



Win Awenen Nisitotung

March 15, 2019 • Vol. 40 No. 3
Sugar Making Moon
Ziisbaakdoke Giizis



Official newspaper of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians

Sault Tribe, Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation collaborate on addiction treatment services

The Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation welcomed the largest tribe east of the Mississippi as the newest member of its Patient Care Network, a growing group of like-minded health care organizations working together to expand addiction treatment services and improve patient outcomes.

Sault Tribe Chairperson Aaron Payment said, "I am so grateful to the tribal council, our tribal employment team members and volunteers who have identified the need for data driven and evidence based efforts to facilitate a long term road to recovery and revitalization of our Anishinabe Biimaadziwin (our good way of life). Our collaboration with Hazelden Betty Ford will create a national model to help our people heal from the wounds of historical trauma. We look forward to sharing our challenges and successes with all of Indian Country."

According to the CDC,

American Indian and Alaska Natives had the highest drug overdose death rates nationally and the largest percentage increase (500 percent) in overdose deaths from 1999-2015.

The Sault Tribe Health Division, located in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, is the first tribal health system in the nation to join the Hazelden Betty Ford Patient Care Network, and the second member from Michigan—the other being Harbor Hall, an addiction treatment provider in Petoskey.

"We are excited to strategically collaborate with the industry leaders at Hazelden Betty Ford," said Dr. Leo Chugunov, governing director of the Sault Tribe Health Division. "This partnership will help us respond to the needs of our tribal members and the community at large by expanding our substance use treatment and recovery services and enhancing our integrated health and wellness center in

Sault Ste. Marie."

A tribal recovery center is a primary objective of the tribe's Tribal Action Plan (TAP) to combat substance abuse.

Chugunov, his team, and tribal administration are at work to build a new state-of-the-art recovery hospital that will be part of the Health Division. The recovery hospital will eventually become home to the tribe's growing array of addiction treatment services.

"Joining the Hazelden Betty Ford Patient Network is a big milestone that will enable us to move forward with our plans for the recovery hospital and ensure we're providing the very best addiction treatment services that exist," Chugunov said.

Network membership provides the Sault Tribe with access to additional evidence-based clinical tools, educational resources, and consultation on best practices and program design from the Hazelden Betty

Ford Foundation, the nation's leading nonprofit addiction treatment organization, and its network of quality providers. The network facilitates shared learnings and collaboration among its members while also extending the continuum of care for each organization.

"Hazelden Betty Ford's evidence-based approach to helping people overcome addiction aligns nicely with the Sault Tribe's quality programs and services, so we're thrilled to have them join our network and eager to assist with their expansion," Bob Poznanovich, Hazelden Betty Ford's vice president of business development, said. "Reaching more remote areas like the Upper Peninsula is important for our Patient Care Network. It's great to have another outstanding, trusted partner there."

The Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation is a national nonprofit that provides comprehensive inpatient and outpatient addiction

treatment for adults and youth. It has 17 sites across the country as well as extensive education, prevention, research, advocacy and publishing resources.

The Hazelden Betty Ford Patient Network—the first of its kind in the addiction treatment industry—was launched in the fall of 2017. Members are vetted to ensure they share the network's commitment to effective, evidence-based practices; collaboration; and improving patient outcomes.

"The power of strategic collaboration to improve patient outcomes offers great hope for our field and for the millions of individuals, families and communities affected by addiction to alcohol and other drugs," Poznanovich said. "As a center of excellence in our field, we are dedicated to sharing our own expertise, learning from other high-quality providers like the Sault Tribe Health Division, and changing lives together."

Bergman, Hazelden visit tribe to discuss recovery hospital project

BY RICK SMITH

Officials from the Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation based in Center City, Minn., and U.S. Representative Jack Bergman, called on officials at the Sault Tribe Health and Human Services Center in Sault Ste. Marie on Feb. 21 to conduct various introductory functions as another step in advancing the tribe's recovery hospital project.

Clinical Director Jordon Hansen and Customer Solutions Manager Stephanie Goode, both Licensed Drug Alcohol Counselors for the Hazelden Foundation Professional

Education Solutions, met with various health officials spending most of the day receiving introductions, facility tours, briefings and taking meetings to get a solid picture of components of the tribal and regional services and policies regarding recovery services and related matters.

One of the meetings included a huddle between Bergman, tribal officials, the Hazelden visitors and an official from the Sault Convention and Visitors Bureau. Probably the most significant developments to come out of that meeting were polishing official communications on the project

between the tribe and the U.S. Congress as well as bringing to the fore a bureaucratic funding obstacle with federal funding where the state is involved. Bergman described what he needed from the tribe in order to "inject reality" in pushing for the project in Washington, D.C., and

to coordinate with state representatives Wayne Schmidt and Lee Chatfield in Lansing, Mich. "Help me to help you," he said.

Bergman touched on other matters regarding the project and expressed confidence with those involved. "There is no doubt in my mind that the effort you put

into this will be spectacular," he said.

As reported in the January issue of *Win Awenen Nisitotung*, the need for a recovery hospital became clear after a Rural Health Project community assessment in the mid-1990s found alcohol
See "Recovery Hospital," page 7

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Photo by Rick Smith

Hazelden representatives and Congressman Jack Bergman visited Feb. 21 to meet concerning the tribe's planned recovery hospital. Back row from left, Sault Tribe Clinic Manager Tony Abramson, Health Services Director Leo Chugunov and Quality Improvement Coordinator Pam Monigle. Middle row, Traditional Practitioner Assistant Supervisor Laura Collins-Downwind, Hazelden representative Stephanie Goode. Remaining rows from left, Sault Tribe Executive Director Christine McPherson, transportation planning coordinator Wendy Hoffman, Sault Convention and Visitors Bureau Executive Director Linda Hoath, Hazelden representative Jordan Hansen, Sault Tribe Traditional Practitioner Assistant Lori Gambardella, Tribal Action Plan Coordinator Nicole Causley, Clinical Social Worker Karen Alexander, Congressman Jack Bergman and Sault Tribe Board member Kim Gravelle.



JKL Bahweting School's Elementary January students of the month are (Kindergarten) Kaitlyn Bennett, Wyatt Keating and Fallon Nagy; (first grade) Sophia Lunch, Merryl Adams and Arthur Badenski; (second grade) Saylor McDowell, Karter Franklin and George Solomon; (third grade) Natalie Bennett, August Searcy and Brooklyn Parish; (fourth grade) Ava Eidenier, Katie LaPlante and Andrew Aikens; (fifth grade) Mischa Walters, Kamyrn Corbiere and Dylan Bouschor.



JKL Bahweting Middle School January students of the month are (sixth grade) Calvin Aldrich, Molly Jackson and Jasmine Gardner; (seventh grade) Jaden Dunkel, Mason Morehouse and Laura Krans; (eighth grade) Connor Horn and Samantha Hale. Students of the month for February are (kindergarten) Audrey Bartley, Lucas Clark and Kinley Nelson; (first grade) Kacie Corbiere, Alexxys Woodhall and Channing Horn; (second grade) Adelyn Perry, Levi Jones and Jenna Arenivar; (third grade) Brianna LaPlante, Cole Gordon and Lorelai Kachur; (fourth grade) Tiffany Berube-Quinn, Saige Geiger-Somes and Sebastian Lewis; (fifth grade) Urijah Plis, Mersaius Peake and Carter Starnes; (sixth grade) Julius St. James and Amya Collia; (seventh grade) Brock LeLievre and Callie Lahti; (eighth grade) Caitlyn Stevens and Trent Morrow.



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Tribal job openings

Apply online at saulttribe.com!

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 SAULT STE. MARIE and KINCHELOE

- Administrative assistant (Cultural Department)
- Child Care aide
- Child Care instructor
- Community educator (ARC)
- Cultural activities assistant
- Cultural activities coordinator
- Environmental associate
- General counsel
- Human Resource generalist
- Human Resource manager
- Language instructor
- Medical case manager (Behavioral Health)
- Medical laboratory technician
- Project coordinator
- Repatriation and Historic Preservation specialist
- Senior accountant
- Teacher aide (Early Head Start)
- Tribal attorney (ACFS)
- Victim witness coordinator

HESSEL, ST. IGNACE, ESCANABA, MANISTIQUE, MARQUETTE, MUNISING

and NEWBERRY

- Staff dentist (St. Ignace)
- Community Health technician (Hessel)
- Maintenance technician (St. Ignace Lambert Center)
- Tutor (Escanaba/Gladstone) - seasonal
- Student services assistant (Escanaba)
- Nurse practitioner (St. Ignace)
- Dietitian (St. Ignace)
- Student services assistant (St. Ignace)
- Tutor (Manistique) – part time/seasonal
- Detention officers (St. Ignace)

KEWADIN CASINO
 SAULT STE. MARIE

- Motorpool manager
- ST. IGNACE
- Hotel manager
- Busser
- Restaurant cashier
- Cage cashier
- Guest room attendant
- Bar servers

CHRISTMAS

- Bar server
- Bartender

Sault Tribe committee vacancies: apply today!

The following committees have vacant seats.

Sault Tribe members interested in filling these vacancies

should submit one letter of intent and three letters of recommendation from other members to Joanne Carr or Linda Grossett, 523 Ashmun St., Sault Ste. Marie MI 49783. Call (906) 635-6050 with any questions.

IV - one vacancy (4-year term)
 Conservation Committee - one vacancy (fisher) (1-year term)
 Special Needs/Enrollment Committee - six vacancies (2-year term)

term), one regular vacancy, one alternate vacancy
 Unit V - Marquette (4-year term), one alternate vacancy

April's USDA road schedule

Sault Tribe USDA Food Distribution Program staff certify eligibility of clients and distribute food at a central warehouse in Sault Ste. Marie and repeat the process at eight tailgate sites every month serving 15 counties in all. Those counties served are Alger, Chippewa, Delta, Luce, Mackinac, Marquette, Schoolcraft, Antrim, Benzie, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Emmet, Grand Traverse, Leelenau and Manistee. Those wishing to apply must reside in one of the 15 counties served in order to apply.

Applicants over 60 or disabled may qualify for a medical deduction as well.

Those who may have questions should call 635-6076 or toll free at (888) 448-8732 to inquire.

A nutrition educator is also available to help with any nutrition questions you may have.

The application process to receive these benefits takes up to seven business days from the date the office receives it, and you cannot receive SNAP (food stamps) and commodities in the same month.

Here is the April 2019 food distribution road schedule:

| | |
|-------------------|----------|
| Cheboygan | April 24 |
| Hessel, Kincheloe | April 1 |
| Manistique 1 | April 2 |
| Manistique 2 | April 4 |
| Marquette | April 8 |
| Munising | April 15 |
| Newberry | April 17 |
| Rapid River | April 10 |
| St. Ignace | April 2 |

Applicants need to verify membership in any federally recognized tribe for at least one member of their households. Applicants also must verify all that applies to them on the application, such as all income received, all expenses paid out such as child support, day care, utility bills, rent or mortgage receipts.

Training opportunities for eligible applicants

The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act (WIOA) Program has funding available for on-the-job training and short-term occupational training opportunities.

reimburse an employer 50 percent of your wage for a specified training period.

Candidates must meet certain eligibility requirements and be a resident of the seven-county service area.

The program may be able to provide tuition assistance for skills training if it leads to an industry-recognized certification or under OJT, the program may

Visit the WIOA office, Chi Mukwa Community Recreation Center, Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., or call Brenda Cadreau at 635-4767 for more information.

St. Ignace Elder Subcommittee meetings change location

The Unit III St. Ignace Elder Subcommittee will hold its monthly meeting the second Friday of every month after the noon meal at the Elder's Complex, located at 3017 Mackinac Trail, in St. Ignace. The group formerly met monthly at the McCann Building. For questions, call the Elder Services Division at 635-4971 or (888) 711-7356.

Manistique elder employment opportunity with Rural Health

The Sault Tribe's Elder Employment Program is accepting applications for a part-time Rural Health Program clerk at the Manistique Tribal Health Center. Applicants must be Sault Tribe members aged 60 or over

and reside in the seven-county service area. Applications and job details may be picked up at the Manistique Tribal Health Center, 5698 W. US Hwy 2 or by calling Brenda Cadreau at (906) 635-4767. Deadline: Open until filled.

General committees:

Anishinaabe Cultural Committee - five vacancies - three males (4-year term), two female (4-year term)
 Child Welfare Committee - three vacancies (4-year term)
 Election Committee - six vacancies (4-year term)
 Higher Education Committee - two vacancies (4-year term)
 Health Board - six vacancies (4-year term)
 Housing Committee - Unit I - one vacancy (4 year term) Unit

Elder Advisory Committees:

Unit I - Sault (4-year term), one regular vacancy
 Unit II - Hessel (4-year term), one alternate vacancy
 Unit II - Naubinway (4-year term), one regular, one alternate
 Unit II - Newberry (4-year term), one alternate
 Unit III - St. Ignace (4-year term), one regular vacancy, one alternate vacancy
 Unit IV - Escanaba (4 year-term) one regular
 Unit V - Munising (4-year

Elder subcommittees:

Unit I - Sault (4-year term), one regular vacancies
 Unit II - Hessel (4-year term), three regular seat vacancies, two alternate seat vacancies
 Unit II - Naubinway (4-year term), three regular seat vacancies, two alternate seat vacancies
 Unit III - St. Ignace (4-year term), one alternate seat vacancy
 Unit IV - Escanaba (4-year term), two regular seat vacancies
 Unit V - Munising (4-year term), two regular seat vacancies
 Unit V - Marquette (4-year term), one regular seat vacancy, one alternate seat vacancy

CARING FOR OUR ELDERS TRADITIONAL POW WOW

SATURDAY, MARCH 30, 2019

AT THE ESCANABA HIGH SCHOOL GYMNASIUM
 500 SOUTH LINCOLN ROAD, ESCANABA, MICHIGAN

HOST DRUM: Crazy Boy
 CO-HOST DRUM: Mission Creek
 INVITED DRUM: Medicine Bear
 EMCEE: TJ Derwin

HEAD VETERAN: TBA
 ARENA DIRECTOR: Bud Biron, Ojibwa
 HEAD MALE DANCER: Joey Metoxen, Oneida
 HEAD FEMALE DANCER: Abigail Lyons, Mayan

SCHEDULE

12 PM GRAND ENTRY
 5 PM POTLUCK FEAST
 7 PM RETIRE STAFFS

There will also be a Spiritual Gathering on Friday evening from 6-8 pm at the Escanaba High School.

No admission price.
 All drums are welcome!
 Limited vendor space.

For more information
 Call 906-241-9733.

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

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Jennifer Dale-Burton.....Editor
 Brenda Austin.....Staff Writer
 Rick Smith.....Staff Writer
 Sherrie Lucas.....Secretary

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

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

Win Awenen Nisitotung is funded by the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of

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

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

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

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

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

Advertising: \$8.50/column inch.
Submission and Subscriptions: Win Awenen Nisitotung
 Attn: Communications Dept.
 531 Ashmun St.,
 Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783
 Telephone: (906) 632-6398
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Membership Services (906)

Area Code

ANISHINAABEK COMMUNITY AND FAMILY SERVICES

632-5250 or (800) 726-0093
USDA: 635-6076 or (888) 448-8732

Child Advocacy Center: 632-4001

Advocacy Resource Center: 632-1808 or (877) 639-7820

Child Placement Program: 632-5250, 495-1232 or (800) 726-0093

St. Ignace Office: 643-8689
Manistique Office:

341-6993 or (800) 347-7137

Munising Office: 387-3906, (800) 236-4705

CULTURE

635-6050

Language, Mary Murray Culture Camp, Ojibwe Learning Center & Library

EDUCATION

632-6798

Child Care: 632-5258

Early Childhood: 635-7722

Youth Education & Activities: 635-7010

WIOA: 635-4767

Adult Ed: 495-7305, 632-6098

Higher Ed: 635-4767

ELDERS

Administration: 635-4971 or (888) 711-7356

Health Sufficiency Fund, Meals, Transportation, In-Home Service

HOUSING

Administration: 495-5555 or (800) 794-4072

Resident Services: 495-1450 or (800) 794-4072

Maintenance:

(855) 205-2840

Homeownership: 495-1450 or (800) 794-4072

Home Improvement: 495-1450

RECREATION

635-RINK (635-7465)

Youth Programs

Events

Pro Shop

Recreation Agreements

ENROLLMENT

Administration: 632-8552 or (800) 251-6597

Tribal membership cards,

tuition waiver certifications,

blood quantum certifications,

relinquishment requests,

enrollment of children, update

address changes, assist with

treaty fishing license, fami-

ly genealogy, eagle feather

permits and form BIA-4432

(Indian preference forms)

NATURAL RESOURCES

Wildlife Program: 632-6132

Fisheries Program: 632-6132

Environment: 632-5575

LAW ENFORCEMENT/ CONSERVATION

635-6065

For emergencies, dial 911

Traditional Medicine folks say chi miigwech

The staff of the Sault Tribe Traditional Medicine Program is excited to announce the start of two new practitioners in the program, Joe Syrette and Gerard Sagassige.

Syrette is a member of Batchewana First Nation and Gerard Sagassige is a member of Curve Lake First Nation. Both serve the program as traditional Ojibwa practitioners. On Feb. 22, program staff conducted an in-service class at the Niigaanagiizhik Ceremonial Building on the topics of Anishinaabe name and clan teachings.

The name and clan in-service was just one of many the Traditional Medicine Program is offering to the community. It was an opportunity for the community to learn how the two healers provide teachings and an opportunity for the healers to get to know our community as well. The event turned out successful with just over 100 people in attendance. The event brought people from many different age groups with individuals and families in attendance. The program would not

have been able to put on such an amazing event without all the help from the community.

We want to say miigwech from all of us for all of the people who assisted in the kitchen, set up and clean up as well as for all the amazing food we were all able to share.

The Traditional Medicine Program is back in full swing offering monthly in-services throughout the service area and we look forward to providing teachings to all the outlying clinic sites. Each month in which there is snow on the ground, we host an in-service incorporating the goals of the Traditional Medicine Program focusing on improving the health and wellbeing of our Anishinaabe people with traditional Anishinaabe legends, stories and lessons on so many topics people have shown an interest in.

If you have any questions or would like information on teachings in your areas please contact Laura Collins-Downwind at ldownwind1@saulttribe.net or Lori Gambardella at lgambardella1@saulttribe.net.



Over 100 community members attended Traditional Medicine's clan class with Joe Syrette at the Niigaanagiizhik Center on Feb. 22.



Membership Liaison March Schedule

Unit I
Sheila Berger, (906) 635-6050, ext. 26359

(906) 259-2983 (cell)
Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
Sault Tribe Administration, 523 Ashmun St., Sault Ste. Marie

Unit II and III
Clarence Hudak, (906) 430-2004
Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
Sault Tribe Lambert Center, 225 Wa Seh Dr., St. Ignace, (906)

643-2124 (office)

Units IV and V
Mary Jenerou, (906) 450-7011
March 27 at Munising Health Center, (906) 387-4721
March 19, 20, 22, 26 and the 28 at Manistique Health Center, (906) 341-8469

March 18 at Escanaba Penn Star, (906) 786-2636
March 25 at Marquette Tribal Health Center, (906) 225-1616

Traditional Medicine Program March 2019 clinic dates

KEITH SMITH
March 18, 19, 25, 26, 27, Sault Ste. Marie Health Center, 632-0236 Lori Gambardella, 632-5268
Laura Collins-Downwind

March 20, Hessel Health Center, (906) 484-2727

JOE SYRETTE
March 21, 22, 28, 29, Sault Ste. Marie Health Center, 632-

0236 Lori Gambardella, 632-5268
Laura Collins-Downwind

March 20, Munising, 387-4721
March 27, Newberry Health Center, 293-8181

GERARD SAGASSIGE
Hours canceled until April.
Questions? Call Lori Gambardella at 632-0236 or Laura Collins-Downwind at 632-5268.

Annual "Smoke Pigs Not Cigs" March 20

BY MARY-ELLEN HEMMING

For the third year in a row, Sault Tribe Community Health Education hosts "Smoke Pigs Not Cigs" – an event aimed at preventing cigarette use and other forms of commercial tobacco use, among youth. The event takes place at Big Bear Arena in Sault Ste. Marie on March 20, which is national Kick Butts Day.

Kick Butts Day is a day of activism that empowers youth across the country to "stand out, speak up and seize control

March is National Parenting Awareness Month

March is National Parenting Awareness Month. The goal is to make everyone aware of the roles parents play in shaping their children. The campaign reaches out to all parents no matter at what stage of parenting.

Effective parenting is not easy and many call it "the hardest job on earth." Children's needs are constantly changing no matter the stage of parenting.

The National Parenting Awareness campaign aims to help parents work through these changes and reminds parents their role is vital. For free resources,

against Big Tobacco." The Kick Butts Day website states they expect more than 1,000 events to take place across the United States and around the world.

Sault Tribe's event is open to the public, serving pulled pork and traditional foods at 5 p.m. Free public skating and ase-maa (tobacco) teachings from Traditional Medicine follows at 6 p.m.

For more information, contact Sault Tribe Community Health at (906) 632-5210.

tips and parenting stories visit <http://www.parenting.org>.

Anishnaabek Community and Family Services invites you to come celebrate Parenting Awareness Month at one of our family celebrations:

16th Annual Family Fun Day Saturday March 16, 12-2 p.m., Kewadin Shores Tent Structure St. Ignace, MI

21st Annual Family Celebration, Monday March 25, 5-7 p.m. Chi Mukwa Recreation Center (Big Bear) 2 Ice Circle, Sault Ste. Marie, MI

Spring recreation opportunities

Chi Mukwa Youth Spring League

Youth Spring League runs April 8 to May 16 at the Chi Mukwa Community Recreation Center in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.

Six-week hockey program, skate two times a week, team jersey and socks included.

Mondays and Wednesdays: 6U, 10U and 14U. Tuesdays and Thursdays: 8U and 12U.

First two weeks: Instructional skates, player drafting and practice.

Non-checking league

6U - \$125

8U, 10U, 12U and 14U - \$145

(Birth years 2005-2014)

Goalies \$70

No goalies for 6U

Also, \$20 family discount available for players in the same households. Online registration processed on a first-come, first-served basis. No refunds. Limited space is available. Online registration at www.bigbeararena.com

Learn to Skate

Feb. 27, March 6, 13, 20 and April 3, 5:45-6:35 p.m., \$50/par-

ticipant. Includes program T-shirt and skate usage (youth 6-adult 14).

Classes designed to give beginning skaters a good sense of balance, confidence on the ice and knowledge of the fundamentals of good skating plus basic skills in the sport. Participants must be able to stand alone on skates or with the support of a skate aid. This will be strictly enforced and no refunds will be issued.

Sessions included a 25-minute group lesson and 25 minutes of practice time. One adult is welcome to skate with each participant during practice time only. At instructor's direction, parents may be invited to skate the first 25 minutes as well. Only invited adults will be permitted to be on the ice during the group lesson.

No shoes allowed ice. Helmets (bike helmets are fine) and pads are strongly recommended.

Register online at www.bigbeararena.com. For more information, call Kaylynn at (906) 635-4903 or kcairns1@saulttribe.net.

Sault Tribe Health Clinics in 7-County Service Area

ST. IGNACE
1140 N. State St., Suite 2805
Phone: 643-8689
Toll Free: (877) 256-0135

ESCANABA
1401 N 26th St., Suite 105
Phone: 786-2636

SAULT STE. MARIE
2864 Ashmun St.
Phone: 632-5200
Toll Free: (877) 256-0009

HESSEL
3355 N. 3 Mile Rd.
Phone: 484-2727

MANISTIQUE
5698W US Highway 2
Phone: 341-8469
Toll Free: (866) 401-0043

NEWBERRY
4935 Zeez Ba Tik Lane
Phone: 293-8181

MUNISING
622 West Superior St.
Phone: 387-4721
Toll Free: (800) 236-4705

MARQUETTE
1229 Washington St.
Phone: 225-1616

Sault Tribe Wellness Collaborative established to increase programming for the membership

Since the summer of 2018, a variety of departments began meeting in an effort to better utilize the tribe's existing resources to provide more programming geared towards wellness for the membership. At this time, the departments involved in the collaboration include Community Health Nutrition and Diabetes, Community Health Education, Youth Education and Activities (YEA), the All-In-One Fitness Club and the Recreation Division, which is charged with taking the project lead. The group meets monthly to plan activities and events, of which most are held at the Big Bear Arena. However, expanding to the outlying areas is a goal for the work group as well as including additional departments when appropriate.

Many departments in the group were already working on projects such as the Big Bear Summer Recreation Program's healthy eating segment provided by Sault Tribe Community Health's registered dietitians. Sault Tribe Community Health Education has already collaborated with Youth Education and Activities with kayaking events, and works across the seven-county service area to promote physical activity, healthful nutrition and commercial tobacco free living. This group is intended to expand upon the existing programming and develop new events for the membership.

The first collaborative event was last December when the group hosted the Elder and Youth Social at the Big Bear, which



Two twilight snowshoers among many at the Big Bear Nature Trail Feb. 19. Afterward participants headed to Big Bear for snacks.

included a traditional feast, arts and crafts, fitness activities, prizes and live music. The event was a youth mentoring project and involved YEA's tribal youth council as well as JKL Bahweting School's string quartet. The collaborative effort allowed the departments involved to achieve some of their grant objectives while offering a holiday meal and activities to the membership. Additional departments involved with the event included Elder Services as well as the Motorpool Department.

The Snowshoe Moon Walk on Feb. 19 was also part of the Sault

Tribe Wellness Collaborative. The event utilized the Big Bear Arena's nature trail and snowshoes, as well as the community kitchen and adjoining hospitality room. Participants from this event raved about what a nice idea it was to pair a nice outdoor activity with a warm delicious meal and luckily the weather was perfect that day.

Some of the coming events include a Women in Business luncheon highlighting the Sault Tribe's Nutrition, Fitness and Recreation departments. The community kitchen, fitness center and Big Bear Arena will be showcased to a community crowd of 50 businesswomen.

A team member fitness challenge is tentatively slated for early May, a Lift-A-Thon fundraiser for the end of May as well as an elder and youth social in June.

For more about events or programs, please contact one of the departments listed below or visit:



Community Health dietitians made warm and healthy snacks in the Big Bear kitchen for the snowshoers.

- www.saulttribe.com or www.bigbeararena.com
- Sault Tribe Community Health Nutrition, (906) 632-5210
- Sault Tribe Community Health Education, (906) 632-5210
- Youth Education and Activities, (906) 253-1321
- All-In-One Fitness Club, (906) 635-4935
- Recreation Division, (906) 635-4758.



Tribal departments came together last December to entertain tribal elders and youth at the Big Bear with a feast, games and music.



JKL School's string quartet performed for seniors at a December 2018 social at the Big Bear Hospitality Room.

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Anishinaabemowin 2019

“Rules are not necessarily sacred, principles are.” — Franklin D. Roosevelt

Ziisbaakadoke Giizis Sugar Making Moon

by Susan Askwith

A number that's important for Anishinaabek . . .

So far in 2019, we've looked at numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 10: bezhik, niizh, nswe, niiwin, naanan and midaaswi. They're fun to learn since we can use our fingers to practice. This month we'll focus on 7, specifically, the *Seven Grandfathers*. Seven is **niizhwaaswi**. Think of it this way: niizh is 2 and the waaswi could refer to 5—so $2 + 5 = 7$. (Waaswi does **not** actually mean 5. But you will see as we look at other numbers that you will be helped if you imagine it **does** mean 5. Just a little memory trick.

How do you say that? Ngodoode

This refers to **family**, specifically, one family; members of one household. When “one” is a word by itself, we say “bezhik.” If it's part of a bigger word, we say “**ngod.**” “De” is the word for heart. So we have family as those with one heart. Helen Roy (see her on YouTube) teaches that “oo” can mean small bits of action are going on, which is certainly true in families.

To say “ngod,” remember “n” sounds like “nnnn,” and “god” sounds like the English word “good” (see pronunciation guide below). “OO” sounds like the “o” in the English word “go.” “De” sounds like you're starting to say the English word “deck.” So try that out: ngod-oo-de. Yup! That's it!

SO much bigger than ngodoode!!

Anish families—we count a lot more than just those living under one roof. Here are some words for family members. You can use them in the “Little Chats.”

| | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| N'gashi.....My mother | N'gwis.....My son |
| N'oos.....My father | N'daanis.....My daughter |
| N'dawemaa .My sister | NiitaawisMy cousin |
| N'niikaane...My brother | N'wiidigemaagan..... My spouse |
| N'ookmis.....My grandma | N'mishoomis..... My grampa |
| N'zigos.....My auntie | |
| N'zhishenh..My uncle | |

(Notice “N” at the beginnings means “my”)

Another possible response to the Little Chats conversation is “Wegwenh iidig,” “I don't know who it is.”

These are our teachings, the principles that help us, the Anishinaabek, to conduct ourselves in an ethical manner and spend our time productively.

Niizhwaaswi Mishoomisak

| | | |
|---------------|----------|----------------------------|
| Zaagidwin | Love | Practice absolute kindness |
| Minadendmowin | Respect | Act without harm |
| Aakde'ewin | Bravery | Use courage to choose |
| Gwekwaadziwin | Honesty | Tell the truth |
| Dbaadendizwin | Humility | Treat all life equally |
| Nbwaakaawin | Wisdom | Use good sense |
| Debwewin | Truth | Be faithful to reality |

Learning tip for Niizhwaaswi Mishoomisak: Pick out the teaching that means the most to you. Figure out how to say it. Jot it on a scrap of paper as a reminder. Repeat it to yourself everytime you eat something.

What?! Fingers again?...Yes!

Most sources on learning new languages say we learn more easily by playing. So draw these simple faces and you have fun with your “handy” finger puppets to represent your family members. Have them talk to you or to each other! What to say? Use the “Little Chats” below.

Review: Ninj = hand Ninjiinhs = finger



Little Chats

Bangii ganoozh! (Have a little conversation!)

Wenesh wa? Who is that?

N'gashi wa. That's my mother.

Minwaagami ziisbaak-daaboo.

Sap tastes good.

Washime minwaagami ziiwaagmide!

Syrup tastes better!



Pronunciation guide; How to sound really good:

Let's just stick with these basics: Letters sound like they do in reading English, except for these ones.

| | | | |
|----|------------------------|----|--------------------------|
| a | sounds like U in cup | i | sounds like I in fit |
| aa | sounds like A in fall | ii | sounds like EE in feed |
| o | sounds like OO in book | e | sounds like E in fed |
| oo | sounds like O in grow | g | sounds only like g in go |

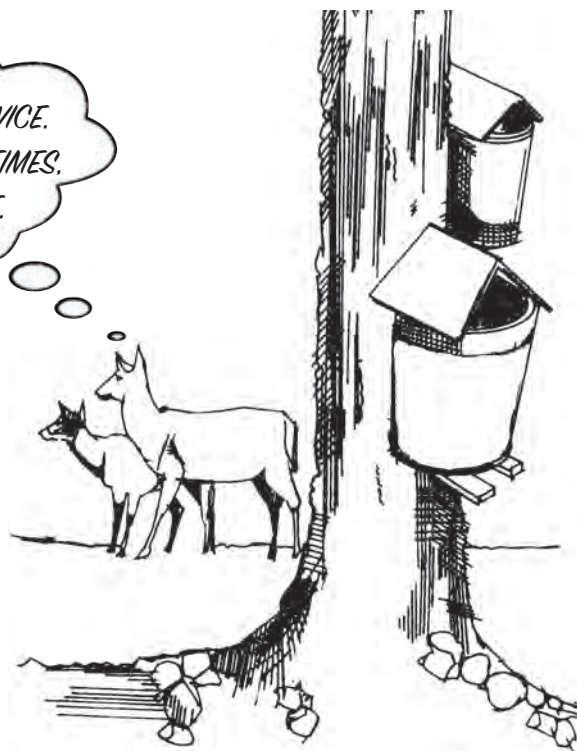
nh has no sound at all; it is only a SIGN that the vowel in front of it is said in a nasal way.

English has a lot of strange spellings. Our system of writing is easier. We pronounce all the letters shown, even if we say some of them pretty fast and some are pretty quiet.

I NEVER MAKE
THE SAME MISTAKE TWICE.
I MAKE IT FIVE OR SIX TIMES.
JUST TO BE SURE.

E-kinomaagozit n'daaw.
I am a learner.

Learning Anishinaabemowin is gradual. Expect to make lots of mistakes. Laugh at them and keep on trying!



Keel: “The state of Indian nations is strong”

BY RICK SMITH

National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) President Jefferson Keel delivered the 17th annual State of Indian Nations Address on Feb. 19, 2019, in Washington, D.C. Afterwards, U.S. House Representative Deb Haaland (NM-1 and citizen of the Pueblo of Laguna) delivered the congressional response, giving her perspectives on the current state of affairs in Indian Country. Sault Tribe Board Chairperson and NCAI First Vice President Aaron Payment made introductory remarks on behalf of the speakers.

U.S. Senator Tom Udall, chairman of the Senate Committee of Indian Affairs issued a response in a press release on Feb. 12 in which he reaffirmed his commitment in helping Indian Country through struggles on vital issues.

After Keel went through preliminary remarks, he went straight to the point, “I stand here today to proudly proclaim to you, Congress, the administration and the world: The State of Indian nations is strong, and we grow stronger every day,” he said.

Describing several signs indicating a “great resurgence,” Keel mentioned instances such as actor Wes Studi speaking his ancestral Cherokee language at the Oscar awards, the State of Florida honoring a Seminole

Amid “great resurgence,” growing unity, he urged U.S. government to deliver on treaty obligations

school teacher as teacher of the year, Little League International banning race-based mascots and tribal nation’s building robust economies.

Further, he said, “Our unity is seen in our growing alliances, powerfully displayed in recent legal briefs defending the Indian Child Welfare Act. They saw 325 tribal nations, 57 Native organizations, 31 child welfare organizations, 21 states, several members of Congress and other partners join forces to keep Native children immersed in their tribal families, cultures, languages and communities.”

Keel also observed Indian Country advances stem from the “foresight and counsel of our ancestors” and still grows thanks to the everyday hard work of countless individuals working in many diversified fields of endeavor. He also attributed the resurgence to tribal sovereignty, self-determination and the NCAI.

The NCAI president then turned to the failures of the United States government to honor their treaty obligations in increasing degrees, especially in recent developments such as the partial government shutdown. “It represented a gross dereliction of duty by our leaders in

Washington who are sworn to uphold the federal government’s legally mandated trust and treaty obligations to tribal nations by providing adequate, stable funding for programs that serve our people,” he said.

He described how some tribes stepped forward and offered aid to those who needed it not only to own their citizens, but to others impacted by the shutdown. He said Indian Country cannot afford another shut down and America should not stand for another one. “And no leader of the federal government should stand for it either,” said Keel. “Each took an oath to protect the U.S. Constitution against all enemies, foreign and domestic. That solemn oath is to this country — not a party or an individual. If there’s another shutdown, it should include the salaries and health-care of everyone in Congress and the White House.”

Keel also railed against the threat posed by the Trump administration’s efforts to undercut regulations by which tribal nations put land into trust through the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) and the reorganization of the Bureau of Indian Affairs without tribal input and against Indian Country’s declared wishes.

He again called for a halt on the reorganizations for an assessment of damages and infuse tribal priorities into restructuring plans.

The president also commented at length about the threats to “our wellbeing, places and ways of life in every conceivable way” posed by climate change and how Indian Country advance solutions. “We are leading on climate action,” he said, “because we recognize future generations will either revere us for our bold initiative in this moment, or condemn us for the doomed planet we’ve left them. Simply put, we can no longer afford deniers. We need doers — doers committed to working together as one to save our planet for all. We need the U.S. government to lead with us. Yet, today, we find that government broken.”

While calling for a cleansing of the federal tactics of fear mongering, racism and “false narratives,” Keel said leaders in Congress and the current administration must come together and put country before party.

In regards to Indian Country, he cited many federal actions needed to be taken so that the federal government can live up to its trust and treaty obligations to Indian Country.

In closing, Keel promised the U.S. government NCAI will be with them “every step of the way,

partnering with you and holding you accountable, just as we have since 1944.”

He invited elected leaders and the American people to become Indian Country allies and to learn about Indian Country history and contemporary circumstances to develop understanding and respect for these Americans.

Indian Country was reminded that the NCAI is their watchdog in Washington, D.C. “We have you back in protecting tribal sovereignty and fighting for your priorities,” he said. “Always have, always will.”

At last, the president asked tribal leaders to partner with NCAI and offer their voices, guidance, wisdom and help to collectively develop vibrant futures. “Our people can afford no less in this time of great uncertainty — and great opportunity,” he said.

The full text of the address is available online at http://www.ncai.org/about-ncai/state-of-indian-nations/SOIN2019_President_Keel_FINAL_Remarks.pdf.

Haaland’s congressional response is online at http://www.ncai.org/about-ncai/state-of-indian-nations/Haaland_SOINResponse_02112019.pdf.

Udall’s response is also online at <https://www.indian.senate.gov/news-and-look-for-references-to-the-NCAI-and-Udall-recommits>.

Pata resigns from NCAI post

National Congress of American Indians (NCAI)’s Executive Director Jacqueline Pata announced her resignation with the organization on Feb. 19 after nearly 18 years of service.

“During Jackie’s tenure, NCAI grew substantially as an organization, forged partnerships within Indian Country and among outside allies and achieved significant successes in our advocacy with Congress, the executive branch and in the federal courts,” said NCAI President Jefferson Keel. “NCAI is appreciative of the leadership Jackie has shown in her stewardship of the organization, and we wish her well in her future endeavors,” continued

President Keel.

Pata, who is the longest serving executive director of NCAI, has agreed to continue leading NCAI during its transition to its next executive director.

“After having time for thought and reflection, I have decided to resign from my role as NCAI executive director,” said Pata. “Serving NCAI and tribal nations has been one of the greatest honors of my life. I am proud of that service and know that I leave NCAI with a strong foundation for continued growth under new leadership.”

NCAI advocates on behalf of tribal governments and communities, promoting strong tribal-fed-

eral government-to-government policies, and promoting a better understanding among the general public regarding American Indian and Alaska Native governments, people and rights.

For more information about the organization, log on to the web site www.ncai.org.

TRIBAL MEMBER REGISTRATION IN THE TAX AGREEMENT AREA

TRIBAL MEMBERS’ RESPONSIBILITIES

(Including the Issuance of Certificates of Exemptions)

INITIAL REGISTRATION AND OR CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Under the Tax Agreement between the Tribe and the State, tribal members who live within the “Agreement Area” are able to claim exemption from certain state taxes. In order to take advantage of these benefits, the member must be registered with the Tribal Tax Office and must prove that they do live in the “Agreement Area.”

The registration process begins with the member filling out an “Address Verification Card” and providing their name, address, and other personal information. The member must also provide a copy of their MI driver’s license, MI State ID card, or voter’s registration card. All of these forms of State identification MUST have the member’s current address and that address must be located in the Tax Agreement Area. Members must also include a utility bill in their name and their current address as an additional proof of residency in the Tax Agreement Area.

The Tribal Tax Office cannot register a member with the MI Department of Treasury unless these documents are included with the “Address Verification Card.”

CERTIFICATE OF EXEMPTIONS

Tribal Code 43.1103 states that Resident Tribal Members shall notify the Tribal Tax Office in writing prior to moving their principal place of residence.

If the Tribal Tax Office receives a request for a Certificate of Exemption and the address for the member on the request is not the same as the address that the Tribal Tax Office and MI Department of Treasury have on record, then no Certificate of Exemption can be issued.

We will usually attempt to contact the member to ask them to update their address by filling out the “Address Verification Card” and providing the required documents, but it is the member’s responsibility to provide this information. A Certificate of Exemption cannot be issued unless the member has filed the correct information proving that they live within the Agreement Area.

From “Recovery Hospital,” page 1 —

abuse in the EUP “considerably higher than state and national levels.”

The elevation was attributed to a number of factors, including widespread acceptance of alcohol abuse as culturally normal in the region, inadequate community awareness of the extent of the problem, inadequate education on the health dangers of excessive alcohol consumption, lack of activities that don’t involve alcohol and a lack of detoxification and treatment centers for youth and adults, along with other contributing conditions. The project has been simmering since then with an assortment of necessary steps surfacing and tackled along the way to now.

A coalition called the EUP Detoxification Planning Task Force formed and in 2001 in response to growing concerns about the lack of detoxification and recovery services. The coalition consisted of Sault Tribe Health and Human Services, Sault Tribe Police Department, the Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan, Lake Superior State University, Great Lakes Recovery Centers, Upper Michigan Behavioral Health, EUP Veterans Services, War Memorial Hospital, Hiawatha Behavioral Health and others. The coalition developed an outline on the need for recovery services, plans and statistics.

The proposed site for the facility is on a 160-acre parcel of land about 4 miles west of the I-75 interchange on M-28. Features planned include living quarters for extended-term clients, walking paths, ponds, trails and discreet traffic flow. Overall, the facility is to be designed to exude a tranquil environment.

Sault Tribe Health Services Director Leo Chugunov said the project will also create many jobs in the area. Aside from the assortment of construction jobs, the recovery hospital should have a complement of about 100 people.

NCAI initiative to better serve Indian Country

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) announced on Feb. 12 its launch of a five-year initiative to enhance the organization's capacity to (1) advocate for tribal sovereignty, and (2) provide tribal leaders and key decision-makers with cutting-edge education and information resources on federal policy and tribal governance. The initiative seeks to do so through two main threads of strategic work:

Multimedia-based resources on policy and governance: The initiative will grow NCAI's ability to develop and share multimedia resources on critical federal policy and tribal governance topics in real time. Using the latest

multimedia development software programs, technologies, and communications platforms, NCAI will produce regular podcasts, video blogs, online multimedia presentations, digital stories, interactive info-graphics, and other multimedia resources to inform its primary audiences about the latest policy and governance developments, and the historical context for those developments.

Creation of a digital NCAI archive: NCAI holds the irreplaceable records of 75 years of collective discussion, deliberation and action by tribal nations for the advancement of tribal sovereignty. This initiative will create an online, publicly searchable archive of key digitized NCAI

historical and contemporary documents, including resolutions, publications, photographs and conference proceedings. This will increase NCAI's value to Indian Country and the general public as a source of living history and cultural understanding.

"This initiative will significantly enhance the resources, reach and impact of NCAI as it works to protect tribal sovereignty and advance Indian Country's consensus priorities," said NCAI President Jefferson Keel. "It promises to raise NCAI's value and visibility as a go-to resource for timely and useful information about the nature and current state of the government-to-government relationship between tribal

nations and the United States." The initial phase of NCAI's capacity building work is being supported by a two-year grant through Wells Fargo's recently launched Indian Country philanthropic initiative, and NCAI is actively pursuing funding from other philanthropic givers to support its work during the ensuing years of its capacity building plan.

"Digitizing 75 years of critical and irreplaceable tribal data and information will provide tribal and non-tribal entities around the world access to important cultural and historical information that will help build capacity for tribal organizations and provide a wealth of historical documents

for those seeking a deeper understanding of U.S. tribal history and relationships," said Cora Gaane, SVP-National Tribal Philanthropy leader at Wells Fargo. "We are honored to be able to support this important initiative."

Founded in 1944, the NCAI is the oldest, largest and most representative American Indian organization in the country. NCAI advocates on behalf of tribal governments and communities, promoting strong tribal-federal government-to-government policies, and promoting a better understanding among the general public regarding American Indian governments, people and rights. For more information visit www.ncai.org.

GAO says DOI should look into tribal hindrances

BY RICK SMITH

The U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) recently released a report to congressional committees titled *Indian Programs: Interior Should Address Factors Hindering Tribal Administration of Federal Programs*. The report was sent to the Senate Subcommittee on Regulatory Affairs and Federal Management along with the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and essentially makes four recommendations to streamline procedures for tribal administration of federally funded programs.

The GAO reported the federal government has been promoting tribal self-governance among federally recognized tribes for more than 40 years. Federally recognized tribes may make arrangements with the

Department of the Interior (DOI) to form contracts and compacts transferring the administration of federal programs to tribes. The GAO was asked to investigate issues of tribal self-governance, specifically under the *Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (ISDEAA)* of 1975 and the *Helping Expedite and Advance Responsible Tribal Home (HEARTH) Ownership Act* of 2012.

Federal components involved in the ISDEAA and HEARTH Act are the DOI and the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. The GAO reported failures in current procedures and made four recommendations for corrective action.

According to the report, while the DOI took steps to help tribes pursue self-governance through training on forming compacts and

employing the HEARTH Act, three areas of difficulty remain hindering tribes in using those tools.

First of all, the BIA fails to provide tribes with key information when the tribes try to administer programs under self-determination contracts, leaving tribal leaders at disadvantage when making decisions about taking over federal programs for their people.

Secondly, the BIA lacks consistent and transparent procedures in making determinations of who performs program functions and what resources are available.

The GAO also found the DOI does not have an efficient method of tracking and monitoring funding of tribal self-determination contracts and self-governance compacts with tribes. Hence, DOI does not have assurances funds

are distributed properly within previously agreed upon time frames.

Further, DOI lacks documentation of time frames in its processes for reviewing proposals under the HEARTH Act, resulting in exceedingly long waits for reviews, some lasting for years.

The GAO recommended the BIA to take these actions: 1) Develop a process for consistently providing tribes with documentation in identifying resources in administering programs using self-determination contracts. 2) Develop a process resulting in consistent determinations and clarity to tribes of inherently federal functions. 3) Establish a process to track and monitor funding of self-determination contracts and self-governance compacts. 4) Develop a clearly documented process with established time

frames for reviewing leasing regulations proposed by tribes under the HEARTH Act.

The GAO said the report resulted from reviews of the ISDEAA and HEARTH Act along with associated federal regulations and guidance, federal reports, congressional testimony, and other related general information and perspectives. The investigation also included interviews or written correspondence from DOI agencies and offices along with five tribal organizations — the Coalition of Large Tribes; Great Plains Tribal Chairmen's Association, United Indian Nations of Oklahoma, Kansas and Texas; United South and Eastern Tribes; DOI Tribal Self-Governance Advisory Committee; National Congress of American Indians; and the Native Governance Center.

Michigan Democratic Party now has an Anishinaabek Caucus

BY RICK SMITH

A recently formed and authorized caucus in the Michigan Democratic Party seeks to focus on issues of the state's American Indian tribes. According to an announcement from the caucus, membership in the Michigan Democratic Party Anishinaabek Caucus is open to any Michigan Democratic Party member, but chair and committee head positions are reserved for registered Anishinaabek of Michigan's federally recognized tribes.

Four members of three of Michigan tribes formed the caucus, which was recently authorized by the state's Democratic Party. The four co-founders and

their tribes are Andrea Pierce of the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Ottawa Indians, Julie Dye of the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi, Tom Shomin and Desmond Berry of the Grand Traverse Bay Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians. Pierce, the first chairwoman of the caucus, realized last year the need for a caucus to represent the interests of the state's tribes.

Michigan Democratic Party Chairwoman Lavora Barnes spoke at the party's 2019 Spring Convention in Detroit, Mich., on Feb. 19 in support of the caucus formation and acknowledged the need for including the state's American Indian communities in the political process.

Working with county and district Democratic parties, the caucus forwarded its first resolution, which passed unanimously on the convention floor. The resolution condemned the use of the term "redskins."

The resolution points out the term "redskins" degrades and diminishes American Indians throughout the U.S. history as shown by numerous studies and personal experiences of the people of Indian Country and beyond. Since American Indian students are entitled to educational environments equal to other students, the resolution calls for the condemnation of the term by all education institutions or sports

teams and for the Michigan State Board of Education and state legislature to impose sanctions against any education institution or sports team that continues the use of the term "redskins" or any other race-based sports team names, mascots, images, logos, antics, song lyrics or other displays deemed by American Indians as racially or culturally offensive.

When reached online, Pierce said, "I really hope that bringing the Anishinaabek will empower and bring us to the table that we have been left away from." Those interested in joining the caucus may contact them at anishinaabekcaucus@gmail.com.



Andrea Pierce, co-founder of the recently established Michigan Democratic Party Anishinaabek Caucus.

Resolutions passed at the Sault Tribe Board meeting on Feb. 19

The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians convened on Feb. 19 in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., at the Kewadin Casino and Convention Center. All were present except for board representatives McKerchie, Gravelle, McKelvie, Hoffman, Causley and Hollowell.

Resolution number 2019-31 — 2020 Common Interest Agreement — Authorized Sault Tribe's participation in the *2020 Common Interest Agreement* as one of five signatory tribes of the *1836 Treaty of Washington* to share information with the other signatory tribes regarding the coming 2020 Consent Decree

negotiations.

2019-32 — ACFS — Child Care Development Fund 2801 and 2805 FY 2019 Budget Modifications — Approved a budget decrease in U.S. Health and Human Services (HHS) funds of \$120,000 along with an increase of HHS funds of \$160,200, both with no effect on tribal support.

2019-33 — Health Center — Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) — Sault Tribe Opioid Prevention and Response FY 2019 Budget Modification — Approved a budget modification for personnel changes and reallo-

cation of expenses with no effect on tribal support.

2019-34 — Continuing Funding Authority Government Schedule C for Fiscal Year 2019 — Approved continued funding for the tribe's governmental functions that haven't finished processing budget reviews for fiscal year 2019.

2019-35 — OVW Fiscal Year 2019 Tribal Sexual Assault Services Program — Authorized an application submission for a \$325,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office On Violence Against Women. The funding would support proposed direct sexual assault intervention

and related assistance services to members who live in the tribe's service area.

2019-36 — Family Violence Prevention and Services Program — Authorized an application submission for a \$166,790 grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families. The funding would assist the tribe's efforts to provide immediate shelter and related supportive services to members in domestic violence situations who live in the tribe's service area.

2019-37, 2019-38 and 2019-40 — Authorized tribal land lease cancellations.

2019-39 and 2019-41

— Authorized tribal land leases to individuals.

2019-42 — Acceptance — 2019 Indian Housing Plan Amendment #1 — Amended the plan and requests plan approval from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

To view these and other previously approved resolutions in their entirety, visit the Sault Tribe website at www.saulttribe.com and follow these menu options: Government, Downloads, Board Meeting Votes and Approved Resolutions, select desired year and finally date of meeting.

Tribal sovereignty affirmed in U.S. Court of Appeals Greektown bankruptcy court ruling

BY RICK SMITH
A federal appeals court decision rendered on Feb. 26 affirmed a previous ruling that Sault Tribe possesses sovereign immunity from claims in a bankruptcy proceeding stemming from Greektown financial transactions in 2005.

Buchwald Capital Advisors, LLC, sued Sault Tribe alleging Greektown Holdings, LLC, transferred \$177 million to or for the benefit of the tribe at a time when Greektown Holdings was not financially solvent.

The tribe filed a motion to dismiss the complaint on the

grounds of having tribal sovereign immunity from such claims. Buchwald contested the tribe did not have sovereignty citing a federal bankruptcy code and because the tribe waived sovereignty in filing bankruptcy petitions.

After some continued litigation, a bankruptcy court granted

the tribe's motion to dismiss after finding that a waiver of tribal sovereignty requires expression by board resolution and could not be implied through bankruptcy proceedings.

The United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth District in Cincinnati, Ohio, affirmed the decisions, essentially noting in the conclusion of the ruling the court recognizes the dismissal may seem unfair as even the

Supreme Court acknowledged tribal sovereign immunity could harm those who may be unaware they are dealing with a tribe, have no knowledge about tribal immunity or have no choice in the matter, but it is the reality of sovereign immunity.

"Accordingly," the court noted, "we defer to Congress and the Supreme Court to exercise their judgment in this important area."

Tribe donates to Sault YAC fundraiser

Sault Tribe pitched in \$5,000 as a sponsor of the Chippewa County Community Foundation Youth Advisory Council (YAC) veterans banner project called History of Hometown Heroes in honor of active duty military members and veterans connected to Chippewa County. The banners will be displayed

from lampposts in the downtown area of Sault Ste. Marie and Lake Superior State University from Memorial Day to Labor Day during three seasons. The YAC fundraiser is for a field service trip to the Caribbean island of Hispaniola to help install a water filtration system for a Dominican Republic village.



Photo by Rick Smith

Sault Tribe Board of Directors Chairperson Aaron Payment and YAC coordinator Abby Baker (center, L-R) display the presentation check at a Feb. 19 board meeting. Back row from left, board members Charles Matson Sr. and Keith Massaway, Kewadin Casinos CEO Ron Olson, Sault Kewadin Casino General Manager Allen Kerridge, and board members Jennifer McLeod and Denise Chase. Front row from left, board members Darcy Morrow and Kimberle Gravelle, Payment, Baker, YAC student Taylor Pitko and Chippewa County Community Foundation Executive Director Debbie Jones.

DOI takes Ashmun Street parcel of land into trust

SAULT STE. MARIE — Sault Tribe's downtown building at 531 Ashmun St. in Sault Ste. Marie was taken into trust by the Department of the Interior, as published in the Federal Register on Feb 11. The building, about .55 acres, comprises the Ojibwe Learning Center and Library and Sault Tribe Culture offices, the tribe's Tamarack Business Center, the River of History Museum, the Sault Tribe Gaming Commission and a number of tribal government offices on the lower level. It is adjacent to the tribe's administration building at 523 Ashmun St.

Sault Tribe Board Chairperson Aaron Payment said tribal jurisdiction is key to fully operating as a government such that res-

ervation status is a must. "Our long range plan is to continue to use this land for essential governmental purposes including incubating tribal enterprise development which supports tribal programs, services and operations," Payment said. "Our ancestors and founders are smiling down as we see this dream become realized."

The tribe purchased the downtown retail space in the mid-1990s and "Our Tribal Board decided that rather than invest in a much less expensive building on our original reservation, the tribe would acquire former retail space to help revive the downtown," said Payment. "We gladly contribute a payment in lieu of taxes and TIFA for our downtown properties."

DREAMCATCHERS & HORSESHOE BAY RESTAURANTS

St. Patrick's Day

BUFFET

Saturday, March 16
4 p.m.-9 p.m.

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| <p>Soup Station</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beef Barley Chicken Noodle Corned Beef Brisket Herbed Roasted Chicken Shepherd's Pie Colcannon Barbeque Brisket Boiled Potatoes Garlic Mashed Potatoes Braised Cabbage Scalloped Potatoes Steamed Broccoli with Sauce Hollandaise Steamed Carrots | <p>Featured Entrées</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pork Pot Roast Fried Perch Pasta Primavera Fresh Polish Sausage with Sauerkraut Peas and Pearl Onions Array of Freshly Baked Rolls and Breads <p>Desserts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assorted Cookies Pecan and Apple Pie Fruit Cobblers Bread Pudding with Vanilla Sauce Cheesecake Sugar Free Desserts Strawberry Shortcake |
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March 30* Win Up to \$500 CASH and a Pandora Bracelet
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**Excluding March 16*
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Win up to \$500 CASH Saturdays at 10:15 p.m.

SPRING FLING - ALL SITES - Saturdays in April
CASH Draws 10 p.m. Win up to \$1,500. Table draws 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. to Win \$25 Kewadin Credits or \$10 Match Play
Win your share of \$35,000 CASH and Credits!

FORTUNE FRIDAYS - ALL SITES - Fridays in April
4 p.m.-11 p.m. Win a chance to pick a treasure chest filled with up to \$400 CASH
Win Your Share of \$22,500 in CASH and Credits!

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Home Opener - April 4
If the Tigers score three or more runs and you've earned 50 points on April 4
Come back on April 5 to receive \$5 in Kewadin Credits!

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

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Up to \$15,000 Video Poker Tournament - May 3-4

KEWADIN CASINO SAULT STE. MARIE
Invitational Blackjack Tournament - March 29-30
Up to \$15,000 Spin to Win Tournament - April 12-14
\$125 Poker - April 13; \$60 Poker - April 20
\$15,000 Keno Tournament - April 26-28

* Point requirement for all promotions. See Northern Rewards Club for more details. Must register at Northern Rewards for promotions and tournaments. Club hours vary by site.

Whitmer responds to federal Asian carp prevention plan

LANSING — Noting that protecting the Great Lakes is a top priority, Governor Gretchen Whitmer recently submitted her response to a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers report detailing potential future actions at Brandon Road Lock and Dam in Joliet, Ill., a critical pinch point for stopping Asian carp from entering Lake Michigan.

Whitmer's letter was joined by one from Daniel Eichinger, director of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, which has long been involved in federal and bi-national efforts to protect the Great Lakes from the threat of invasive Asian carp.

The potential effects of Asian carp on the Great Lakes econo-

my and natural resources lend a shared sense of urgency to the responses.

"Michigan's tourism industry and the hundreds of thousands of jobs it supports depend on the preservation of our water, but right now, an increasing number of Asian Carp are being detected near Brandon Road, and it's putting the future of our Great Lakes, our economy and Michiganders' well-being at risk," Whitmer stated in her letter.

Michigan's responses fundamentally support the Brandon Road Report, officially titled the "Final Great Lakes and Mississippi River Interbasin Study – Brandon

Road Integrated Feasibility Study and Environmental Impact Statement." The report sets forth the federally recommended plan to prevent aquatic invasive species, chiefly invasive carp, from moving through the Chicago Area Waterway System into the Great Lakes.

The report calls for restructuring the Brandon Road Lock and Dam and installing acoustic and electric barriers, an air bubble curtain and several other technologies to deter Asian carp movement.

The state of Michigan supports layering multiple technologies at the site to improve overall protections, but there is also a recognition that more

work needs to be done to refine the design before additional measures are installed. The state supports expanded involvement of Michigan and other "partner jurisdictions" in the engineering and design phase of the project to spur innovation and improve transparency and understanding of the project.

The Michigan response also encourages consideration of emerging technologies, including a cavitation barrier — a concept that earned the top award in Michigan's 2018 Great Lakes Invasive Carp Challenge.

Whitmer expressed concern about the project's estimated cost, noting that since the August 2017 publication of the

draft Brandon Road Report (the Tentatively Selected Plan), cost estimates have tripled — from \$275 million to \$778 million — despite relatively few changes in the plan.

Citing urgency as well as potential cost savings, Eichinger's letter calls for accelerating the pace of the project, which has a targeted construction completion date of 2027, and provides ideas to streamline the project's design.

"If invasive carp were to enter the Great Lakes basin, the consequences would be irreversible and costly," Eichinger stated in his letter. "Action is urgently needed to keep invasive carp from entering the Great Lakes."

Ice shanty removal dates approaching

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources reminds anglers that mandatory ice shanty removal dates are approaching. Regardless of the date, shanties must be removed before the ice is unable to safely support them. In warmer weather, the ice quickly can become unsafe for anglers to retrieve their property.

The deadline for removal from waters in the northern Lower Peninsula is midnight Friday, March 15. Counties in this area include Alcona, Alpena, Antrim, Arenac, Bay, Benzie, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Clare, Crawford, Emmet, Gladwin, Grand Traverse, Iosco, Isabella, Kalkaska, Lake, Leelanau, Manistee, Mason,

Mecosta, Midland, Missaukee, Montmorency, Newaygo, Oceana, Ogemaw, Osceola, Oscoda, Otsego, Presque Isle, Roscommon and Wexford.

Ice shanties in the southern Lower Peninsula may be used daily as long as the ice is safe, and they are removed each day.

On Michigan-Wisconsin boundary waters, ice shanties must be removed by midnight Friday, March 15.

For all Upper Peninsula counties, shanties must be removed by midnight Sunday, March 31.

Following the mandatory removal dates, ice shanties still may be used but must be removed daily from the ice.

Shanty owners whose structures fall through the ice are subject to penalties of up to 30 days in jail, fines of \$100 to \$500, or both. If a shanty is removed by a government agency, the court can require the owner to reimburse that agency for an amount up to three times the cost of removal.

DNR conservation officers remind individuals going onto the ice to use extreme caution as temperatures rise in the spring. The repetitive thawing and refreezing of ice weakens its integrity, decreasing its ability to support additional weight from people, snowmobiles, ORVs and shanties.

For more information, go to Michigan.gov/DNR.

EPA updates toxic business chemicals list

WASHINGTON, D.C.

— The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released an update of the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) Inventory on Feb. 20 listing the chemicals actively manufactured, processed and imported in the United States.

A key result of the update is that less than half of the total number of chemicals on the current TSCA Inventory (47 percent or 40,655 of the 86,228 chemicals) are currently in commerce. As the result of a tremendous effort on behalf of thousands of stakeholders and manufacturers from across the country, this information will help EPA focus risk evaluation

efforts on chemicals that are still on the market.

As recently as 2018, the TSCA Inventory showed over 86,000 chemicals available for commercial production and use in the U.S. Until this update, it was not known which of these chemicals on the TSCA Inventory were actually in commerce. Under amended TSCA — The Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21 Century Act — EPA was required to update the list and designate which chemicals are active or inactive in U.S. commerce.

To download the public version of the initial TSCA Inventory, go to <http://www.epa.gov/tsca-inventory>.

2019 Sault Tribe Inland Application

Please fill out the following application indicating all harvest tags that you would like in addition to your 2019 Harvest card. The Harvest card authorizes you to participate in activities pursuant to Chapters 21 and 23 of the Tribal Code only. Great Lakes activities require separate permits pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Tribal Code.

In 2019, the cost for each member will be \$5. You must pay with a check or a money order (DO NOT SEND CASH) payable to Sault Tribe. A \$36 NSF charge will be applied to all checks returned by a financial institution. Credit and debit cards can be used but ONLY in person at the Law Enforcement office. If you have questions, please contact Sault Tribe Law Enforcement (906-635-6065). Youth (16 and under) and Elders (60 and over) are not required to pay fees. **New** applicants must provide a copy of their Tribal card and if born after 1960, proof of hunter safety. **All members who held a 2018 harvest license MUST complete a harvest report whether you had any activity at all or a license will NOT be issued.**

First name Middle Last

Address City State Zip County

File Number (Red# on Tribal ID) STS # (Red #on harvest card) Date of birth Sex

Phone number Email address

Hunting harvest card (please select which tags you are applying for)
Includes Inland fishing, general gathering, small game, waterfowl, migratory birds and general furbearer.

| Application Harvest Tags | |
|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Deer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Spring Turkey |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Fall Turkey |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Pine Marten, Bobcat, River Otter, and Fisher Harvest Tags (Trapping) |

Non-hunting harvest card
Includes Inland fishing and general gathering.

Bear and Elk Applications will be available on the Sault Tribe website and the newspaper in April 2019

Walleye and steelhead permits for the specially regulated seasons will be available by contacting the Natural Resource Department, 906-632-6132 or see website for details (www.saulttribe.com).

For all other permits pursuant to chapter 21 and 23 of the Tribal Code, you must contact the Conservation Department @ 906-635-6065 (i.e. State Firewood and State Maple Sap).

Please mail completed applications to:

**P.O. Box 925
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783**

Sault Tribe Behavioral Health re-issued accreditation

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

The Sault Tribe Health Division's Behavioral Health Program was recently notified they have been re-issued a three-year accreditation based on a recent survey they participated in. The Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities, or CARF, an independent, nonprofit accreditor of health and human services programs provided the accreditation.

In a letter signed by CARF International President/CEO Brian J. Boon, Ph.D., he wrote achieving the accreditation is an

indication of Behavioral Health's dedication and commitment to improving the quality of the lives of the people they serve.

"Services, personnel, and documentation clearly indicate an established pattern of conformance to standards," Boon wrote. "Your organization should take pride in achieving this high level of accreditation. CARF will recognize this accomplishment in its listing of organizations with accreditation. CARF commends your organization's commitment and consistent efforts to improve the quality of its programs and services and

looks forward to working with your organization in its ongoing pursuit of excellence."

The three-year accreditation applies to alcohol and other drugs/addictions prevention programs for children and adolescents and the following Behavioral Health outpatient treatment programs:

Alcohol and other drugs/addictions for adults,

Alcohol and other drugs/addictions for children and adolescents,

Mental health for adults and

Mental health for children and adolescents.

Sault Tribe Health Center Employee of the Month

Employee of the month is Debbie Sirk, at right with Health Director Leo Chugunov. "Deb was instrumental in getting the Behavioral Health Program prepared for the CARF survey. As a long time CARF surveyor, her knowledge and expertise was invaluable," said Health Center Operations Manager Joanne Umbrasas.



Health Division brings new tools to fight opiate dependency

BY LEO CHUGUNOV, HEALTH DIRECTOR

Last year, the Sault Tribe Health Division launched the Medically Assisted Treatment (MAT) Program using a medication called Vivitrol. This MAT Program was successful in elimination of cravings for opiates but a drawback made it suitable for only a limited number of patients.

Those who would like to enter the Vivitrol Program must not use

opiates for 14 days. This requirement is established for safety reasons to let us use Vivitrol in the outpatient setting. On the other hand, such a requirement creates a barrier for many potential patients who are willing to stop using opiates but are concerned about withdrawal symptoms.

An acceptable solution for this serious problem arrived with the FDA's approval of non-addictive medication called

Lucemyra, which significantly decreases opioid withdrawal symptoms and makes it easier for adults to abruptly quit opioid usage. Lucemyra is now available at Sault Ste. Marie, St. Ignace and Manistique.

Lucemyra treatment may be administered in the outpatient setting for up to 14 days with dosing determined by symptoms and can be used during those 14

opiate free days required for the start of Vivitrol Program.

Lucemyra is not for everyone. Like any medication, Lucemyra comes with certain risks. Lucemyra may interact with a number of drugs and cannot be used with alcohol.

Patients who are using Lucemyra in an outpatient setting should be very careful or completely avoid activities such as driving or operating

heavy machinery for the duration of treatment. It may cause a decrease in blood pressure, a decrease in pulse, dizziness, syncope and other potentially dangerous conditions. It is very important to stay hydrated during the Lucemyra's treatment.

If you or a loved one suffers from opiate dependency, please talk to your provider at Sault Tribe Health Division about Lucemyra and our MAT Program.

IHS releases strategic plan to guide quality health care in 2019-23

The Indian Health Service announced its strategic plan for fiscal years 2019-23. The plan will help guide ongoing efforts in providing health care for American Indians across the United States.

"In consultation with the tribal nations served by the agency, IHS has developed a road map to increase access to comprehensive, culturally appropriate care throughout Indian Country," said Health and Human Services Deputy Secretary Eric Hargan. "IHS and IHS are committed

to working with tribal and urban Indian organization leaders to improve and sustain quality care for American Indians across the nation."

The plan focuses on three strategic goals centered on access, quality and management and operations:

- Ensure comprehensive, culturally appropriate personal and public health services are available and accessible to American Indian people;
- Promote excellence and quality through innovation of the

Indian health system into an optimally performing organization;

- Strengthen IHS program management and operations.

The plan addresses access to quality health care services, strengthening organizational capacity, and improving operations and communications across the system.

The IHS strategic plan reflects the feedback received from tribes, tribal organizations, urban Indian organizations, IHS staff and other stakeholders. An IHS federal-tribal workgroup provided critical

feedback and recommendations on the draft plan.

"The plan is the result of collaboration among our IHS leadership and staff and tribal and urban Indian organization partners who offered their feedback and expertise," said Rear Adm. Michael D. Weahkee, IHS principal deputy director. "This collaborative effort enhances IHS' commitment to improving health

care service delivery throughout the health system and to strengthen the health status of American Indians."

The strategic plan supports IHS' work in providing a comprehensive health care service delivery system managed by the IHS, tribes, tribal organizations and urban Indian organizations.

To see the plan, visit <https://www.ihs.gov/strategicplan/>.

Sault Tribe Community Health seeks to increase colorectal cancer screenings

BY MARY-ELLEN HEMMING

Sault Tribe Community Health Education was recently awarded an \$8,000 grant to improve colorectal cancer screening rates among tribal members.

The Tribal Health Systems

Enhancement for Cancer Screening award is from the National Indian Health Board with support from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The three-month award will fund Community Health's colorectal

cancer education projects, including a media campaign and a mailed reminder for Sault Tribe members who may be in need of screening.

According to the American Indian Cancer Foundation, colon cancer is the second most common cancer among Native Americans (behind lung cancer). It is also the second leading cause of cancer death. Colon cancer doesn't usually show symptoms, and that's why screenings are so important for saving lives. Screens can find and remove polyps, or little balloons in the colon, before they become cancerous. The best way to prevent colorectal cancer is to get screened regularly starting at age 50 or younger if you have a family history of colon cancer or polyps. The good news is that when caught early, colon cancer is 90 percent survivable.

To show your support and to help save lives, you can wear blue throughout the month of March, Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month. You can also call your Sault Tribe health care provider to discuss your screening options. Visit the Colorectal Cancer Alliance's website for more information.



Sault Tribe Community Health Education was recently awarded an \$8,000 grant to improve colorectal cancer screening rates among tribal members.

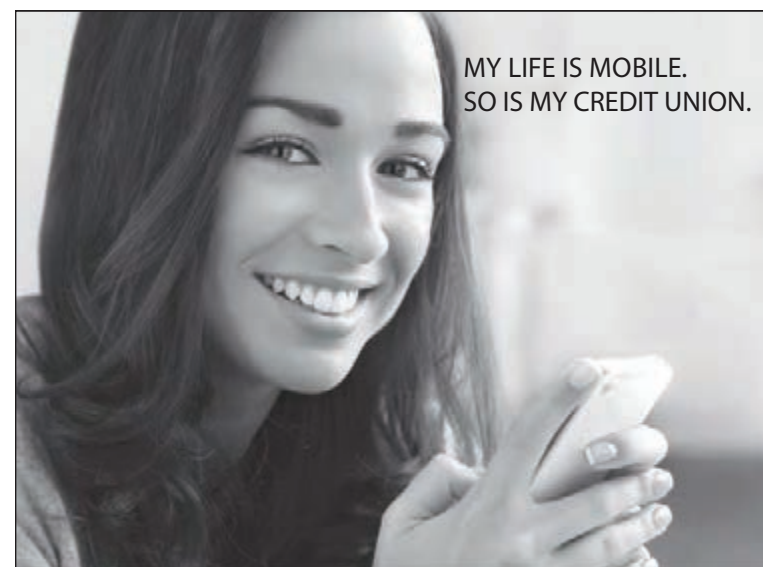
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Ask the employee specialist: Rehire policy

Dear team members: This is another in a series of articles that will provide information about company policies and practices and to address questions from team members. Team members who have questions they would like to see addressed in future articles are invited to send them to the employee specialist, Gloria Kemp.

Question: I was terminated and want to reapply but haven't met the waiting period requirement. Can I get the waiting period reduced?

Answer: A rehired team member is a person who once worked with any Sault Tribe operation, whose formal termination (voluntary or involuntary) paperwork was completed, and now has been offered and accepted a position in any Sault Tribe operation. The Sault Tribe rehire policy defines the rules for rehiring former team members. The policy



Gloria Kemp

outlines circumstances under which former team members might be rehired and any relevant guidelines. It applies to former team members who left the company on a permanent basis and does not refer to any team member who is on medical leave.

Any team member whose

employment is terminated involuntarily must serve a waiting period before being eligible for rehire with the tribe. Team members who leave the tribe through voluntary termination and do not fulfill the appropriate notice requirements are also subject to the waiting period.

The waiting period is as follows: a first time involuntary termination cannot be rehired for 30 days; second time involuntary termination cannot be rehired for 180 days; after the third involuntary termination, the team member cannot be rehired for one year.

A former team member may request a waiver of the rehire policy. To request a waiver, you should obtain a rehire waiver form from Sault Tribe's Human Resources Department. Complete the form, which must include an explanation justifying why you should receive the waiver. The

explanation should be clear that you wish to return to work, how you will ensure your success in re-employment and your intent to make a long-term commitment as a team member with Sault Tribe. The explanation does not need to be long nor does it need to explain every detail behind your termination. Attach the form to your employment application.

Human Resources will let you know as soon as possible if the remainder of the waiting period has been suspended. The waiver does not remove the termination from your file. There is no promise or guarantee that you will be hired for any particular position. Human Resources may recommend special conditions such as a non-gaming license or a non-key position.

When you are rehired, you will have to complete the introductory period as if you were a new hire. Eligibility for benefits

will be determined by your rehire date.

Please send your questions to Gloria Kemp, employee specialist, at gkemp1@saulttribe.net or call (906) 635-6050, extension 26230, or mail to 523 Ashmun Street, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783.

This column was prepared for general information purposes to help you to better understand Sault Tribe's policies and the workplace. The information presented is not intended as legal advice. While it was accurate at the time it was written, the controlling laws and tribal employment policies can change. You should always check the tribe's intranet for current copies of any applicable employment policies. If there are any inconsistencies between this article and applicable laws and/or policies, the applicable laws and/or policies shall apply.

Non-Native non-traditional student Stephen Kiger calls LSSU's Native American Center home

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

Stephen Kiger is not a Native American but calls Lake Superior State University's (LSSU) Native American Center (NAC) home. Kiger, in his late 30s, has returned to LSSU after talking classes there almost 20 years ago as a 19-year-old.

A Native American friend of Kiger introduced him to the NAC his first year on campus and it soon became his home away from home. "At the time I was experiencing a lot of family issues and it made concentrating on school tough. I was shy and quiet with a small social network, and the turmoil in my life suppressed me even more. I came into the NAC and it was the only place I felt safe to sit and study, and everybody there greeted me with open arms. It



Stephen Kiger

was, and still is today, a very inclusive environment," he said. "Even when I didn't have classes I wanted to be here. It wasn't only just an escape, but it was the vibe and overall feeling of

being welcomed that drew me there."

Born and raised in Lansing, Kiger's family moved to Rudyard when he was 16, where he graduated from high school. After attending LSSU for a short while in their newly formed fine arts program, in conjunction with Algoma University in Sault, Ontario, Canada, he left for Big Bear, Calif.

Kiger returned to Michigan in 2015 and was facing even more turmoil, going through his fourth battle with small cell lung cancer. Before returning to Michigan and going to the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor for treatment, he was undergoing therapy at Loma Linda University in California, not far from where his three children and their mother lived

in Arizona.

Very underweight in 2105 at just 130 pounds and barely able to walk, he looks healthy today and walks almost everywhere he goes. "It's been a long tough road," he said. "You see and absorb things differently when faced with your own mortality."

Looking forward to the future, Kiger is working on a four-year degree in psychology. His first two semesters back at school were at Lansing's Community College, and he is now in his third semester, but his first back at LSSU. He plans to use his traumatic past as a youth and his perspective as a four-time cancer survivor, to help others. "I think that if you apply yourself you can grow from anything. Sometimes you have a tendency to grow more

from negative experiences than positive ones," he said.

"LSSU's Native American Center is a great place to come and study, or just hang out," he said. "You don't have to be a tribal member, everyone is welcome here. You have access to computers, a math tutor, designated quiet times, and comfortable seating; all with a great vibe and helpful welcoming people."

"Being back is almost like time has stood still — but it hasn't," he said. "NAC Director Stephanie Sabatine was there when I attended 20 years ago. She is doing such an amazing job at juggling everything currently and is such a positive human being. I know it's not easy on her. I'm so grateful and happy that she is still there."

Sharon Hovie retires from tribe after 18 years of service

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

Sharon Hovie said goodbye recently to the Sault Tribe elders she calls "her grandparents" on Feb. 15, after making the decision to retire. She was an employee of the Sault Tribe for over 18 years, spending 12 years in accounting and seven at the Sault Tribe Elder Center as the Elder Service secretary. She was originally hired into the Sault

Tribe Accounting Department as a clerk in Oct. 2000, and transferred to the Elder Center in April 2013.

Her first weekend as a retired person she and her husband Stephen, enjoyed some sunshine and warm weather in Florida. Then in May they will be opening their pizza business up for the season. She said this is the fifth year that Carvito's Wood

Fired Pizza has been in business, and their food truck will be parking throughout the Sault area and driving out of town occasionally as far south as Petoskey.

In addition to Sharon and Stephen, their daughter Leslie Hovie works with them, and Leslie's two young sons, Carver, 4, and Cannon, 2, enjoy some homemade pizza when they visit mom at work.

For their 2019 calendar of events and locations, visit them on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/Carvitos/>.

"I have made a lot of friends working for the Sault Tribe, and

I believe some are lifelong. I will miss the elders; they are like having a whole bunch of grandparents. They recognize that my thoughts, feelings and service to them was genuine," she said.



Steven and Sharon Hovie with grandsons Carver, 4, and Cannon Hovie, 2.



Tribal elders enjoy lunch and help Elder Service secretary Sharon Hovie celebrate her retirement.

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Jodoïn crafts custom-made drumsticks

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

As a 7-year-old child attending the Joseph K. Lumsden Bahweting Anishnabe Public School Academy in Sault Ste. Marie, Cody Jodoïn was involved in many Sault Tribe cultural events and activities. One of those was learning traditional Anishnabe singing with other students on the school's drum, OgeMa Miinisino and teacher Chris Gordon.

"I can remember from a very young age, maybe 3 or 4, that I had

always had a passion for the drum; it attracted me in a way that I could not explain," said Jodoïn.



Cody Jodoïn

His involvement as a youth and his love of singing led him to attend evening singing classes at Bay Mills Community College during his two years there as a student. With an already overloaded class schedule, he attended the evening singing sessions for fun, not credit. He still sings with many of the same men he learned from as a student at BMCC, such as Mike Willis and Mzzhickkehahbah Thomas.

"...These are guys that have been around since I was young and I am very fortunate to continue learning from members of the world renown singing group, Bear Creek," he said.

Jodoïn said he now sings with a number of groups from Northern Michigan and Canada. "I don't sing or travel with any one drum group in particular, I sing when I can and when I am invited."

Some of the drum groups Jodoïn has had the pleasure of singing with include Aabizii Singers, Bear River Singers, Sugar Bush Singers, Mission Krik Singers, Baawating Singers, Young Biisineh Singers, Elk Spirit Signers, and the Old School Ojibwe Singers.

As Jodoïn became more involved with singing as a young adult, he decided to give drumstick making a try; that was five years ago at the age of 20. He still carries one of the first sticks he ever made to remind him how far he has come in his craft.

"The most important part of singing is the drum beat, and you can't have a drum beat without sticks. As Anishnabe people, the dewagun (drum), is our heartbeat and it has a very unique quality to heal and bring people together. This, in my opinion, is what makes my craft so special; my drumsticks, along with the drum create the heartbeat of our people."

Jodoïn said it takes two to three hours to make a single stick. Because drumstick making is a very personalized experience, Jodoïn communicates with his customers to gauge preferences for colors, weight, length and feel and drum type/sound, then crafts each stick based on customer request.

"When I first started making

sticks five years ago I didn't know where to start, I didn't even know how to sew," he said. "How do you craft something when you don't even know what materials you need?"

Jodoïn knew there were a few people in the area who had made sticks, but he didn't know of anyone in the community who was well known for making them. "Before my first attempt I started asking local signers for direction about commonly used materials. Over the next few weeks I gathered the suggested materials and started crafting via trial and error. The first drumstick rods I ever used were some old fiberglass tent poles I found in a dumpster. After a few failed attempts, I found that hollow tent poles can't withstand a constant beating," he said.

Jodoïn makes two styles of drumsticks; sticks that are from 20 to 23 inches in length are used on powwow drums; and from 12 to 15 inches, for use on hand drums. His drumstick rods today are made using solid fiberglass poles, which are commonly used to mark the edges of driveways during the winter months for snowplowing. The process he uses to create the sticks is very creative.

"Although I have been crafting sticks for five years now, I still continue to learn new things in the process. I learn something new with every stick I make."

Other materials he uses include deer leather, he has also used deer-tanned sheep and goatskins, duct tape, glossy vinyl and holographic tape made for use on vehicles, dental floss for thread, thin memory foam, electrical tape, sports foam wrap (similar to a vet wrap), and cloth sports tape which is typically used on hockey sticks.

"People are often surprised when I tell them how many different types of materials are used in making sticks. I always remind people there is no right way or wrong way to make sticks, this is just how I make them."

Each drumstick set he creates is priced differently, depending on the requests of the customer. Customers either order single sticks or sets of matching sticks. "Drum groups often like to have a set of 10-12 matching sticks. Matching sticks are visually appealing, but more importantly identical sticks create a cohesive sound on the drum," he said.

Jodoïn has shipped his sticks all across the United States and Canada from Florida to Alaska.

One of Jodoïn's proudest moments as a stick maker is when he sees popular drum groups using his work. "I have had the pleasure of making sticks for drum groups like Blacklodge (Washington), Bear Creek (Ontario), Smokey Town (Wisconsin), Young Kingbird (Minnesota) and countless others. I have idolized many of these drum groups since I was a kid and to see them use my drumsticks is a dream come true!"

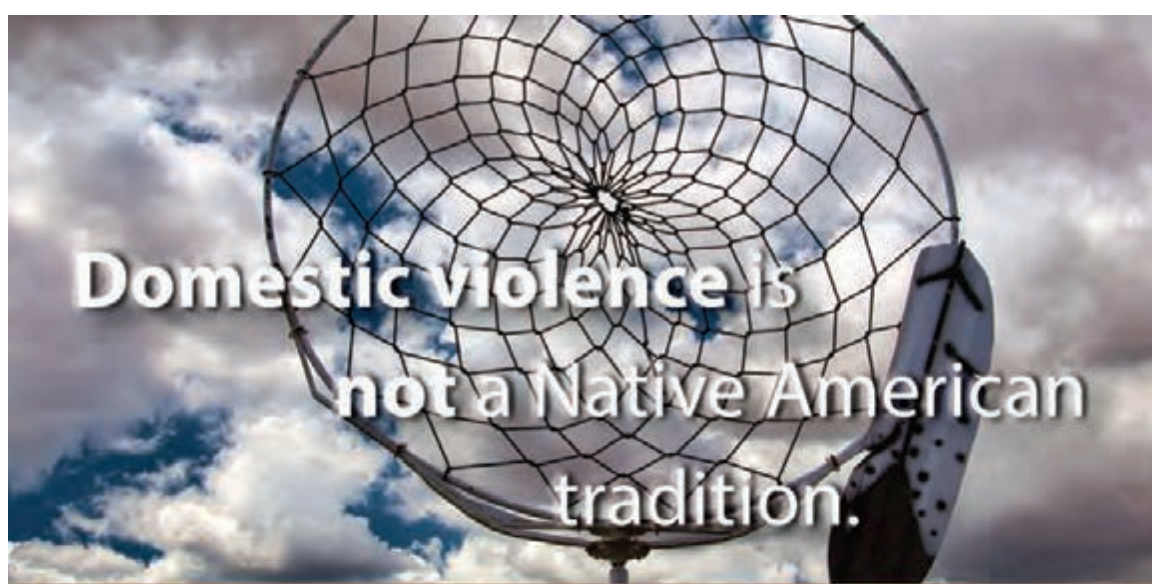
Jodoïn's sticks have also been seen on the popular Travel Channel television show Delicious Destinations when show host Andrew Zimmern visited a reservation in Montana to learn about traditional Native American cuisine.

If you would like to see the many colors and styles of sticks he has created, or are interested in placing an order, you can search "Cody Jodoïn" or "Battlesticks" on Facebook, or call (906) 440-8957.

Jodoïn has worked for the Sault Tribe since graduating high school in 2011; he works out of the Executive Office under the direction of the Membership Services Director Jessica Dumback. He is married to his high school sweetheart, Jenna Perry and together they have a 7-month-old daughter, Harper. His parents are Lori and Cory Jodoïn of Sault Ste. Marie.



Powwow drum heads are made from a variety of stretched animal raw hides most commonly from elk, moose, deer, steer and buffalo. These hides, depending on the thickness, will often change in tone from the surrounding environment. High humidity causes drums to flatten where low humidity causes them to tighten. A common style of powwow drum used in the 1970s and 1980s and still sometimes today is a bass drum, which requires a special type of stick. Base drums are typically made using thinner animal hides, which makes them delicate so they can't withstand the constant pounding of a heavy leather stick. So Jodoïn makes what are known as "fluffy sticks" (above right) for bass drums. These sticks are made with leather backed fluffy material on the head to create a soft tone on the drum.



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Callers after hours may connect with the National Domestic Violence Hotline or call back the next business day.



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This project is supported by Grant Number 90EV0426 from the Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Family and Youth Services Bureau, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Sault has snowiest February on record

More snow, winter storms, forecast through April for Michigan's U.P.

By **BRENDA AUSTIN**

Sault Ste. Marie saw its snowiest February on record going back more than 100 years, with 45.2 inches of the either loved or despised white stuff.

And according to Chief Meteorologist Tom O'Hare of the 9&10 News Weather Team in Cadillac, Mich., the U.P. and its residents can expect between 1 to 2 more feet of snow and from two to four more winter storms before it comes to an end in April or early May. So keep those warm boots by the door and your shovels within reach, because although spring is officially here March 20, Father Winter isn't done with us yet.

Here are some season snowfall totals (through February) across both the U.P. and lower Peninsula of Michigan: Calumet (Tamarack), 304 inches; Calumet (Calumet Lake), 255; Marquette, 205; Munising, 190; Petoskey, 133; Newberry, 132; Sault Ste. Marie, 130; Gaylord, 108; St. Ignace, 102; Tahquamenon Falls, 99; Moran, 92; Charlevoix, 91; Cedarville, 79; and Rudyard with 74 inches.

On Feb. 24, everyone across Michigan was impacted by what many are referring to as a "bom-bogenesis" or "cyclogenesis," the rapid development or strengthening of a low-pressure center where the central barometric pressure drops at least 24 millibars in 24 hours. During that storm, wind gusts of more than 60 mph were felt throughout the state, knocking out power, downing trees and



Chief Meteorologist Tom O'Hare of the 9&10 News Weather Team

being compared to the 1998 fall storm, the Fitzgerald storm of 1975 and the Armistice Day storm of 1940.

In a Facebook post on March 1, Chippewa County Central Dispatch said, "Now that most of the snow has been moved and the sunshine is out (at our 911 Center) it was time to look back at how busy our team was during

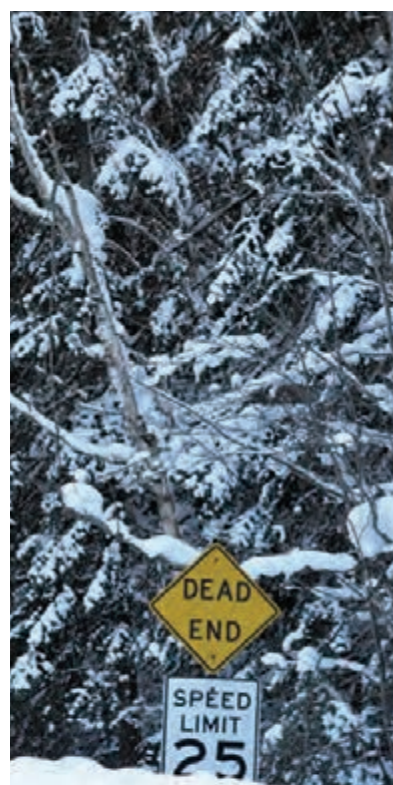
what one of dispatchers called the 'snowricane.' Here are some statistics during the 24-hour period from 5 p.m. Sunday (when the storm started ramping up) until Monday at 5 p.m. when the winds started dying down. In that 24-hour period dispatchers answered over 550 calls for service with 122 of those being 911 calls. For many of those hours, it was only two people answering and dispatching emergency responders, working with road crews, keeping in contact with utility companies, dispatching tow trucks to stranded motorists and keeping track of everything that was being done. Our 911 dispatchers are awesome!"

O'Hare said, "I have some friends in the U.P. and I have been telling them to expect at least another 2 feet before the end of the season. The stats indicate that same thing, because in the last 20 years when we have had some heavy snowfall seasons like

this year, generally March was a heavy snowfall month with a foot or more in spots and April still had 7 to 12 inches. We figure another foot or two of snow before it comes to an end sometime in April or early May."

O'Hare said his job as a meteorologist is fun, but also challenging. He said in northern Michigan there are many factors he has to take into consideration when putting together a comprehensive weather forecast, such as how much ice cover is on the Great Lakes and local terrain, among others.

Many snowmobilers and outdoor sports enthusiasts participating in activities such as ice fishing, snow shoeing and cross country skiing are enjoying the above average snow fall, while others are keeping an eye to the sky hoping to see more blue than white and are waiting for warm May showers in anticipation of planting June flowers.



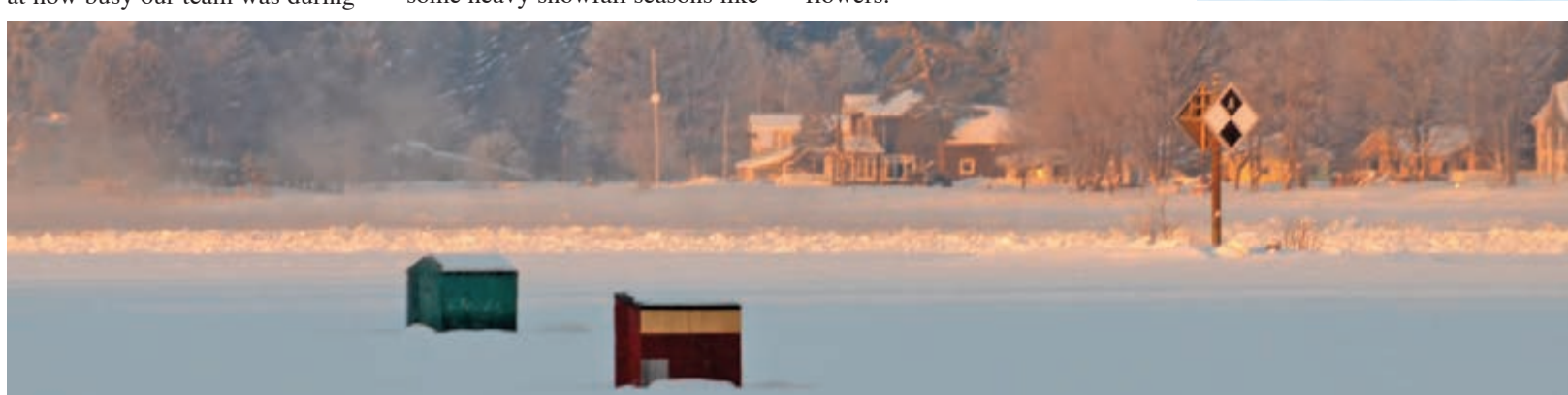
Photos by Brenda Austin



Tom Pink of Sault Ste. Marie gets ready for an early morning of ice fishing on the St. Mary's.



Snow and ice covered vehicles, garages and homes with above average snowfall for February.



Ice fishing shantys on the lower St. Marys River next to the shipping channel in the Shallows. In the background is Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, Canada.



Snowbanks are so high behind the Sault Ste. Marie McDonald's that they tower over parked vehicles and hide the fact that there is a large building on the other side.



City workers in downtown Sault Ste. Marie clearing snow covered roadways near Sault Tribe newspaper offices.

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EVERY THURSDAY IN APRIL 2019
April 04, 5 - 7:30 p.m.
April 11, 5 - 7:30 p.m.
April 18, 5 - 7:30 p.m.
April 25, 5 - 7:30 p.m.

Chi Mukwa (Big Bear) Community Rec Center (Kitchen upstairs), 2 Ice Circle, Soo, Mich

- CLASS TOPICS**
- Healthy Snacks
 - Shopping Smart
 - Food Safety at Home
 - Cooking Tips
 - Planning Balanced Meals
 - Tips for Eating Out



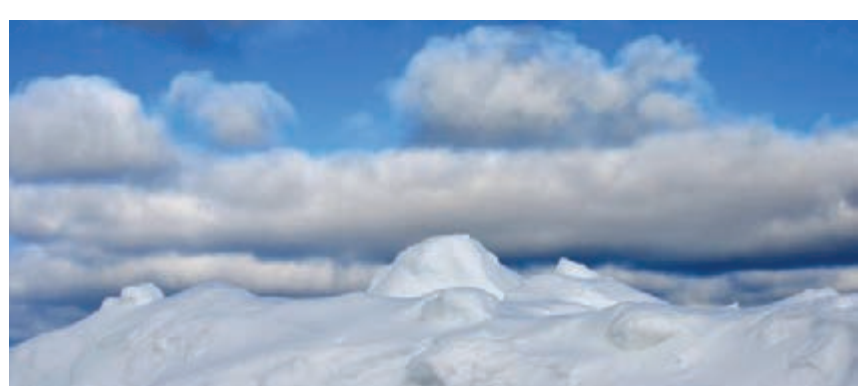
REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED. PLEASE CALL SAULT TRIBE COMMUNITY HEALTH AT 906-632-5210 TO REGISTER.

LIMITED SPACE IS AVAILABLE ON A FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVED BASIS! Commitment to attending all classes is required. If you are unable to attend class, let your site coordinator know as soon as possible.

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension

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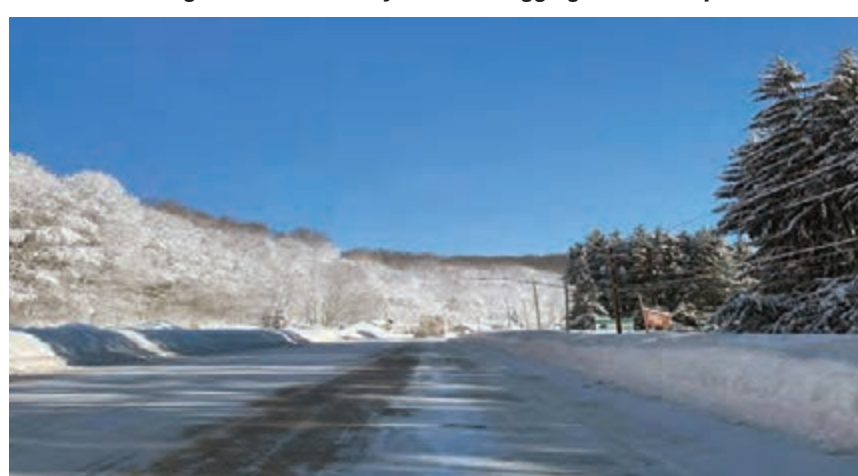
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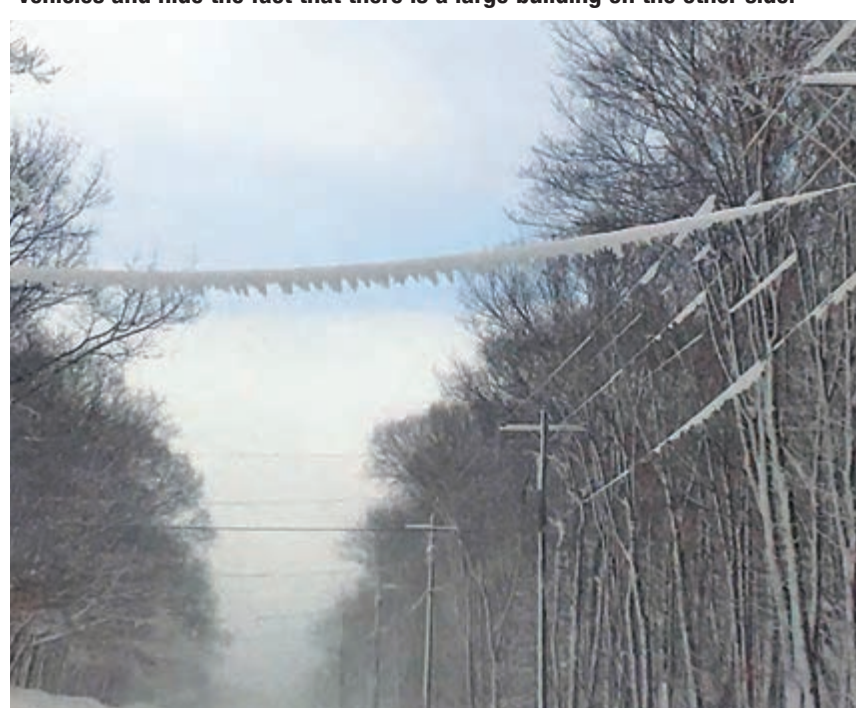
Snowscape meets cloudscape.



M-28 in Munising after the February storm. Digging out in Marquette.



Snowcovered drive down M-28 in Munising a few days after the February storm.



A ride down W. Lakeshore Drive in Brimley on Feb. 25, the morning after the blizzard, or cyclogenesis, left behind snow and ice cover.



Power Hour: Cook, Eat, Live

Cooking classes with a sprinkling of nutrition advice to help you live your best life!

Big Bear Teaching Kitchen (2nd floor), Sault Ste. Marie

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OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!

This series depends on attendees' ACTIVE PARTICIPATION, so please come ready to roll up your sleeves and join the fun!

Every Tuesday in April from 12 to 1 p.m.

- April 2: Wraps and Sandwiches
- April 9: Power Bowls
- April 16: Cook Once, Eat Three Times
- April 23: Protein Boxes (aka Grown Up, Healthy Lunchables)
- April 30: Healthy Pizza

Garrett earns runner up in first ever girls championship

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

The Michigan Wrestling Association (MWA) recently held its first Michigan High School Girls Wrestling Finals on Feb. 3, at Adrian College's Merrillat Sport and Fitness Center. The MWA awarded champions in 14 weight classes, with Sault Tribe member Kailyn Garrett taking runner up in her weight category after competing against six other girls.

Garrett is a 14-year-old freshman at South Lyon High School, in South Lyon, Mich., and this past season was the only girl on the all-boy team and an active member of the varsity teams success.

Girls wrestling participation has almost doubled since 2014 with more than 16,565 athletes competing during the 2017-18 season, according to the National Federation of State High School Associations. Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) member high schools reported 250 girls participating in wrestling last season.

Kailyn's mother, Nikki (nee Allard) Caudill, said, "Kailyn has always been a very athletic kid. She's played many sports and has excelled at them, but she hadn't found that one thing she loved until she started wrestling. It started when we were up in Sault Ste. Marie last fall visiting my brother. He was wrestling around with her and had a really hard time getting up. He told me I needed to seriously consider putting her in wrestling."

The Michigan MatCats is a wrestling club out of South Lyon

and they held a free intro to wrestling practice. Garrett was hooked from day one, said her mother. "I knew nothing of wrestling, how the sport worked or if Kailyn was any good at it," she said. "For a girl that's only been wrestling 15 months to have the success she has had so far and to have goals of wrestling in college, it makes us so proud."

Caudill added that wrestling is more than just wins and losses. "She is learning how to pick herself up after losses and to work hard for what she wants."

Garrett said no one has ever said anything negative to her directly about participating on a boy's team. There have been a few smiles from the boys on other teams when they realized they were going up against a girl. She said, "I can beat most of the guys."

Garrett said she likes how wrestling forces her to push herself and become a better athlete. She also participates in the shot put during track season, but said wrestling is a more challenging sport. "You have to find something to motivate yourself. When you are in a match, it's just you and that one other person, so if you work hard you can generally accomplish your goals."

Garrett has a sister, Alexis, 15, who also began wrestling the end of last season but since they attend different schools, the sisters don't practice together. She also has two brothers, Preston, 16, and Bailey, 18. Her parents are Nikki Caudill and stepfather Ben Caudill, and James Garrett.



Garrett wrestles a male opponent during a regular season match.



Wrestler Garrett on the podium as runner up in her weight category in girls wrestling state finals.

Austin presented with two Airman of the Quarter awards



Photo by Jennifer Nicole Wolonsky

Travis Austin, a senior airman and radio frequency transmission systems technician in the U.S. Air Force, is stationed at Kirtland AFB in Albuquerque, N.M. He enlisted in May 2013 and has been stationed in Turkey, South Korea, Italy and New Mexico. On Feb. 14, 2019, SrA Austin was presented with Airman of the Quarter for Advanced Systems and Development Directorate, and Airman of the Quarter for Space and Missile Systems Center. He also received Airman of the Quarter in 2018 when stationed in South Korea at Camp Red Cloud's 604th Air Support Operations Squadron. SrA Austin is the son of Brenda Austin, of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., and Ken Austin, of Richmond, Va., brother of Holly Osburn, and brother-in-law to Kyle Osburn. Presenting the award to SrA Austin was Daniel S. Crouch, GG-15, DAF Chief, Ground Systems and Space Operations Division.

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FROM TRADITIONAL MEDICINE

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Made possible with funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Kinross sports equipment drive coming soon

FROM KINROSS BUILDING A HEALTHIER COMMUNITY COALITION

This spring, the Kinross Building a Healthier Community Coalition (BHCC) is calling for

gently used sports equipment donations for their Play It Forward: Sports Equipment Drive for local youth.

All of the donated gear can be brought to the Kinross

Recreation Center at 43 Wood Lake Road in Kincheloe from April 1 through May 15, Monday through Friday, from 12 p.m. to 8 p.m. The equipment will be available to local families at a gear giveaway on May 15. All items will be free and given on a first come, first served basis. The giveaway takes place from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Kinross Recreation Center.

In the sports equipment

drive, the coalition accepts gear for youth of all ages, ranging from children in pre-K to teens in high school. This includes baseball gear (bats, gloves, cleats and helmets), football gear (balls, cleats, etc.), basketball gear (balls, shoes), hockey gear (helmets, pads, skates, shin guards, etc.), dance gear (leotards, tutus, tap shoes, ballet shoes, jazz shoes), soccer gear (bass, cleats, shin guards,

etc.) and all other sports gear such as figure skates, lacrosse equipment or swim goggles in a good, usable condition. Please, no exercise equipment, junk or trash.

The BHCC plans to host equipment drives and giveaways each year in the spring and fall. For more information, contact DeeDee Frasure at the Kinross Recreation Center at (906) 495-5350 or kctrec@kinross.net.

MSU Youth Outreach Program visits Sault Tribe students mid April

For the fourth year in a row, the Michigan State University's Native American Hispanic Business Students (NAHBS) voted to return to Sault Ste. Marie to offer youth leadership skills to our students. The 2019 MSU NAHBS Youth Outreach Program takes place at Sault Tribe's Niigaanagizhik Ceremonial Building in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., on Thursday and Friday, April 11-12.

The outreach program is open

to students in grades 8-12. The MSU business students will present developmental workshops on team building, presentation skills and leadership development. On April 11, a community potluck and cultural exchange takes place from 5:30-7:30 p.m. On Friday, the workshops are presented from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Contact YEA Youth Service Coordinator Lisa Burnside at 484-2298 or lburnside@saulttribe.net with any questions.

MSU pre-college summer program

The MSU Native American Business Institute (NABI) is a FREE week-long pre-college summer program for American Indian high school students who will be in grades 9, 10, 11 or 12, during the coming school year and interested in learning about college and the field of business.

Participants work with Michigan State University college faculty and staff, tribal leaders, Native business owners and Fortune 500 corporate representatives in a seven day "business boot-camp" that exposes participants to the university environment, the college application process, the various degrees available in business and tribal law and numerous professional development opportunities.

This year's program runs from Saturday, June 22, through

Friday, June 28, 2019.

To be eligible, students must:

- Be a current high school student
- Have a 2.8 or higher cumulative grade-point average
- Submit a completed application packet by the established May 3 deadline.

To learn more about NABI and to download an application, visit <http://mbp.broad.msu.edu/nabi/>.

The application deadline is May 3, 2019. Applications can be sent by mail or email to:

Native American Business Institute
 Dr. Kevin Leonard
 Multicultural Business Programs
 645 N. Shaw Lane Room 419
 East Lansing, MI 48824
 (517) 353-3524
leonard1@msu.edu

Elders enjoy good food and great company



Photo by Brenda Austin

Friends Frank Marble, Basil Willis, and husband and wife James W. Young, and Elizabeth B. Young enjoyed lunch together at the tribe's Sault Elder Center and sat down for a visit afterwards.

Soo Lakers PeeWee AA win NIHL tourney

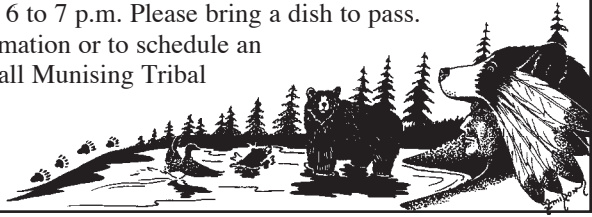


Soo Lakers PeeWee AA hockey team won the Northern International Hockey League (NIHL) tournament to become the NIHL champions. They tied Escanaba 2-2, lost to Marquette 3-5, beat Houghton 3-0. They defeated Marquette in the championship game 3-2. Standing, Gavin Nutkins, Treyce Moran, Coach Rodney Wilcox, Cayd Esherich, Coach Andre Jacques, Ethan Chambers, Evan Kennedy, Drew Fabry, Coach Chuck Fabry and Korsen Pace. Kneeling, Avery Wilson, Cale Bell, Evan Hoglund, Ryan TenEyck, Jarret Crimin, Randen Blair, Jacob Goodrich and Nick Wood. Sitting, Terek Sawyer and Michael Bontrager.

Clan teachings in Munising March 20

The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Traditional Medicine Program presents clan teachings with traditional healer Joe Syrette on March 20 at the Munising Tribal Health Center, 622 W Superior St., Munising, Mich. Begins at 5 p.m. with a potluck, teachings from 6 to 7 p.m. Please bring a dish to pass.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, call Munising Tribal Health Center at 387-4614.



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Perdue on SNAP: A second chance, not a way of life

FROM THE USDA

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue reiterated during a U.S. Senate hearing on Feb. 28 the need to restore the original intent of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), which is to be a second chance and not a way of life. Perdue's comments came on the heels of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) publishing in the Federal Register a proposed rule to move more able-bodied recipients of SNAP benefits to self-sufficiency through the dignity of work. The rule aims to restore the system to what it was meant to be: assistance through difficult times, not lifelong dependency. This proposed rule focuses on work-related program requirements for Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWDs) and would apply to non-disabled people, between the ages of 18 and 49, with no dependents. The rule would not apply to the elderly, the disabled or pregnant women. Those who are eligible to receive SNAP – including the underemployed – would still qualify.

Despite the absence of any statutory changes to the welfare reform legislation of 1996, an

The USDA continues to encourage all interested parties to provide input on the proposed rule. The comment period closes April 2.

abuse of administrative flexibility in SNAP has undermined the ideal of self-sufficiency. When then President Bill Clinton signed the legislation that instituted work requirements for ABAWDs he said, "First and foremost, it should be about moving people from welfare to work. It should impose time limits on welfare . . . It [work] gives structure, meaning and dignity to most of our lives."

During the hearing, Perdue was asked about work requirements and his proposed rule. "What was accepted by the U.S. Senate and passed was the same bill that's been there since the beginning of the welfare reform regarding the work requirements of 20 hours per week," he said. "And what you also passed was not a prohibition, it was no change to the fact that in one section it says that the Secretary may waive that applicability and we plan to do that for the ABAWDs. We think the purpose is to help people move to independency . . . We should help people when they are down but that should not be

interminably.

"...You all also provided for a 12 percent cushion for states that they could use for any purpose. But, we do not believe in states where unemployment is 4 percent that ABAWDs should be able to stay on food assistance interminably."

Congress implemented this work requirement in the *Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act* in 1996, and allowed the Secretary, upon request from a state to waive the work requirement for ABAWDs during times of high unemployment. The statute provides the Secretary with broad discretion to establish criteria for determining whether an area has an insufficient number of jobs and qualifies for a waiver. The 2018 Farm Bill did not modify the discretion that Congress provided the Secretary regarding waivers of the ABAWD work requirements.

Congress implemented this work requirement in the *Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act* in 1996. This bill gave the Secretary of Agriculture the discretion to allow states to waive the work requirement for ABAWDs during times of high unemployment. This section of

the statute related to ABAWD work requirements leaves waiver decisions to the Secretary of Agriculture

On Feb. 1, USDA published in the Federal Register a proposed rule entitled *Supplemental Assistance Program: Requirements for Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents* (ABAWD).

Under current SNAP statute, ABAWDs must work or participate in an employment program for at least 20 hours a week to continue to receive benefits for more than three months over a 36-month period. States may also allow volunteer activities to satisfy the work requirement. States may request to waive the time limit in areas with an unemployment rate above 10 percent or where there are 'not sufficient jobs,' which current regulations primarily define as an unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average. With today's strong economy, that could include areas with unemployment rates of under 5 percent – a rate normally considered to be full employment. December 2018 data from the Department of Labor announced that job openings reached 7.3 million and that just under 6.3 million Americans

were unemployed.

USDA's proposal would help to ensure that work provisions are waived only when necessary, encouraging states to renew their focus on helping SNAP participants find a path to self-sufficiency. In a recent letter to the nation's governors, Perdue explained, "These waivers weaken states' ability to move the ABAWD population to long-term self-sufficiency because they do not require ABAWDs to engage in work and work training."

USDA continues to encourage all interested parties to provide input on the proposed rule. The comment period opened on Feb. 1 and closes on April 2.

USDA's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) works to reduce food insecurity and promote nutritious diets among the American people. The agency administers 15 nutrition assistance programs that leverage American's agricultural abundance to ensure children and low-income individuals and families have nutritious food to eat. FNS also co-develops the dietary guidelines for Americans, which provide science-based nutrition recommendations and serve as the cornerstone of federal nutrition policy.

Bill would establish VA advisory committee on Indian affairs

WASHINGTON, D.C. — U.S. senators Jon Tester (D-Mont.), Dan Sullivan (R-Alaska), Tom Udall (D-N.M.), and Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) are teaming up to improve the VA's outreach, health care and benefits for American Indians.

The senators introduced the bipartisan *VA Tribal Advisory Committee Act* to establish a VA Advisory Committee on Tribal and Indian Affairs. The committee will facilitate communication and understanding between the VA and tribal governments to better address the unique barriers American Indian veterans face when accessing VA services.

"Native Americans have served our nation in uniform at a historically high rate, but many face barriers and roadblocks to the care and benefits they earned," said Tester, ranking member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee. "Our bipartisan bill will improve the collaboration and communication between tribes and the VA and

make sure Native American veterans have a voice in crafting solutions that work best for all veterans living in Indian Country."

"Last fall, Secretary Wilkie and I hosted a productive roundtable with Native veterans on the health care and access challenges impacting this special, patriotic group in Alaska and across the country," said Senator Sullivan. "I'm pleased to have used these ideas and suggestions to shape this legislation that will give greater voice to a community with a proud history of bravely answering the call to serve, even during the darker times in our nation's history."

"Native veterans in New Mexico and across Indian Country who put their lives on the line deserve not just our gratitude but unbarred access to the VA services we promised them," said Udall, vice chairman of the Senate Indian Affairs Committee. "This bipartisan legislation to establish a VA

Advisory Committee on Tribal and Indian Affairs will promote meaningful government-to-government consultation with Tribes and will create solutions to ensure VA programs work for all Native veterans."

"America's first people have served America in distinction in every conflict for the past two centuries. Yet, it seems it is only in this past decade that the VA has been paying special attention to the needs of Native veterans, many of whom live in the most remote corners of the country, hundreds of miles from the nearest VA facility—places like Bethel, Fort Yukon, Kotzebue, Nome and Utqiagvik, Alaska," said Murkowski. "Out of respect for the government-to-government relationship between the VA and our nation's tribes, it is appropriate that Native people have a seat at the table as the VA establishes its service priorities."

The senators' *VA Tribal Advisory Committee Act* will

establish a 15-member committee comprised of a representative from each of the 12 regions of the Indian Health Service and three at-large American Indian members. At least half of the committee members must be veterans. The committee will facilitate communication between the VA and tribal governments, meet face-to-face with the VA Secretary to provide guidance on tribal and Indian affairs, and report to Congress its recommendations for legislation to improve American Indian veterans' access to VA health care and benefits.

The National Indian Health Board (NIHB) and National Congress of American Indians support the senators' *VA Tribal Advisory Committee Act*.

"The National Indian Health Board is pleased to see legislation introduced to help honor the government-to-government relationship between Tribes and the Department of Veterans Affairs," said Andrew Joseph Jr., NIHB

Board member and U.S. Army veteran. "The *Tribal Advisory Committee Act* is an important first step in facilitating meaningful consultation between the tribes and the VA. This will help fulfill the federal government's obligation to provide health care to those who have earned our highest respect with their sacrifice – Native veterans. NIHB looks forward to working with the bill's sponsors as it moves through Congress."

"Our tribal nations have always held our citizens that serve in the highest esteem," said Jefferson Keel, President of the National Congress of American Indians and retired U.S. Army officer. "Too often our American Indian and Alaska Native veterans have difficulty accessing the benefits they earned through their military service. The *Department of Veterans Affairs Tribal Advisory Committee Act* will help eliminate barriers that prevent our Native veterans from accessing those benefits."

Education leaders support Gov. Whitmer's first budget proposal

MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BOARDS

The Michigan Association of Superintendents and Administrators (MASA), the Michigan Association of School Boards (MASB), the Michigan Association of Intermediate School Administrators and the Michigan Association of Secondary School Principals (MASSP) applaud Gov. Gretchen Whitmer on a budget proposal that invests in the classroom and recognizes the need for school funding equity.

If the legislature adopts the budget proposed by Gov. Whitmer, this will be one of the most significant changes in the way we fund schools in Michigan's public education sys-

tem in a generation. In her first opportunity to give details behind her vision for the state's public education system, the governor called for an increase in the foundation allowance and asked the legislature to create a weighted funding formula for per-pupil funding.

"We are optimistic about this budget as the governor is thinking about education funding in a different way than we have seen from governors past," said Bill Miller, MAISA executive director.

Gov. Whitmer's proposal would implement a \$235 million increase in the foundation allowance. The proposal includes \$120 million to increase state reimbursement for special edu-

cation services and \$102 million to increase state support for economically disadvantaged, academically at-risk students. Also noteworthy is \$50 million for career and technical education students, which equates to \$487 per eligible pupil.

"This 'outside the box' approach adopts key recommendations from the School Finance Research Collaborative's (SFRC) work, and gives school districts, rather than the state, more control over how education dollars are spent to meet the needs of our students," said MASA Executive Director Chris Wigent.

"To make a positive impact on our school districts we need to make big investments in our public education system," Wigent

said. "We are excited to see the work of the SFRC taken into consideration as we work to move this state's education system forward."

Included in the budget proposal was a boost in funding for students impacted by poverty, special education students and additional funds to increase the number of literacy coaches statewide—a topic that came up during Gov. Whitmer's State of the State Address last month where she discussed Michigan's rank nationally for student literacy.

"Some students need more supports than others," said Wendy Zdeb, MASSP executive director. "Our schools provide individualized instruction for

each pupil and our state budget should recognize that we need individualized funding based on each student's need. The governor's budget is a huge step in the right direction because it recognizes that a one-size-fits-all funding formula and top-down decisionmaking doesn't provide many students with the support they need to be successful."

"We look forward to working with the governor and the legislature to get a budget passed before school budgets are due in late June," said Don Wotruba, MASB executive director. "This will ensure our students receive a high-quality education and that school boards and administrators can make timely and accurate budgeting decisions."

State 2019 lake trout regulations to change in Grand Traverse Bay — state harvest exceeded

FROM THE MICHIGAN DNR

LANSING — Because the state 2018 harvest limit for lake trout in Grand Traverse Bay was exceeded, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources is looking at some regulation changes for 2019. Before any changes are proposed to the Michigan Natural Resources Commission, which has the authority for establishing most regulations, the DNR held a public meeting in Traverse City March 6. Each year, lake trout harvest limits in 1836 Treaty-ceded waters are determined by the treaty tribes (Sault Tribe, Bay Mills, Grand Traverse Band, Little Traverse Bay Bands and Little River Band), the United States and the state

of Michigan. Last year, the state recreational harvest in Grand Traverse Bay (known as the Lake Trout Management Unit MM-4) reached 93,000 pounds — exceeding the set total allowable catch of 77,200 pounds.

“When either the state or the tribes exceed harvest limits by more than 15 percent, there is a penalty the following season,” said DNR Fisheries Division Chief Jim Dexter. “Under this scenario, recreational anglers on Grand Traverse Bay this year will be required to reduce their catch by nearly 32,000 pounds.”

To accommodate that required reduction for the 2019 lake trout fishing season, the DNR is consid-

ering three options:

- Allow the Grand Traverse Bay fishery to be open June 15-Sept. 2 with a 15-inch minimum size limit, and a two-fish daily possession limit. (Estimated reduction: 30,900 pounds)

- Allow the Grand Traverse Bay fishery to be open July 1-Sept. 30 with a 15-inch minimum size limit, and a two-fish daily possession limit. (Estimated reduction: 31,400 pounds)

- Allow the Grand Traverse Bay fishery to be open May 25-Sept. 2 with a 15-inch minimum size limit, and a one-fish daily possession limit May 25-June 30 and a two-fish daily possession limit July 1-Sept. 2.

(Estimated reduction: 27,400 pounds)

Grand Traverse Bay’s lake trout fishery is a popular opportunity for many anglers. In recent years, fishing methods have moved beyond trolling and now include casting and jigging, too.

According to Heather Hettinger, a DNR fisheries biologist who works out of the Traverse City Customer Service Center, this strong fishery, combined with increased interest in bass and cisco fishing, means more anglers are targeting lake trout. That increased effort and alternative methods for catching lake trout result in more fish being caught and released than in the recent past.

“Therein lies part of the problem,” Hettinger said. “Lake trout released by anglers do not survive well. In fact, research suggests that 41 percent of those returned to the water won’t live to be caught another day. That’s why catch-and-release data collected by DNR creel clerks and reported by charter captains is incorporated into ‘allowable catch’ calculations.”

Anglers can directly improve the state’s ability to stay within lake trout harvest limits in Grand Traverse Bay by targeting other readily available fish species or stopping their fish outing after reaching the daily possession limit of lake trout.

Can my medications harm my septic system?

BY BETH CLAWSON, MSU EXTENSION

If someone in your home is taking medications for an extended period, you may want to have your septic tank pumped more often.

The Environmental Protection Agency estimates that 25 percent of the homes in the U.S. have a septic system, a decentralized, cluster, or another similar non-municipal on-site wastewater facility. It is estimated 1.6 million or 43 percent Michigan homes have a septic system or are connected to an on-site wastewater system.

The CDC reports that 48.9 percent of all Americans have used at least one prescription drug in the last 30 days and 23 percent have used three or more, and 12 percent have used five or more.

Consistent maintenance and regular inspections are the best way to maintain a healthy septic or other on-site wastewater system. It is especially important to remember not to flush anything down your toilet that is not body waste or toilet paper. Overuse of household chemicals can impede the biological action of your home wastewater treatment system. This includes antibacterial soaps, harsh cleaning chemicals, and chlorine bleach.

Septic tanks and drain fields depend on both anaerobic and



aerobic bacteria to break down the organic waste and clean the water as it is released it into the soil for filtration.

Some chemicals from medications, such as antibiotics, antibacterials, and chemotherapy treatments that do not completely metabolize in your body, are expelled in your waste. These chemicals can disrupt the biological action in your tank and drain field causing it to fill with solids more quickly. More solids in your tank risk solids flowing into the drain field leading to septic or on-site wastewater system failure.

Some steps to protect a costly failure and potential replacement are:

- Flush only flush body waste and toilet paper down the toilet, period.
- Use minimal household chemicals for cleaning.
- Avoid or use minimal amounts of chlorine bleach in your washing machine.
- Have your tank pumped more frequently if someone in

your household is taking chemotherapy or antibiotic medications for an extended period.

- When your tank is pumped, ask your pumper to refill it with fresh water to dilute any residual medications.

- Take excess and unwanted chemicals, cleaners, and medications to your local household hazardous waste or medication collection program.

In the *Pumper Magazine*, Sara Heger, Ph.D., said, “It is important to note that most general medications and typical over the counter medications will not harm our septic or wastewater system.”

However, some chemotherapy drugs either do not break down easily, can affect any organism, or concentrate in the urine. Adding additional water or extra flushes can help dilute the drug in your septic system.

For more information about the Michigan Septic System Education, contact Beth Clawson, MSU Extension Educator. To learn more about this and other water quality programs, contact Michigan State University Extension Natural Resources educators who are working across Michigan to provide natural resources and water quality educational programming

and assistance. You can contact an educator through MSU Extension’s “Find an Expert” search tool using the keywords “Natural Resources” or “Water Quality.”

- Additional resources:
- www.canr.msu.edu/septic_system_education/
 - www.epa.gov/septic
 - www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/mi/PST045217
 - www.pumper.com/online_exclusives/2018/06/the-problem-with-medications-and-septic-systems
 - www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/drug-use-therapeutic.htm



Photo by Doris LaTour

Snow blew between Doris LaTour’s screen and window to form a “snow dog” and her puppies!

SAVE THE DATE!
 Niishtinaa-shi Nswi Enso-gwa Bboongag
 Ziisbaakwad Minising Jiingtamok

23rd Annual Sugar Island Powwow
 July 20-21, 2019

Community Mobile Food Pantry
 JKL Bahweting School
 1301 Marquette Avenue
 Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

Fruits, Vegetables, Dairy, & Baked Goods
for people in need
 (please bring your own boxes & bags)

March 20, 2019 from 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Registration begins at 5:00 p.m.
 No early distribution – Parking lots are not available until 4:15 p.m.

Please contact Kristen Corbiere at (906) 635-5055x122 or at kcorbiere@jkl.school.org with any questions

FEEDING AMERICA
 West Michigan

Walking on . . .



ADA M. CHAMBERS

Ada Mae Chambers of Mackinac Island and St. Ignace was reunited with her husband Arthur "Bud" on Feb. 6, 2019. She passed away peacefully with family at her side at the home of her daughter, Kathy.

Ada was born on Mackinac Island on Dec. 21, 1940, to John and NaDeanne LaPine. She attended school on Mackinac Island at the building of the old Indian Dormitory, as most all island children did. Ada and Bud fell in love and married on July 14, 1956. They enjoyed many adventures together for 59 years. Ada had a strong will and worked hard, whether raising her six girls or working her job. She worked at Mackinac Island Carriage Tours and the Grand Hotel and most all of the hotels on the island in some capacity for 35 years. She gathered tour groups, luggage and arranged taxis for all guests arriving on Mackinac. She met many dignitaries who would ask for Ada to assist them on their arrival. She was known to many as the "Queen of the Shepler Dock." Lifelong friendships were built. She loved her job and all the people she worked with.

Ada loved to read, every newspaper and book she could get her hands on. She also enjoyed going to the casino to play her favorite slot machine and visit with friends. Ada was an elder of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

Left to honor and remember her love are her daughters and their families, Karen (ED) Anderson, Gail Chambers, Kathy (Gary) McBride, Penny Chambers (David Sterk), Sara Chambers and Linda (John) Bentgen; many grandchildren and great-grandchildren; nieces and nephews; and countless friends and colleagues.

One brother survives, Frank (Sheila) LaPine; brothers-in-law, James P. Chambers and Dr. William (Sue) Chambers; and sister-in-law, Lois Chambers.

Her husband Art and infant son Arthur Thomas III, preceded her in death, as well as brothers, John Walter, Delbert and Dean; and a sister, Ruth.

At Ada's request, cremation has taken place. A Mass was held on Feb. 22, at St. Ignatius Loyola Catholic Church in St. Ignace, officiated by Father Frank Ricca. In lieu of flowers, a donation in Ada's honor can be made to the Oncology Department at Mackinac Straits Health System in St. Ignace.

Dodson Funeral Home of St. Ignace assisted the family.



PATRICIA F. BASELEON

Patricia Florence Baseleon, aged 78, of Manhattan, Ill., passed away on Jan. 25, 2019, at Silver Cross Hospital in New Lenox, Ill. She was born on March 9, 1940, in Detroit, Mich.

Patricia attended St. Joseph Catholic Church in Manhattan and was a lady with the Medinah Shriners. She loved attending Monday night bingo at the Cantigny Post 367 VFW in Joliet, going on cruises, and enjoying the casino. Pat enjoyed reading and loved crossword puzzles.

She is survived by her husband, Vietnam veteran Gus Baseleon, whom she married on June 25, 2000, in Las Vegas, Nev.; children, Rob Mayles, Tony (Cheryl) Mayles, and Holli (the late Edmund) Piet; six grandchildren; four siblings, Judy Whalen, David Reuter, Lynne Bunce, and Ardis Loos; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Preceding her in death were her parents, Art and Norma (nee Bedell) Iaconelli; and one sister, Jan Hall.

Cremation rites have been accorded. Forsythe Gould Funeral Home of Manhattan was entrusted with arrangements.

Memorial services to take place at a later date in Michigan. Interment will follow at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery, Elwood, Ill.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in her name to the Shriners Children's Hospital or St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Chicago, Ill., would be appreciated.



FRANCES "KEWPIE" GAGE

Frances "Kewpie" Gage, aged 93, passed away peacefully on Nov. 8, 2018. She died surrounded by family at her home on St. Martins Hill, where she had lived for 65 years. She was born in Munising on Oct. 24, 1925, to Albert and Lillian (Jarrett) Donathan. She was named Magdalen Frances after her mother's best friend,

Munising schoolteacher Magdalen (Lena) Frances Delger. Ms. Delger nicknamed her Kewpie because there were three children named Frances in the same class.

Kewpie grew up in Munising, learned to swim in Lake Superior, but after her mother's death, she moved to lower Michigan to live with an older sister and graduated from Montrose High School in 1945. Her best friend in Montrose was Eleanor Gage, who had a brother named Edgar. Kewpie and Edgar met on a blind date while he was home on leave from the Navy. They corresponded by mail until Edgar returned from his service in the South Pacific after World War II ended, and they were married on Nov. 30, 1946. Kewpie and Edgar made their home in Munising where they raised six children and four adopted grandchildren. Motherhood was the focus of her life.

In addition to mothering, Kewpie was well known for her exceptional swimming abilities. She credited her seventh grade physical education teacher, Madge Mayforth, for her interest in swimming. Ms. Mayforth taught her all the swimming strokes she needed to receive her water safety instructor certification from the Michigan National Aquatics School on June 15, 1960.

This led to her first job as a waterfront director at the Timber Trail Scout Camp under the direction of Earlene Ingraham. She subsequently served as swimming instructor at numerous Girl Scout and Boy Scout camps, 4-H camps, and various church and youth camps. She also led a two-week wilderness survival skills trip through the Sylvania Tract Wilderness.

In the 1960s and 1970s, Kewpie worked as a substitute gym and pool teacher at Mather School and after school hours she taught swimming to students from Eben and Trenary, as well as adults. She also taught swimming for the Native American Education program and provided aquatic therapy for Munising children with disabilities.

In 1990, Kewpie was named to the Girl Scout Hall of Fame and in 1998, she was named to the Alger County Women's Roll of Honor. She volunteered at the St. Vincent De Paul store for many years before it closed and earlier this year she volunteered at the Commission on Aging for a couple months before she became too ill to serve.

Kewpie was very proud of her American Indian heritage and in 1997, she was recognized by the Sault Tribe for her 20-plus years of service to the Native American Education program for Munising Public Schools and gifted with an eagle feather fan. During presentation of the award, a tribal representative commented, "Kewpie has been a member of the Native American Education Parent Committee for over 20 years and has worked with school children on Native projects. She has made the ceramic pottery that is given away each year at the powwow and has made special gifts every

year for the Native American office. Kewpie is one of the most dedicated and sincere persons we have known and very much deserves this honor."

Kewpie is survived by her husband of 72 years, Edgar Erie Gage; sons, Brady (Keely) Gage of Euharlee, Ga., John Gage of Idaho, Chet (Jamie) Gage of Munising; daughters, Micki (Dale) Sarasin of Gladstone, Mich., Teri (Paul Taylor) Gage of Bayfield, Wis., and Sabrina Gage of Phoenix, Ariz.; daughters-in-law Trish Gage of Brainerd, Minn., Linda Greenwood of Warner Robins, Ga., and Linda Webb of Cornelia, Ga.; 18 grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild; and sister-in-law, Eleanor Shaw of Arizona.

She was preceded in death by her parents; sons, Michael Anthony, Gary Lee, Chet Alva, Sr., and David Allen; sisters, Margaret (Jay) Spielmacher, Dorothy (Norm) Skagerberg, Irene (Ervin) Cady and Annabelle (Blaine) Short; brothers, John, Albert and George Donathan; parents-in-law, Sidney and Verna Gage; brothers-in-law, Emerson and Earl Gage; and sisters-in-law, Elaine Gage and Elizabeth Barton.

The family wishes to thank everyone who sent cards, brought food and spent time with Kewpie while she was ill, especially Ken and Fran Chaltry, Rod Des Jardins, Rachele Hannah, Diane and Barry Hoover, Norma Harger, Terry Bower, Mike and Donna Lepovski, and the caring staff of Northwoods Hospice. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made in Kewpie's memory to the Nancy Golisek Beauchaine Foundation at 1232 West State Highway M-28, Munising, MI 49862.

Visitation was at the Bowerman Funeral Home on Nov. 12, 2018, with Pastor Ann Gonyea conducting her funeral service. Kewpie's obituary and online guest book may be viewed and signed online at the web site bowermanfuneralhome.net.



HELEN B. GRIFFIN

Helen Barbara (nee Madigan) Griffin, of Sault Sainte Marie, Mich., and Peabody, Mass., our beautiful and beloved mother, walked on peacefully with family by her side on Dec. 2, 2018.

Les Ailing at the Niigaanagizhik Ceremonial Building lit a sacred fire and songs were sung by the Healing Lodge Singers to help her on her journey westward. Her spirit name is Yellow Thunderbird

Woman, Ozah-wa Nimke Kwe. She was a proud member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

Barbara, as she was known, was the wife to Robert Timothy Griffin, Esq., a WWII veteran who predeceased her in 2000. She was a devoted mother to her eight children, loving grandmother of nine grandchildren and her five grand dogs.

Barbara had an incredible memory, sense of style and fashion and possessed a youthful spirit. She especially enjoyed traveling, ice skating, classical music, playing the piano, the game show *Jeopardy* and simply being with her family and dear friends. Born in the Sault on April 13, 1930, she lived on Cedar St. until age 14. After the death of her father, her mother remarried, then moved the family to Long Island, N.Y., where Barbara later completed her nursing degree from the Long Island College Hospital. Barbara practiced nursing until she retired in the 1980s. While a student nurse, she placed her own health at risk to care for many sickened children during the last major polio outbreak in New York City during the summer of 1949.

Barbara is survived by seven of her eight children, Robert T. Griffin, Jr., and his wife Eve, Nancy Griffin and Denise Atkinson, Cynthia Griffin, Barbara and her husband Alec, Jennifer Griffin, Ann and her husband David Ewanowski, Paul Griffin and his wife Trish. Her second born, John T Griffin, Esq. walked on in 2014. A sister, Mildred Storm, of Long Island, N.Y., also survives her. Her nine grandchildren additionally survive "Nana," Sarah, Elizabeth, Benjamin, Katherine, Andrew and his wife Bryn, Garrett, Griffin, Robert and Henry. Her loving four legged grandchildren, Madigan, Pucci, Otto, Patriot and Baloo, also survive Barbara.

She will be greatly missed by her very large extended family of loving nieces, nephews, cousins and friends, both here in the Sault and back east. Barbara loved the Sault and began returning regularly beginning in 2006. Over the years she reconnected with long lost friends and family. She spent many enjoyable months each year living in the Sault at the family farm, Sweet Grass Farm, on Shunk Road.

Helen Barbara Griffin was buried with her loving husband in New York at the Frederick W. Loescher Veterans Memorial Cemetery.

As her children and grandchildren mourn her passing and grapple without her physical presence in our lives, we want you to know that we are strengthened by the gift of her love and the strength that she showed us through life's struggles. We will never forget you mom, and we will never, ever stop loving you.

If you would like, please send a donation in her honor to the Kaplan House, Care Dimensions, 75 Sylvan Street, Suite B-102, Danvers, MA, 01923; or to your local Hospice.

Walking on continued . . .



FRANK G. LAPINE

Frank Grant LaPine, born on Mackinac Island on Dec. 23, 1942, passed away peacefully, surrounded by his family on Feb 18, 2019, after a brief illness. Frank left the island to serve in the United States Army and was stationed at Rhein Mein Army base in Germany where he served with distinction as a supply sergeant. He returned to the Upper Peninsula and attended Northern Michigan University to study accounting before marrying and starting a family.

Frank was an avid fisherman and sportsman who enjoyed sharing that part of his life with his boys and others over the years. In his later years he enjoyed spending his winters golfing in Florida and summers in the U.P. fishing for walleye. His final years were spent with the love of his life, Sheila, who he had reconnected with and married after a long time apart. He cherished his time with Sheila and her children and grandchildren.

Frank was a great father and grandfather for his family and a friendly soul to all he encountered. He was ready and willing to lend a hand to anyone and always had an infectious smile and a silly joke or gesture to brighten someone's day. He will be greatly missed.

In addition to his wife Sheila, Frank is survived by two sons, Steven and Armand LaPine; and granddaughter, Anne Monet LaPine.

He was preceded in death by his parents, and five siblings. A family gathering to celebrate the life of Frank LaPine will be scheduled at the convenience of his family. The Skradski Family Funeral Homes of Delta County are assisting with arrangements. Messages of condolence may be offered at www.skradskifuneralhomes.com

CHAL T. LEASK

Chal T. Leask, 70, of Cheboygan, passed away on Feb. 1, 2019, at home. Chal was born on Dec. 27, 1948, in Cheboygan, the son of Orville and Lorraine (Gouine) Leask. He was a graduate of Cheboygan Public Schools and lived most of his life in Cheboygan until moving to Mt. Pleasant, S.C., in 2002, and returning to Cheboygan in 2017. On Aug. 1, 1970, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Riggsville, he married Gloria Gilmette. Chal was employed by the Amoco Oil Company at the Cheboygan Terminal for 20 years, retiring in 1997. He enjoyed, hunting, fishing, especially spending time with his granddaughters, and music, playing guitar in many local

bands. He was also a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. Surviving are his wife, Gloria; a son, Noah (Lisa) Leask of Mt. Pleasant, S. C.; a daughter, Trisha Leask of Cheboygan; four granddaughters, Bri, Logan, Peyton and Kiersten; five siblings, Corey Leask, Cle (Patty) Leask, Kim (Mike) Duch, Randa (Tony) Grubinski and Shanda (Joel) Legato; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and a sister, Linda Tallman.

No services are planned at this time.

Memorials may be made to the Evangelical Covenant Daycare Center, 3424 E. U.S. Hwy-23, Cheboygan, MI 49721.

Online condolences may be made at www.stonefuneralhomeinc.com.

The Nordman-Christian Funeral Home is caring for the family.



GLENN W. J. MENARD

Glenn Wendel James Menard, aged 90, of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., passed away on Feb. 10, 2019, at War Memorial Hospital in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. He was born on Oct. 13, 1928, on Sugar Island, Mich., to the late Joseph and Genevieve (Myotte) Menard.

Glenn served in the United States Army during the Korean War era. He married Melvia McCoy on Dec. 17, 1965, in Sault Ste. Marie. He was a truck driver for his entire life but, specifically, he drove a cement truck for more than 25 years for Northern Sand and Gravel.

He was a hard worker who loved the outdoors and was very family oriented. You would find him listening to sports and spending time on the island. He loved animals and had a special connection with them. He was known as the neighborhood "Watch Dog" for the St. Mary's School kids.

Glenn is survived by his children, Robert Lovin of Sault Ste. Marie, Melinda (Randy) Menard of Dafter, Mich., Kenneth (Cindy) Lovin of Dayton, Ohio, Douglas Menard of Sault Ste. Marie and Darrell Menard of Sault Ste. Marie; seven grandchildren; and a brother, Alvin (Pearl) Menard of Sugar Island.

Glenn was preceded in death by his wife; his parents; two brothers, Phillip Menard and Clifton Menard; and four sisters, Cecilia Lawrence, Delores

Young, Joan Allen and Jean Rippon.

A memorial service will take place later this year. A memorial announcement will be placed in *The Sault News* closer to the time of the service.

Arrangements are in the care of C.S Mulder Funeral Home and Cremation Services. Condolences may be left online at www.csmulder.com.



BETTY M. PIFFERO

With great sadness we regret to announce the passing of our dear mother, Betty Marie Piffero, in her 93rd year. Betty was born in Detroit, Mich., on March 27, 1925.

She was wife to the late Ernest Piffero; daughter of Mary Muscoe; mother of Glenda Bidigaire from Shingle Springs, Ca., Nanci Paddon of Windsor, Ont., and Marc Piffero of Burlington Ont.

She spent many wonderful years back north close to her family roots in Sault Ste Marie. She loved northern Michigan, especially the Cedarville area with it's beautiful waterways.

As part of Sault Tribe she would often be seen having lunch with the elders. Her big smile and uplifting personality touched many. She will be sadly missed by many who loved her dearly.



MARGARET I. VASSAR

Margaret Irene Vassar, aged 93, of Hessel, Mich., passed on Feb. 5, 2019, in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. She was born Dec. 5, 1925, in Hessel to Perry Causley and Mary Sabrina (Osogwin) Causley.

Margaret lived nearly her entire life in the Les Cheneaux Islands. She attended Hessel and Cedarville schools and then technical school in Marquette, Mich., for training to work on equipment repairs for the World War II effort. Following the war, she returned to Hessel, married Eugene Vassar and raised their

family. Margaret also provided childcare for many other family members. After Eugene died in 1966, she worked as a custodian for a doctor's office and as a housekeeper for many summer residents. She raised her grandsons after her daughter, Julie passed on.

Margaret was a member of Our Lady of the Snows Catholic Church and the Altar Society at the church. She was an elder of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. She served on the tribe's language and elder committees and attended many Ojibwe language conferences. She shared her wealth of information on many levels of her tribal community.

Margaret was a very happy, kind and caring person who smiled frequently. She liked to cook and can food, and go to bingo and the casino. She was an expert cribbage player.

Margaret is survived by one son, Arthur John (Terrie Milligan) Causley of Hessel; one daughter, Rita Anne Vassar of Sault Ste. Marie; grandchildren, Eugene (Rachel McKechnie) Vassar, Matt (Amber) Vassar, Brent (Lisa) Vassar, and John (Lisa) Clark; and great-grandchildren, Maeci (Kelsie LaLonde) Vassar, Anthony James (Mandy Campbell) Vassar, Madison Vassar, Tommy Vassar, Taylor Vassar, Erin Vassar, Alyssa McKechnie, Shelby Clark, Tristan Clark and Logan Clark.

Margaret was preceded in death by her husband, Eugene Vassar; daughter, Julie Vassar; daughter-in-law, Kathy Causley; brothers, Wilfred, Joseph, Raymond, John and Wilfred II Causley; and sisters, Frances Smith, Catherine LaPointe and Anne Causley.

Visitation and services took place at Anaamianag Nopaming Tribal Center in Hessel over Feb. 10-12 with Brother John Hascall officiating.

Burial will be at Italian Maplewood Cemetery in Clark Township, Mich., in the spring.

R. Galer Funeral Home in Pickford, Mich., served the family. Condolences may be sent to the family at www.rgalerfuneralhome.com.



MARY M. VINCENT

Mary Madeline Vincent, aged 75, of Jonesville, passed away on Feb. 8, 2019, at Henry Ford Allegiance Hospice Home in Jackson, Mich. She was born on March 28, 1943, in Wikwemikong, Manitoulin Island in Ontario, Canada, to Charles and Cecilia (Trudeau)

Peltier. She married Louis Vincent on Aug. 8, 1959, and he preceded her in death in 1996.

Mary was formerly employed at Mark I in Jonesville and she attended St. Anthony Catholic Church in Hillsdale. She enjoyed spending time with her grandchildren at powwows, shopping and attending yard sales. She also enjoyed camping and traveling to Canada to visit her family.

Survivors include two daughters, Carolyn (Loyd) Crandall of Litchfield and Debbie Vincent of Allen; two sons, Bobby (Kay Coburn) Vincent of Homer and Louie Vincent of Mosherville; five grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; four siblings, John, Catherine, Lucy and Martha; and her daughter-in-law, Gail Vincent of Somerset.

In addition to her husband, Mary was preceded in death by her son, Gregory Vincent; and three siblings, Raymond, Josephine and Violet.

Funeral services for Mary Vincent took place on Feb. 15 at the Sault Tribe Ceremonial Building in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. Burial will take place at a later date at Trout Lake Cemetery in Trout Lake, Mich. Local arrangements are entrusted to Clark Bailey Newhouse Funeral Home.

Memorial contributions are suggested to the family. Please visit <http://www.clarkbaileynewhouse.com> to leave online condolences for the family.

Obituary submission information

Win Awenen Nisitotung publishes obituaries upon request free of charge. Photographs are encouraged.

Please mail or deliver obituaries to Win Awenen Nisitotung, 531 Ashmun St. Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783, email to jdale-burton@saulttribe.net or slucas@saulttribe.net, or fax to (906) 632-6556.

For any questions, please email or call (906) 632-6398. Miigwech.

Clip & Save

Legislation reintroduced to improve veterans burial services

BRAVE ACT WOULD UPDATE THE CURRENT FUNERAL AND BURIAL BENEFIT SYSTEM, TREATING ALL NON-SERVICE CONNECTED DEATHS EQUALLY

WASHINGTON, D.C. — U.S. Senators Gary Peters (D-MI) and Marco Rubio (R-FL) recently announced they are reintroducing bipartisan legislation to improve burial services for our nation's veterans by increasing funeral benefits offered through the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

The Burial Rights for America's Veterans' Efforts (BRAVE) Act would update the current funeral and burial benefit

system to treat all non-service connected deaths equally, regardless of where the veteran passes away.

Veterans with no next of kin that pass away in a VA facility are currently provided greater funds to cover the costs of their funerals and burials than veterans who pass away in their home or another medical facility.

The measure is supported by the two millions members of the American Legion as well

as members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Currently, the VA burial benefit provides \$300 for non-service-connected deaths (plus a \$780 plot-interment allowance); \$780 if a veteran passes away in a VA facility (plus a \$780 plot-interment allowance); and \$2,000 if a veteran passes away from a service-connected disability.

The BRAVE Act will increase the \$300 for non-service con-

nected deaths to \$780 to equal the benefit received if a veteran passes away in a VA facility.

The legislation additionally indexes for inflation both the non-service and service-related passing funeral benefits, thereby eliminating the need for Congress to make further readjustments.

According to the National Funeral Directors Association, national median cost of a funeral in 2015 was \$7,181 — not

including a vault, which is typically required by most cemeteries.

Over the past decade, the median cost of an adult funeral in the United States has increased 28.6 percent and has not kept up with the pace of inflation.

For instance, in 1973, the benefit for a veteran with no next-of-kin and a non-service connected death would have been 22 percent of the national average, versus the 2 percent it covers today.

Pamela S. St. Onge In Memoriam

Pamela Sue St. Onge was born to Francis G. and Amanda (LaPine) St. Onge on July 21, 1953. At 1 pound 13 ounces, she was not expected to live long. She did live for 65 years and in those years gave so much to so many and passed away on Nov. 23, 2018, at Warm Memorial Hospital in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.



We, her family, will miss her every day. Pam was a gift and used her being to touch the lives of all who were blessed to know her. Pam was a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

She is survived by her siblings, Glenn (Deana) St. Onge, Mary (Michael) Cope, Marilyn (Michael) Wakefield, Francis (Bonnie) St. Onge, Ida French (friend Kevin), Joseph (Christine) St. Onge, and Dolores (Joel) Raville; her stepmother, Elizabeth M. St.

Onge; many nieces, nephews and cousins; and her paternal uncle, Bob St. Onge, Sr., who lovingly referred to Pam as Pea Lou.

She was preceded in death by her parents; and sisters, Gloria St. Onge Borland and Doris St. Onge Buchannon.

A memorial service is set for the spring of 2019 on Mackinac Island, where she will be laid to rest with family at St. Anne's Cemetery.

We appreciate all of the kind words and prayers for our beloved angel, Pam.

*When we were little children,
We laughed and played together.*

Then growing up you stood by me,

Through good and stormy weather.

There is something God has given us

*That's more than family,
He's placed a love for you,
my sister,*

Deep down in the heart of me.

Tribal Veterans Service Officer hours

Tribal Veterans Service Officer Stacy King holds office hours at all Sault Tribe health facilities. King can be reached at her email, s.king@michiganlegion.org, her primary work cell phone, (906) 202-4238 or her office, (313) 964-6640.

March 2019

TVSO SCHEDULE

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------|-----------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|---|----------------------------|--------------------|
| | | | | | 1 Washington DC | 2 Washington DC |
| 3 | 4 Sick | 5 Sick | 6 Sick | 7 Hessel 9-11:30 St. Ignace 12-3:30 | 8 Sault 8:30-3:30 | 9 |
| 10 | 11 Sault 8:30-3:30 | 12 Escanaba 8:30-3:30 | 13 Marquette 8:30-3:30 | 14 Munising 8:30-3:30 | 15 Manistique 8:30-3:30 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 Sault 8:30-3:30 | 19 Newberry 8:30-3:30 | 20 Hessel 8:30-3:30 | 21 St. Ignace 8:30-3:30 | 22 OFF | 23 |
| 24 | 25 OFF | 26 Escanaba 8:30-3:30 | 27 Marquette 8:30-3:30 | 28 Munising 8:30-3:30 | 29 Manistique 8:30-3:30 | 30 |



Youth Spring League

April 8 - May 16

6U - \$125
8U, 10U, 12U & 14U - \$145
(Birth Years 2005-2015)

Non-Checking League

Online Registration
www.bigbeararena.com
6 Week Hockey Program
Skate 2 Times a Week

Team Jersey & Socks Included
Monday & Wednesday: 6U, 10U and 14U
Tuesday & Thursday: 8U and 12U

First 2 Weeks: Instructional Skates, Player Draft and Practice

NO Goalies for 6U

Online Registration will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis.
NO REFUNDS



Limited Space Available
Registration Deadline: March 22 @ 8 p.m.

www.bigbeararena.com



38th Annual Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians
SUMMER GATHERING AND POWWOW
July 4-7, 2019

Going back to July 4TH weekend by popular demand!

DATES AND TIMES:
THURSDAY, JULY 4
- Spiritual Gathering
FRIDAY, JULY 5
- Kids' Carnival and Karaoke Night starting at 5:30 p.m.
SATURDAY, JULY 6
- Drum & Dancer Registration 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
- Grand Entries at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m.
- Traditional Feast at 5 p.m. (Free and open to the public)
SUNDAY, JULY 7
- Grand Entry at 12 noon
- Traditional Giveaway at 3 p.m.
- Dance & Drum Contest Winners Announced at 4 p.m.
- Powwow Closing at 5 p.m.

This Event is Free and Open to the Public!

- Singing and Dancing Contests
- Traditional Community Feast
- Authentic Food and Craft Vendors
- Drug, Alcohol and Political Free Event

FULL EVENT FLYER TO BE RELEASED AT A LATER DATE

STAY UP TO DATE AT
www.facebook.com/saulttribe/

TRIBAL LEGISLATION ADVOCATING ELDER 2% INCREASE & T.E.R.O.



Aaron A. Payment
Representing All Members Everywhere!
Ahneen, Boozho, Negee,

While it feels like we are fighting a losing battle with our gaming expansion with the Lansing Mayor not renewing our land options and with the Trump Administration denying our mandatory trust petition, I will continue to honor the referendum which supported the Lansing project. The New Boston project was never ratified by a referendum

vote of the people, so I believe the Board should consider holding a new referendum vote to determine if this is the will of the people to continue that portion of the project. We are at the litigation stage such that it would cost \$10 million over ten years of legal battles to prevail. While I believe this is a fight worth having, I also realize I represent your interests such that the tribal voters should be invited to weigh in on this project.

In the meantime, the Lansing project, via Tribal Referendum committed up to 15% of future net revenues to be earmarked for programs and services including setting aside an amount to rebuild the Tribal Elder Land Claims Fund. Given, this could take up to

another ten years, I support the Board setting aside up to 2% of the Net Casino Revenues from our UP casinos to build the Elder Fund such that the interest and subsequent Elder checks also grow incrementally. Resolution "A" below spells out how the Board would set aside the 2%. Before anyone claims this is not feasible, a reduction of the Board and Chair pay says otherwise. The proposal, however, would be to channel the typically unused Tribal support dollars which over the last several years has ranged from \$500,000 to \$1.5 million in savings. We can clearly afford to set aside 2% of the \$17 million net revenues to show our support for our Tribal Elders. Please email to let me know what you think.

As I write my Chairperson report, I am still reveling in our United Tribes of MI meeting with our new Michigan Governor, Gretchen Whitmer. As the elected President of United Tribes, I got to share the firsts related to her leadership. She is the first Governor of Michigan to invite tribes to post our flags during her swearing in. She is the first MI Governor to hire a Native American as her Deputy Legal Counsel. She is the first Governor that I know of to participate in a Powagon Ceremony (peace pipe) when we first met her. Finally, I was the very first person to sign her nominating petition to run for Governor. While this promises nothing, it certainly opens the door so she can hear our needs. For this, I am grateful to start a new direction.

I am also preparing to attend our spring Mid-West Alliance of Sovereign Tribes Legislative meeting in Washington, D.C. For over six years now, I have served as Vice-President of MAST. Recently, I was appointed as the Mid-West Co-Chair of the Tribal Interior Budget Council. For the last two appropriations cycles, I testified and presented the Indian Country budget for tribal nations all across the country. Recently, I was asked to do so once again. Thus, on March 7th, I will present our Sault Tribe budget needs then in a back to back panel in the House Appropriations Committee, turn around and present the budget for all of Indian Country. I am honored to do so on behalf of our people. The following

SPONSORED BY CHAIRPERSON AARON A. PAYMENT

RESOLUTION NO: 2019-___



ELDER LAND CLAIMS TRIBAL SUPPORT 2% INCREMENT

WHEREAS, in 1997, Tribal Citizen Dennis McKelvie circulated a Tribal Referendum petition to pay Tribal Elders 2% of the Tribe's net gaming revenues to Tribal Elders but the Tribal Legal Department advised that tribal referenda were not self-executing and there existed no right of initiative and dismissed the petition; and

WHEREAS, in 1998, upon a recommendation by then Vice Chairperson George K. Nolan, the Tribal Board of Directors invested the Land Claims Settlement Funds to perpetuate the fund and use the interest to pay Tribal Elders 60 years of age and older an annual dividend equal to 100% of the net interest earned; and

WHEREAS, in 2012 (nearly 7 years ago), via a Tribal Referendum, Tribal Citizen Aaron Payment submitted a referendum petition to "approve" or "disapprove" the Tribal Board of Directors' resolution authorizing a Lansing Casino Gaming Expansion Project with the referendum results including Tribal voters overwhelmingly approving a 15% commit of future net revenues to tribal programs and services including increasing the base fund for the Elder Land Claims Fund; and

WHEREAS, the current Mayor of the City of Lansing has abandoned the City's participation in the Lansing Casino project at the property just East and adjacent to the Lansing Center; and

WHEREAS, the Trump Administration has rejected the Sault Tribe's Mandatory Trust Application leading to on-going litigation

NOWHEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that in the interim period during litigation or until such time land is taken into trust pursuant to the Mandatory Trust Application and the revenues begins to building the Elder Land Claims Fund, that an amount of 2% of Net Tribal Support Revenues of \$17 million Shall be added to the principal of the fund leaving the remaining 98% to constitute the tribal support subsidy for tribal programs, services and operations of the tribe.

CERTIFICATION

We, the undersigned, as Chairperson and Secretary of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, hereby certify that the Board of Directors is composed of 13 members, of whom _____ members constituting a quorum were present at a meeting thereof duly called, noticed, convened, and held on the _____ day of _____, 2019; that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted at said meeting by an affirmative vote of _____ members for, _____ members against, _____ members abstaining _____, and that said resolution has not been rescinded or amended in any way.

Aaron A. Payment, Tribal Chairperson
 Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians
 Bridgett Sorenson, Secretary
 Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians

SPONSORED BY CHAIRPERSON AARON A. PAYMENT

RESOLUTION NO: 2019-___



AMENDING CHAPTER 13 "AFFIRMATIVE ACTION" TO COMPORT WITH FEDERAL INDIAN PREFERENCE AND SAULT TRIBE TERO

WHEREAS, the Sault Tribe Tribal Code Chapter 13: Affirmative Action Plan was enacted in 1978 to ensure the Tribal Administration follow the Sault Tribe Constitution to, "provide for the perpetuation of our way of life and the welfare and prosperity of our people..."; and

WHEREAS, over the years, the application of Chapter 13 has been met with varied success depending on the relative respect of the Tribal Administration and adherence to Chapter 13 both in the letter of the law and in spirit of compliance with the Sault Tribe Constitution providing for the "perpetuation of our way of life"; and

WHEREAS, at one time, Sault Tribe citizens were discriminated against in gaining employment in the communities in which our reservations are established; and

WHEREAS, various Tribal Board members have asked for the creation of a Tribal Employment Rights Ordinance (or "TERO") and have requested the creation of a "Tribal Employment Job Bank" to Pre-qualify Sault Tribe Members to ensure affirmative recruitment, and that for all positions ~ Sault Tribe Members are in the hiring pool such that Federal Indian Preference Applies and increases the likelihood of hiring a Sault Tribe Member, Spouse of a Sault Tribe Member, Other Native, and Spouse of an Other Native when making employment hiring decisions; and

WHEREAS, in advocating full application of Chapter 13 and Federal Indian Preference in hiring, no one is advocating discrimination against any race but instead full application of Federal and Tribal Law; nor is anyone advocating the hire of unqualified applicants but instead are promoting ensuring qualified Sault Tribe Members are represented in the pool of applicants.

NOWHEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians establishes a 90 day adhoc work group to develop and bring back to the Tribal Board of Directors for ratification a Tribal Employment Rights Ordinance to replace Chapter 13 to more fully comply with Federal Indian and Tribal Preference inclusive of affirmative efforts to ensure Sault Tribe representation in applicant pools, the creation and maintenance of a tribal citizen job bank, and full compliance with contractor representation of Sault Tribe Members in their bids on contracts with the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

CERTIFICATION

We, the undersigned, as Chairperson and Secretary of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, hereby certify that the Board of Directors is composed of 13 members, of whom _____ members constituting a quorum were present at a meeting thereof duly called, noticed, convened, and held on the _____ day of _____, 2019; that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted at said meeting by an affirmative vote of _____ members for, _____ members against, _____ members abstaining _____, and that said resolution has not been rescinded or amended in any way.

Aaron A. Payment, Tribal Chairperson
 Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians
 Bridgett Sorenson, Secretary
 Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians

APRIL 2019 TRIBAL CHAIRPERSON OFFICE HOURS COMMUNITY MEETINGS

| Unit 1 | Unit 2 | Unit 3 | Unit 4 | Unit 5 |
|---|---|---|--|--|
| Wednesday ~ May 1 | Friday ~ May 20 | Friday ~ May 10 | Wednesday ~ May 8 | TBA |
| Nokomis-Mishomis Elder Center (Sault) | Hessel Tribal Center Hessel, MI | St. Ignace Elder Complex* Elder Meeting: 12pm* Office Hours: 2pm - 4pm (Lambert Center) | Manistique Tribal Center Manistique, MI Office Hours: 4:00-5:30pm Elder Meeting: 12:30pm | Munising Tribal Center Elder Meeting: 11am Office Hours: 1pm - 2pm |
| Elder Meeting: 12pm Office Hours*: 1pm - 4pm (*523 Ashmun) | Elder Meeting: 12pm Office Hours*: 1pm - 2pm (*Newberry Tribal Center) | *Near Midjim | | * tentative location |

Appointments will be honored first and open time provided. Please call Sheila at 906-635-6050 to schedule an appointment.

Dates and times are subject to change depending on the weather and unforeseen circumstances. In February, Kincheloe, Hessel, Escanaba and Marquette will be scheduled. Lower Michigan meetings will be scheduled as well in the Spring.



New Beginnings: At our February United Tribes of Michigan meeting hosting a government to government visit between Governor Gretchen Whitmer and tribal leadership representation from our Tribe, Grand Traverse Band, LacVieux Desert Band, Keeweenaw Bay Indian Community, Pokagon Band of Potawatomi, Little River Band, Gun Lake Band, Bay Mills Indian Community, Little Traverse Bay Band, and Nottawaseppi Huron Band. I proudly serve as the elected President of the United Tribes of Michigan.

sheet was submitted as part of my testimony.

When you elect the Tribal Chairperson, you expect the requisite authority to be included. The actions of the Board, whether malevolent or benevolent, to strip the authority of the Chair and to subordinate these functions to an admin-

istrative, senior management, and director level positions. Anecdotally, it appears as though our representation of Tribal Members in top positions has dropped in the last two years. While some positions like the General Legal Counsel are opening up, there is no effort to affirmatively recruit qualified tribal members such that we will

“to provide for the perpetuation of our way of life and the welfare and prosperity of our people”

Despite this, some Board Members oppose both Chapter 13 and a strict adherence to our employment policies and procedures which provide an order to our Indian preference which provides qualified Tribal Members first priority in hiring. In the shadows of closed sessions, some Board Members (not all) have express their strong opposition to following Indian Preference in hiring. Some have suggested we abolish Indian Preference in hiring altogether.

When I had administrative authority to interpret policy, I directed Human Resources to check first with me before interpreting policy so I could ensure fidelity with our values as a people. Most recently, I received a complaint that team members were advised that they did not qualify for bereavement for their great aunt's death. When I brought this to the attention of Executive Staff, there was a strident and defensive reaction rather than trying to ensure the concerned team member understood they indeed did qualify.

Given, I can no longer ensure interpretation of policy consistent with our founders and our Indian way of life, I have drafted a resolution (see B on previous page) to require, by Tribal Law, that Indian Preference is followed. I will be introducing this resolution in May but wanted to provide you and opportunity weigh in by sending me an email of what you think.

ARE YOU MY RELATIVE

In our old way ~ our *Anishinabe Biimaadziwin*, we introduced ourselves, our clan, and asked “are you my

relative”. We did so to recommit to one another. I recognize all of my relatives. I descend, in part, from the Sugar Island Josephs and Boulleys. My Gram's dad was Norman Boulley. One of his sisters was Mamie Boulley would be so proud of her grandson the hockey star ~ Ashton Calder. I know I am!

I am also proud to report the recently hire of Tribal Citizen Angeline Boulley for the position of the Director for the Office of Indian Education in the US Department Education. Congrats Angeline!

Chi McGwisch, Neejee!

Gram



Aaron A. Payment
EdD, EdS, MEd, MPA

Tribal Chairperson,
Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians
aaronpayment@saulttribe.net

Dr. Payment is Tribal Chairperson for his tribe. He was first elected to this position in 2004 and served a four-year term, and was returned to office in 2012 and 2016. Prior to serving as Chair, he served as Tribal Vice Chair for two terms and served in the Tribal Legislature for eight years. Payment has sought to serve his people and other tribes through the following leadership roles:

- 1st Vice President, National Congress of American Indians (elected)
- Mid-West Regional Co-Chair, Tribal Interior Budget Committee
- Vice President, Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes (elected)
- President, United Tribes of Michigan (elected)
- Vice-Chair, Bay Mills Community College (appointed)
- HHS Secretary Tribal Advisory Council (appointed)
- Chairperson NIH Tribal Consultation Advisory Council, (appointed)
- National Advisory Council on Indian Education (Presidential appointment)
- Member, Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority
- Chairperson, Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan (elected)
- Michigan Political Leadership Program, Advisory Board and Presenter
- President of the Chippewa Luce Mackinac Community Action Board (elected)

A high school dropout at 15, Payment earned a GED and the following college degrees:

- Doctorate in Educational Leadership
- Educational Specialist Master's Degree
- Master's in Education Administration
- Master's in Public Administration
- Bachelor's degree in Sociology

Payment's employment history includes teaching university level public policy, policy analysis, research and statistics (developed the course), and U.S. American Indian policy. He has served in a number of administrative support service capacities to retain ethnic minority students at Northern Michigan University, Lake Superior State University and Michigan State University. He also previously served as Federal State Policy Administrator, Deputy Executive Director and Judicial Branch Division Director for this Tribe. Over the years, Chairperson Payment has served as a paid and volunteer consultant on tribal issues.

Payment's honors include:

- 2015 National TRiO Achiever
- 2013 Sergeant Shriver Achievement Award
- 1999 Distinguished young Native American Alumni, Northern Michigan University
- 1994 Mid-West TRiO Achiever
- 1986 & 1987 ~ 2 year varsity cross country letter winner & 1987 Academic All American

istrator who serves at the pleasure of the Board is bound to lead to purely political decision making. Why? Because, the individual in the administrative role is subordinated to the Board and not the people. The result, more political decision making rather than less. One example has been in not following Tribal Code Chapter 13 or Tribal Personnel Policies and Procedures with respect to Indian Preference in hiring. This is especially pronounced in exec-

end up hiring a non-tribal individual despite the fact that there are hundreds of Tribal Member lawyers. Even our Senior Staff Attorneys who are Tribal were denied interviews.

In our Tribal Constitution, our founders recognized that our people (despite meeting the minimum qualifications for jobs) faced anti-Indian discrimination. Thus, our founders embedded the following value statement in our Sault Tribe Constitution:



Me with Tribal Members at the National Level and their advocacy ~ Stacy Bohlen with the National Indian Health Board and the newly hired Director for the Office of Indian Education for the US Department of Education.

ASHTON CALDER
FRESHMAN | F | SAULT STE. MARIE, MICH.

FEBRUARY STATS

GAMES: 6
GOALS: 3
ASSISTS: 4
POINTS: 7
POWER-PLAY GOALS: 2
PLUS-MINUS: +3

WCHA ROOKIE OF THE MONTH

Above: Tribal Member Ashton Calder, Lake Superior Laker Hockey Player. Below: His great great grandmother (standing) Mamie Boulley and her mother (left) sitting Catherine (Joseph) Boulley). Way to go Ashton!



Each board voice bears its own responsibility



DJ HOFFMAN
DIRECTOR, UNIT I

The last month was productive, albeit not without its share of speed bumps and issues. As a tribe, we have many issues to address and need to establish

better systems and processes to ensure a more successful and productive tribe.

CASINOS

The casinos are the driving force behind the majority of our non-grant tribal operations revenues. A casino budget has not been finally approved for this year, and casino executive management has not provided detailed and timely reports on the matter.

While I have stated it in the past — as well as unsuccessfully proposed legislation to enable it — the tribal board of directors should not be the Gaming Authority or Gaming Commission. These bodies should be comprised of an independent body that has knowledge and experience in the gaming industry. Free of politics, our casinos may once again be a

potent economic force. I will once again propose this legislation in the coming months.

BUDGETS

As of today, not all of the FY19 governmental or casino budgets have been approved. The tribal board reviewed Schedule C this past month and will be considering finally approving this budget. An approved casino budget makes it responsible to consider approving Schedule C.

We cannot continue to wait until year-end to adopt new budgets and should be taking a longer term budgeting approach. As I have stated in the past, the tribe needs to require planning as a part of the budgetary process as well as set time frames as well as long range multi-year budgeting as part of the process. We need to do a detailed

cost benefit analysis of our services and programming to ensure our membership is receiving the services they need and funds are spent in an appropriate manner. I am proposing to workshop on the issue of the budget process and time frames with the entire board of directors so we may collectively adopt a more efficient process.

Last month, I was informed that I “*was only one vote.*” This is absolutely correct. Each board member holds one vote on actionable items in a meeting, and the chairperson holds the tie breaking vote. Just because a member of the board holds “*only one vote,*” does not negate the responsibility in that one vote, which is to make the best decisions for the tribe as a whole. While one vote or one voice, it is my intent to continue

to use that vote for the betterment of the tribe and work with others to ensure that collectively working with others there are enough votes to take actions for our tribe to progress.

In closing, I will continue to push forward with members of the board who wish to be progressive.

I will also continue to work with members of the board to ensure we become innovative in our approach to economic diversification, membership services and stepping out of the non-progressive box in which we have been confined.

Sincerely, DJ Hoffman

Cell: (906) 203-0510

Tribal email: djhoffman@sault-tribe.net

Personal email: djwhoffman@hotmail.com

How maple syrup came to be imparts lessons



JENNIFER MCLEOD,
DIRECTOR, UNIT I

Aaniin Anishnaabek! Last year at this time, we were in the sugar bush, doing what our people have done for many centuries — tapping trees, boiling sap, sharing stories and being together as Anishnaabe people. Being in the sugar bush is a time for rejoicing, for many reasons! But so far this year — nothing. This winter has been one of the hardest in recent years. Temperatures in the north woods have been subzero for a long, long time, and we need warm days and freezing nights to get the sap to move. I know that many of our people now live in areas where there are no sugar bushes. I recall that I was in my 20s before I had my first experience gathering sap and it was a life-changing event. The following is a short story I used in my

classroom when I was teaching. It can be found online at <http://www.native-languages.org/ojibwestory.htm>. Note that in some communities, Nanabozo is known as Manabozho.

“A very long time ago when the world was new, Gitchee Manitou made things so that life was very easy for the people. There was plenty of game and the weather was always good and the maple trees were filled with thick sweet syrup. Whenever anyone wanted to get maple syrup from the trees, all they had to do was break off a twig and collect it as it dripped out.

“One day, Manabozho went walking around. ‘I think I’ll go see how my friends, the Anishinabe, are doing,’ he said. So, he went to a village of Indian people. But, there was no one around. So, Manabozho looked for the people. They were not fishing in the streams or the lake. They were not working in the fields hoeing their crops. They were not gathering berries. Finally, he found them. They were in the grove of maple trees near the village. They were just lying on their backs with their mouths open, letting maple syrup drip into their mouths.

“This will NOT do!” Manabozho said. ‘My people are all going to be fat and lazy if they keep on living this way.’

“So, Manabozho went down to

the river. He took with him a big basket he had made of birch bark. With this basket, he brought back many buckets of water. He went to the top of the maple trees and poured water in, so that it thinned out the syrup. Now, thick maple syrup no longer dripped out of the broken twigs. Now what came out was thin and watery and just barely sweet to the taste.

“This is how it will be from now on,’ Manabozho said. ‘No longer will syrup drip from the maple trees. Now there will only be this watery sap. When people want to make maple syrup they will have to gather many buckets full of the sap in a birch bark basket like mine. They will have to gather wood and make fires so they can heat stones to drop into the baskets. They will have to boil the water with the heated stones for a long time to make even a little maple syrup. Then my people will no longer grow fat and lazy. Then they will appreciate this maple syrup Gitchee Manitou made available to them. Not only that, this sap will drip only from the trees at a certain time of the year. Then it will not keep people from hunting and fishing and gathering and hoeing in the fields. This is how it is going to be,’ Manabozho said.”

And, that is how it is to this day. This is a great teaching and is timeless. It speaks about values, work ethic and the price that

may have to be paid for taking things for granted. I loved the discussions I had with the children. With their youthful wisdom, they would tell me why it was not a good thing to be lazy. Why it’s important to work hard. What can happen to us when life is “too easy.” The kids understood.

It is easy to draw parallels to adult life, and it’s not too great of a reach to think about what is occurring in the life of the tribe. Please understand, I am not calling anyone “lazy.” I am not blaming anyone for anything. But I was thinking back to a time when our casino enterprises were wildly successful. I’ve heard people speak about those good days, when life was easier and money more abundant. Life improved dramatically for many. It was easy to believe that it would always be that way. We built it and they came! But things change, as they always do.

In the last couple of years, tribes are constantly trying to find ways to keep tribal people safe and our futures secure. Tribal sovereignty is under attack more than ever, as are the services guaranteed to us through our treaties. I am proud to say that our tribe has learned the lesson from Nanabozo. We have not been just lying under the branches dripping with syrup, getting fat and lazy. We are working hard locally and nationally to make certain that

elected officials know that treaties don’t expire! That they never forget that there is a nation-to-nation relationship between the federal government of the United States and tribal nations. That they understand that the federal government has a debt to pay to all treaty holding tribes, including the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. The services that we receive via federal grants is how those debts are repaid. It isn’t charity, it’s not a handout. Our ancestors negotiated for these things in exchange for our land.

But we must not become reliant on the dollars and services we receive from the US government. We must do more, MUCH MORE to become SELF-reliant. That is going to take some innovative thinking and unique approaches. I am working on some ideas along those lines that will be brought to the board of directors in the coming months. We still have much work to do to perpetuate our way of life and ensure the welfare and prosperity of our people. Working together, we can accomplish great things.

Stay safe and warm and, if you can, visit a sugar bush! Anishnaabe gagige (Anishnaabe for always), Jen, (906) 440-9151 jennifer.mcleod.2012@gmail.com website <http://jmcleodsaulttribe.com>

Recent community workshops are positive events



MICHAEL MCKERCHIE,
DIRECTOR, UNIT I

Good things are happening all around if you look for them. And conversely if you look for the bad, you’ll find something. I

choose to look for the positive, lately I’ve noticed many communities offered several workshops and held community events. We could choose to argue that we need more or we could celebrate that our culture is being shared. I’d like to believe that these are just beginnings; our culture has always been shared with those who look for it. We just need to come together more often and show others where to look.

Oftentimes, it’s difficult to share or seek out because we have become so busy in our lives. But we must make the time to reconnect, to talk with our ancestors, to spend some time in the woods — to find our balance. It’s been a long winter, it will be a long spring — take the time

to make some regalia, learn the dances or just share some stories with an elder.

In a recent conversation, I was reminded that while going to these events and gaining cultural knowledge is great and worth doing, we mustn’t forget the process matters too. Meaning that when we attend these events, it isn’t just the event or the knowledge, it’s also our way/our time to bond as families, as communities. It isn’t just a clan teaching, it’s a meal shared, it’s listening to elders speak and it’s spending time with each other.

I’m happy that our Traditional Medicine Program recently welcomed additional healers to our community. Welcome Joe Syrette and Gerard Sagassige, miigwech

for coming to our communities and helping us heal as a people. I look forward to seeing you guys at community events and camps. For those who haven’t attended one of our camps — I highly recommend them. Our Culture Department is currently in the midst of re-building so keep an eye out for the flyers for spring camps coming soon.

Things continue to move forward. Our tribe will be opening Enji Bgosendamung Enda’aan, “Their Home of Hope,” this spring, which will provide housing for those actively working on recovery. Plans continue to move forward with a much needed recovery/wellness/detox facility to help combat the opiate epidemic. Thank you to all those

involved.

I would also like to thank all involved in our community’s events and to those for sharing their cultural knowledge and keeping our traditions and language alive. It was once said that we were a generation away of losing our language (our identity), but with all those seeking to learn the language and preserve our identity I believe we are a generation away of reclaiming it.

Look for the positive. I encourage you to be active in your community; go to camps, attend feasts, volunteer as a firekeeper, attend meetings, join committees, provide input and shape our nation.

Contact me at (906) 440-7768. Chi miigwech.

Tribe collaborating with Hazelden Betty Ford



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

I am very happy to report this month that we have announced our collaboration with Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation for our new addiction services for our people. As described in the past, we held a summit of all our tribal programs and staff representing to hear and discuss the problems our community had been facing. Our projects started at first by hosting community meetings with members, focus groups and then surveys to have response and all input from the members. We then created a tribal action plan with the data and input collected. This took quite some time as many departments had this assigned with just other duties added to try to implement, as we had no real staff responsible. Many departments did their best to try to adhere to what was initiated and the goals in the tribal wide plan.

We created a workgroup with identified staff and board focusing on what was needed to make possible. Fast forward to the resolution that we passed to identify, house and build a state of the art recovery treatment center. With this happening and some clear commitment and direction from the tribal board, ALL of our departments came together to assist with the Tribal Action Plan as well as secured a project specialist to house and steer the objectives and goals.

Today, we can also announce that we will be opening a nine-person recovery home so that recovering members have a safe home to reside in until they become stronger. You can contact our Behavioral Health Department and they will assist and refer as necessary to all the resources available.

This is just one small step to assist at present. The grand plan is, and I will continue as my priority, that we have the full recovery detox facility on the property we identified. Reporting, I want to identify and thank all the staff who have worked toward this and have taken steps to make it possible.

This month I also became part of the Community Health and Wellness Subcommittee for our tribe. After the initial meeting I attended, I am glad to report we will be focusing on making communications for our programs, resource and cultural activities available for review on our web-

site. All the activities we plan to hold in all areas will be identified in a calendar on our website and flyers with updates constant and numbers identified to call and get information. Our powwows will be also listed, as we know it's difficult to keep up on all that is available and this will make it easier to view and plan in all areas.

We can also announce that the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals upheld our position in the lawsuit that we were facing with the Greektown Casino, which means that our sovereign immunity still applies and the litigations trustee for the Chapter 11 case is not able to seek recovery of the lawsuit that they filed against our tribe. This was a very strong concern that we had but hopefully this will put an end to a terrible history we had faced in the past. There is a long history of this and years ago when I first became a board member we were over \$700 million in debt with our obligations with the casino in Detroit. Many avenues were sought to get footing and nothing worked with the structure we had in place. I could say more but it's a wound that hopefully can heal and we have moved on. This is good news for our tribe today and the outcome we hoped for.

I also attend our monthly CORA meetings. I can announce that we are in full planning and discussion about our upcoming negotiations for the consent decree — we have legal rep-

resentation, and Conservation Committee and negotiation team all in place. This has always been a priority to both Director Hollowell and I, with us bringing forward the resolution to get moving on the strategy and legal assistance that was needed. I am hoping we have learned from many years of struggle that we will all stand together as tribes of CORA for our rights and best interest of all to be the priority. This will be one of our constant tasks to work on in the next year. I am also happy to announce that Director Hollowell has a seat at the negotiation table as a primary and me as an alternate. We take great measures to consult with our entire fishermen and depend on their input to steer us. Many attend the meetings and are involved to any extent they wish. We count on them and invite any member to contact us with any advice or input working toward a new decree.

This month, I will also be attending the annual 2019 Tribal Self Governance Consultation Conference. It's very important for leaders and officials to stay up on best practices for implementing and providing services to members as well as getting updates and information from the federal agencies with which we must work. Bringing home this information and working with other tribes and staff is a very important duty that brings inspiration and knowledge that helps all of us. I will report the

outcome next month.

We are busy working on scheduling cultural workshops in our unit. We have held basket making, moccasin making, talking circles and storytelling workshops in Hessel for the east end members and Newberry for the west end members. Local artists host these and we plan to schedule in the Pickford, Rudyard, DeTour and Drummond area, too. These will be posted at the tribal centers, our website and social media sites. I have heard many comments about the ones we have held this far and look forward to many more. If you are a member with knowledge and the gift to teach an art or teaching that you would like to share, please contact us if you are interested in assisting and helping.

In closing, I would like to brag about all our U.P. basketball teams. They all did an amazing job and I had to opportunity to follow some great tribal member youth who took part in the success of the teams. Good job to the parents and families who support the path they have traveled in the year of basketball!

If you would like to meet with me at the office in Hessel or Newberry, please contact me or anytime that I am in the office (Hessel). Please stop in at your convenience.

Baamaa pii,

Lana Causley-Smith, Unit II
Director
lcausley@saulttribe.net, (906)
322-3818, (906) 484-2954

Tribe updates MAT program with Lucemyra



**KIMBERLE GRAVELLE
DIRECTOR, UNIT I**

Hello, several months ago, the Sault Tribe Health Division began a medically assisted treatment (MAT) program with the drug Vivitrol. Vivitrol is a drug that is administered once a month

and eliminates the craving for opiates. In order to begin the MAT program, a patient must not use opiates for two weeks before receiving the Vivitrol medication. Although we have a few success stories, we found that the majority of the individuals who would like to begin this program have been apprehensive because of the two-week requirement of not being on any opiates before beginning Vivitrol. They are concerned about the withdrawal symptoms that can be very intense and painful.

Since that time we have a new drug, called Lucemyra, which was approved by the FDA and is non-addictive. Lucemyra helps curb the withdrawal systems and makes it easier when someone quits using opiates. Lucemyra will be prescribed for two weeks

before starting the Vivitrol program and is available in an outpatient setting. As with any medication, these may come with certain risks. For information on these two drugs, please contact the Sault Tribe Health Center. Both Lucemyra and Vivitrol are available through the Sault Tribe pharmacies in Sault Ste. Marie, St. Ignace and Manistique. Please contact the Sault Tribe Health Center for more information on this program.

Another one of our Tribal Action Plan (TAP) goals is to include a reentry program. The number one challenge for an individual who is returning home from a period in a secure setting is lack of transitional housing or sober/safe living units and access to employment and job training. Right now, we are in the final

stages of opening three recovery housing units in Kinross, Mich. Each unit will have three separate rooms with one common living area. These units were made available through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) grant and the Sault Tribe Housing Authority. They will be available for individuals who have been in a treatment program and need a place where they can continue to recover. Recovery coaches will assist them in finding the resources they need to continue living a healthy lifestyle. Assistance will be provided for attending meetings, doctor appointments, job interviews, cultural events, school, budgeting, etc. More information will be forthcoming in the near future.

None of this would be possible without the collaboration of our administration, health center and housing department and all the team members who work behind the scenes to help our community that has been affected by the substance abuse epidemic. Chi miigwech to everyone involved in this project.

As always, please keep the men and women in the armed forces in your prayers and thoughts for a safe return to their families. I would also like to thank all the team members for the hard work they do every day for our tribe.

Please feel free to call me at (906) 203-6083 and leave a message or e-mail me at KKGravelle@saulttribe.net.

Thank you,
Kim Gravelle

Tribe working on drug detox, recovery center



**KEITH MASSAWAY,
DIRECTOR, UNIT III**

As the winter drags on, we

need to be conscious of the loved ones around us that may be suffering from depression and anxiety. Being there to help is so important and needed to comfort them. Time with them is most important and if the symptoms are severe, then seek professional help. So many of our members suffer with these debilitating feelings and need our help. Please keep an eye out for places you can talk to people, it does make a difference. The tribe is always trying to support the members in the best way it can.

We also look to the future needs of our people and bring as many resources to bear to head

off the problems that confront them. One of those problems is the opioid misuse and addictions, along with all the other drugs that destroy people's lives. The tribe has for a while now been working on a drug detox, treatment rehabilitation and recovery center. This is a huge project that has so many different sides to it we will be one of the first to take on its development amongst tribes.

Many treatment centers will detox and do a phase of rehabilitation and some will just rehabilitate or have recovery services. What the tribe is trying to accomplish is to put a complete system together with all the necessary

parts to take a patient from first admission and acknowledgement of a problem to the final step of reinsertion into the community with all the tools and guidance that can be given.

This process has been discussed as not a few months of work but a continual helping hand for an extended period of time. This is a very ambitious goal and project but we see the need and the need is not being addressed in a proper way. We hope this approach is the best way to help as many as we can through this difficult affliction. I should also explain that this treatment center will not likely be all in one spot

in the tribe. It will probably be in different locations that best suit the needs of the specific program the person is in. This may mean different buildings and even different towns. I do sit on the federal SAMHSA committee in Washington, D.C., and this is very important to me but also to everyone everywhere. They are all looking for answers to these problems and our tribe, with its dedicated staff, all want to do this and do it right.

Thank you for your kind e-mails and phone calls. Keith Massaway, 702 Hazelton St., St. Ignace, MI, 49781, kmassaway@msn.com, (906) 643-6981.

HR policies needed for extreme weather events



**BRIDGETT SORENSON,
DIRECTOR, UNIT III**

I can't remember a time since being a kid that we had so much snow. Snow is very good for the economy of the U.P. with all the snowmobilers, cross-country skiers, snowshoeing, etc. Unfortunately, it's the crazy storms including ice that we have

had that caused some of our businesses and government offices to close early or open later. This sometimes affects services when appointments have to be canceled and rescheduled, but safety is also a priority. We have canceled some of our workshops and meetings as well.

I have asked that a policy be written to accommodate our team members when the Mackinac Bridge closes, the Sugar Island Ferry can't run, a road is closed, etc. We shouldn't be charging our team members to stay in the hotel when things like this happen. Some team members can't afford the \$45. Other members can't get to work and those stuck at work usually end up working extra hours, so giving them a room makes sense for the team member and the company.

I have also asked to have the triage line that members have to call for afterhours care evaluated.

I have had members contact me with return calls taking hours. When the board started the Health Ad Hoc Committee in 2013, it was to create better access to services. We had discussed having access to walk-in clinics in all areas. Our current system makes it difficult to get those services. In no way am I criticizing our health center or staff, only our current practices or policies.

I do understand we want our members to use our clinics, but I also know that the only place a patient can be seen after 5 p.m. is in the Sault. Not everyone has a car or can afford to travel there. In areas where we have local hospitals with walk-in hours, we should allow members to access them without the triage line. I am also hoping our pharmacies can be open one night a week until 7 p.m. for those who work until 5 p.m.

I do think we are fortunate in

many ways with the services we currently have. There are many people in our communities who cannot afford health care or medicines that we sometimes take for granted. There is always room for improvement and creating more access to our people.

We have some very compassionate people who work in our clinics, who go above and beyond to help our members, such as the Community Health staff. Some of these team members care for our homebound members and treat them like their extended family.

The tribe is in the process of opening a sober living house in Kinross this month. We will be using three three-bedroom units in Kinross for members to stay after they have completed treatment so they can transition into sobriety. The next step will be building our recovery hospital through a joint effort with the Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation.

This is very exciting to be able to start helping our people in this way.

Another shout out to the staff at the USDA for the services they provide and how compassionate they are to our homebound members.

We also provide meals three days a week to our homebound members.

The Unit III black ash basket workshop was a success with 18 members participating. Josh Homminga (Nishnob) and Sarah Bedell (Kwe) do such an awesome job. I hope to have them back in the future.

Make sure to mark your calendar for the St. Ignace Family Fun Day that will take place on Saturday, March 16, at the Shores Event Center from 12 to 2 p.m.

Please contact me with any concerns at bsorenson@saulttribe.net, bridgett91@yahoo.com or (906) 430-0536.



Photos by Sarah Bedell

Some beautiful baskets were created at a recent St. Ignace black ash class conducted by Sault Tribe member Josh Homminga and Bay Mills member Sarah Bedell of the Facebook page From Log to Basket.





UPCOMING ENTERTAINMENT

SAULT STE. MARIE
DREAMMAKERS
THEATER



THE GUESS WHO
IN CONCERT
APRIL 20, 2019
TICKET PRICE \$25.00



JOHN BERRY
MAY 11, 2019
SHOW STARTS AT 8 P.M.
TICKET PRICE \$22.50
SAULT STE. MARIE
DREAMMAKERS THEATER

ST. IGNACE
EVENT CENTER



JERROD NIEMANN
MAY 24, 2019
SHOW STARTS AT 8 P.M.
TICKET PRICE \$18.50 * \$22.50 * \$25.00




SLAUGHTER
SHOW STARTS AT 8 P.M.
WITH
SPECIAL GUEST
AUTAGRAPH



JUNE 29
TICKETS ONLY \$10




Cheap Trick
Cheap Trick
JULY 11, 2019
SHOW STARTS AT 8 P.M.
TICKETS START AT \$40
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KEWADIN
CASINO
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