



Win Awenen Nisitotung

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

Sault Tribe Grand Assembly coming June 29-30

The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Board of Directors invites all tribal members to a Tribal Grand Assembly Thursday, June 29, and Friday, June 30, to celebrate the tribe's 50th anniversary since federal recognition. The Grand Assembly will be held on the Sault Tribe reservation at the Niigaanagizhik Ceremonial Building on Ice Circle Drive.

All Sault Tribe members are

encouraged to attend. Many events are planned to offer tribal members an educational and enjoyable experience, culminating with the tribe's annual summer powwow June 30-July 2. The powwow begins with a spiritual gathering on June 30.

Following the grand assembly, the JKL School will host the Billy Mills Fun Run and Walk. The Billy Mills Fun Run, a road race designed to promote a healthy

lifestyle, will be held on Saturday, July 1. The tot-trot will start at 8:30 a.m. followed by the one mile, and then the 5K events. The race will be held at JKL Bahweting School, 1301 Marquette Avenue, just around the corner from the powwow. Register at <https://forms.gle/9tQ6JKBn3xk7wfDc7>.

On both June 29 and 30, breakfast and lunch will be served at the grand assembly. Food vendors setting up on the



powwow grounds may also be available. Each day will begin with a sunrise ceremony. Archival elder interviews will be shown, and the Language and Culture program will be set up to record new elder interviews.

Other planned activities include Indigenous games, Sault Tribe program booths, tribal member vendor booths, special guests, speakers and plenary ses-

sions. There will be drawings for door prizes as well.

For kids, there will be movies, crafts and games. For families, all kinds of Big Bear Arena activities will be offered.

The evening of June 30, a special show is coming to the Sault Kewadin Casino, the Rez Comedy Tour, with Tonia Jo Hall "Auntie Beachress" and Rob Fairbanks' "The Rez Reporter" is getting rezy on the DreamMakers stage at Kewadin Casino Sault Ste. Marie on June 30 from 9 to 11 p.m., for only \$10.

Tribal members needing hotel rooms can call Language and Culture at (906) 635-6050 to ask about discounts.

Tribal chairman urges passage of court guardian bills

SAULT STE. MARIE, Mich. – The House Committee on Families, Children and Seniors heard testimony on Senate Bills 137 and 138, which would ensure children involved in tribal court systems and their guardians receive access to the same support as those in state courts. Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Chairman Austin Lowes, who is a trained social worker familiar with court guardianship issues, is a strong supporter of the bills.

"There are at least 10 Sault Tribe families and many other Native families from around the state who are unable to access Guardianship Assistance Program benefits simply because their cases involve a tribal rather than a state court," said Chairman Lowes. "This important legislation will grant Native American children involved in the court system and their guardians access to the same financial assistance and support services as anyone else in Michigan. On behalf of all Sault Tribe members, I am urging the legislature to pass these bills and the governor to sign them so

that we can ensure tribal citizens are treated equally under the law."

The Guardianship Assistance Program provides financial support for families who provide permanent guardianship for children when adoption or family reunification are not appropriate options. The amount of assistance is pegged to foster care rates. Guardianship, as a permanent option that often takes place within the child's extended family, usually provides a more secure placement that keeps children better connected to their communities.

Senate Bills 137 and 138 were introduced earlier this year by Sen. Jeff Irwin (D-Ann Arbor) and Sen. John Damoose (R-Harbor Springs). They would make Michigan families eligible for the Guardianship Assistance Program regardless of the court that orders a child's guardianship. Children with guardianship orders from tribal courts are not currently eligible for the program, and neither are children who have guardianship orders from other states.

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Over 70 community members attended the Advocacy Resource Center's MMIP event May 5 at Niigaanagizhik Building to raise awareness for our murdered and missing Indigenous relatives. Tribal Chairman Austin Lowes and Unit I Director Robert McRorie both spoke, along with ARC Assistant Manager Hali McKelvie. Sault Tribe Board of Directors recently proclaimed May 5 as 2023 Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives Day of Awareness.



Josie Ingalls, 12, at right, shot her first tom turkey, which had a 9-inch beard, on April 4 in Muskegon County. Ingalls is a tribal member and the daughter of Adam and Megan Ingalls of Twin Lake, Mich.

Sault Tribe athlete commits to play NMU Football

Sault Tribe member Nico Lukkarinen is a three-sport athlete from Negaunee High School who will be graduating this year. He will be attending Northern Michigan University in the Fall of 2023. Lukkarinen is the son of Errol and Jennie (Tadgerson) Lukkarinen and grandson of the late Wayne Tadgerson of Brimley, and Hilda Otadwaajiwana of Negaunee.

Throughout Lukkarinen's High School Career, he was a powerhouse in everything he played. He received many honors playing high school baseball, with his primary positions being catcher, pitcher and third base. He played three years for the Negaunee Miners high school hockey.

In the 2021-2022 hockey season, Lukkarinen decided to play hockey in Marquette with his cousin Tristen Tadgerson, son of Sault Tribe members James and Joann Tadgerson. This season playing for Marquette Junior Wildcats Main Street Pizza Midget 18U BB, they went undefeated and took the Michigan Amateur Hockey Association 18U BB State Title.

Lukkarinen played football all four years at Negaunee. Miner football has a solid football program. During Lukkarinen's varsity year, he earned and was awarded Team Captain. Lukkarinen played first-string offense (full-back) and first-string defense (middle linebacker). Negaunee's 2023 dream season came to an end at Ford Field after losing the MHSAA Division 6 State

Champion Game to Grand Rapids West Catholic.

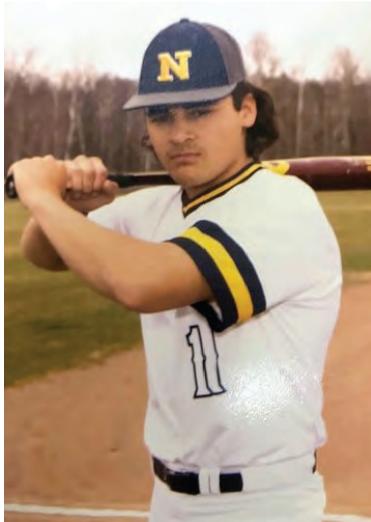
Nico's accomplishments during his Varsity football season were:

- 2022 All Westpac Conference Copper Division Offense Player of the Year;
- 2022 All Westpac Football Team - 1st Team Offense;
- 2022 All Westpac Football Team - 1st Team Defense;
- Upper Peninsula Sportswriters and Sportscasters - All U.P. Dream Team;
- MHSFCA All-Region Football Team for the 2022 Season;
- MHSFCA All-State Football Team for the 2022 Season; and
- Michigan Associated Press Division 5/6 All State Running Back - Second Team

Lukkarinen plans on playing football at NMU.



With a host of accolades under his belt, this Negaunee High School graduate will be moving to the gridiron looking to take the field for the Northern Michigan University Wildcats when play begins in the Superior Dome.



An elite three-sport athlete, Nico Lukkarinen is bringing his talent to the campus of Northern Michigan University in the fall of 2023. He will focus on football, but also excelled on the baseball diamond and on the ice.



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U.N. Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues calls for Line 5 shut down

ANISHINABEK TERRITORY — The United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) has recommended that Canada and the United States decommission the Enbridge Line 5 oil pipeline.

In the Final Report of its annual session, issued in late April, the UNPFII recognized that Line 5 “jeopardize[s] the Great Lakes” and “presents a real and credible threat to the treaty-protected fishing rights of Indigenous Peoples in the United States and Canada.” It called on Canada to reexamine its support for the pipeline, and for the pipeline to be shut down.

Local leaders were quick to echo those sentiments.

“The center of the largest body of freshwater in North

America is the last place a pipeline should be located. At more than 70 years old, Line 5 is well beyond its engineered lifespan and Enbridge’s failure to properly maintain the pipeline is well-documented,” said Austin Lowes, chairman of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. “The risk of a catastrophic failure of this aging pipeline is far too great, so we are calling on the U.S. and Canadian governments to honor their treaties with their tribal nations and live up to their commitment to protect our rights to fish these waters. Shut this pipeline down now.”

“The Anishinabek are the people of the Great Lakes and never before has there been such a unified call for action for both the United States and Canada

to abandon failing fossil fuel infrastructure to protect our land and water,” states Bay Mills Indian Community Ogimaakwe (President) Whitney Gravelle. Members of a mixed coalition of Anishinabe leaders and environmental advocates attended the forum to advocate for highlighting Line 5 as an Indigenous and Human Rights concern.

“Enbridge’s Line 5 pipeline has already leaked at least 29 times, spilling over 4.5 million litres of oil. It isn’t a matter of if, but when another rupture will occur,” said Michelle Woodhouse, Water Program Manager for Environmental Defence Canada. “At a time when the world is facing a biodiversity, freshwater, and climate crises, it’s unconscionable for the Canadian

government to gamble with the Great Lakes. The Government of Canada must withdraw its use of the 1977 pipeline treaty, and work with U.S. governments and the Anishinabe Nations of the Great Lakes to shut down Line 5.”

Tribal and First Nations look forward to further discussions with both Canada and the United States on this important issue and call for a collaborative effort to address the concerns raised in the report.

“Our decision to address the United Nations Permanent Forum on this matter reflects the Anishinabe Nation’s unwavering commitment to ensuring Canada upholds its international obligations as a member of the global community,” states Anishinabe

Nation Grand Council Chief Reg Niganobe.

The Anishinabe Nation and Bay Mills Indian Community believe that protecting the rights of Indigenous Peoples and the environment should be a top priority for both governments.

The Permanent Forum’s recommendations serve as an important reminder of the need to work together to protect our planet and ensure a sustainable future for all.

Summer Youth Jobs available

The Sault Tribe WIOA Department is accepting applications for the Summer Youth Employment Program. This program is for Native American youth ages 14 to 21 who reside within the seven-county service area (*Marquette, Alger, Chippewa, Luce, Mackinaw, Delta and Schoolcraft counties*). Applications may be picked up at the WIOA office, located on the 2nd floor of the Big Bear, 2 Ice Circle, Sault Ste. Marie Mich., or by contacting Brenda Cadreau at (906) 635-4767 or BCadreau@saulttribe.net. Deadline to apply is May 26, 2023.

WIOA funding for on-the-job training

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.

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 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.

Please apply at WIOA at Big Bear Community Recreation Center in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., or call Brenda Cadreau at (906) 635-4767 for more information.

Elder Scholarship Program offers \$500

Applications are being solicited for four one-time \$500 scholarships from the Sault Tribe elders for qualified freshmen enrolled in public colleges, universities or trade schools.

All applicants must be registered Sault Tribe members with the following qualifications:

- Graduated from an accredited high school with a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.50. Or successfully completed and passed all five General

Education Development (GED) equivalency tests with a minimum score of 40 and an average score of 45 and must possess a GED certificate.

- Accepted or enrolled in any two- or four-year public college, university or trade school in any field as a full-time student.

Applicants must submit letters of application that include:

- Cover page that includes name, address, telephone number, email address, proof of tribal enrollment

and academic major or course of study to be pursued.

- Transcript from the applicant’s high school verifying the cumulative grade point average. Or, proof of achieving GED requirements stated above.

- Letter from the college, university or trade school, showing acceptance for the 2023-2024 school year.

- Essay of 300-500 words describing how you feel a college education will benefit you and

your career objectives and why this scholarship will help you achieve your goal.

Deadline for applications is June 30, at 5 p.m. All requirements must be received by the Elder Service Division, ATTN Elder Scholarship, 2076 Shunk Rd, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783.

Incomplete or late applications will not be considered.

Questions? Contact Holly Kibble, Elder Service Division Director, at (906) 635-4971.

Sault Tribal committee vacancies announced

The following Sault Tribe 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 Jessica Dumback at 523 Ashmun Street, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783, or call (906) 635-6050 with questions.

Anishinabe Cultural Committee - Ten vacancies - five males (4-year term), five females

(4-year term)

Child Welfare Committee -

Four vacancies (4-year term)

Election Committee - Five vacancies (4-year term)

Health Board - Two vacancies (4-year term)

Housing/Utility Authority - One vacancy (4-year term)

Special Needs/Enrollment Committee -

Unit I - Three vacancies

Unit II - Two vacancies

Unit III - Two vacancies

Elder Advisory Committee

Unit I - Sault - One alternate vacancy (4-year term)

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

Unit II - Naubinway - One regular vacancy (4-year term)

Unit III - St. Ignace - One alternate vacancy (4-year term)

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

Unit V - Marquette - One alternate

vacancy (4-year term)

Elder Subcommittees

Unit I - Sault - One alternate vacancy (4-year term)

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

Unit III - St. Ignace - One regular vacancy (4-year term)

Unit IV - Escanaba - Two alternate vacancies (4-year term)

Unit V - Munising - One regular, two alternate vacancies (4-years)

Tribal members: need assistance?

Three membership liaisons work with the chairperson’s office on membership issues and concerns across the service area. The liaisons respond to membership issues and follow up to ensure they are resolved. Sault Tribe members are encouraged to contact the liaisons when they need help with tribal issues by emailing them at membersconcerns@saulttribe.net or contacting them individually at: Clarence Hudak, Lambert Center, St. Ignace, Mich., (906) 643-2124, chudak@saulttribe.net. Or Mary Jenerou, Manistique Tribal Center, (906) 341-8469; Munising Centers, (906) 450-7011 or (906) 450-7011, mjenerou@saulttribe.net. Or the newly-hired Michelle Moore (see Page 4 for her contact info).

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Carnes BP, 2300 Ludington St., Escanaba
Kinross BP Local Express, 4440 Tone Rd., Kincheloe
Cedar Pantry, 159 W M-134, Cedarville

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 Anishinabemowin, means, “One who understands,” and is pronounced “Win Oh-weh-nin Nis-toe-tuhng.”

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Submission and Subscriptions:
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 531 Ashmun St., Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783; (906) 632-6398
 Email: slucas@saulttribe.net or jdale-burton@saulttribe.net

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

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Jennifer Dale-Burton.....Editor
 Sherrie Lucas.....Secretary
 Brenda Austin.....Staff Writer
 Scott Brand.....Staff Writer

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

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

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Executive director of Enterprise Operations hired

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

Dan Doyle had been hired as the new Executive Director of Enterprise Operations for the Sault Tribe.

He began working for the tribe in 1999 with the Bar and Beverage Department at Kewadin Casino while enrolled at Lake Superior State University (LSSU). He graduated from LSSU in 2004 with a bachelor degree in business administration management, with a minor in accounting and finance. "I began my first career position with the tribe as a utilization facilitator for



New hire - Executive Director of Enterprise Operations Dan Doyle.

Anishnaabek Community and Family Services (ACFS), guiding the compliance reporting and accounting aspects of the grants that funded multiple programs. I transitioned back to the casino in 2009 as a data analyst," he said.

Other positions within Kewadin Casino he held were: Advertising manager, 2011; Senior analyst, 2014; Acting VP of Marketing and Sales, from 2015 – 2017, and director of player development, 2021.

As the new executive director of Enterprise Operations, Doyle said his first task was to per-

form a multiyear financial analysis of enterprise operations. He also met with Enterprise Operations leadership to understand their vision and opinion of the current state of the enterprises and together they identified operational challenges and obstacles. Doyle said that understanding the current systems and technologies being utilized and evaluating new technologies and systems can add value and efficiency to Enterprise Operations.

Doyle said his experience within the gaming side of the tribal organization allows him to understand organizational

nuances, providing him with the ability to guide the Enterprise team in accomplishing their goals and achieving profit. "A majority of my work experience is with Kewadin Casinos where I spearheaded many major projects and initiatives as team leader. I was responsible for creating a majority of the metrics and reporting structures used to gauge profitability for the organization," he said.

Doyle said his immediate goal is to ensure the Enterprise team has the resources to be successful in maximizing profits and streamlining processes.

Membership liaison hired for unit one members

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

Michelle Moore recently accepted the position of executive membership liaison for Sault Tribe's Unit I service area. She can be contacted at mmoore@saulttribe.net or (906) 635-6050.

Although her focus will be on meeting the needs of the Unit I membership, Moore said she is available to assist all tribal members regardless of the unit they reside in.

"Some people might not know who to contact for services or questions. I am here to direct and assist them. Another major part of my job will be to listen to any issues, concerns, complaints, or questions mem-



Michelle Moore

bers might have that they would like brought up during board meetings. I will make sure that any questions a member has

Michelle Moore recently accepted the position of executive membership liaison for Sault Tribe's Unit I service area. Her focus will be on meeting the needs of the Unit I membership, but Moore said she is available to assist all tribal members regardless of the unit they reside in.

She can be contacted at mmoore@saulttribe.net, or by calling her at (906) 635-6050.

for the board get answered in a timely fashion," she said.

Moore worked for the Sault Tribe Child Care Center as a Head Start aide from May to August 2008; then for Early Head Start as an instructor from July to December 2017, at which time she took a position with Anishnaabek Community and Family Services (ACFS) as a Binogii Agency placement

specialist, doing foster care and adoption. She was with ACFS from January 2018 until October 2020.

Moore said she believes her background in psychology and previous work experience with ACFS will be beneficial in her current position.

"A major part of this job is going to be working closely with members to help them

obtain services they may need and just listen to them, especially when they are upset. I have extensive knowledge of how to de-escalate tough situations and am an empathic listener," she said.

Moore has a Bachelor of Science in Psychology from Grand Valley State University and a Master's of Science in Psychology from Northern Michigan University.

When not on the clock, Moore said that she loves to run.

"I have an Australian Shepherd, Meeko, who is currently helping me train for a half marathon I'm running in June in Ann Arbor," she said.

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Brissette named Sault Tribe Education director

By Brenda Austin

Charlee Brissette (Dancing Eagle Woman) has been hired as the Sault Tribe Education director. Brissette is a member of the Crane Clan and said she honors the Bear Clan from her mother's side.

She began working with Sault Tribe Community Health in 2017 as a Community Health educator and was in that position until June 2021, when she took a position with Michigan State University Extension as a tribal extension educator.

As the Education Director, Brissette will be leading a team of individuals that manage different programs: Youth Education and Activities, Early Childhood Education, Higher Education, Employment, and Adult Education. The Education Division's program managers oversee the operations of the Youth Education and Activities program, Child Care, Head Start, scholarships and grants, on-the-job training and summer youth employment, among others.

"I see it as my responsibility to empower our team to serve tribal



Charlee Brissette

members to the best of our abilities, because that means that both our programs and our community benefits," she said.

Brissette said she has been serving as an educator in some capacity for over 10 years, work-

ing with individuals and groups to teach about *mino bimaadiziiyin* (living a good way of life) or about the effects of Native American boarding schools and intergenerational trauma in our communities.

"I have worked across disciplines to build partnerships with the goal of bringing resources to our people," she said. "I have been an active member in our tribe since I was in Tribal Youth Council in high school, to currently serving on the newly formed Tribal Food Sovereignty Committee. I am passionate about working for and serving Indigenous communities and our people."

Her long-term goals as Education Director include building and enhancing partnerships between others such as EUPISD, local colleges and universities, employment agencies and other departments within the tribe. She also plans to work closely with the tribe's Language and Culture Division.

"It's very important for our people to learn and understand who we are as a sovereign nation

and what that means to us. And each and every one of our members is entitled to have that knowledge," she said.

Brissette attended JKL Bahweting School from first through eighth grade, where she remembers having culture and language lessons every day for all those years. She graduated from Cedarville High School and received her undergraduate degree from Northern Michigan University in 2011. She went

on to earn a Master's of Science in Health Behavior and Health Education, and Native American and Indigenous studies, from the University of Texas at Austin in 2015.

Brissette said her passions and goals have always evolved around bringing wellness to Indigenous communities through education.

She can be reached at: cbrissette1@saulttribe.net, or by calling (906) 632-6798.

Senior Employment Positions

Two Senior Employment jobs are available. If interested in either position, reply to the Elder Employment Program, Attn: Brenda Cadreau, 523 Ashmun St., Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 or call (906) 635-4767. Applicants must be a Sault Tribe member age 60 or over and reside within the seven county service area. The jobs are 14 hours per week at \$13.072 per hour.

A part-time Youth Elder Worker is needed for the Escanaba YEA Program to assist YEA staff with ensuring youth

are in a safe environment and providing cultural enrichment support in activities with our youth. Youth, parents, team members, community agencies and the general public.

A Community Health Program Clerk is needed for the Marquette Tribal Community Health Center. The Community Health Program Clerk will be responsible for providing clerical support and program resource, consultation and coordination services to the Community Health Program and staff located at the center.

Education Department hires executive assistant

By Brenda Austin

Breanna Sliger has been hired as the new executive assistant for the Sault Tribe Education Department.

In 2019, Sliger moved back to the Sault from Southern California and was hired by the state of Michigan, where for the past four years she has worked for the Department of Transportation.

Sliger graduated from Sault Area High School in 2010, and almost immediately moved to New York City to attend the City University of New York (CUNY). She started at CUNY's Borough of Manhattan Community College in lower Manhattan but eventually transferred to CUNY's School of Professional Studies, a block from Madison Square Garden on 34th Street, where she graduated with a Bachelor's

in Communications and Mass Media Studies.

While in New York, Sliger also graduated with two associate's degrees from Bay Mills Community College, one in General Studies and the other in Social Science. She is cur-



Breanna Sliger

rently a graduate student at the University of Oklahoma in its Strategic Communications and Digital Strategy Program and is expecting to graduate in the Fall of 2024.

As executive assistant to Education Director Charlee Brissette, Sliger will assist with daily administrative tasks, activities, and operations within the Education Department. She said they are working on some exciting projects, especially those related to the upcoming Grand Assembly.

Her previous work experience includes Bay Mills Community College, where she worked as a

TRiO Student Support Services Administrative Assistant. Once she obtained her undergraduate degree, she worked as a TRiO professional communications tutor.

"The goal was to improve student communication soft skills during school, so students would feel better prepared and confident in their abilities to be successful after graduation," she said.

In 2016, she also worked in Denver, Colo., as a Tribal College and University (TCU) Research Intern with the American College Fund, Research and Sponsored Programs Department. "This

opportunity taught me about significant donor fundraising, scholarships, Native American research and archiving, and data analytics. One of the bonuses of that role was the opportunity to learn about other Native American cultures and traditions across the United States and meeting everyone who dedicates their time to improving access to education across those Native communities was truly inspiring," she said.

Sliger said she plans to assist Brissette and the Education Department in the best way she can, while growing both personally and professionally.

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Anishinaabemowin 2023

Optimist: Someone who figures out that taking a step backward after taking a step forward is not a disaster — it's a cha-cha. And it's sewing a strong seam. Don't give up learning Anishinaabemowin. Start again. And again...



Waaskoone Giizis
Flower Moon
by Susan Askwith



Basic Weather Comments:	Mino giizhigad	It's a nice day.
	Mizhakwat nangwa	It's clear today.
	Gizhaate	It's warm and sunny.
	Gizhinaamde	It's hot and humid.
	Nagwaankwad	It's cloudy.
	Gimiwan	It's raining.
	Noodin	It's windy.
	Bangii kisinaa	It's chilly.
	Nimkiikaa	It's thundering.
	Waasmowin	It's lightning.

Play with those Comments!

(Each of which is already a full sentence.)

1. Make each comment into a *question* by adding the short word “na” after the comment.
(Mino giizhigad *na*? Is it a nice day?)
2. Make each comment say “*It must be*” by adding the short word “*iidik*” after the comment.
(Gimiwan *iidik*. It must be raining.)
3. Make each comment say “*it's not*” by saying “gaawiin” before the comment and “sinoo” after it.
(*Gaawiin* waasmowin-*sinoo*. It is not lightning.)
4. Make each comment say “*it will be*” by saying “Wii” before the comment.
(*Wii* bangii kisinaa. It will be chilly.)
5. To say “*it was,*” put “Gii” before the comment.
(*Gii* nimkiikaa. It was thundering.)

Pronunciation?? You'll find the Anishinaabemowin words in this lesson pronounced at this FaceBook link:
www.facebook.com/SaultTribeLanguageAndCulture
The words in the calendar on the page facing this one are there too. Or you can use the guide below!

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

aa sounds like the a in <i>awesome</i>	a sounds like the a in <i>about</i>
ii sounds like the e in <i>be</i>	i sounds like the i in <i>dip</i>
oo sounds like the o in <i>go</i>	o sounds like the oo's in <i>book</i>
e sounds like the e in <i>Ed</i>	g sounds only like it does in <i>go</i>

We underlined the syllables that get the emphasis.

Pronounce all the letters. Big deal: if n has an H or S after it, the n has **NO SOUND** of its own. *It's a sign to say the vowels just before it in a nasal way - as if you had a stuffed up nose from a cold.*



Add-ons for your comments...

Zhaazhi	Already
Baamaa	Later
Wiiba	Pretty soon
Nangwa	Today
Gaawiin mishi	Not yet

You use the usual Gaawiin, just add the *mishi* right after it. (Gaawiin mishi gimiwansinoo. It isn't raining yet.)

60! The number of sentences you'll know if you say the basic comments and their play options. There'll be even more if you use some add-on's!

My neighbor knocked on my door at 2:30 a.m. this morning. Can you believe that? 2:30 a.m.! Lucky for her, I was still up playing my drum.

What do you call it when it's pouring ducks and geese?

Fowl weather.

What is the opposite of a cold front?

A warm back.

If an orchestra plays in a thunderstorm, who's most likely to get struck by lightning?

The conductor.

Culture Events

Wequayoc Cemetery Spring Clean-up May 20. Spring Clean-up and Potluck on Saturday, May 20. Clean-up starts at 11 a.m. Please bring rakes, trash bags, work gloves and other items you may need for cleaning graves. 2354 E. Hwy M-134, Hessel, MI 49745 (located a few miles west of Hessel). Contact Russ Rickley at (906) 440-5696, or Dell Powers at (906) 984-2055 for info.

Anishinaabemda (Let's speak Anishinaabemowin)

Aaniin Kina Waya! If you need a place to use and learn Anishinaabemowin, come and join the fun at Anishinaabemda! Drop in Tuesdays for game night from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Niigaanagiizhik Building on Ice Circle Drive. Contact Tyler Bouschor at (906) 203-6382 or Yvette Pitawanakwat at (906) 635-6050, ext. 26144, for info.

Baaweting Anishinaabemowin Conference

June 9 and 10. Save the Date! Details to come. Niigaanagiizhik Cultural Bldg., 11 Ice Circle, Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.

Niiwin Noodin Powwow, Saturday, June 10. Behind Manistique Tribal Community Center, 5698W US Highway 2 Manistique, MI 49854. Friday, June 9: Traditional Medicine Talking Circle at 6 p.m. Saturday, June 10: Grand Entry at 1 & 7 p.m. Feast at 4 p.m. Vendors call: (906) 450-0213 or (906) 450-9667. Information: niiwin-noodinpowwow@gmail.com or (906) 440-8138

Sault Tribe Summer Powwow, June 30-July 2, in Sault Ste. Marie. Call Sault Tribe Language and Culture Division at 906-635-6050 for info.

Honoring the Waters Newberry Powwow Aug. 12 at Newberry Powwow Grounds, 4935 Zee Ba Tik Lane. Grand Entry: 1 p.m. Feast: 5 p.m. Bring a dish to pass. Open to public. No drugs, alcohol or dogs. For info and vendors, call Nicole Maudrie at (906) 293-8181 or Barb Sharp at (906) 287-1951.



Preparing for this year's fasting and releasing camp Traditional Medicine and volunteers collect sweat lodge rocks and below, break up snow.



Firekeepers split and pile firewood for the sacred fires. Below, a feast for the fasters, after completing their fasts, is held.



Sault Tribe Traditional Medicine Program's WOMEN'S FULL MOON CEREMONY

WHAT TO BRING
Ribbon Skirt
Copper Cup
Tobacco
Yellow Cloth

WHEN:
Friday, June 2nd
Social Time 6:30 to 7:00pm
Ceremony Starts @ 7:00pm

WHERE:
Located at the Niigaanagiizhik Ceremonial Building (11 Ice Circle Drive) Women on their moon time may attend (offerings can be made on your behalf)

Please contact Lori or Katrina with any questions
Masks are recommended
906-632-0236 or 906-632-5268
Ch'Miigwech

Sault Tribe Traditional Medicine Program 2023 June Healers' Clinic Hours

<p>Gerard Sagassige June 5, 6, 12, 13, 19, 20, 26, 27 Sault Ste. Marie Health Center (906) 632-0236 Lori Gambardella Wednesday, June 7th St. Ignace Health Center (906) 643-8689 or (877) 256-0135 Wednesday, June 14th Manistique Health Center (906) 341-8469 or (866) 401-0043 Wednesday, June 21st Newberry Health Center (906) 293-8181 Wednesday, June 28th Munising Health Center (906) 387-4721 or (800) 236-4705</p>	<p>George Gossleye June 1, 2, 7, 8, 14, 15, 21, 22, 28, 29 Sault Ste. Marie Health Center (906) 632-0236 Lori Gambardella Friday, June 9th Hessel Community Center (906) 484-2727 Friday, June 16th Munising Health Center (906) 387-4721 or (800) 236-4705 Friday, June 23rd St. Ignace Health Center (906) 643-8689 or (877) 256-0135 Friday, June 30th Manistique Health Center (906) 341-8469 or (866) 401-0043</p>
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Any Questions, or to Book an Appointment Please Call
Traditional Medicine Program at
906-632-0236 or 906-632-5268

DE'MIN GIIZIS - STRAWBERRY MOON - JUNE 2023

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

National Foster Care Month celebrated in May

As May arrives, so does National Foster Care Month, a time dedicated to recognizing the important role that foster families and agencies play in the lives of children who have experienced abuse, neglect, or other difficult circumstances.

National Foster Care Month provides an opportunity to highlight the need for more foster parents and to recognize the contributions of those who have stepped up to provide safe and nurturing homes for children in need. It is a time to acknowledge the over 420,000 children and youth in foster care along with the family members, foster parents, volunteers, mentors, and child welfare professionals who help guide, nurture and protect these children. National Foster Care Month provides the opportunity to show appreciation to those who enhance the lives of children and teens in foster care.

Anishnaabek Community and Family Services (ACFS) would like to thank all of the foster families that help the children and families that are struggling. Their compassion and dedication to service changes the lives of children and teens every day. We appreciate all you do to help protect and nurture our most valuable assets.

ACFS is facing a shortage of foster homes to adequately serve the growing number of children in its care. It is always ACFS's goal to pair a child with a tribal foster home. This is the best way to maintain their connections to Native American culture and traditions. ACFS also monitors tribal cases across the United States, and can help match a child with a tribal resource foster home, even if they are located outside the seven-county service area. When there is a pool of resource foster homes it is easier

to match the child with a tribal home. ACFS is in need of foster homes inside and outside of the seven-county service area. If you are interested in becoming a foster parent, regardless of location, you are urged to call.

If you are interested in becoming a foster parent, and making a difference in the life of a child, please contact ACFS at (906) 632-5250, or at (800) 726-0093, or by email at acfsfosterhomes.saulttribe.net

Stop in and check out the National Foster Care Month bulletin board (right) at the Sault Ste. Marie Health Center for information and promotional items! If you are interested in making a difference in the life of a child and becoming a foster/adoptive parent please contact Anishnaabek Community and Family Services at (800) 726-0093 or by email at acfs-fosterhomes@saulttribe.net.



... And May is also National Treatment Court Month

By Jocelyn Fabry, Chief Judge

May is National Treatment Court Month across the United States and a fitting time to highlight how treatment courts across the United States are saving lives and making communities safer. Treatment courts are specialized court programs for offenders with significant substance use or mental health disorders, and include drug courts, DWI courts, tribal healing-to-wellness courts, mental health courts and veteran's treatment courts.

Sault Tribe's Gwaiak Miicon healing-to-wellness court program is just one of those treatment court programs. In existence since 2000, Gwaiak Miicon (rough English translation is "straight path") strikes a balance between holding offenders accountable while providing support so that they are able to access substance use and mental health treatment.

Treatment courts like Gwaiak Miicon differ from traditional court because they integrate substance abuse treatment into the justice system. Treatment providers ensure each person in our program receives an individualized, evidence-based treatment plan, and work together with the judge, defense attorneys, prosecutors, probation, peer recovery coaches, and law enforcement to provide ongoing support and accountability. This approach allows our court program to identify and meet individual needs beyond clinical treatment, such as education, employment, housing assistance, family reunification, restitution, and healthcare.

Tribal healing to wellness courts such as ours epitomize a justice system that applies the treatment court concept in a manner intended to meet

the needs of our community, particularly the need to address the devastation caused by alcohol, the opiate epidemic, other drug abuse and the crimes that result.

In the Gwaiak Miicon program, for over the course of at least one year, participants move through the four phases of our program, with each phase based on the medicine wheel.

Phase one, the cleansing phase, focuses on separating the physical self from drugs and alcohol. The second phase is the action phase and focuses on connection to spirit. Phase three, the building phase, focuses on mental wellness and living in recovery. And the final phase, the maintenance phase, emphasizes emotional balance and maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

Throughout the program, participants are provided with intensive treatment and other services they require to get and stay clean and sober, they are held accountable by the judge at frequent review hearings for meeting their court-ordered obligations, they are regularly and randomly tested for drug and alcohol use, connected to cultural events, and they are rewarded for doing well in the program or sanctioned when they do not live up to their obligations.

As addiction continues to wreak havoc across communities, the Gwaiak Miicon program continues to be an invaluable resource to help our tribal community members heal.

For more information on this specific program, you can consult our program manual online at <https://saulttribe.com/government/tribal-court/download-files> or contact our Specialty Court Coordinator Nick DePlonty at (906) 635-4963.

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Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives recognized during the month of May

SUBMITTED BY JESSICA GILLOTTE-KING, ADVOCACY RESOURCE CENTER COMMUNITY EDUCATOR

In the United States, Native American women are two and a half times more susceptible to experiencing violence in their lifetime than any other demographic. Among the American Indian and Alaska Native women who have experienced sexual violence in their lifetime, almost all (96 percent) have experienced sexual violence by an interracial perpetrator and 21 percent have experienced sexual violence by an interracial perpetrator. (Rosay, André B. (May 2016). "Violence Against American Indian and Alaska Native Women and Men: 2010 Findings from the National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey") The last known count of missing and murdered women was 5,712 back in 2016. Alarming, only 116 of those cases were reported to the Department of Justice's missing persons' list.

The United States government cannot provide a valid reason why they have been unable to protect and accurately report these missing women. Their reasons have included: Jurisdictional issues between state and tribal land; A lack of communication between tribes and government officials; A lack of community awareness and support; and insufficient services such as amber alerts and media coverage.

In Nov. 2019, President Donald Trump formed Operation Lady Justice (OLJ) to enhance the criminal justice system and address the concerns of indigenous communities regarding missing and murdered people.

Savanna's Act was passed in 2020 and is designed to assist authorities in responding more efficiently to cases of missing and murdered. The belief is that law enforcement coordinated responses, data collection, and information sharing will improve the response

to missing and murdered indigenous people.

Savanna's Act was named for Savanna LaFontaine-Greywind of Fargo, North Dakota. Savanna was 8 months pregnant when she was reported missing from her apartment complex on Aug. 19, 2017. On Aug. 24, 2017, Savanna's baby was located in the apartment above Savanna's apartment that she had shared with her parents. Tenants of the building grew suspicious after hearing a baby crying for several days. The tenants reported that no babies were residing in the complex. Savanna's body was found in the Red River on Aug. 27, 2017, nine days after her disappearance.

Brooke Crews and her boyfriend, William Hoehn were arrested when the baby was found in their apartment. The couple was charged with conspiracy to commit murder, conspiracy to commit kidnapping, and giving false information to the police. The baby underwent DNA testing that confirmed the baby was Savanna's daughter, that had survived a criminal C-section. Savanna's daughter has since been reunited with her father. (*Savanna LaFontaine-Greywind Case: Boyfriend Speaks Out - People*. <https://people.com/crime/savanna-lafontaine-greywind-north-dakota-baby-boyfriend-speaks/>).

Wearing red is a way to remember and respect our missing and murdered loved ones. In some tribes, red is known to be the only color that spirits can see. By wearing red, the voices of the missing and murdered are represented and remembered. The original creator of the Red Dress campaign, Jaime Black, of the Metis Aboriginal Group from Canada, stated that red is the lifeblood and connection to all of us. Please honor our missing and murdered indigenous people and wear red throughout May. ARC had various monthly events to commemorate our Missing and

Murdered Relatives.

The ARC hosted the Red Dress Campaign on Shunk Road during the month of May. This year, ARC added Red Dress Displays to each Tribal Housing location in our seven-county service area. The Red Dress Campaign is a public display of red dresses hung to commemorate all "Missing Sisters" and honor their memory.

ARC will also include red shirts, pants, and jackets to help remember our Missing and Murdered

Relatives. Yard signs will also be available to those who are interested.

ARC is currently seeking information to add to the MMIR database to track the numbers of our missing and murdered Sault Tribe relatives.

Relatives or friends with information about a missing or murdered Sault Tribe member are encouraged to contact Jess Gillotte-King, Community Educator, at (906) 632-1808 with their infor-

mation. ARC wants to maintain an accurate count of our tribal members that have been taken from us. The ARC has also created a Missing Persons Toolkit to assist families if a loved one goes missing.

Toolkits are available by calling the ARC office at (906) 632-1808.

For more information, visit the ARC's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/saulttribeARC or the ARC's official website at www.arcsaulttribe.com.

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Ben Baker appointed to Inclusion Advisory Council

Sault Tribe member, Brimley-raised and Detroit resident Ben Baker has been appointed to the 2023 Gannett/USA Today Network International Inclusion Advisory Council. The council consists of 10 representatives worldwide.

The council provides thought leadership, guidance, feedback and recommendations for progressing its culture of inclusion, and to hold its leadership to account as it continues to build and maintain progress toward its published Inclusion, Diversity and Equity (ID&E) goals. The council focuses on the current state of workforce diversity, ID&E initiatives, and its programmatic approach to embedding ID&E in the employee experience, the products it creates, its business relationships as well as its community outreach and support efforts.

This group also works in partnership with various members of



Ben Baker

its Executive Committee, creating strategic goals and clear, meaningful action plans for enhancing workforce diversity in our attraction, retention, and engagement efforts.

Baker said he was asked to sit on the Inclusion Advisory Council as an enrolled member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

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.

Tribal dietitians hold power bowl workshop

BY SCOTT BRAND

Approximately 40 hungry and inquisitive diners converged just outside the Big Bear kitchen area on May 2 to create their own power bowls from a host of ingredients provided by the Sault Tribe dietitians, funded by the Special Diabetes for Indians Grant.

“We wanted to show people what they can do,” said Registered Dietitian Mary Bunker, expressing her belief that this information could curtail the impulse to resort to fast food. “The idea is you can do this yourself and really ramp up the vegetables.”

Bunker said this particular dish, also known as a “Buddah Bowl,” or her personal favorite name, “Harvest Bowl,” is a relatively new trend that seems to be taking hold.

“Restaurants are serving

them,” she said of the growing popularity, and a quick Internet check revealed even Taco Bell has added the power bowl to its menu.

A partial list of ingredients for sampling at the special luncheon included wild rice, couscous, lettuce, spinach, black beans, peppers and corn. The main protein was chicken, but Bunker said there are plenty of other healthy options including fish, buffalo, venison, partridge and shrimp. The harvest bowls can also accommodate those who shy away from eating fish and game as tofu can be substituted for a protein.

The registered dietitians not only fed the visitors, but sent those interested in making their own Harvest Bowls home with recipes for some of the special sauces — Avocado Chimichurri, Peanut, Creamy Lime and a



Joanne Bulson and Sherry Buckley sampled their harvest bowls during the event.

Balsamic Vinaigrette — to get folks started on their own creations.

Power bowls are billed as a dish filled with delicious, healthy ingredients that provide long-lasting energy throughout the day



Registered Dietitians Julie Trestrail, Kristy Hill, Mary Bunker and Kylie Coffey offered assistance.

and can be meal-prepped ahead of time.

The most basic recipe calls for half a cup of your favorite carbohydrates, such as potatoes, squash or rice; four ounces of protein like meat, fish, eggs or beans;

one to two cups of vegetables; a quarter-cup of toppings such as avocado, chopped nuts, seeds, fresh herbs or shredded cheese; and 2 tablespoons of sauce, salad dressing or salsa to enhance the flavors of the harvest bowl.

ARC's 2023 Denim Day a resounding success

The Advocacy Resource Center hosted its 3rd Annual Denim Day Competition on Wednesday, April 26. The results were resounding! Community Educator Jess Gillotte-King received over 50 photos of teams and individuals that donned their denim and teal for Denim Day during Sexual Assault Awareness Month. The photos were placed on the ARC Facebook page to bring awareness to the message that clothing does not determine consent. Denim Day began in 1999 after a rape case in Italy was overturned by a judge who deemed the rape consensual sex since the young woman had to help remove her tight blue jeans. The women of the Italian Parliament were outraged and wore their denim on the stairs of the Italian Supreme Court in protest. Patricia Giggans, executive director of Peace Over Violence, designated the last Wednesday of April as Denim Day to be recognized for sexual assault survivors and victims.

Winners of the Denim Day Competition were awarded \$100 pizza gift card for their efforts. Individuals were treated to a \$25 pizza gift card. ARC would like to thank everyone for participating in the now-annual event. Witnessing people coming together for such a good cause is such a wonderful feeling. Chi Miigwech on behalf of ARC.



Above, Community Health. Below, Advocacy Resource Center.



Above, Newberry Health Center. Below, Sault Health Center medical team.



Sault Tribe Health Division and LSSU partner on nursing

Since pre-COVID-19, the Sault Tribe Health Division has struggled to recruit nurses as the demand is very high. To help support the growth of the nurses in rural health and in the Upper Peninsula the Sault Tribe Health Division has partnered with Lake Superior State University.

To address the urgent demand for nurses in rural America, LSSU has created a Post-Baccalaureate Rural Nurse Residency Certificate Program, the first of its kind in the world.

The 24-credit, 1-year, 3-semester program is open to all graduates, whether licensed

or not, from any accredited BSN program in their first year of practice. The program is taught via asynchronous online learning of simulation and virtual reality and folded within a 36-hour weekly paid residency at a rural healthcare agency or hospital.

“The mission of the Post-Baccalaureate Rural Nurse Residency Certificate Program is to provide graduates with tools to tackle issues in retention, equity, access, and diversity in rural healthcare settings,” Program Director and Associate Professor Jaimee Gerrie said. “This program will play a vital role in improving access to qual-

ity healthcare in rural areas and attend to the unique healthcare needs of these communities.”

In this competency-based program, BSN-prepared students receive advanced learning in critical thinking, conflict management, legal nursing, and quality management, plus ethics, leadership, and more. Nursing graduates from any U.S. accredited BSN program in their first year of practice, licensed or not licensed, can earn this important credential in one year through cutting-edge academic instruction and paid full-time employment.

“Part of LSSU’s mission is to

equip graduates with the knowledge, skills, and fortitude to craft a life of meaningful employment, personal fulfillment, and generosity of self while enhancing the quality of life of the Great Lakes region and beyond. Our Post-Baccalaureate Rural Nurse Residency Certificate Program is intended to do all of this,” Dr. Kathy Berchem, dean of the College of Health and Behavior, said. “The nursing shortage in the U.S. tops more than 1 million and entails replacing retirees, countering young-nurse turnover, and filling other gaps, per data from the American Nurses Association. Our forward-think-

ing Post-Baccalaureate Rural Nurse Residency Certificate Program forms one response. Nurse residents build competency, confidence, critical thinking and judgment skills while coming to the aid of the healthcare industry.”

There are three annual entry points to the program. Applications for the first cohort, to begin in May 2023, are currently being accepted.

For applications and details, go online to: lssu.edu/college-health-behavior/school-of-nursing/post-baccalaureate-rural-nurse-residency-certificate-program.

Teddy bears visit Manistique dental clinic

The teddy bears may have been the stars of the show at the Manistique Tribal Health Clinic on May 4, but event organizers are hoping this unique interaction will deliver long-term dividends for the children who participated.

“The purpose of this event is to minimize the anxiety that Sault Tribe Youth have going to a physician or dentist and to get our youth thinking about professions in Healthcare at a young age,” explained Mary McLean of the Sault Tribe Health Division. “We know that often individuals choose their career field based on positive interactions with professionals while they are young.”

Sault Tribe Health partnered with Manistique Youth Education and Activities (YEA) to host this event.

McLean was quick to credit Amanda Ziminski, a third-year medical student at Michigan State University, for bringing this

program to the Manistique Tribal Health Clinic. Ziminski, a graduate of Manistique High School is a member of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians and has conducted the “Teddy Bear Clinics” in the past while working towards earning her degree.

“Amanda reached out and wanted to bring this opportunity to Manistique,” said McLean. “She is looking to pursue her doctor of medicine degree with a focus in pediatrics.”

The tour consisted of an initial visit with RN Cherokee Erickson where the visitors ranging in age from pre-schoolers to young teenagers took the blood pressure of their teddy bears or favorite animals they brought to the clinic. Zaminski provided instruction at the next stop on the use of a stethoscope. After checking the heart rate of Teddy and company, the animals entered a makeshift x-ray machine, essentially a box

covered in aluminum foil, with a laptop computer providing the results.

If the stuffed animals had any injuries, small casts and bandages were available allowing the participants to help get their friends on the mend.

Those same animals then ventured over to the dentist office where Cyrus Mansouri, a dental resident from the University of Iowa, provided an introduction to his dental chair, bright headlight, and equipment used to count teeth and help teeth stay healthy. Visitors, young and old enjoyed seeing how high he could make the dental chair go.

After completing their tour, the children departed with new friends, certificates, goody bags, healthy snacks, maybe even some balloons and perhaps a life-altering interaction that will change their future inspiring a new career.



Medical student Amanda Ziminski provided some guidance as Gabrielle Quinlan, 9, utilizes a stethoscope on her small bear.



(From left) Event-organizers Janet Krueger and Kaylie Gould of Manistique YEA with dental staff Jenna Chase, Mary Erickson, RN Cherokee Erickson, Dr. Dave Drockton, Cyrus Mansouri and Amanda Ziminski.



Photos by Scott Brand

Oakley Schnurer, 6, smiles for dental student Cyrus Mansouri.



Big Bear joins Allie Peterson, 6, for a quick photo shoot before heading home.



Charlotte Erickson, third grader, brought her friend “Momma Fox” to the clinic.



Dr. Dave Drockton joined Jenna Goodreau and Savannah, 7, wearing disguises at the event.



Cherokee Erickson, RN, assists 4-year-old Abigail Quinlan with blood pressure measurements.

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Sault Tribe Law Enforcement & Conservation

BY ROBERT MARCHAND, CHIEF OF POLICE

Sault Tribe Law Enforcement (STLE) issues treaty hunting and fishing licenses to Sault Tribe members to be utilized within the boundaries of the 1836 Treaty Area. If members have any questions regarding these licenses, the criteria for obtaining them, or the regulations governing their use, please contact our office at (906) 635-6065.

Inland Hunting, Fishing, and Gathering

STLE began issuing 2023 licenses March 1, 2023. Please remember that if you held a license in 2022, regardless of activity, you are required to turn in a harvest report. If you did not get out to hunt, fish, or gather, there is a check box on the front page of the report, just complete the information on that page and check this box.

Bear and Elk applications have been available since mid-April. The deadline to submit is no later than Wednesday, May 31, 2023 at 5 p.m. Any applications received after this date will be returned to sender. The bear and elk lottery drawing will be held at the first



conservation committee meeting in June, 2023. There is a \$4 per application processing fee; however, if you are age 10-16, or 60 and above, you are not required to pay this fee. Members drawn for a bear tag will be required to have their 2023 Inland Hunting and Fishing license before they will receive their bear tag. Members drawn for an elk tag will be contacted directly by Sault Tribe Natural Resources Department. There is a required orientation for the elk tag winners that is coordinated by Natural Resources.

Spring turkey season is underway; it runs from April 15 through June 15. If you are licensed to hunt turkey, during Spring season, you are authorized to take two turkeys, bearded only.

Sault Tribe's small game season ended March 31, 2023 which is also when your 2022 harvest cards expired.

If you have never held an Inland Harvest license with Sault Tribe, you are required to provide a copy of your tribal card along with proof of hunter safety if you want to engage in treaty hunting rights. STLE does administer a Youth Mentoring program that members under the age of 10 are able to participate in for a maximum period of two years; please note however that once the youth turn 10, they are no longer eligible for this program and will be required to provide proof of hunter safety. STLE recommends that they begin participation at 8 years of age so there is no lapse in licensing. Please contact our office for more information as there are other requirements to participate.

Chapter 21 of the Tribal Code regulates Inland licenses. Please remember that if you are using this license for fishing purposes, you are only authorized to fish inland lakes and streams within the boundaries of the 1836 Treaty area. There are some exceptions

on specific bodies of water that you can find more information about in Tribal Code. All tribal codes may be found online at saulttribe.com, select Government at the top, select tribal code from the drop-down list and choose Chapter 21 for Inland rules and regulations.

Great Lakes Fishing – Subsistence/Netting and Commercial

Commercial licenses – captains and helpers – still have the requirement to schedule an appointment with STLE in order to renew each year. It is important that helpers and captains call to schedule their own appointments. STLE has to obtain specific personal information each year that only the member themselves can provide.

If you hold a subsistence license or subsistence and netting licenses, please remember that you are required to turn in a monthly catch report by the 10th of each month. These reports are required whether you catch any fish or get out to fish. If you fax in your reports, please make sure to call STLE about 10-15 minutes after you faxed it to ensure we received it. Please remember

that these licenses are valid only on the Great Lakes within the boundaries of Sault Tribe's 1836 Treaty Area.

Chapter 20 of the Tribal Code and CORA code regulate commercial, subsistence and subsistence netting licenses. Both sets of regulations may be found online at saulttribe.com, select Government at the top, select tribal code from the drop-down list, and choose either Chapter 20 or CORA code for Great Lakes rules and regulations.

As a reminder, you are authorized to recreationally fish in the Great Lakes within the boundaries of our 1836 Treaty Area with just your tribal membership card as long as you follow state of Michigan rules for the activity.

Members are encouraged to educate themselves on the various rules governing our treaty rights; however, STLE is here to help members wade through the sometimes complex rules. If you cannot find the information you are looking for in Tribal or CORA Code, please contact our office and ask to speak with a conservation officer.

Don't prune oak trees April 15 through July 15

FROM MICHIGAN DNR

The leaves of a tree affected by oak wilt are mottled green and brown and ready to drop far too early in the season.

During the period between April 15 and July 15, beetles actively carry spores of fungus from tree to tree, meaning oak trees are at high risk for infection with oak wilt. Oak trees with wounds in their bark are susceptible to the disease, which can weaken white oaks and kill red oaks within a few weeks.

“Oak trees should not be pruned between April 15 and July 15. These pruning guidelines can help keep infection from spreading,” Simeon Wright, forest health specialist in the DNR's Forest Resources Division, said. “Once a tree is infected there is no cure. Without expensive treatments the disease spreads to other trees and may in time kill all nearby oaks.”

If you have an oak tree that gets damaged during the high-risk period from April 15 to July 15, immediately cover all wounds with tree-wound paint or latex-based paint. Painting tree wounds is not recommended for other trees species as it can reduce the effectiveness of the healing process.

Besides being carried by the nitidulid beetle, which is active in spring and early summer, oak

wilt also can spread from tree to tree through roots that are grafted, or grown together underground. Spores also can be carried long distances to living trees when you move firewood cut from an infected tree and beetles pick up the spores.

An oak tree that has lost its foliage from the top due to oak wilt is showing clear signs of distress.

Oak wilt can kill some oaks within weeks.

First identified in the Midwest during the 1940s, oak wilt was confirmed in Michigan in the early 1950s and now is common in the Lower Peninsula. It also has been identified in Menominee, Dickinson and Iron counties in the Upper Peninsula. Trees in the red oak family are most susceptible to the disease. These include black oak, northern red oak and northern pin oak — all have leaves with pointed tips. Trees in the white oak group have rounded leaf edges and include white oak, swamp white oak, and bur oak. These trees are better able to block spread of the disease through the entire tree, preventing rapid death.

Symptoms of oak wilt most often appear from late June until September. Affected trees will suddenly begin to wilt from the top down, rapidly dropping leaves, which can be green,

brown or a combination of both colors. Left untreated, oak wilt will continue to move from tree to tree through grafted root systems, killing more red oak over an increasingly large area when oaks grow close together. As more trees die from oak wilt, more fungal spores are produced, which allows the beetle to carry the infection to new locations.

Firewood cut from infected

trees can harbor the fungus, so don't move firewood from one place to another. If you suspect your firewood is infected by oak wilt, you can help slow the spread by burning it, chipping it or debarking it before April. Once the firewood has been dried for longer than a year or all the bark loosens, the firewood can no longer spread oak wilt.

To minimize the risk of oak

wilt infection caused by logging damage, the DNR restricts cutting of red oak trees on state land between April 15 and July 15. The DNR recommends private forest landowners exercise caution during this period and, whenever possible, delay harvests in oak forests until after July 15.

If you suspect a tree has oak wilt contact your local DNR office.

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• Pointed v. Rounded Lobes

Oak Wilt is:

- DEADLY for Red Oak Family
 - Northern Red
 - Northern Pin
 - Black
 - Scarlet, etc.
- Slow Kill for White Oak Family
 - White
 - Swamp White
 - Bur
 - Chinquapin
 - English, etc.

Browning starts at the margin, progresses toward the petiole, and trees defoliate

Red Oaks

White Oaks

Early Childhood Education families plant seeds

BY DANIELLE KAMINSKI, SAULT TRIBE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROGRAM FAMILY SERVICE COORDINATOR

A seed planting workshop took place on Tuesday, May 2. We had 15 families attend and a total of 48 people. Each family was able to plant two seed starter trays a total of 24 seeds. The families filled up the little green houses starter trays with soil then were able to pick out all different types of seeds that were donated to us by Community Heath. Each family also learned about the three sisters teaching: the corn, the bean, and the squash and were able to take little packs of each set of seeds to plant at home as well. They had a blast. They were all laughing and asking questions about the different types of seeds.



Aria and her mom Cassandra.



The Horton family and the Nolan family.



Draysen and his sister Madelyn.

PHOTOS BY DANIELLE KAMINSKI



Camille and her grandma Wendy.



The Kaminski family.



Bentley with his mom Raedean and dad Leslie.



The McRorie family.

Anishnaabek Community and Family Services celebrates foster parents at appreciation event

Anishnaabek Community and Family Services (ACFS), in partnership with Bay Mills, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, UP Kids and Great Lakes Recovery Center, hosted the annual Foster Parent Training and Appreciation Event at the Christopher Columbus (CC) Hall in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. Eighty-six attendees participated in person and via Zoom.

Activities included a welcome from local agency directors and a presentation from Sault Tribe Traditional Medicine staff Lori Gambardella and Healer George Googleye regarding services offered by the program, some basic traditional knowledge and beliefs, and tips and strategies for agencies and families who provide services to tribal children.

A legal panel comprised of Referee Elizabeth Chambers from Chippewa County Court, Sault Tribe Chief Judge Jocelyn Fabry, and Bay Mills Indian Community Prosecutor Jennifer Obreiter answered questions and presented information about the court process and how the legal process can look different for tribal children.

The event also included a delicious lunch served by the CC Hall staff and an afternoon presentation by Dr. AJ O'Sickey, who discussed childhood mental health topics and self-care skills. There were various donations and door prizes available for all attendees.



May has been proclaimed Older Americans Month

Whereas the Anishinaabe is a community that includes precious citizens aged 60 and older; Whereas, the older Anishinaabe adults are among of our most "treasured resources," united by historical experiences, strengthened by diversity, and interpreting events through unique perspectives and backgrounds to bring wisdom and insight to our community;

Whereas our elders are remaining strong and active for longer than ever before; Whereas the older Anishinaabe adults in Michigan deserve recognition and respect for the contributions they have made and will continue to make to our culture, economy, and character of our community and our nation;

Whereas our community can provide tools for improving the quality of life for older Americans by: Increasing their opportunities to remain active and engaged in community life. Providing individualized services and support systems to maintain the dignity, independence, and self-determination of our Anishinaabe elders. Combating ageist attitudes by honoring their past, present, and future contributions.

contributions.

Now therefore, we do hereby proclaim May to be Older Americans Month.

We recognize that our Anishinaabe elders do enrich our entire community's quality of life.

We urge every citizen to take time this month to honor our elders and to thank the professionals, family members, and volunteers who care for many of them.

A healthy mouth enhances the overall health for all Anishinaabe. Why not control what we can to improve our own vitality and our elders' vitality?

The American Dental Association recommends that our elders: Brush the teeth twice or more per day. Use an oscillating power toothbrush. Floss regularly.

There are many interdental cleaning aids available. Fluoride is a proven cavity-preventing mineral. Use daily fluoride toothpaste, a fluoride rinse and fluoride varnish treatments at the dentist's office. Visit your dentist routinely for a checkup and cleaning. Consider having your teeth cleaned three times



Jessica A. Rickert, DDS honors her grandparents, Levi and Ellen Whitepigeon, at the University of Michigan School of Dentistry Museum.

per year. Tell the dentist about any medical conditions you have and medications you take. The dentist does an oral cancer exam at each dental examination.

Eat a well-balanced diet with fruits and vegetables.

Quit smoking.

Smoking increases the risk for oral cancer and gum disease.

Limit alcoholic beverages.

Use lip balm with sunscreen.

Drink only water throughout the day.

Replace missing teeth to aid in eating, speech and to maintain the form, shape, and function of

the mouth.

Keep your dentures clean by brushing dentures every day and soaking them in water or a denture-cleansing liquid at night. Be sure to leave them out of your mouth while you sleep.

Education of the caregiver, as well as the patient, is an important part of the prevention of dental disease.

Oral health problems in older adults include the following: Untreated tooth decay. One in five older Americans have untreated tooth decay.

Gum disease. A high percent-

age of older adults have gum disease. Gum recession can expose root surfaces to harmful bacteria.

Tooth loss.

Having missing teeth can affect nutrition, because people without teeth or with dentures often prefer soft, mushy foods, which foods are high in sugar, carbohydrate and fat content.

Oral cancer.

Cancers of the mouth and throat are primarily diagnosed at the median age of 62 years. Chronic disease. Untreated dental disease causes an inflammatory cascade in the body which worsens chronic diseases such as arthritis, diabetes, heart diseases, pneumonia and chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases.

Many older Americans take both prescription and over-the-counter drugs, which can contribute to dental disease and can impact dental appointments.

Dry mouth. Reduced can lead to mucositis, root cavities, increased tartar, cracked lips, and fissured tongue.

Home oral care can be lacking due to cognitive as well as physical and sensory limitations. Dental care in the dentist's office might also be affected.

Notes from the TAP coordinator: Know the risks of meth

By **PATRICK A. MCCOY, TAP COORDINATOR**

Methamphetamine (meth) is a synthetic stimulant that is addictive and can cause considerable health adversities and can sometimes result in death. Meth can be smoked, snorted, injected, or taken orally and is often used with other substances.

Someone using meth may experience a temporary sense of

heightened euphoria, alertness, and energy. This is because meth increases the amount of dopamine, a natural chemical, in the brain. Dopamine is involved in body movement, motivation, and reinforcing rewarding behaviors. Meth rapidly releases high levels of dopamine into reward areas of the brain, making people want to continue to use meth.

Meth not only changes how

the brain works, but also speeds up the body's systems to dangerous, sometimes lethal, levels increasing blood pressure, heart, and respiratory rates. People who repeatedly use meth may also experience anxiety, paranoia, aggression, hallucinations, and mood disturbances.

Through evidence-based treatment and support, it is possible to live life free from meth. While

there are currently no FDA-approved medications to treat meth addiction, behavioral therapies can be effective. One example is cognitive-behavioral therapy, which helps people cope with situations that may prompt drug use. Another example uses motivational incentives in the form of vouchers or rewards that the person can earn as encouragement for not using meth or other

substances.

Tribes can combine sweat lodges and ceremonies with cognitive behavior therapy to help the patient change their thinking process through a releasing process that occurs when anger, guilt, and shame are surrendered for their new life beginnings. The rewards are a new way of thinking and it inspires the person with hope that recovery is possible.

Wearing red in support of Missing or Murdered Indigenous Persons Awareness Day, 2023

SUBMITTED BY **VERONICA L. BEAUMONT, SAULT TRIBE HOUSING AUTHORITY OPERATIONS MANAGER**

Right: Sault Tribe Housing Authority wore their red shirts at work in support of murdered and missing Indigenous relatives.



Sault Tribe river spawning of whitefish a first in North America, and maybe even the world

BY BRENDA AUSTIN AND SCOTT BRAND

The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Natural Resources Fisheries Department is working on the first ever attempt to rehabilitate a river spawning stock of whitefish, or atikameg, in North America, and possibly the world. This first-of-its-kind project is happening in the Carp River, in Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

The Carp River is a 40.2-mile-long river in Chippewa and Mackinac counties that is formed by the outflow of Trout Lake in Trout Lake Township and flows through the Hiawatha National Forest before emptying into St. Martin's Bay of Lake Huron.

According to Sault Tribe Fisheries Assessment Biologist Jason Smith, before European settlement most fish species in the Great Lakes spawned in both lakes and rivers, maximizing the likelihood of some fish from each year surviving into adulthood. "If it was a bad year in the lake, maybe it would be a good year in the river and vice versa," he

said. "River spawning fish were very easy to overfish. When you stretch a net across the river and catch most of the fish as they are moving upstream – after five years the fish are gone."

Smith said the eggs and sperm for the project came from fisheries gillnetting in the Les Cheneaux Islands. About 100,000 whitefish eggs were placed in the Carp River on Nov. 15, 2022, and Smith said their best guess at a hatch date would be from about April 15 through about April 24.

The fisheries team used Jordan Scotty incubators that were originally designed for Pacific Salmon, according to Smith. "The plastic blocks have many cells which hold the eggs and keep them safe from egg predators while the eggs incubate. Upon hatching, the fish can swim out and do what fish do. We plan to pull the incubators around May 5th," he said.

Once the incubators are pulled from the river, they will be able to roughly estimate the hatch rate. "We have good estimates for the number of eggs placed

in each incubator and can study what remains in them to discern efficacy," Smith said.

Fisheries has been monitoring progress throughout the spring to see if any larvae have successfully hatched from the incubation grounds. The initial checks, utilizing a seine net in the swift currents fueled by rapid snowmelt failed to yield any evidence of hatching fish. Researchers noted the water was high and there was a great deal of debris in the form of leaves, twigs and other downed foliage rapidly filling the seine net.

By the time of the April 21 test, the water was down roughly a foot or more and the soak could last three times longer than the original ones made during rapid run-off.

"It's kind of like looking for a needle in a haystack," admitted Smith, carefully checking each bucket for any evidence of life. The stream appeared healthy, according to his assessment, with caddis flies, stone flies and may fly larvae all being recovered during the search. As of the lat-

est reports, however, the team has not yet recovered any freshly-hatched whitefish.

Smith said that even if they never recover a smolt from the Carp River, that does not indicate the incubation effort was unsuccessful, as there is a good chance the swift current could have carried the young fish just to the left, to the right, or just under the seine net. The limited window for capturing the fry could also come into play as researchers would essentially have to be in the right place at the right time to catch what they are looking for. It may not be until three-to-five-years down the road before the results of their efforts can truly be measured should a school of whitefish, imprinted on the waters just upriver of the Mackinac Trail Bridge, return to spawn in the place where they were reared.

The fisheries team has been surveying the Carp River for the past three years and found no existing whitefish population prior to stocking the river with eggs. The Carp River was a good

option for the stocking program because the source of the eggs was nearby, the drivetime to the river is reasonable, and the Carp River has a partner river – the Pine, where for the next four years fingerlings will be stocked. After the four-year mark, eggs will be spawned in the Pine River, and the fingerlings will then go into the Carp River.

Working with the Sault Tribe Natural Resource Department on this project is Matt Herbert of The Nature Conservancy, who purchased the incubators; Dave Clapp (MDNR) is helping with habitat surveys and experimental design; Kris Dey (LTBB) is a whitefish rearing expert and Smith said has been a huge help doing field work. The project also included Dan Hayes (MSU) and Marty Holtgren (Encompass Socio-ecological Consulting), who provided experimental design and help finding good stream candidates for rehabilitation.

BIA-GLRI funding covers most of the staffing costs.



Photos by Scott Brand

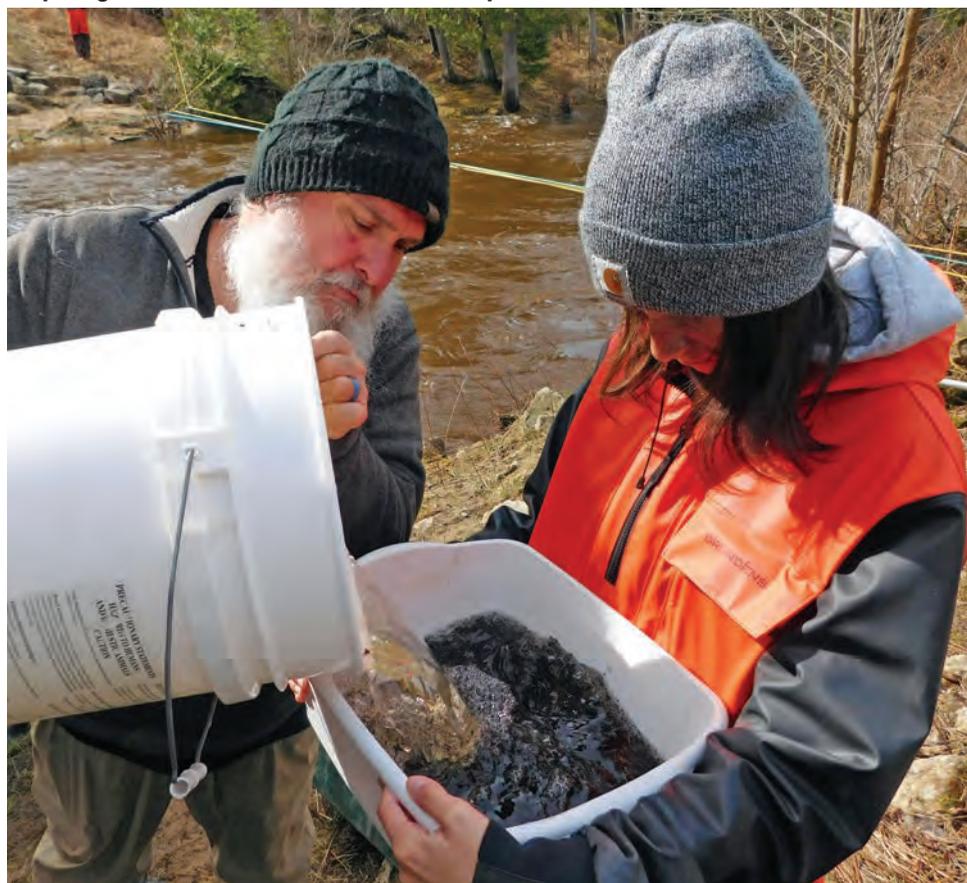
The nearby bridge allowed researchers to easily get their ropes across the river.



Preparing to launch the seine net into the Carp River.



Sault Tribe Fisheries Assessment Biologist Jason Smith (left) gets help from Matt Herbert of The Nature Conservancy as they search the bucket for any signs of hatching whitefish.



Jason Smith and Kate Bentgen checking the results of their seine net set.

Waishkey Bay Farm demonstrates how to set gill net for smelt, BMCC biology students help

BY SCOTT BRAND

More than a dozen people gathered on a Lake Superior beach in mid-April setting nets in the hopes of capturing giigoonsag, rainbow smelt, as they came to shore to spawn. "The reason we wanted to do it is we have some staff at the farm who know tons about fishing," said Waishkey Bay Farm Manager Kat Jacques. "Bay Mills Community College does community education and it's not just in the classroom." The instructors for this special event were Mark Forgrave,

Elijah Stone and Dennis Carrick. Forgrave and Stone provided a visual demonstration launching a row boat in the face of incoming waves and setting a gill net as those on shore looked on. Carrick provided a well-built fire to keep the bystanders warm as they waited for the sun to set and the fish to come in. Jacques delivered hot beverages to further buffer the chilly winds and a round of hot dogs and condiments to ward off hunger. Those who brought or borrowed waders passed the time with hand nets dipping a few smelt along the

shoreline until it was time for the net to be pulled. Shortly before 11 p.m., the group hit paydirt hauling an estimated 70 pounds of large Lake Superior smelt in before calling it a night. Bright and early the following day, Forgrave and Carrick convened on the parking lot of Bay Mills Community College to begin the process of removing the smelt from the nets. Students from Dr. Natalia Chugunov's Biology 101 Class assisted in the project helping to shake hundreds of smelt from the nets onto tarps. Once that

messy aspect of the harvest was completed — and yes participants wore the evidence of their toil in the form of scales, eggs and other assorted byproducts — the smelt were taken to the classroom. Carrick was joined by Dave Corey in instructing the students on the fastest and most efficient way to clean a smelt. Armed with sharp knives instead of scissors, the duo made a couple of quick passes beheading the smelt, slicing the belly and gutting the fish in a matter of seconds. A portion of the smelt went home with the students while the

remainder were going to be distributed to elders throughout the Bay Mills Indian Community. The Waishkey Bay Farm, located off M-221, will be hosting various events throughout the year. "We don't have a set schedule, yet," said Jacques encouraging people to visit the Waishkey Bay Farm Facebook site or click on the tab on the BMCC Page for updates. "We do a little bit of a lot of different things." Jacques indicated that food preservation, canning and beekeeping classes are all in the works for the upcoming year.



Elijah Stone helped to steady the boat as Mark Forgrave prepares to embark.

Photos by Scott Brand



River Perez, a senior at Sault High and Elijah Stone, a senior at Rudyard Area Schools tend one of the gill nets before the sun went down.



Dennis Tyson and Jen McLeod snuggled on the beach awaiting the arrival of the fish.



Mark Forgrave mans the oars as they were setting the gill net.



Danielle Marble, Amanda Rinna and Crystal Falk donned waders.



The evening's bounty included roughly 70 pounds of smelt. Some were taken home by participants, while others were cleaned at Bay Mills Community College for students to take home. Above left, Dennis Carrick takes smelt out of the net. Right, students from Bay Mills Community College biology class help Carrick with the smelt.



The fine mesh of the gill nets provided a bountiful harvest requiring a team of helpers, carefully placed tarps and a little bit of muscle power. The parking lot at Bay Mills Community College, with Lake Superior in the background, proved to be the ideal location for separating the smelt from the long net.



Dave Corey and Dennis Carrick revealed their technique for quickly removing the head and guts as the students from Natalia Chugunov's Biology 101 class look on.



John Marble and his daughter Danielle. John, a former commercial fisherman entertained others on the water's edge with stories from his past.

Tribal employees honored for years of service



Cheryl LaPlaunt was honored for 35 years of service.



Heather Weber, 30 years.



Terry LaVigne, 25 years.



Michael Nolan, honored for 20 years of service.

35 Years
LaPlaunt, Cheryl

30 Years
Ailing, Lynn
Alstrom, Michael
Anderson, Renee
Causley, Dorothy
Enos, Patrick
Gady, Scott
Gravelle, Michael
Hiatt, Kenneth
Jurczenko, Patricia
Kangas, Corey
Lipponen, Brenda
Marble, Manvil
McKerchie, James
Neadow, Viola
Pins, Michael
Rapson, Richard
Reno, Edythe
Salo, Julie
Sawruk, Lisa
Smart, Tracy
Sprecker, Stephanie
Weber, Heather

25 Years
Austin, Brenda
Behling, Carla
Brenner, Priscilla
Bumstead, Tammy
Cooper, Donald
Gregg, Eugene
LaVigne, Terry
Leask, Stephanie
Lindsey, Jean
Mackey, Jamie
Mahoney, Joseph
Maleport, Margaret
Manitowabi, Virginia
McRorie, Julia
Menard, Miranda
Menominee, Nancy
Meyer, Jennifer
Minton, Jeffrey
Peer, Angelique
Pine, Caroline
Tobias, Susan

20 Years
Alkire, Mark
Allard, Matthew
Allie, Kevin
Allor, Cindy
Andrews, Dana
Atherton, David
Beamish, Dawn
Black, Rhonda
Frye, William
Graham, Sandra
Kibble, Holly
King, Brandy
MacDonald, Jaime
Milloy, Lynn
Nolan, Michael
Pavlat, Cecil
Reno, Kara
Schell, Katherine

Smith, Dustin
Smith, Jessica
Smith, Michael
St. Andrew, Donna
Steinhoff, Cassandra
Thompson, Jill
Trepczyk, Chad

15 Years
Captain, Tonya
Carr-Walden, Vicki
Dunn, Maurice
Eitrem, Nicholas
Fabry, Jocelyn
Frechette, Jacquelyn
Goetz, Faith
Kerridge, Allen
Krueger, Tonya
Krull, Michael
LaPonsie, Niceta
Lindberg, Danielle
Lockhart, Jamie
Madigan, Ryan
McDonald, Joseph
McNeely, Michael
Neal, Ronald
Overland, Christie
Paquin, Ashley
Putnam, Betsy
Raser, Jessica
Rogers-Stott, Anna
Shields, Jeremiah
Smart, Karen
Smolinski, Michelle
Spence, William
St. Onge, August
Tadgerson, Shana

10 Years
Allard, Shane
Barker, Jennifer
Brisson, Amy
Brown, Joseph
Carlson, Shawn
Chevalier II, Leo
Dunning, Gregory
Eames, Philip
Forgrave, Ryan
Garrett, Joan
Gaus, Margaret
Gil, Amanda
Gould, Jason
Latvala, Robert
LaFaver, Rachel
McLeod, Karla
Menard, Daniel
Menard, Dennis
Monck, Chelsie
Morgan, Nicholas
Myers, Lisa
Nettleton, Michele
O’Crotty, Sherri
Paquin, Roberta
Perault, Deward
Pickem, Ruth
Roy, Alicia
St. Louis, Carolyn
Taylor, James
Trombly, Frank

Willis, Richard

5 Years
Anderson, Derek
Belleville, Darlene
Bouschor, Robin
Campbell, Matthew
Campbell-Hyslop, Carrie
Christianson, Zackery
Chugunov, Leonid
Cook, Leroy
Daley, Jenna
Dellow, Nelson
Dombroski, Courtney
Duffy, Carson
Fick, JoAnn
Goetz, Nicholas
Goudreau, Douglas
Hopp, Jeffrey
Hoy, Cameron
Johnson, Dale
Laitinen, Tara
LaVake, Angelique
LeBlanc, Darrell
Leonard, Pangeta
LePire, Melissa
Libby, Joshua
Litzner, Cortney
Mastaw, Chelsea
McCaffrey, Steven
McClellan, John
McCrary, Jessica
McKelvie, Chastin
McKerchie, Emily
Michaels, Michele
Miller, Steven
Morrison Jr., Robert
Morrow, Ashley
Neal, Caroline
Nolan, Derrick
Nystrom, Tammy
Oikarinen, Dustin
Patzwald, Rebecca
Pavlat, Heather
Pavlat, Neal
Peters, Yvonne
Rickleby, Jessica
Rogan, Sheri
Rosebohm, Cody
Sawyer, Robert
Sawyers, Ryan
Sitkoski, Jeremy
Sliger, Diane
Smith, Joseph
Smith, Teara
Spencer, Pamela
St. Andrew, Brandi
Steinhoff, Kimberly
Stephenson, Earl
Stewart, Michael
Synett, Stacey
Thompson, Anthony
Thompson, Chelsea
Tunney, Dana
Tyner, Gabrielle
VanderMolen, Caine
Webber, Margaret
Weston, Angela
Willis, Krystal



Jeremiah Shields, 15 years.



Carolyn St. Louis, celebrating 10 years of service.

Walking on...

WILLIAM "BILL" F. BAKER

William "Bill" F. Baker, 80 of Naubinway, Mich., laid down his working tools, Wednesday, May 3, 2023.

Bill was born on June 16, 1942, in Marquette, Mich. Bill married Sandra L. Harris on March 22, 1997.

Bill was a truck driver for 60 years. He earned a bachelors of education degree from the University of Toledo, at the age of 58. Bill enjoyed racing, watching NASCAR, and hunting. He loved his family and friends and sharing his many stories.

Bill was an active member of the McMillan Lodge #400, F&AM, in Newberry, Mich., where he served in the organization's top position as Worshipful Master. Bill was also a life member of the Valley of Michigan, Scottish Rite. Bill volunteered a substantial amount of time serving on committees.

He is survived by his loving wife, Sandra; children, Vince (Susan) Baker, Brady (Becky) Baker, Zach (Alphrena) Baker, Tracy Cappelletty, Lori (Rich) Shackelford and Jeffrey (Robbin) Large; brother, John (Barbara) Baker; 15 grandchildren, 9 great grandchildren and many cousins, nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his parents Forrest and Lorraine.

Visitation was held on Saturday, May 13, 2023, at the Naubinway Pavilion, W11609 Main Street, Naubinway, MI 49762, complete with a Masonic Memorial Service.

AURELIA C. FALBE

Aurelia C. Falbe, 91, of Mauston, Wisc., passed away on Friday, April 28, 2023.

A Memorial Service for Aurelia was be held on Saturday, May 13 at Conway-Picha Funeral Home with Rev. Craig Wolfgram officiating.

Aurelia was born Oct. 1, 1931 in Escanaba, Mich., the daughter of John and Clara (Shaw) Mastaw. She married the love of her life Duane Falbe in 1950 and the couple enjoyed 64 wonderful years of marriage before Duane's passing in 2014. She worked at Hess Memorial Hospital in Mauston as an LPN nurse from April 1968 until she retired at age 65. She loved the woods and all the wildlife. She had a special appreciation for flowers and gardening. She also enjoyed crafting and birdwatching.

Aurelia is survived by her son, Brian Falbe; daughters, Bonnie (Earl) Blankenheim and Karen (Kevin) Raedel; sister, Phyllis Gregg; grandchildren, Jason (Jessica Taylor) Blankenheim, Nick (Annie) Blankenheim, Adrienne (Jon) Hoppa, Kevin Strange, Milynda (Travis) Cornford and Jacob (Stephanie Friedrick) Raedel. She is also

survived by nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends. She is preceded in death by her parents, husband Duane; two brothers and five sisters.

The Conway-Picha Funeral Home and Crematory of Lyndon Station, Wisc. assisted the family with arrangements. For On-Line condolences and information, go to www.pichafuneralhome.com.

GRACE EVELYN FLOWERS

Grace Evelyn (Thibert) Flowers passed away peacefully on April 21, 2023, at the Ball Hospice House. Grace was born on March 4, 1926, in Sault Ste Marie, Mich., to the late Aime and Adelaide (Myotte) Thibert. Grace was married to the late Alfred Flowers at St. Mary's Church on July 30, 1945.

Over the years, Grace waited tables at Taffy Abel's and the Mohawk Supper Club, worked downtown at Kresge's, and retired from K-Mart in 1993. She attended school at Loretto from a very young age. She was an elder of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and a long-time member of St. Isaac Jogues Parish.

Grace is survived by her children, Roberta Flowers of White Lake, Mich., James Flowers of Sault Ste. Marie, Joann (Joe) Smith of Reunion, Fla., and Michael Flowers of Kelso, Wash. Grace was blessed with seven grandchildren: Kimberly (Greg) Ruona; Kelly (Paul) Ruona; William Flowers; James Kellis; Heather (Dan) Klever; Heidi (Roger) Aikens; and John Shaski III. She was also blessed with seven great-grandchildren: Bryan Flowers, Jacqueline Harwood, Ashley Young, Jacob Klever, Johnny Brown Jr., Malcolm Brown, and Areka Foutch, as well as two great-great-grandsons, Mason Fox and Andre Young, along with many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Grace was preceded in death by her brother and sister-in-law, Leo and Maybelle Thibert, and her daughter and son-in-law, Toni and Scott Ruona.

Per Grace's wishes, there will be no memorial service. Please remember her as you saw her last — attending mass, working in her flower garden, playing cards, sharing elder meals, playing her favorite slot machine, taking senior bus trips, enjoying a Kewadin concert, or passing you on the walking track at Big Bear Arena.

Arrangements were in the care of C.S. Mulder Funeral Home and Cremation Services. Condolences may be left online at <https://www.csmulder.com/obituary/grace-flowers>.

CARL HANNA

Carl Hanna passed over on Feb. 2, 2023 at Cedar Cove, Cedarville, Mich. He was born on Sept

1, 1936 to Melvin and Doris (Rosing) Hanna.

Carl grew up on the first settled farm in Stalwart where he developed his enviable work ethic, his sense of humor, and a deep appreciation for his Irish heritage. As a lifelong resident of Stalwart and a polio survivor, Carl graduated from Pickford High School where he excelled in track with record timing in the mile run event. Carl made many friends while employed at Wieneke Soo Ford, Drummond Dolomite, the Michigan Department of Corrections and as a member of Bethel Lutheran Church, Les Cheneaux Masonic Lodge, and Pickford Area Historical Society.

Carl married his high school sweetheart, Barbara, daughter of Morrell and Lelia (Shoberg) Thompson and together they raised one son, Brien.

His many hobbies and interests included woodworking, gardening, all sports, old movies, Country music, traveling, and volunteering. He was known to play a mean game of Cribbage and enjoying walks in the woods, but Carl's favorite past time was sharing stories of his grandchildren and their children.

Carl's wife Barbara, his parents and a brother, Noel all preceded him in death. He is survived by his son, Brien (Beth Wise), Grandchildren; Rachel (Marty) Mc Dermott, Richard (Kimberly Curtis), Jared (Heidi Michels), Kurt (Meghan Routhier) and nine great-grandchildren. Sisters, Dianne (Ken) Schmitgal and Shannon (Mike) Dennis, survive along with Brothers-in-law Steve (Debbie Wojnaroski), Don (Trinda Harrison) and Lynn (Darryl) Bosley. He is also survived by many favorite nieces and nephews.

A celebration of life was held on May 6, 2023 at the Tri County Building Center's Conference Center located at 44 E. M-134, Cedarville. Interment will be in Hanna Cemetery in Stalwart.

In lieu of flowers memorial considerations may be directed to Bethel Lutheran Church, Pickford Area Historical Society or The Mackinac County animal shelter.

C.S. Mulder Funeral Home and Cremation Services is serving the family.

DALE RAYMOND KANGAS

Dale Raymond Kangas, 68, of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., passed away at Evergreen Assisted Living Center in St. Ignace, Mich., on March 9, 2023. He

was born in Saginaw, Mich., on Nov. 5, 1954, to Reuben Martin and Donna Margaret Elizabeth (Bosley) Kangas.

Dale grew up in Sault Ste. Marie and graduated from the Sault Area High School in 1973. He joined the United States Army and was stationed in Germany as a Water Purification Specialist. He returned to Sault Ste. Marie and attended Northern Michigan University and received his

Tradesman Certificate. Dale began working at Ultra Spherics as a Machinist. He worked there for five years. Dale resided with his parents before their deaths. Dale was a Harley Davidson motorcycle enthusiast and enjoyed riding in his younger days. In 2013, he was in the Adult Care Home for eight years before residing at Evergreen Assisted Living Center since April of 2022.

Dale is survived by his sons, Donald and Curtis Harris; siblings, Shari (Robert) Carlisle of Brimley, Sandra (Kim) Florey of Sanford, Michigan, Anthony (Gloria) Kangas of Sault Ste. Marie, Darryl Kangas of Rudyard, Michigan and Corey (Shawnda) of Sault Ste. Marie; and many beloved nieces and nephews.

Dale was a proud member of the Sault Tribe.

Dale is preceded in death by his parents and his brother, Reuben "Marty" Kangas Jr. Graveside Services will be held Summer of 2023.

Memorial Contributions can be made out to Evergreen Living Center, 1140 N. State St, St. Ignace, MI 49781.

Galer Funeral Home of Pickford, Michigan, is serving the family. Condolences may be left to the family at www.galerfuneralhomes.com.

MICHAEL EARL PROCTOR

Michael Earl Proctor, 52, of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. passed away peacefully at home of natural causes. He was born July 3, 1970 in Garden City, Mich. to Gary and Marsha Proctor (Wilson).

Michael enjoyed duck hunting and spending time with his family. If you ever needed a helping hand Michael was there.

Michael is survived by his father, Gary (Sue) Proctor; mother, Marsha Proctor; brother, David Proctor; sisters, Sarah McClellan and Bobbie Proctor; sons, Michael David (Danielle) Proctor and Jeremy Fredrick Proctor; nieces, Lacy Proctor, Skyler Kimmel, Summer Kimmel, and Janelle McClellan; nephews, Kyle Proctor, Ace Kimmel, and Jordan McClellan; and grandchildren, Sophia Proctor and Alice Proctor.

Visitation was held on April 21, 2023, and continued until the time of Traditional Native American Services on Sunday April 23, at the Sault Tribe Cultural Center, in Sault Ste. Marie.

In lieu of flowers the family requests memorial contributions be made in Michael's name to Great Lakes Recovery Centers, 2655 Ashmun St. Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783.

Clark Hovie Galer Funeral Home assisted the family with arrangements.

ROBERT LAWRENCE SCHWIDERSON

Robert "Bob" Schwiderson, 79, of Dafter Township, Mich., passed away on Saturday, April 8,

2023, at his home.

Bob was born on May 14, 1943, to Joseph and Rachel (Duke) Schwiderson in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. Bob attended Brimley Schools, and on April 10, 1965, he married Ann Amarose in Hessel, Mich. Bob was a bus driver for Brimley Area Schools for 43 years, and worked for the Soo Creamery, the Soo Locks, and laying pipeline. He was also a lifelong farmer and loved farming. He loved spending time with his family.

Bob is survived by his children: Bob Schwiderson of Dafter; Rick Schwiderson of Brimley; and Michelle (John) Forrest of Dafter; three grandchildren Joseph Schwiderson, Ricky (Katrina) Schwiderson, and John Forrest; as well as his three great-grandchildren Aubreyanna Schwiderson, Ricky Schwiderson, and Ryan Schwiderson. Also surviving Bob is his brother, Ed Schwiderson of Brimley and his sister Bev (Gene) Black of Sault Ste. Marie; two sister-in-laws Wanda Ellis of Schoolcraft, Mich. and Pamela (Edward) Mitchell of Elkhart, Ind.; and many nieces and nephews.

Bob was preceded in death by his parents, his wife, Ann, his sisters Donna Gilroy, Merta Schwiderson, and Ednah Schwiderson and a brother Alvin Schwiderson.

Private family services are being planned at this time. A public graveside service will be announced later this spring with burial at Hillcrest Cemetery.

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

Scenic Byways grant to help fund Mission Hill Road project in 2023

BAY MILLS — Efforts to shore up the road surface along Mission Hill received a boost from the National Scenic Byways Program through a \$103k grant award, which will fund 75% of the cost. Bay Mills Indian Community, Bay Mills Township, and Chippewa County Road Commission are providing the remaining 25% match for the project.

The Whitefish Bay Scenic Byway Resource Protection Project will construct road upgrades and control erosion issues on the Mission Hill Spectacle Lake Overlook.

This project will improve safety and access to the community burial grounds and protect the overlook in an area often frequented by locals and tourists.

The project will be coordinated with the Chippewa County Road Commission and project preparation will begin this year, with construction slated for next summer. The completion date for work is July 2024.



Gwayako-bimaadiziwin: life beyond “settler time”

BY NICK REO, SAULT TRIBE MEMBER

For the past several decades, I have been under a spell, a spell that tricks individuals and collectives into voluntarily limiting our aspirations. It tricks us into never hoping, planning, or working for anything “unrealistic” when it comes to the future of Indigenous Peoples. We can refer to this spell as “settler time.”

For the past several hundred years, we Anishinaabek have been resisting continual attempts to remove and replace us, attempts by colonizers to occupy our land in perpetuity. Chi-mookomaanag (colonizer Americans and Canadians) stole and occupy our land.

Ever since they showed up in Nindakiinan (our homelands), they have systematically attempted to marginalize us within our own spaces, within historical narratives, and within political forums. Settler time tricks us into thinking that the extractive economies, power dynamics and cultural norms introduced by Chi-mookomaanag are permanent and that we will forever be minoritized within mainstream society.

The most appropriate English language term for settler Americans and Canadians is “colonizer” because they arrived uninvited, staked claims over our lands, resources, and relations, and have no intentions of ever leaving. I recently adopted colonizer as my preferred English term of reference following the lead of Indigenous friends overseas. At first it didn’t feel right, but the more I think about and use it, the more normal and appropriate it feels.

Colonizers hold a G.I. Joe grip on political and economic power through their imposed legal structures — laws and policies that systematically advantage settlers and disadvantage Indians and tribes, through force, fear, and



Nick Reo

intimidation (for example the violent, militarized treatment of our water protectors and land defenders); and by imposing social norms that ensure their continued dominance over our people and control over Nindakiinan. Countless federal laws and policies were written to erase or marginalize Indigenous Peoples. Even policies that recognize our rights or attempt to re-empower our communities are open to whimsical interpretation within the American and Canadian legal systems that use selective interpretation, word play, and racist legal precedents like the Discovery Doctrine to advantage colonizers at our expense.

These colonial narratives are based on settler time, an important part of the Chi-mookomaan worldview. When we restrict our historical lens to just the past few hundred years, the stories of this continent’s violent and lawless colonial periods can feel as distant as stories from Greek mythology. Settler time casts a “spell” by fooling the colonizer community into believing that they have a lot of history here on Turtle Island. It tricks them into thinking that before they arrived, this place was a vast, unpopulated wilderness. Settler time conditions colonizers into believing



A real-time representation of time.

that American history started when they arrived, and that any violent means of colonialism are justified by the “civilizing” ends. The spell of settler time frees Chi-mookomaanag from taking responsibility for the vile actions of their ancestors and blinds them to ongoing injustices and violence targeted at our communities.

Settler time tricks us Anishinaabek into narrowing our focus on just the past few hundred years, too, thereby limiting our hopes and dreams to what’s “realistic” within a colonizer worldview.

From our Anishinaabek worldview, our genealogies and history on Turtle Island go back to time immemorial. Our sense of time is cyclical. We understand our existence as a series of cycles involving creation/re-creation, growth, destruction, and learning/adapting. We take responsibility for future generations by learning from our past experiences and making adjustments tailored to anticipated future conditions.

The illusion of settler time relies on linear thinking. A linear sense of time gives the impression that we are always “moving forward” and “progressing.” Linear thinking and settler time frame “progress” as a geopolitical competition, a race between

nations to be the first and best and to have the most.

It also creates the perception that through the passing of time, we become less and less connected to people and events of the past.

Settler time conditions us to think the past won’t ever come back around to teach us lessons and that we aren’t responsible for anything that came before or comes after us. If we embrace settler time for a moment and represent our history on Turtle Island as a linear timeline, the years cohabiting Nindakiinan with Chi-mookomaanag are a mere blink. If the many looping cycles of events in Anishinaabek time were straightened out into a line and represented as a meter stick, the past few hundred years living with the colonizers would cover less than a millimeter.

Seventh Generation teachings tell us it’s important to think of our community seven generations into the future when making important decisions. They also teach us to consider three previous and three future generations when considering our own time here on Earth. This guidance is straightforward if we decolonize our sense of time. Thinking seven generations ahead is like planning for less than the next millimeter

on that metaphorical meter stick.

When my maternal grandparents were born, it had only been 100 years since the Anishinaabek of Baawating formally agreed to share space with the Chi-mookomaanag by signing the 1836 Treaty of Washington. Before that time, we more or less had autonomous control of our homelands. 1836 is not ancient history within Anishinaabek time — it’s just a handful of generations back within one cycle. Many of our still living relatives (trees, stones, waters) were around in 1836. We can visit and consult with them today.

When I take the time to visit with our First Relations — asiniig (stones), nibi (water), gete-mitigoog (old-timer trees) — who were around before we started losing access to our territories, they give me comfort. They also help me recalibrate my sense of time so that I can envision a future for our Anishinaabek communities where we are liberated and free to fully engage in reciprocal relations with Nindakiinan.

Ningichi-bawaajigemini!
(Let’s dream big)

I am starting to gain a much broader perspective, allowing me to deepen my understanding of how we are connected to the past and responsible for the future. We have made important strides in protecting our homelands and securing some of our inherent rights over the past half century. Our Elders knocked down barriers, restoring important aspects of political and natural order for our people and our homelands. Their important works required courage and a decolonized vision for the future. When we think about what is needed for future generations, it’s critical that we hold the same kind of courage and radical hope in our hearts and not restrict ourselves to what is realistic according to settler time.

Tribe’s Advocacy Resource Center hosted Art of Healing

The Advocacy Resource Center (ARC) hosted The Art of Healing event on April 15, for Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Participants received paint and supplies to create a masterpiece to bring home to enjoy. The event was open to the public and intended to promote healing for anyone affected by aspects of sexual assault.

Participants enjoyed listening to Ojibwe drums, sipping Labrador tea, eating delicious snacks, and releasing their feelings through their brushes and onto the canvas for the afternoon.

Watch ARC’s Facebook page for more painting events throughout the year: www.facebook.com/saulttribeARC or visit www.arcsaulttribe.com for more information.



ARC’s SVS Cultural Healing Educator Grey Shea with her painting.



Participants sketched designs on the canvas before deciding on paint colors and picking up their brushes.



Employees recognized for years of service



Anishnaabek Community and Family Services staff that attended the luncheon.



Proud family - Jessica Smith, 20 years; Joseph Smith, 5 years; and Michael Smith, 20 years.



Angel LaVake, 5 years; Sherri O’Crotty, 10 years; Jill Thompson, 20 years; and Alicia Roy, 10 years.



Insurance Director Doug Goudreau, 5 years; Executive Assistant Heather Weber, 30 years; CFO Robert Schulte; Purchasing Manager Kara Reno, 20 years; and Bookkeeper Brenda Lipponen, 30 years.



Karen Smart, 15 years; and Stephanie Leask, 25 years.



Kewadin Manistique General Manager Lisa Fisher; Cindy Stephenson; Teara Smith, 5 years; Priscilla Brenner, 25 years; and Earl Stephenson, 5 years.



Corey Kangas, Jeremiah Shields, 15 years, Shawnda Kangas, and Kenneth Hiatt.



(L-R) Years of Service Workgroup members Rob Martens, Shelley Shelleby, Theresa Dalsky, and Anna Lawless.

March elder birthdays



Sault Tribe elders Brenda Cook, Lois Payment, and Judy Schwiderson celebrated March birthdays.



Kitchen and Banquet staff who worked at the event preparing and serving the luncheon. You can view all of the photos from the event by doing a Facebook search for: *Photos from Sault Tribe News Archives*.



SAULT TRIBE thrive

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

This business directory is intended to foster an empowered economy between Sault Tribe citizen-owned business, Sault Tribe enterprises, tribal businesses, and the global economy.

Sault Tribe Thrive's Business Directory is open to all Native/Indigenous entrepreneurs, artists, nonprofits, tribal governments, tribal colleges, and tribal enterprises throughout the Sault Tribe

service area and at large. Sault Tribe Thrive is proud to offer free basic business listings for all Sault Tribe citizen-owned businesses and Sault Tribe divisions, sub-divisions, and enterprises.

Sault Tribe Thrive reserves the right to review applications, request additional information before listing, and to refuse applications if they cannot be verified.

To be listed in the directory as a Native-owned business, you will be required to complete an intake form and provide the tribal file number from your tribal identification card. The intake form can be found by selecting "More Info" at www.saulttribe-thrive.com/business-development-2/.

Sault Tribe Thrive is an MBDA AIANNH Project estab-

lished in 2019, funded by the U.S. Department of Commerce's Minority Business Development Agency, with administrative support from the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. Sault Tribe Thrive provides business support to Sault Tribe citizen-owned businesses through outreach, advocacy, and business consultation initiatives.

To view the online business

directory, go to: www.saulttribe-thrive.com/business-directory/.

Connect with us in person at the Tamarack Business Center in Downtown Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. Find us online at Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram, and YouTube, or by email at info@saulttribethrive.com, or phone (906) 635-6050, ext. 26121.

Let's Connect!

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See "Directory," page 23

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Marie, MI 49783 (906) 632-8074 flowersautoservice@gmail.com Transportation</p> <p>Franks Place Dawn Bumstead Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 440-4457 dawn@franksplace.biz Food & Beverage</p> <p>Gitche Gumees Handcrafted Jewelry Gina Harman Newberry, MI 49868 (906)293-3625 ginavgc@gmail.com www.lakesuperiorpendants.com/index.php?page=Home Arts/Culture</p> <p>Gitchi Enterprises Todd Olmstead Sault Ste. 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Marie, MI 49783 (906) 647-2916 info@greatlakesroofing.com http://greatlakesroofing.com Construction</p> <p>Greene Environmental Services Mike Greene Livonia, MI 48154 (734) 272-8434 mgreene@greeneenvironmentalservices.com greeneenvironmentalservices.com Environmental</p> <p>Gus’ Gourmet Nuts Dustin Denkins Manistique, MI 49854 (906) 644-2548 dustin@denkins.net http://www.dustindenkins.com Food & Beverage</p> <p>Hakola Logging Tate Hakola Rudyard, MI 49780 (906) 440-0842 hakolaj@michigan.gov Environmental</p> <p>Hakola Porta John Service and Rental Tony Hakola Cedarville, MI 49719 906-430-8058 tonyhakola@hotmail.com www.hakolaportajohn.com Environmental</p> <p>Hand Trucking Andrew Garvin Mount Pleasant, TX 75455 (469) 403-5930 persevere12@yahoo.com Transportation</p> <p>Herbal Lodge Nathan Wright Petoskey, MI 49770 (231) 622-9063 native14u@yahoo.com www.herballodge.com Retail</p> <p>Hilltop Bar & Restaurant Brandon Mckerchie Sault Ste. 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Marie, MI 49783 (906) 748-1920</p>	<p>tysonhunt2019@gmail.com Janitorial Services</p> <p>Innes Welding & Repair David Innes Brimley, MI 49715 (906) 440-5364 thepropmaster@hotmail.com Manufacturing</p> <p>Irwin Group Mitch Irwin East Lansing, MI 48826 (517) 896 6875 irwinmitch@gmail.com Real Estate</p> <p>ISHPI Earl Bowers Suffolk, VA 23435 (757) 809-2302 info@ishpi.net http://ishpi.net InformationTechnology</p> <p>Iversons Outdoors Jim Baker Munising, MI 49862 (906) 452-6370 orders@iversonssnowshoes.com iversonssnowshoes.com Retail</p> <p>IvyTek Michael Griggs St. Johns, FL 32259-4453 (337) 212-0994 sandy@ivytek.com www.ivytek.com InformationTechnology</p> <p>JETA Corporation Linda Grow Neenah, WI 54957-0336 (920) 486-7072 sales@jetacorp.com http://jetacorp.com Shipping/Distribution</p> <p>Jose’s Cantina Allecia Gallo St. Ignace, MI 49781 (906) 984-2212 galloscantina906@gmail.com joses-cantina.business.site/ Food & Beverage</p> <p>Kewadin Casinos Allen Kerridge Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 1-800-539-2346 akerridge@saulttribe.net www.kewadin.com Hospitality</p> <p>Kings Fish Market Sally Schultz Naubinway, MI 49762 (906) 477-6311 benschultz3134@gmail.com Farming/Fishing</p> <p>Kristi Harwood-Causley State Farm Insurance Kristi Harwood-Causley Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 635 5377 kristi@teamkristi.com www.teamkristi.com Insurance</p> <p>LaJoie Truck Service & Fabrication Marty Lajoie Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 647-3209 ltsf1@yahoo.com www.facebook.comprofile.php?id=100088037838388 Transportation</p> <p>Lockview Restaurant Amy Goetz Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 632-2772 lockview2019@gmail.com www.thelockviewrestaurant.net/ Food & Beverage</p>	<p>Long Ships Motel Scott Albion Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 632-2422 scotty_joce@yahoo.com Hospitality</p> <p>Ludington Outdoor Services Caleb Bowman Ludington, MI 49431 (231) 690-1002 calebbowman1982@gmail.com Environmental</p> <p>M&M Fisheries Lynn Rickley St. Ignace, MI 49781 (734) 516-6536 lynnrickley63@gmail.com Farming/Fishing</p> <p>Mackinaw Trail Winery & Brewery Laurie Stabile Petoskey, MI 49970 (231) 487-1910 stabilelaurie@gmail.com www.mackinawtrailwinery.com Food & Beverage</p> <p>Manleys Famous Smoked Fish Don Wright St. Ignace, MI 49781 (906) 643-8930 dwright@clmcaa.com www.facebook.comManleysfish-market/ Farming/Fishing</p> <p>Mark & Sons Plumbing and Heating Lewis Mullins St. Ignace, MI 49781 (906) 643-9597 markandsonsph@gmail.com Utilities</p> <p>Marshalls Income Tax Service Stan Marshall Levering, MI 49755 (231) 537-4822 stantmarshall@gmail.com Financial Services</p> <p>Massey Fish Company Jamie Massey Sr. St. Ignace, MI 49781 (906) 984-2148 masseysfish@gmail.com http://www.masseyfish.com Farming/Fishing</p> <p>Masta Performance Daniel Masta Milford, MI 48380 (248) 685-8710 mastaperformance@gmail.com www.mastaperformance.com Manufacturing</p> <p>Matsons Fisheries Katy Matson Munising, MI 49862 (906) 202-0025 matsonfish@yahoo.com Farming/Fishing</p> <p>McCabes Quality Flooring William/Bill McCabe Marquette, MI 49855 (906) 228-8821 mccabesflooring@aol.com www.mccabesflooring.com Construction</p> <p>McGahey Construction Randall McGahey Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 440-6305 ashmuncreek@sbcglobal.net kyle-mcgahey-g7ez.squarespace.com Construction</p> <p>MCS Flooring Sonja McLeod Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 440-7702</p>	<p>mcsflooringsm@gmail.com Construction</p> <p>Medical Arts Optical Melanie Cook Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 632-2289 melaniebea@aol.com www.melaniecookhearingaids.com Healthcare</p> <p>Mesick Market Carl Brasseur Mesick, MI 49668 (231) 342-4245 Retail</p> <p>Midjim Convenience Stores Jamie MacDonald Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 635-4782 jmacdonald@saulttribe.net www.saulttribe.comenterprises/midjim Retail</p> <p>Midway General Store Erica Kemeny Wetmore, MI 49895 (919) 621-8998 kemenyerica@gmail.com Retail</p> <p>Mikes Garage Mike Cook Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 635-5755 mikemike1962@hotmail.com http://mikes-garage-sault-ste-marie.edan.io/ Transportation</p> <p>MI Playground Nick Behling Jensen, MI 49428 (616) 201-8731 nick@enjoymiplayground.com enjoymiplayground.com Media/Entertainment</p> <p>Molly’s Nest Robin Pavia St. Ignace, MI 49781 (906) 298-1633 gardensbymollysnest@yahoo.com Farming/Fishing</p> <p>Moofinfries Laura Flatt Naubinway, MI 49762 (906) 630-6932 moofinfries@gmail.com www.facebook.commoofinfries Food & Beverage</p> <p>Moore Trosper Construction Ted Moore Holt, MI 48842 (517) 694-6310 tmoore@mooretrosper.com http://mooretrosper.com Construction</p> <p>Mountainside Apartments Marijo Beckman Boyne Falls, MI 49713 (231) 330-1992 mjbeckman1@gmail.com www.mountainsidegrille-boyne.com Real Estate</p> <p>Mountainside Grille Marijo Beckman Boyne Falls, MI 49713 (231) 330-1992 mountainsidegrille@hotmail.com www.mountainsidegrille-boyne.com Food & Beverage</p> <p>Mullenbrock & Associates Craig Mullenbrock Piqua, OH 45356 (937) 773-8500 cmullenbrock@woh.rr.com <i>See “Directory,” page 24</i></p>
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From “Directory,” page 23
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Financial Services

Muscotts Painting
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Construction

National Painting Contractors
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Construction

Native American Church of
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Manufacturing

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Personal Care Services

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Consulting

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Environmental

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Environmental

Pemble Concrete Coatings
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Construction

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Arts/Culture

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Construction

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Business Services

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Construction

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Manufacturing

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Recreation

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Food & Beverage

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Retail

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See “Directory, page 30

Tribal chairman reports to the membership



AUSTIN LOWES
TRIBAL CHAIRMAN

Aaniin,

I'd like to begin my unit report by thanking our team members for the tireless work they do. I recently had the opportunity to meet several hundred of them at the Sault Tribe Employee Recognition Luncheon. This event takes place every year to show our appreciation for long-term Sault Tribe employees.

Working for the tribe isn't always easy, so I would like to thank our employees for their years of services, dedication, and the sacrifices they've made along the way. I'd also like to congratulate Chris Goetz for being recognized as Kewadin Casino's Employee of the Year. Job well done, Chris!

I'd now like to discuss our homeless shelter. As most of the membership knows, this project is particularly important to me. As a board member, I authored the resolution that led to the shelter's purchase. As a social worker, this project is vital to me because Native Americans are disproportionately impacted by homelessness. I'm excited to announce that the shelter has the goal of officially opening early this summer. This shelter will be available to any Sault Tribe member in the United States.

I would like to thank Pat McKelvie for accepting the case manager position for the shel-

ter. This position will link the shelter's residents to services to address the underlying causes of their housing insecurity. Pat worked for the tribe for many years in our court and social service agency (ACFS). Pat came out of retirement to work for the shelter, which will have such a positive impact on our Tribal community. We are fortunate to have someone as dedicated as Pat working in the program.

I'd now like to thank the volunteers who helped me pick up trash at our reservation in Sault Ste. Marie. Every year, garbage blows to the tree line surrounding our reservation, causing it to become stuck there. Several volunteers helped me pick up garbage this year. We concentrated our efforts around the Big Bear and collected several hundred pounds of garbage. We did so in the rain, which makes the volunteers' efforts even more impressive. Miigwech for your hard work!

Two major challenges our tribe is facing include the financial difficulties caused by the JLLJ lawsuit, and ongoing issues with our elections. Although we successfully negotiated the JLLJ lawsuit from an \$88 million judgment into a \$25-30 million settlement, this will have a lasting impact on our tribe. Our businesses will need to be evaluated to determine how they can become more profitable. Our golf courses are a prime example of this. I was never in support of purchasing them. For what they cost, the tribe could have purchased all the vacant land in Chippewa County, including vacant land on Sugar Island. Our restaurants, which lose money each year, are also in this category. With our current financial situation, having non-profitable businesses is no longer an option.

I'd now like to remind the board of something: just because you were elected does not mean

you are an expert. As the chairman of the tribe, this applies to me as well. We all need to be humble and remember our strengths, weaknesses, and the limits of our knowledge. We hire professionals to make recommendations to our board. Unless there is a good reason to disagree with them, we should be siding with our experts. We do not need board members of years past, who pretended to be business savvy. The actions of previous boards' resulted in the JLLJ lawsuit and Greektown bankruptcy. That level of business incompetency will impact the next Seven Generations. If you disagree, ask yourself how many houses, scholarships, and services could have been purchased with the tens of millions of dollars we lost in those business deals. It is truly staggering.

I'll end things by discussing our elections. The Special Advisory Election that just ended was ripe with errors. The Election Committee missed deadlines, did not follow its mandated schedule, and ballots were mailed early — which I consider to have been a deliberate act. In the election immediately prior to this, the committee weaponized itself by issuing unprecedented fines without due process and "violations" were then plastered all over the tribe's newspaper and website.

This led to our appellate court describing actions by the Election Committee to be "arbitrary and capricious abuse." Let me repeat that: our appellate court considered the actions of the Election Committee to be "ABUSE." Although we now have a mostly new Election Committee, clearly more work needs to be done. Until corrections can be made to guarantee that our elections follow code, I support a private firm handling our elections with oversight from the tribe. Enough is enough.

Austin Lowes, Chairman



Volunteers helped Chairman Austin Lowes pick up trash at the reservation in Sault Ste. Marie. Every year, garbage blows to the tree line surrounding our reservation, causing it to become stuck there. They collected several hundred pounds of garbage in the rain.



Director Hampton reports to Unit IV members



KIMBERLY HAMPTON,
DIRECTOR, UNIT IV

Aniin kina waya (hello everybody).

As I am writing this month's update, I have been busy preparing for the first Niiwin Noodin Powwow scheduled for June 10, 2023 in Manistique. I have also been working on preparing gardens at my home to help provide for my family. The increasing sunshine and nicer days are a welcome change. I hope you all are taking some time to get out-

doors.

On May 2, 2023 the first Russell Jensen Native Leadership Traditions Scholarship was awarded to a Career and Technical Education student at the Manistique High School in the amount of \$500. I had created this scholarship in honor of my great grandfather, Russell Jensen, to provide a scholarship amount to a student who has demonstrated the ability to lead in some, or all, of the Native American Grandfather Teachings that were practiced by Russell Jensen himself. It was an honor to present this scholarship to a young man who is pursuing a career in welding. Congratulations to this student.

Katchup with Kim

During the end of February 2023, I started holding Zoom meetings called "Katchup with Kim" as an avenue for our Tribal membership, within Unit 4 as well as any of our Units including at-large members, to converse with myself and hold discussions regarding upcoming resolutions, ideas members have for our



The first Russell Jensen Native Leadership Traditions Scholarship was awarded.

Tribe, and current issues. I openly welcome anyone to attend these Zoom meetings as change will take a Tribe. Below is the Zoom meeting schedule with Meeting ID and Password:

Thursday, May 25, 2023, at 7 p.m. EST; Meeting ID: 906 440 8138; Password: KimHampton
Thursday, June 8, 2023, at 7

p.m. EST; Meeting ID: 906 440 8138; Password: KimHampton

Powwow Meetings

Unit 4 will have a 2023 Niiwin Noodin (Four Winds) Powwow on Saturday, June 10, 2023, with a Ceremony Opening and talking circle, the evening of Friday, June 9, 2023. In the next couple of months, everyone is encour-

aged to "like" the Niiwin Noodin Powwow Facebook page to keep updated on progress and to find contact information regarding vendors and additional information. A huge Miigwech to everyone who has been involved in planning this event. I appreciate you all.

Meetings, open to the public, scheduled for the Niiwin Noodin Powwow Committee are located at the Manistique Tribal Health Center, 5698W US Highway 2, Manistique, MI on the following dates:

May 15 at 5 p.m. EST

June 5 at 5 p.m. EST

Unit 4 Elder Meetings

I encourage our tribal elders to attend elder meetings to become involved as well as stay updated on what our elder committees are working on.

The next meeting in Marquette, which is a combination of Units 4 and 5, will be Thursday, June 1, 5:30 p.m. EST at the Holiday Inn in Marquette

The next meeting in Manistique will be held June 14
See "Hampton," page 26

JLLJ case should have been in federal court



**DARCY MORROW,
DIRECTOR, UNIT IV**

I apologize for not writing a unit report for a few months. At times, I just can't bring myself to report the ignorance that is going on. Let's start with the \$88 million judgment against us for the investors of our downstate casino projects in state court. The tribe is a sovereign nation and we do not go to state court. What should have been done was we filed for an injunction by the federal government. This case should have been heard in federal court! So instead, the majority agreed to pay a lesser amount to the investors. We should not have had to pay anything. The project was to be fronted by investors and when we opened the downstate casinos then they were to be repaid. Do you see any new casinos downstate? Because I don't! When you have inexperienced people that are afraid to fight for our sovereignty this is what you get! How

embarrassing selling out our sovereignty.

Betty had a resolution on the agenda to cut the board members' salary in half. But she kept her nephew Austin's wage the same at \$100,000. Betty can cut her pay at any time. This was just another political game that they play to get members riled up and take their focus off the real issues going on. Betty sat there during the meeting and complained about the Zoom meetings and some board members not attending in person. Since I have been on the board, I have always saved the tribe money. In the past, my fellow Unit 4 rep and Unit 5 reps would meet and ride to the Sault together for our safety on the road at night and to save tribal dollars. Many organizations were using Zoom for years, we just got with the times because of the pandemic. I will continue to use Zoom to save tribal support dollars for services.

Now the new board is saying the election was illegal. Why? Because whoever they wanted to win didn't get the majority vote — Joanne Carr did! Their reasoning is because the ballots were mailed out early. Are they serious? This affected all candidates equally. In actuality, it gave all candidates more time for their constituents to send their ballots back in. There are still outstanding complaints and issues from the last 2022 election. But that just got swept under the rug because it was what they wanted. The committee had a resolution

in front of this very board for a special prosecutor to be hired for all the illegal things that took place in the 2022 election. And they voted it down. I and other board members added the same resolution to the agenda to hire a separate prosecutor and again it was voted down time and time again. WHY?

And their other complaint is that Joanne Carr's immediate family member who is a member of the Election Committee (30-plus years) participated in counting ballots. They had no problem when Isaac McKechnie's immediate family member was counting ballots in his election in 2022. And I believe that immediate family member was the one who found an extra ballot in an envelope at the recount, which put Isaac ahead of Kim Gravelle for the win. Let's talk about the questionable. Kim Gravelle requested a hand count after the 2022 elections because it was a one vote difference after the ballot was found in an envelope and that was not done either. So, pick and choose when you want to use the Code to your favor.

I am sorry to report that the casino revenue for the last two years has been only \$5 million. We have always received \$17 Million from the casino for services. The last two years, the tribe has used revenue replacement dollars to cover the lost revenue not brought in by the casino. What does that mean going forward? When the revenue replacement dollars are exhausted this

year, the tribe will start to feel the negative effects. Will there be cuts? Will programs and services be cut? These are serious questions! And before this new board keeps spending money like water, they should be looking at how we can afford to keep the programs we have!

Austin took it upon himself to put a resolution on the agenda at the last board meeting to add another reserve appellate court judge when all positions had been filled. This individual did not get picked from the selection committee to be a reserve appellate judge. So, this person complained to Austin, and he made up a resolution to add this person as a reserve appellate judge. I was the only NO vote. So now you can pick and choose after the committee did not select the person. This is the way our tribe is going to be governed now, why bother with a committee to pick. Just let the board pick their friends and family. The membership wanted a change; you got it. Now you must live with it.

I attended the employee appreciation luncheon May 3 in the Sault. There were 194 employees recognized at the luncheon starting from 5 years of service up to 35 years of service. It was nice to see all the team members from all the other sites. Congratulations to everyone! Thank you to Mukkwa Giizhik Drum from Hessel for doing honor songs. I would also like to thank the committee who organized the event and the casino banquets staff who catered the meal. Everything was wonderful.

On May 5, we raised awareness and honored our missing and

murdered Indigenous women and girls. On this day, I especially honor and celebrate my beautiful cousin Sidney (Neadow) Szewczyk. She was taken from us at the young age of 28. Not a day goes by we don't think about and miss her.

Indian Pointe Cemetery clean up in Nahma, Mich., will be held on May 20 starting at 11 a.m. Please bring your lawn chair and rake. The casino will bring drinks and lunch as always. I hope to see you there.

I encourage each Sault Tribe member to start attending board workshops and meetings either in person or via Zoom. Here is the link: www.saulttribe.com/membership-services/membership-assistance. You just need to fill out the form and verify you are a Sault Tribe member, and they will email you the meeting link. You can use the same link each time to attend the workshops and meetings. I think if more members were aware of what is really going on you would be more vocal and start asking hard questions. Don't leave it up to the few tribal members that have been vocal and critical all along, please get involved. To sign up to participate go to the Sault Tribe's website; sign up for the Zoom link and then you will receive the invite to board workshops and meetings.

As always, if you have any questions, or just want to chat, feel free to call me.

Thank you,
Darcy Morrow
Unit IV Representative
dmorrow@saulttribe.net
(906) 298-1888

Lee reports to membership



**KIMBERLY LEE,
DIRECTOR, UNIT II**

Aanii,

The snow has gone away for the season. As the blanket lying over mother earth comes out of hibernation, new signs of life appear around us. I spotted a robin recently with a worm in its grasp. Nature's genuinely inspiring reminder about life, the obligations of instincts, and the energy it puts out. Let it remind us of how, with every season, comes opportunity. Keep looking for the signs of new growth in nature and life. They are all around us!

At the last elder meeting I attended, we went into great depth about some of the pains we, as a tribe, are going through. They had great questions about why I had chosen specific directions, and more importantly, they shared their wisdom and concerns about recovering as a tribe from

our recent fallback. I value their insight. Moving forward, I can assure my elders and all members that as I continue to learn and grow in culture, wisdom, knowledge, and tribal government. Our past, present, and future best interests are always at the forefront.

I also asked about telemedicine at a past meeting and if anyone has had the chance to utilize this service yet. It was great to hear that a handful of our elders had taken the opportunity, and everyone had an excellent experience. The pressure for some, not having to travel great distances to get to appointments, especially in the winter, relieved stress. The grand opening for the DeTour clinic is on the 19th of this month. I hope to see some of you there.

We have been gathering to discuss goals in Unit 2; this has been productive. We have an upcoming meeting this week to bring some ideas to fruition.

I attended my first Tribal Action Plan meeting and look forward to participating in this initiative, moving forward as a tribe in what we can do to combat addiction. We heard many great ideas and plans that are already in place. It takes a team of dedicated individuals in any committee to realize these visions. There will be future opportunities for volunteers to come alongside this committee. Chi Miigwech for

showing up and allowing me to join this team.

We must continue researching and looking for solutions to evolve and strengthen everything our ancestors and elders worked so hard to hold on to. We must all have significant patience and try to understand all perspectives and values with the reminder that we can only get somewhere if we, as a tribal nation, work together. I will remain collected at the board table.

Many have reached out about the election issues at hand. This will likely need further enactment at the board level. This may be of unfavored disposition. Allowing the individuals in place to follow through with their duties is essential. I will support the intervention decisions if necessary. We know changes need to be placed to the Election Code. This must be performed determinedly to implement these changes for the security, efficiency, and future of our tribe.

Our nation needs to stick together more than ever. We all have suffered or know someone with loneliness, depression, anxiety, abuse, addiction, or generational trauma. Healing begins with us. May we revive the path of compassion for one another's physical and mental well-being. Miigwech, for your time.

Kimberly Lee
Klee@Saulttribe.net
(906) 379-8965

From "Hampton," page 25 —

at 12 p.m. EST at the Manistique Tribe Center.

The next meeting in Escanaba will be held June 14 at 5 p.m. at the Delta County Chamber Building.

April Activities

New Mechanism Creation In Progress: On March 14, I had an item on our workshop agenda regarding mechanisms to provide employees a means of having a process for complaints against members of the Board of Directors. Directors are elected officials, so currently there is nothing in place to allow an employee, or key employee, the ability to file a complaint against a Director. The necessary resolutions, policies and procedures for such a mechanism will take some time to develop and get approved at a Board of Directors meeting. I want our membership to be assured that I will continue the creation and implementation of such a mechanism in order to provide due process for employees as well as Directors. I will provide updates throughout this process.

Tribal Homeland Security Advisory Council (THSAC): I and the rest of THSAC are working on creating collaborative work groups to begin addressing the issues that affect Indian Country. There is information I am not authorized to release regarding the THSAC, at this time, but what I can share is that we are working as a collaborative group of various Tribal leaders on priorities to help protect and advocate for all Tribal nations. I will provide updates and share information as I am able to.

Manistique Fitness Center and Escanaba Community Center: Roy Ness Contracting has been chosen to be the contractor for both projects. Director Morrow and myself have been working very closely with the engineers and contractors to ensure these projects are progressing smoothly. Both the Escanaba community center and the Manistique Fitness Center have begun the building process. The Manistique community and the Escanaba community need these projects completed in order to work toward the betterment of our Tribe.

Meetings Attended:

Gaming Authority Meeting-April 6
JKL Fiduciary Committee Meetings: April 18, April 25
TAP Meeting: April 20
Headstart Advisory Committee: April 26

Looking Forward

Chi Miigwech for allowing me to represent and advocate for our Members. I am always available for questions, comments, and ideas for growth. My number is (906) 440-8138, email is KHampton@saulttribe.net. Kimberly Hampton, Unit 4 Representative.

Tribe must hire outside firm to conduct elections



ROBERT MCRORIE
DIRECTOR, UNIT 1

Aaniin, Boozhoo, to all of my fellow Sault Tribe members. Like always, it is an honor to represent you in our sovereign nation's government. I hope my report finds you and families in good health and spirit. I pray for the health and safety of each of you daily.

This month, I have been working on some projects that I feel will benefit our tribe and people in the future. I have also participated in multiple committees and community functions to help move our tribe's future projects and events forward, which I will touch on in this report.

Unfortunately, I must start by addressing my continued concerns with the Election Committee and the process in which our elections are conducted. More specifically, but not limited to, the manner in which the most recent Special Advisory Election was conducted. During the May 2 Board of Directors meeting I stated, "This election was illegal from the moment the Election Committee failed to announce the Special Advisory Election within three days of the Unit 1 Board of Directors seat

declaration of vacancy."

I stand by this statement.

This obligation is written in tribal code, which is law. The code states that the election committee "shall" announce the election timeline within three days of the seat being declared vacant. This did not happen. In fact, it took 13 days. There is nothing in code that grants the Election Committee the authority to waive this mandate. There is also nothing in code that grants the board the authority to ignore this code violation. This election should have been voided at that point, due to non-compliance with tribal code. Ballots were also mailed nearly two weeks prior to the scheduled date of mailing announced by the Election Committee. This created an extremely unfair process as candidates were unaware of the early mailing. I will not support an unfair election process. During the count, a family member of one of the candidates was counting ballots. This is also strictly forbidden in the code. We are a nation with codes and laws for a reason and they must be upheld.

I will state once again, as I have many times for many years, we must move to a professional unbiased firm to conduct our elections. We must separate the court's authority from board intervention, then delegate all election complaint and contests to the courts to determine. Until this happens, I have zero faith that we will have a fair election process. This board must take corrective action. To not do so, in my opinion, is neglect to uphold our oaths of office to uphold our own codes and laws.

On a more positive note, it was an absolute honor to attend

our 2023 Employee Recognition Luncheon. This is a lunch and ceremony to recognize, honor, and appreciate all of our hard-working, long-term team members. It was amazing to see how many have stayed dedicated to working for our great sovereign nation. There were so many who have been with us for 5 to 35 years. This workforce truly is the backbone of our nation. Because of them and their labor many youth, elders, and families receive crucial services that enhance the quality of life for many of our members. They could work anywhere else but choose to dedicate their time and work to their tribe. For this we cannot thank them enough. Chi migwech team, you are greatly and genuinely appreciated.

I would like to take a moment to thank each and every member of our Child Welfare Committee. This is an extremely tough committee to sit on. Since I have begun serving on this committee, I have gained a much greater appreciation for our amazing staff at ACFS, case workers, and all of the loving families who step up to ensure the safety of Sault Tribe children. My goal is to work with the committee to bring recommended code changes forward that will strengthen our tribal law to further protect the best interest of every child in the system. They deserve strong advocates and the right to be protected by their tribe. I also believe granting our Sault Tribe Court the jurisdiction to hear and determine child custody cases, and will assist in furthering these protections.

It was an honor to be invited to sit on our tribe's Powwow Committee. This past month, I was able to sit in on their

meeting. It was great to see the excitement in the room and listen to the ideas those planning the ceremonies came up with. It has been years since I've seen this kind of enthusiasm and interest among our people when it comes to culture. Miigwech to the staff of the Culture Department, who have really stepped it up in planning and promoting community events. I expect this year's powwow to be one of the largest we've seen in many years. It will also be held in conjunction with Sault Tribe's Grand Assembly to celebrate 50 years of federal recognition.

The Head Start Advisory Council met this month and was updated on the schedule for staff training for the upcoming school year. Staffing continues to be the main concern in this department; however, the issue is not isolated to this department only. It is an issue we are dealing with tribal wide. I do believe we need to take a serious look at the wage grid to prioritize an increase in wages for teachers' aides, lead instructors, and all other support staff within the department. The stability of our tribe's future is dependent on the investment we make into our childcare programs today. We cannot afford to miss the mark in this area. We have too many children in need of high-quality education to simply not be able to fill the positions to deliver on this. This is an amazing program to work for with an equally amazing team. Please help spread the word and encourage someone with a big heart to apply today.

I was invited to speak at the Sault Tribe Murdered or Missing Indigenous Relatives Event on May 5, which was also approved to be an official tribal holiday, by the Board of Directors, in remembrance of victims, those we've lost, survivors, and family members of all affected by the genocidal violence committed on our people.

Native Americans across Indian Country are disproportionately affected by violence. The 2019 "Not Invisible Act," and the 2020 "Savanah's Act"

were major steps forward in the fight to protect Indigenous people from violence, murder, and abduction, but we still have a lot of work to do and we will not back down until all of our people are safe. As many know, this issue is very personal to me as my mom was murdered by a non-Indigenous man in 2007. I will continue to stand with our people and strongly advocate to the federal government and insist they uphold their trust obligations to our people in this area. Non-compliance will be viewed as a breach of this trust responsibility. Our people deserve equal protections under federal law.

One of my main areas of focus this month will be to advocate for our members living in Kinross. This is an area that is consistently under serviced by our tribe. We have nearly 800 members living in Kinross. I will be attending township meetings as well as meeting with the staff from the recreation center of Kinross. It is very important to assist the township in promoting community development opportunities. We must have a tribal presence in Kinross.

I will also be focusing on developing the framework for a Sault Tribe Environmental Protection Committee. I feel this is extremely important because we have many areas such as recycling, assessing chemicals used on our sovereign soil, and enterprises that are commingling with companies still affiliated with Enbridge. To me, this is unacceptable. A committee of members who are passionate about protecting Mother Earth is long overdue. As Indigenous people, we have an inherent obligation to protect Mother Earth (Aki). We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from future generations, and it is our job to protect it.

As always, it is my honor to serve you in this capacity. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions you may have or ideas that you would like brought to the board's attention.

Chi Miigwech,
Director McRorie

Still, an Army of one!



BETTY FREIHEIT,
DIRECTOR, UNIT 1

Hello Tribal Members,

I have long advocated for accountability in tribal board wages and compensation. I recently placed a resolution on the agenda to lower board wages. It died on the table without even a board vote, because no board member would second it. So, clearly board do not want to lower their wages, and do not want members to see them for no.

The two prior attempts I made to reduce board wages were also defeated by the board. Killing a resolution by allowing it to die on the table eliminates any possibility of discussion. And this is an issue that merits board discussion.

I am not opposed to paying board a reasonable wage based on work product.

The problem is that the duties of board members remain undefined. What actual work do board perform? The board set their own wage based on criteria that was never made known to the members.

Our Constitution lists only two duties for board members, to attend monthly board meetings and do a monthly update to members. These two duties alone do not justify paying board over \$67,000 per year plus benefits.

When board set the current wage, they justify it on the basis of claiming that being on the board was a full-time job. This was not true then, and it's not true now. Several board members have outside full-time jobs as well as being on the board. This is not to suggest that these board do any less work that those board without outside jobs. The issue is there is no consistency. If the current wage was set based on the board being full-time and it is not, should that wage continue? What should be a fair wage for part-time board members?

But before a wage can be set, we really need to defined the role and duties of the board. Board

have never defined their duties. In the absence of any real board job description board have tended to become "managers," attempting to direct the operations of the tribe. But we have staff to do that.

Staff perform the work to manage the day-to-day operations of the tribe. The majority of resolutions board act on in meetings are prepared by staff, who then brief the board on the content before meetings. Likewise, all grants are written by staff.

So, what is or should be the role of the board? I believe board should function as the legislative body of the tribe. Amending codes, and the Constitution, lobbying at the state and federal levels, writing laws and providing board oversight over the tribe to ensure compliance with policy and procedures.

I am sure other board have similar or different ideas of board roles. We need to define what our duties are, with member input, and then set appropriate wage.

As always in closing, take care of yourself and your family. Help your neighbor anytime you can, and please take care of our Elders.

Betty F. Freiheit, Unit 1
Director, bfreiheit@saulttribe.net
(906) 379-8745



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McKechnie presents key resolutions for review



ISAAC MCKECHNIE
DIRECTOR, UNIT I

Aaniin, Boozhoo! I am humbled and honored by your support and will do my best to communicate with you and communicate your concerns. In the last general election your voices were heard across our community, I will do my best to communicate with everyone, get all sides of an issue, and make the best decisions to move us forward together.

We won't always agree on everything, but we can do a much better job of communicating why decisions are made and keep an open mind, an open heart, and an open dialogue. I thought it was important to reflect on things that we have addressed since we were elected, so I summarized the some of the key resolutions for your review.

#202: Authorizing the Development of a SSBCI Application — The board authorized and approved the development of a SSBCI Capital Program application, including the required letter of designation and all other related materials and documents to accompany the application, to be brought forward to the board within 90 days for review and consideration. The board also authorized the negotiation of a services agreement with Development Capital Networks to assist in the preparation of the SSBCI Capital Program application and to assist with the implementation and management of the associated programs as a contracted entity under the terms of the SSBCI Capital Program.

#219: Authorization to Negotiate and Purchase 3901 I-75 Business Spur, Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., Property Acquisition (Homeless Shelter) — The board authorizes Sault Tribe Inc.'s CEO or his designee, to negotiate the purchase of the property: TIN: 051-063-026-00, not to exceed the agreed upon terms. Upon successful negotiations, the board authorizes the chairman or his designee to sign any documentation to complete the purchase using ARPA funds as determined by the CFO.

#225: Commitment Towards Indigenous Food Sovereignty — This resolution states: The tribe understands the health of a community is directly tied to its relation to the land and to the food that is produced, consumed, and shared amongst the membership; and the reentry of indigenous foods into the diet of the community have deep health benefits at the nutritional, mental, and spiritual level; and an Indigenous

Food Sovereignty Committee can serve in an advisory role to the board to make recommendations regarding future programming. The tribe shall establish an Indigenous Food Sovereignty Committee, which will consist of 12 Sault Tribe members, who will apply to the board to fill committee vacancies. The committee is encouraged to coordinate with tribal departments and other institutions that are relevant to the mission of food sovereignty. The Indigenous Food Sovereignty Committee is provided full support from the board and is authorized to serve in an advisory role.

#227: Rescinding all Prior Key Employee Resolutions Replacing with Key Employee List — Previous lists of Key Team Members in prior resolutions was repealed, and the following are the only key employees of the tribe: CEO of the casinos, CFO of the tribe and casino, general counsel of the tribe, Gaming commissioner, chief judge of the tribe, director of the Health Division, board secretary, executive director of the tribe, and the EDC director. (The purpose of this resolution was reducing the number of key employees).

#228: Amending Chapter 10, Subchapter II, Special Advisory Elections — Article VI, Section 2 of the Constitution provides that the Board of Directors shall, by majority vote, fill vacancies on the Board of Directors by appointment of a voting Member to fill the unexpired term of the departed official. The Board of Directors has determined to conduct Special Advisory Elections to assist it in performing its responsibilities under Article VI. The purpose of this Subchapter is to establish procedures for conducting Special Advisory Elections. The regulations and procedures contained in this Chapter shall be administered in such a way as to accomplish this purpose and intent.

#253: Authorization to negotiate Marquette, Mich., property acquisition — The board authorized negotiation to purchase the property and business located at 301 W. Fair Avenue, Marquette, Mich., using funds from the Midjims and tribal enterprises. (Purchase of this resolution was twofold, extend gas discounts and expand our business portfolio).

#259: Contract approval, Meritain Health (an Aetna Company) and Delta Dental — Approved for a period of two years with an effective date of Jan. 1, 2023. (Employee health-care renewal).

#260: Amending Resolution 2005-130, Employee/Employer Health Insurance Premium Division, Employees Who Make Under \$40,000 Annually — The board approved an amendment to Resolution 2005-130, and authorized the Insurance Department to amend the employer's portion of health insurance premiums to increase the annual wage division point such that reduced rates will be available for those people with wages under \$40,000 annually. The division of employees by pay rate was last set by resolution in 2005, with lower rates for those making under \$30,000 per year;

since that time, wages, along with the cost of living and inflation has gone up, with this adjustment health insurance premiums will be lower for a greater number of tribal employees.

#261: Approving Amendments to Vision Benefits — The tribe currently provides vision insurance and benefits to its employees administered in two-year periods and has determined it is in the tribe's best interests to amend the current employee vision benefit plan, including a change for the vision benefit plan to be administered in one-year periods. The board approved amendments to the vision insurance and benefit plan for tribal employees, including the new Vision Schedule of Benefits practices.

#287: Terminating Board of Directors' Retirement Income Plan — The board authorized the termination of the Retirement Income Plan for Directors. Any participant or beneficiary already receiving benefits or eligible to receive benefits from the Retirement Income Plan will not have their benefits decreased or eliminated due to the termination of the plan; and any current board member will not be entitled to further accrual or vesting of retirement plan benefits after the end of the current calendar year.

#291: Rescinding Board of Directors Resolution No. 2022-291 — The board determined that Resolution No. 2022-90, authorizing a sole source award to Binesi Contracting LLC, was not consistent with tribal and federal law governing procurement of construction services. Resolution No. 202290 was rescinded in its entirety, allowing future retainment of Binesi Contracting LLC for construction management services to be done in compliance with tribal and, if applicable, federal law.

#337: Approve application for National Tribal Broadband grant — The board supports and recommends the submission of the National Tribal Broadband Grant within U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Office of Economic Development.

#338: Authorizing the submission of materials for SSBCI capital and technical assistance application — The board authorized and approved the submission of a letter of designation for the Capital and Technical allocation. (Purpose of this resolution is to extend fiber/internet to the homes of our members).

#342: Authorization to negotiate, Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., property and inventory disposition — The board authorized the Sault Tribe Inc. CEO to negotiate the sale of the real property, personal property, and inventory, located at 827 Ashmun Street (Northern Hospitality lost hundreds of thousands of dollars over multiple years of being in business).

#353: Adopting Tribal Code Chapter 102: Non-Profit Ordinance — The board approved the establishment of a tribal ordinance to allow non-profit business entities to be organized under tribal law, rather than state law, to promote the tribe's sovereignty and self-determination.

The Non-Profit Ordinance was established as Chapter 102 of the Tribal Code. (Purpose of this resolution is to develop a non-profit arm of the tribe to be able to receive donations).

#354: Exception to temporary hold on ARPA fund projects — The board authorized that projects to include Units II, III, and IV that were previously approved are authorized to proceed with continued development of the projects. (Purpose of this resolution was to get a handle on these projects and to verify if we were following state, federal and tribal regulations).

#17: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development FY 2022 Indian Housing Block Grant Program, competitive grant application — The board authorized the Sault Tribe Housing Authority director to develop and submit an application requesting \$7.5 million for the FY 2022 Indian Housing Block Grant P Competitive (FR-6600-N-48).

#23: Clarifying 401(k) employer contributions — Questions have arisen as to the final percentages or determinations of employer contribution percentages following the approval of Resolution No. 2022-306 and the board wishes to clarify the current authorized employer contributions under the Plan. Resolution No. 2022-306 amended the Plan to change the 3% discretionary employer contribution created under Resolution No. 2021-122 into a 3% mandatory employer contribution into the Plan where all employees over the age of 18 automatically receive an annual 3% employer contribution, without any discretionary contribution requirement, after an employee has been with the tribe for at least one year of employment and completed 1,000 hours of service. The board clarifies that Resolution No. 2022-306 did not negate or affect the 1% match to the Plan, contingent upon the employee contributing 1%, as authorized under Resolution No. 2017-08. The combination of the currently authorized employer's contributions includes the 3% mandatory contribution, and 1% discretionary contribution, totaling a potential 4% employer contribution each year for employees over the age of 18 who have been with the tribe for at least one year of employment and completed 1,000 hours of service.

#24: Rescinding resolutions 2021-280 and 2022-84 and ARPA fund appropriation for Unit I for affordable housing — The board previously appropriated \$11 million of approved American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds via Resolutions 2021-280 and 2022-84 to enable Demawating Development to execute the Market Based Housing Development; the board now wants the project to be overseen by Sault Tribe Housing Authority (STHA), and rescinded Resolutions 2021-280 and 2022-84. A tribal enterprise named Odenaang Homes Tribal Enterprise will be created to execute Affordable Housing Development (AHD) in place

of Demawating Development. Odenaang Homes Tribal Enterprise will be managed by the STHA. The board reappropriated the \$11 million of Unit I approved ARPA funds initially appropriated to Demawating Development to Odenaang Homes Tribal Enterprise to be managed by STHA in order to accomplish the AHD. The board also authorized STHA to establish a budget for the AHD. (The purpose of this resolution was to change the status from market-based housing to tribal housing).

#047: Approval and enactment of remote work policy — The board approved and enacted the proposed Remote Work Policy to be included in the tribe's Human Resource Policy Manuals for the tribe's governmental, casinos, and enterprises, effective Jan. 17, 2023.

#051: Approval and authorization of tribe's COVID-19 Fishery Participant Assistance Program — The board approved the COVID-19 Fishery Participant Assistance Program offering financial assistance to eligible commercial and subsistence fishers that meet the criteria of the Program in Resolution 2022-271. The board authorized the distribution of \$506,644.75 for cultural/ceremonial, spear, and subsistence to the Great Lakes subsistence fishers that engaged in subsistence fishing in 2020, to be evenly distributed in equal shares. The board also authorized the distribution of \$647,169.27 for direct payments to commercial fishers who can demonstrate a total financial loss of 35% in 2020 by March 31, 2023. The program will be funded with CARES Act Governmental Relief Funds received by the tribe that are allocated through the existing administrative and budgeting processes.

#052: Authorization of tribal participation forms, entering into opioid settlements — The tribe filed claims against several opioid manufacturers and distributors seeking damages as a result of the national opioid epidemic; and a settlement agreement has been negotiated with Teva, Allergen, CVS, Walgreens, and Walmart. The board approved Exhibits E, Tribal Participation Forms, entering the tribe into the Teva and Allergen settlement, CVS settlement, Walgreens settlement, and Walmart settlement.

#102: The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians has agreed to settle a lawsuit against Juul Labs for the intentional marketing of their addictive vape products to tribal youth; and the settlement funds are anticipated to yield between two and three million dollars; and that the Board of Directors orders that, upon receipt, the settlement funds shall be added to the principle of the Land Claims Fund.

Should you have any questions regarding any of these resolutions, please feel free to contact me at your earliest convenience. Sincerely,

Isaac McKechnie,
Unit I Director
imckechnie@saulttribe.net or
(906) 203-4787

Special Advisory Election shouldn't be voided



**BRIDGETT SORENSON,
DIRECTOR, UNIT III**

I cannot believe it's been a month since I wrote about the Unit I election. It is hard for me to believe Joanne Carr is still not seated. There were contests filed with the Election Committee for a few reasons. One being the ballots went out early, even though they met the deadline, and two, because a member of the Election Committee whose sister ran in the election helped open ballots on the night of the election. I believe the previous chair wrote up the contest and it was rubber stamped by a handful of people.

The day of the Election Committee hearing, only one of the members were there in person and some had submitted letters. The committee stated it was a violation for the relative to open ballots but did not feel that it should void the election. So, ideally, you wouldn't have relatives participate, but when you are short-handed because people do not want to sit on the committee because they are always under fire. The whole process is secured through law enforcement, under video surveillance and in a public setting, so how can you legitimately say that person opening ballots threw the election by almost 400 votes.

So, then the handful filed a contest with the appellate court. The appellate court said they had no power to decide DJ's case so why would they be able to decide

this?

I placed an item on the May 2 meeting agenda to swear in the Unit I top vote getter. I had written up a motion and ran it by the general counsel and he told me I couldn't do it because it would be illegal. I did make the motion and asked Lana to second it so that we could get it on the floor for discussion. I then explained to the membership that I was doing this to prove a point. You see, it wasn't legal because all the contests had not been exhausted since there was a scheduled appellate court hearing on May 5. I then said but how can the 2022 election be valid since there are still contests that have not been dealt with? The Election Committee lawyer was then asked if this is true and even though he was not the lawyer at the time, he said yes. Also, in the June 2022 election one candidate won by one vote and also had a relative helping in the count but there was no complaint filed then. One vote versus almost 400??

So, I have no idea how we got to this point. I also mentioned when the old board at the June 20 workshop discussed stopping the election because there were so many complaints that were unanswered and the new board published a portion of that video not in its entirety to vilify us. I did vote to publish it because I believe in what I say in closed session but they didn't even let the members hear the whole conversation.

Some members of the board wanted to throw out this election, which ironically were some of the same that had not shown up to their own Election Committee hearings and who had contests filed on them in the June 2022 election. Betty is one of the contesters and also wanted to throw out the election.

The appellate court met on May 5 to hear the appeal. I was not provided the Zoom link so I couldn't get on for at least an hour after it started. Of the contesters, Betty was the only one



Bridgett Sorenson poses with other tribal leaders across the nation at the first HUD Tribal Intergovernmental Advisory Committee meeting.

in person and Nancy Hatch, Bill Perrault and Jan Achilles were on Zoom. Each person was allowed to discuss their complaint and the election attorney presented their findings and debated the complaints. The court did not rule on this yet. At this point we are probably looking at June for a swearing in.

I do agree there was some mistakes made but nothing that would warrant throwing out the election. I believe based on social media posts all contestants had supported another candidate so I don't think it is on principle but because their candidate lost.

I had been asked by a member to sponsor a resolution to name May 5 as MMIW as a holiday. I added it to the April 18 meeting agenda. The staff of Victim Services wrote the resolution and it passed unanimously. Unfortunately, at this time it is not a paid holiday. Thank you to the staff for all you do and writing the resolution.

I was able to attend the annual team member recognition luncheon on May 3. There was about 200 team members recognized for years of service in increments of 5 years. The staff did a great job on the food and the committee did a great job organizing. I am

happy that we brought this back a few years ago since it was cut in 2008 after Greektown. Team members deserve to be recognized and they seemed to enjoy themselves. Thank you to all the staff that dedicate their careers to Sault Tribe!

I would like congratulate all the 2023 college graduates and also the high school graduates. Please visit the Sault Tribe website at saulttribe.com to apply for scholarships ASAP. Any questions or concerns about college can be directed to the Education Department at (906) 635-RINK or call (906) 635-6050 and asked to be transferred.

At the April 18 meeting, I had added to the meeting agenda to have a documentary done on the fishery. This was actually to have an RFP (request for proposal) to be done. I had been asked by fishermen to do this for a few reasons such as to document history, educate sportsman and all others especially with all the bad press we get and the Consent Decree negotiations and court case. Future generations should know how nets are sewed, what size nets are used for different species, the exotic species issues, the process of setting and lifting nets, etc. There was a large debate on where the money was coming from and how much it was going to cost. At this point it was just an RFP. I had stated that we could use the NOAA funding if need be, since any remaining funding was going to the fishery. I believe the fishermen support this and hope that when the RFP comes back with bids, the board votes for it.

In April, I attended my first HUD in person meeting with 14 other tribal leaders across the country. The first day just the tribal leaders met to prepare for the two days with HUD staff. We were able to each discuss our Housing concerns in Indian Country and the Secretary; Marcia Fudge was very receptive and seemed very genuine with our concerns. She said with the U.S. being one of the richest countries, our people should not have to live in these conditions. We will be meeting virtually on a monthly basis and in person once more this year with the possibility of touring another tribe's reservation that the Secretary will be decid-

ing.

I also attended a Travois conference and was so happy I did. I learned of a lot of funding sources that we can use to build houses and economic development. Many tribes are using some of their ARPA funds and tax credits to fund their projects. Some tribes spent \$2 million and could build \$10 million projects. There is also money through USDA and grants from banks as well. I will be meeting with the Housing Director and staff to see what opportunities we can capitalize on.

Also, on the May 2 meeting agenda was a budget modification for JKL School. The old JKL Committee was going to use some of its ARPA funding for staff wages. The new board claimed this was illegal but this resolution was needed because it was not illegal per our general counsel.

During the last workshop, we discussed constitutional amendments. I suggested that we come up with maybe 10 and then let the members prioritize their concerns and add some if they are not on the list. We discussed things such as term limits, poll voting, separating the courts, at-large representation, eligibility, elected judge, removal signature, etc. The Constitution says 100 signatures, but Code also says 10% of the vote. This is conflicting and not very specific. I stated that Denny McKelvie said you might think it is easy getting 100 signatures but it isn't, really, especially when some people are afraid. Betty said I got 100 on you Bridgett in three days. I don't know if that was supposed to scare me but I said, then bring it. Please look for a survey in the near future so you can voice your concerns on constitutional amendments.

We will be cleaning up Wequayoc Cemetery on May 20 beginning at 11 a.m. Please bring a chair, a dish to pass, bug spray, rake, scrub brush, bleach and water, if possible, to clean the headstones. The drum will be there and we always have a good time.

This report is long and I still have so much to say but I will wait until next month. Any questions or concerns, please contact me at bridgett91@yahoo.com, bsorenson@saulttribe.net or (906) 430-0536.

Shores Casino hidden gem



**SHAWN BOROWICZ,
DIRECTOR, UNIT III**

Aaniin,

I would like to start out by saying again the Shores Casino in St. Ignace is our hidden gem, and any extra events, whether it be bingo, concerts, car shows, etc., should be held at this location. The outdoor venue on beautiful Horseshoe Bay should be the site for all our outdoor concerts

and we should have as many as possible each summer. The fact that 96 cruise ships are docking at Mackinac Island this summer is a great opportunity to get some of those tourists to our facility.

For some unknown reason that these things have not happened over the years is mind boggling and I'm trying to find out why. The marketing team needs to coordinate with the St. Ignace Visitor's Bureau, the Chamber of Commerce and Mackinac Island to promote all activities so our visitors have the best experience while visiting this area.

Why we don't have more raffles of cars, ATV'S and other promotional items is another project I am diving into. Seems kind of strange other casinos have all these things on a monthly basis! I will say the new carpet and the rearranging of the machines at the Shores turned out fantastic and a big shout out goes to the Maintenance crew, the slot personnel and all the other workers

who helped get this done.

My wife and I took a road trip and toured our New Boston property and again why this has never been developed into a gaming enterprise is crazy. This is a beautiful building with a great location for a downstate casino. There is enough property at this location to have a campground and other indoor and outdoor activities. We definitely need to get this going and add to our business enterprises to build up the Sault Tribe to what it should have already been. Now that the court cases are over and behind us, we can hopefully work on new ventures so we can keep the member services we have and even expand them to outlying areas.

Numerous powwows, the grand entry and other Native activities are all slated for the summer months and we hope to see you all there.

Shawn Borowicz,
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(906) 379-8511

Director LaPlaunt updates tribal membership



TYLER LAPLAUNT
DIRECTOR, UNIT V

looming over us from a deal made over a decade ago. We did exactly what we said we would do. Dealt with it. This gives me confidence in my fellow leaders. Knowing that we sit at a table together to make the tough decisions and not continue to kick the can down the road for someone else to deal with. Does this settlement hurt? Absolutely. It's done though. We come out of this knowing that we can move forward and plan accordingly. Additionally, we came out of it with the land in our name as an asset.

Moving on to brighter news. We officially closed on the future home of the Marquette Community Center. The paperwork was signed, and the Southgate Center in South Marquette right next to McCabes Quality Flooring (Sault Tribe member owned business) is now officially Sault Tribe owned property. All of the tenants of the property will have their lease end on June 1 so we can get in and start tearing everything out. I will likely hold a few gatherings on weekends in June to begin cleanup as a community project. Watch my Facebook page for future details.

I met with the engineers on Monday, May 8, to go over the concept so they could begin working on a design. The plan for the facility is to turn the auto garage portion into the Community Center where our Elders can enjoy meals, our families and community can meet, host our drum group, cultural activities, and more! The business frontage will be remodeled by the Health Division, and they will eventually move away from the office space on Washington Street and into the Southgate Center so that everything will be in one location.

Once the design is complete, we will have to bid out the work. So, it will take some time as everything does. It would be great to be in the space by the end of the year, but good things take time, and it will be well worth the wait. No more trying to find someone that will accept us or renting out space. This

will be ours for the community to enjoy for many years. Help us continue to build our community by volunteering when available and taking care of our hard-earned space.

Munising community! We are still looking for people to assist us with getting some cultural activities set up in your area. It can be anything including language, drumming, arts and crafts, storytelling, anything you can help with. We are trying to build a sustainable cultural community within our own unit. I can assist by helping with food and supplies. Please contact Phillip Martin at (619) 587-0557. It would be great to get something going once or twice a month to get the community engaged again and share our cultural knowledge with each other.

It's been a busy few weeks for the drum group and everyone who has volunteered their time and effort to the drum practices up in Marquette. We were very honored to have been invited into the Munising High School for a flag dedication. The Munising High School Tribal Youth Group worked very hard with the school system to change policy and have them place our tribal flag inside the high school. Munising High held a special assembly at the end of the day on May 3 to allow the Tribal Youth Group to unveil our flag and explain the four directions and the meaning behind it.

Shortly after, we played a flag song to honor the permanent new home of our flag in Mustang Nation. The students were very respectful of our culture, and I was very impressed. They even allowed us to stick around to belt out three more songs. I cannot express enough how proud I am of our youth. Change doesn't always have to happen from the top. It's important to stand up, speak up, and right the wrongs when and where you see them.

The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Grand Island Band has lived in these lands since



Munising's Giizhep Nimki Da'awigaan (Morning Thunder Drum) at Northern Michigan University's spring commencement.

time immemorial. We've fished the waters, hunted the lands, and live in harmony with our surrounding environment. Thanks to these courageous students, we are now and will always be recognized as a sovereign nation within their high school. This may seem like a small act, but by creating a space for us to be recognized, it will have a ripple effect through the generations. Chi miigwech to everyone who helped make this happen and chi miigwech for inviting our drum for a brief ceremony.

Finally, our drum group was invited to many ceremonies at NMU this past week for graduation events and are being further recognized by our local university. Giizhep Nimki Da'awigaan (Morning Thunder Drum) was played at multi-cultural graduation, not once, but twice for over an hour of drumming bliss altogether to open the ceremonies.

Giizhep Nimki Da'awigaan was also invited to NMU spring commencement. NMU President Brock Tessman welcomed us and offered us a pouch of tobacco. He then gave a land acknowledgment and announced our drum in our language. I was very impressed by this interaction as it shows that he took the time to do this meaningfully and respectfully. It's one of the first times I actually felt welcomed and

like they wanted us present instead of checking a box. This is yet another good sign for us moving forward in our communities. We are being welcomed with open arms, and by doing so, we will continue to show up with open hearts. Chi miigwech to all of the drummers, singers, and caretakers who have helped make all of this happen. The heartbeat is growing stronger because of all of you.

Finally, I'd like to give another reminder for Unit 5 elder meals. Munising will have a meeting and meal on June 1 from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. at the Munising Tribal Health Center. Marquette will have a meeting and meal on June 1 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Holiday Inn in Marquette. Please help spread the word and maybe offer a ride to those in need. We've seen a few new faces, but I know there are many who haven't attended, yet. I cannot express enough how important it is for our Elders to share a space in our communities. We appreciate all of you and your wisdom and I strongly encourage you to stay connected and stay involved.

Chi Miigwech,
Tyler Migizii Migwan LaPlaunt
Vice-Chairman, Unit V
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From "Directory," page 24
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Disappointed and relieved with settled lawsuit



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

I'm both disappointed and relieved that we have settled the lawsuit with JLLJ in our recent court case for the Lansing casino. We will be moving on with other potential strategies concerning this and I will allow the government to collectively comment on this as it's not the entire public's business how we proceed. I would be happy to discuss individually and in our own group tribal settings as well. Please know that again, I'm disappointed it had to come to these extremes with plenty of factors behind it all. I am confident that this was our only avenue to secure stability within our government's and our casinos' budgets. Again, I'm sorry it came to this and securing future development should always be left in the hands of Economic Development

professionals.

We will be holding a smudging, tour and open house at the new DeTour clinic for members in the surrounding areas. This came with the last few years of both Director Hollowell and I pushing every which way we could — she is not here to partake in this at the board level but I would sincerely like to say "Miigwech" to her and all the Health staff who made this possible. As I stated, I will be out of state for my stepson's graduation on this day, but Director Lee and other representatives will be there to welcome the new facility. I hope that Drummond Island and DeTour are more serviced and less burdened by this outcome. I'm relieved it's happened. Also, this coming fall, Mackinac Island and Drummond Island tribal members will be able to utilize the local urgent care clinics on the islands in the month of November through February and PRC will accommodate the costs if you are eligible — look for more details to come out from our Health Division.

We have been meeting with Housing to discuss opportunities for housing within our unit. We are in the process of planning for a duplex on the land in Hessel and a quadplex in Newberry on our land. This will be for Elders in both those communities — on the east end of the unit and the

west end. With the price of all infrastructure, we need to make sure we have funds that will go as far as we can. I'm very excited to pursue this and also the new community and fitness center in our unit.

Lastly, I want to let fishermen know that all should have received an invite from the hired CPA to go over your losses during COVID for commercial fishermen. The funds that are not distributed will remain in the fishermen's funds for future determination in where they will go. I have had a lot of input about this and have every intention to voice that at the table. Thank you for your patience with this and those funds. That as well has been a long time coming. Geez!

I'm happy to report that both Hessel and Newberry have powwow committees and identified dates for the powwows this year. As always, Hessel's will be the third weekend of August and Newberry has announced the second week in August. Look for flyers coming out in both.

I look forward to getting our unit representatives seated as soon as all contests are complete. I will be very upset if elected officials try to delay any further. The membership did the voting and have expectations for the follow through.

I hope this month brings us some warm weather and much

needed sunshine. Please take care of each other. Baamaapii.

Lana Causley-Smith, Unit 2
Board Representative, 906-322-3818, 906-484-2954, Lcausley@

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Lana Causley-Smith
Sault Ste Marie Tribe of
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