Trc5.1)
[pwd=uJheJnlebmd3FT4Gf09Ks5Bdy2Trc5.1](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85782325742?pwd=uJheJnlebmd3FT4Gf09Ks5Bdy2Trc5.1)**

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

Reasons the tribe needs a two-branch government



KIM GRAVELLE,
DIRECTOR, UNIT I

Aaniin,
I hope everyone is enjoying the warm weather. Soon enough school will be back in session!

I would like to speak on the separation of powers again. I know I did a unit report in the past about this issue but would like to do a reminder of how I feel. I was in support of sending out our Constitution to the membership for its decision. The following is some of my thoughts.

Which form of government is the best for us? I have held fast on supporting a two-branch separation of powers. A two branch will keep the courts/judicial separate from the legislative branch and will give the membership the right to file suit against the legislative branch. It still has measures in place for the membership to challenge decisions that may be put in place.

With the way the draft Constitution is written, the three

branch would be adding an executive branch and the chairman/ogema would have oversight over our governmental services and no longer sit at the Board of Directors (BOD) table. The BOD would appoint a speaker from the elected representatives to run the meetings.

In 2010, the membership voted to remove the chairman as Chief Executive Officer (CEO). Putting the chairman/ogema back as CEO is a step back. No one person should have this kind of control. We have directors in these positions and they do a good job. No one elected official should be running departments we have experienced directors for. A two-branch separation would do the same as a three branch and would not reverse what the membership

put in place.

When the surveys were sent to the membership the constitutional draft was not attached, therefore, our membership made a decision without seeing the actual document. A copy of the draft Constitution is available on our website; please read it carefully before making your decision.

On another note, our Natural Resource Department (NDR) received a grant it is coordinating with federal USDA revenue to do a challenge cost share project. This funding will leverage existing relationships, build partnerships, and share knowledge in development of actionable, integrated science to manage and restore lowland ecological systems. This will lead to the completion of the cedar cost

share deliverables. The NDR will collaborate with the U.S. Forest Service lowland ecological systems and will lead to improved forest planning and management as well as strengthen relationships. This project benefits any Sault Tribe member that depends on access to lowland ecosystems.

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 kkgravelle@saulttribe.net. Please leave a message and I will return your call.

Miigwech,
Kim Gravelle

LaPlaunt reviews Unit 5 news, events, issues



TYLER LAPLAUNT
DIRECTOR, UNIT V

Aanii, Boozhoo,

August is here, and summer is already beginning to show us how quickly the seasons move in the U.P. These are important weeks for gathering, harvesting, powwows, time on the water, and making memories with family and community before the cooler days return.

Late summer also carries an important reminder. When we gather berries, medicines, fish, or other gifts from the land and water, we are taught to take what we need, give thanks, offer ase-mma, and leave enough so that those gifts will continue for generations to come. That teaching reaches far beyond harvesting, it reminds us to move through life with gratitude, respect, and an understanding that what we do today has an impact on those who come after us.

With all of the powwows slowly closing out across our communities, it has been a blessing to watch our culture become more and more vibrant across our region. From our gathering for at-large in the Lansing Area to our homecoming powwow in the Sault and every community in between, we are seeing more and more of our relatives take part in our culture and our re-joining our family. If you are reading this and are interested in joining in to

our cultural activities but don’t know where to start, just take that first step. Look for activities in your area and join in. If you don’t know where to look, reach out. It’s so beautiful to see so many new faces help our family grow each year. Gidinawendimin. “We are all related.”

Kitchi-Miniss Jiingtamok (powwow)

I would like to send a huge shout out to the entire Jiingtamok committee for the amazing event they put on this past weekend. What an amazing event and an absolutely beautiful day for everyone to share in culture, dancing, singing, laughing, and telling stories. To everyone who helped make it such a huge success I want to give a chi miig-wech! This is the second year back up and running since the pandemic and the strength of the Munising community is showing bright and beautiful.

Secretarial Election Updates

We were notified by the BIA that since our constitutional amendments were almost a complete re-write of what we had in place before that they were going to slow down the process due to the sheer size and scope. What was originally supposed to take place at the end of September will now take place closer to the middle of December.

Since the Secretary of the Interior is required to manage the election process of any constitutional changes, we as a tribe have no say in this process. However, we can look at this as a blessing in disguise. Over the next few months, we can begin to pass policy and identify all of the things that need to go into place for the day the separation of powers were to occur so that no branch is left wondering what they should and shouldn’t be doing and who and what they oversee and are responsible for.

We have a series of workshops

coming up in addition to our regular business workshops to discuss the separations and how to make it as clean as possible so we are ready on day one. We will still have roughly 18 months to fully implement the new constitution upon approval of the membership, but there is still legislation that will need to be complete for moving forward the day after the secretarial election. A reminder that all updates will

be posted on our website and Facebook page. We now have a staff member that is solely responsible to keep membership updated on all happenings of the tribe, so information will be more current and less delayed. We will keep you informed as ballots are prepared to be sent out.

Advocacy Updates

As some of my elders are aware, I will be on a family vacation from the beginning to the

middle of August to celebrate our 20th anniversary. While I do not like to air out my personal life, I do think it’s important for membership to know why I have been delayed in my responses, but still responding as I have service and am able.

That being said, I am excited to announce that I was recently appointed to serve as a national-at-large delegate to the Center for

See “LaPlaunt,” page 27



Teal Lake Singers at the Munising powwow above; at the Sugar Island Powwow below.



Sault Tribe Board of Directors 2nd Quarter Travel Report

Pursuant to Sault Tribe Board of Directors Resolution 2025-280: Quarterly Board Travel Reports, in the chart below is the financial detail related to the 2nd Quarter of 2026 (Apr 1 - June 30). Please see resolution for additional information.

Board Member	Board of Directors Workshops / Meetings	Government-to-Government	Tribal Conferences	Lobbying Efforts	Miscellaneous (Elder meetings, ground breakings, office hours, meetings, etc.)	Total by Board Member
Austin Lowes, Chairman	\$595.96	\$904.10	\$0.00	\$759.28	\$273.33	\$2,532.67
Kimberle Gravelle, Unit 1	\$549.08	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$549.08
Isaac McKechnie, Unit 1	\$243.60	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$243.60
Michael McKerchie, Unit 1	\$471.98	\$885.88	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,357.86
Robert McRorie, Unit 1	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Aaron Payment, Unit 1	\$529.26	\$324.08	\$5,550.16	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$6,403.50
Lana Causley-Smith, Unit 2	\$415.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$352.36	\$767.36
Kimberly Lee, Unit 2	\$890.60	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$287.10	\$1,177.70
Shawn Borowicz, Unit 3	\$632.20	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$632.20
Bridgett Sorenson, Unit 3	\$348.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$348.00
Larry Barbeau, Unit 4	\$2,254.75	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,254.75
Kimberly Hampton, Unit 4	\$601.75	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$53.65	\$655.40
Tyler LaPlaunt, Unit 5	\$1,454.35	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$339.30	\$1,793.65
						\$18,715.77

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

Director LaPlaunt reports on Unit 5, continued

From, “LaPlaunt,” page 26
Disease Control and Prevention Tribal Advisory Committee (CDC TAC). My first meeting for that will be an in-person meeting from Sept. 7 thru 11 in Tuscon, Ariz., where the entire CDC TAC will come together and provide advisement for projects, research, and grants that impact Indian Country either directly or indirectly.

In addition to the CDC TAC, I will also be attending the next in-person Department of Health and Human Services Secretary’s Tribal Advisory Committee (HHS STAC) Sept. 21 through 25 in the San Diego, Calif., area. As the Bemidji Area Delegate, I will be providing advisement directly to every director across HHS as well as to Secretary Kennedy himself. These roles are a great way to ensure that Indian Country is heard by advocating for our treaty rights, funding sources, and any policy implications that may also impact tribes or tribal services.

While those are two very large and important meetings next month, I also serve the tribe through monthly calls, emails, and policy review on these and many other committees. There is a lot of work out there and I primarily try to focus on health-related policy as a whole, but encourage my colleagues to throw their hat in whenever and wherever possible so that Indian Country, our Bemidji Area, and most importantly, the Sault Tribe, is heard.

Cultural Events

We have so many events and workshops coming up over the next several months that there isn’t enough to list here. Please follow Sault Tribe Language and Culture and Sault Tribe Language and Culture Unit 5 on Facebook for the most up-to-date workshop information. Yes, the powwows are very large events, but there are so many workshops happening in both Munising and Marquette every month. Some of them have very limited space, so follow-up as soon as you see some posted.

If you are interested in helping to teach a workshop, 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.

Elder Meetings

The next Unit 5 Elder Meeting in Munising will be on Thursday, Sept. 3 at 11am 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, Sept. 3 at 5 p.m. at the Marquette Tribal Community Center, followed 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.

The Unit 5 Elder Picnics are as follows:

Marquette will be held at the

community center on Aug. 22 at 3 p.m.

Munising will be held at the Munising Tribal Center on Sept. 24 at 12 p.m.

If you have any questions, comments, or would like to discuss something with me, please use my contact information below. You can also reach out to

Unit 4/5 Liaison Mary Jenerou
mjenerou@saulttribe.net or (906) 450-7011 or (906) 341-8469.
Chi Miigwech,
Tyler Migizii Migwan

LaPlaunt
Unit 5 Director / Vice-Chairman
tlaplaunt@saulttribe.net | (906) 440-8294

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

CLIP & SAVE



JAKE OWEN

SEPTEMBER 3
DREAMMAKERS THEATER

STANDING ROOM ONLY

TICKETS.KEWADIN.COM



TICKETS.KEWADIN.COM

EVENT CENTER

SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER
26



TICKETS.KEWADIN.COM

OCT.
9

PRESENTED BY



EVENT CENTER

HUNTER HAYES

THURSDAY OCTOBER 22

WITH
SPECIAL GUEST
KARI LYNCH



TICKETS.KEWADIN.COM



RODNEY CARRINGTON

LIVE 2026

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21

EVENT CENTER
18+ ONLY SHOW



TICKETS.KEWADIN.COM



DreamMakers Theater
December 11

tickets.kewadin.com



tickets.kewadin.com
1-800-KEWADIN