



Win Awenen Nisitotung

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

U.S. government must honor its obligations to tribes

On March 20, President Trump signed an executive order directing the Secretary of Education to “take all necessary steps to facilitate the closure of the Department of Education.” This change, combined with other recently announced cuts to the Bureau of Indian Affairs

and Indian Health Services, has the potential to significantly impact the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and tribal nations throughout Indian Country that rely on federal funding for critical social services.

“The United States govern-

ment is treaty-bound to provide basic social services, including health and education, that were guaranteed to our people in exchange for giving up our lands,” Sault Tribe Chairman Austin Lowes said. “Seeking to make government more efficient is one thing, but the rapid pace

of change at the federal level has been happening without regard to how the U.S. government will honor its treaty obligations or how tribal citizens will be impacted.”

Currently, the Department of Education provides funding for programs critical to Michigan and tribal students, including:

- \$541 million for schools enrolling 644,000 students from low-income backgrounds.
- \$12 million in annual funding to support children living on military bases or Native American reservations.
- \$6 million for students enrolled in rural schools.
- \$33 million to increase college access and success for low-income and first generation college students.

Lowes notes that the concern is not just about funding cuts but also how programs are implemented. For example, a Jan. 29 executive order called for examining the use of Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) funding for schools of choice options, including private, faith-based, or charter schools.

“Tribal and school education leaders from across the country have been united in their opposition to voucher programs that would siphon taxpayer resource-

es away from BIE tribal grant schools,” said Lowes. “Not only would this deprive students of the culturally-appropriate education they currently receive, but the loss of even 10% of students could result in reduced economies of scale that could lead to insolvency of many BIE schools across the country.”

Instead, Lowes is calling on President Trump to work with tribal leaders to leverage their experience to develop new ways to improve Indian education programs that honor the federal government’s trust and treaty obligations.

Lowes said, “President Trump has a unique opportunity to improve and protect education and other services across Indian Country by issuing an Executive Order that recognizes and respects education and health-care as a distinct federal right guaranteed to Native Americans through numerous treaties. He can also further bring us together by scheduling specific work-groups or government-to-government tribal consultations that give our sovereign nations the opportunity to identify improvements and efficiencies in the programs and services the government is obligated to provide to us.”

Freighter time on the St. Marys river during spring ice breakup



Photo by Brenda Austin

Ice cover on the Upper St. Marys River in early April was still enough to provide support to fishermen willing to put in the work of hauling their gear out. Above is the MV Thunder Bay, Canada Steamship Lines’ first of four Trillium Class self-unloading Lakers to be introduced in the Great Lakes/St. Lawrence River fleet.

Wade is here to help U.S. military veterans and their families

By Scott Brand

As part of its 2025 Rural and Tribal Outreach, Community Action Alger Marquette Supportive Services for Veteran Families (CAAM SSVF) has announced there are various resources available to U.S. Military Veterans.

“I always liked helping others improve their lives,” said CAAM SSVF Housing Resource

Specialist Kevin Wade who hired into his new position in September 2024. “I didn’t know how I was going to do that until I came across Community Action.”

In his new capacity, Wade has already helped more than two dozen veterans get back on their feet after falling on hard times. Qualified veterans can receive temporary financial assistance for a wide range of things including:

- Assisting homeless veterans in a transition to permanent housing with a short-term rental stay
- Rental assistance for those who have fallen behind.
- Security deposits to get those in need into a new place.
- Utility assistance for electric, water and heating bills.
- Day care costs providing coverage for working parents.
- General housing needs when a permanent residence is obtained.

“Our main focus is assisting the Veteran and their family,” said Wade, emphasizing the importance of providing help during times of financial struggle. “We have an abundance of resources to help the Veteran get back on a path of stability.”

This assistance can extend to travel expenses covering the cost of some automobile repairs, new tires and bus passes for those without a vehicle.

“As I have personally said many times, CAAM SSVF is here to serve those who have served their country,” said Wade. “We understand that temporary financial assistance in many situations is critical for re-stabilization.”

Wade’s coverage area includes all of Chippewa, Luce and Mackinac counties. To take the first step contact the Community



CAAM SSVF Housing Resource Specialist Kevin Wade was hired into his new position in September 2024.

Action Agency in Sault Ste. Marie at (906) 632-3363.

The program is available to all Upper Peninsula veterans. Marquette, Alger, Houghton, Keweenaw, Baraga, Dickinson and Iron County residents can utilize the toll-free option at (800) 562-9762 at extension 207. Delta, Menominee and Schoolcraft residents can access this service at (906) 789-0545 with Gogebic and Ontonagon counties directed to the (906) 667-0283 telephone number.

“All we need is a picture ID and a Social Security Card,”

explained Wade. “With those we can confirm their service dates and eligibility.”

While Wade is focused on housing security for military veterans his office opens the door to many other resources.

“CAAM SSVF also focuses on creating relationships with community partners to help the veteran secure all available resources that they need and are entitled to,” he said. “Even if our program does not offer the assistance for their need, we will help connect the veteran with the resources that do.”

www.saulttribe.com

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If you have any questions, please contact ACFS at 1-800-726-0093.

Committee vacancies — volunteers needed!

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 (forms available online or contact Lona/Ashlee) from other members to Lona Stewart at 523 Ashmun Street, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783, or call (906) 635-6050 with any questions.

Anishinaabe Cultural Committee - Five vacancies - three males (Two 4-year terms,

one term expires July 2028), two females (One 4-year term, one term expires July 2028)

Child Welfare Committee - Two vacancies (4-year term); One vacancy - term expires November 2026; One vacancy - term expires January 2027

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

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

Unit II - Naubinway - One

regular vacancy (4-year term) Unit III - St. Ignace - Two alternate vacancies (4-year term)

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

Elder Subcommittees Unit II – Naubinway – Two regular vacancies - one term expires October 2026 and one May 2027

Unit III – St. Ignace - One regular vacancy - term expires April 2027

Unit IV - Escanaba - Three regular vacancies - two expire

May 2026 and one is 4-year term, one alternate vacancy (4-year term)

Unit IV - Manistique - One regular vacancy - term expires November 2026

Unit V - Munising - Two alternate vacancies (4-year term)

Unit V - Marquette - Two alternate vacancies - one term expires December 2027 and one 4-year term

Food Sovereignty Committee – Six vacancies

(4-year terms); one vacancy, term expiring February 2027

Health Advisory Board – One vacancy - term expires April 2027

Housing Commission/Utility Authority – Two pending vacancies - one for Unit 1, one for Unit 5 (4-year terms)

Special Needs/Enrollment Committee - (2-year term)

Unit I - One vacancy
Unit II - Two vacancies
Unit III - Two vacancies
Unit IV - One vacancy

Tribal gas and cigarette discount locations

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

Tribal owned gas stations offering gas and cigarette discounts:

• MidJim Convenience Store, 2205 Shunk Road, Sault Ste.

Marie, MI 49783
• MidJim Convenience Store, 3045 Mackinac Trail, St. Ignace, MI 49781

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

Tribal owned gas stations

offering gas discount only:

• University BP, 301 W. Fair Ave., Marquette, MI 49855

Not tribal owned stations offering gas discounts only:

• Kinross BP, 4440 Tone Road, Kincheloe, MI 49788

• Cedar Pantry, 159 W. M-134,

Cedarville, MI 49719

• Sunoco, 13975 M-28, Newberry, MI 49868

• Manistique Oil Company, 216 Deer Street, Manistique, MI 49854

• Carnes Eco Fuels, 2300 Ludington St., Escanaba, MI 49837

WIOA funding is available

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.

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.

Sault Tribe News offering digital edition

Tribal members and subscriber’s receiving the print edition of the newspaper can switch to digital to receive the “early” digital edition. A link will be sent to digital subscribers the same day the print edition goes to press. Read your paper at least 6 days early!

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

Avery Square Craft Show

May 2 & 3
9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Vendors wanted – Free to participate
Items can be left overnight
Call Sharon to register at:
(906) 253-1399
510 Ashmun St. in the Sault

Win Awenen Nisitotung


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


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

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



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

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



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

Sault Tribe Member Newspaper Subscription Form

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

☐ new subscription
☐ change of address

Name: _____

Address: _____

City:_____

State and Zip Code:_____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Advertising: \$8.50/column inch.

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

See Thrive’s online business directory: saulttribethrive.com/business-directory/

Membership liaisons help answer your questions

Membership liaisons work to assist with membership issues and concerns. The liaisons will also respond to and follow up on membership issues to ensure they are resolved. Sault Tribe members are encouraged to contact liaisons when they need help with tribal issues by emailing membersconcerns@saulttribe.net or individually at the contacts below. Please note that although the liaisons are located at sites across the seven-county service area, they serve all tribal members.

Michelle Moore
Available for in-person meetings at Sault Tribe Administration.
Phone: (906) 635-6050 Ext. 26359
Cell: (906) 259-3862
mmoore@saulttribe.net
Clarence Hudak
Lambert Center, St. Ignace, MI (906) 643-2124
chudak@saulttribe.net
Mary Jenerou
Manistique Tribal Center, (906) 341-8469
Munising Tribal Center, (906) 450-7011
mjenerou@saulttribe.net

Apply for Summer Youth Employment

The Sault Tribe WIOA Department will be accepting applications for the Summer Youth Employment Program beginning April 14. This program is for Native American youth ages 14 to 24 that reside within the seven-county service area (Marquette, Alger, Chippewa, Luce, Mackinac, Delta and Schoolcraft counties). Applications may be picked up at the WIOA office, located on the second 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 22, 2025.**

Operation Not Forgotten also expands upon the resources deployed in recent years to address cases of missing and murdered Indigenous people. The effort will be supported by the Department's MMIP Regional Outreach Program, which places attorneys and coordinators in U.S. Attorneys' Offices across the United States to help prevent and respond to cases of missing or murdered Indigenous people.

It will continue to explore all avenues to ensure that any projects impacting our lands and waters undergo thorough and transparent evaluation, respecting both environmental standards and Indigenous sovereignty.

SATURDAYS IN MAY \$ ALL SITES

Excludes St. Ignace on May 24

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SPRING INTO CASH AND CREDITS

All Sites | Saturdays in April

Win Your Share of Over \$51,000 CASH and Credits

HATS OFF TO WINNING

Christmas | Thursdays in April

Win Your Share of \$2,800 CASH and Credits

MOTHER'S DAY

All Sites | May 11

Women Receive \$10 Kewadin Credits

YOOPEER SLOT TOURNAMENT

Christmas & Hessel - Mondays & Tuesdays | Manistique - Wednesdays & Thursdays

March 31 - September 4

Daily Prize Pool \$100 CASH & 35,000 Bonus Points

TGIF SLOT TOURNAMENT

Manistique, Christmas & Hessel | April 4 - August 1 | First Friday Monthly

Daily Prize Pool \$800 CASH & 110,000 Bonus Points

SPRING FEVER SLOT TOURNAMENT

Sault Ste. Marie | Every Monday and Tuesday | April 21 - May 20

Daily Prize Pool \$300 CASH and 25,000 Bonus Points

TEAM SPIRITS BAR NFL DRAFT PARTY

Manistique | April 24 - 26

Every Drink Purchased Will Earn a Draw Entry

\$22,500 MEGA BINGO

St. Ignace - April 26 | Sault Ste. Marie - May 10

13 Games Plus a Mega Bingo Jackpot Game Up to \$7,500

KEWADIN OLYMPICS TOURNAMENT

Sault Ste. Marie | May 30 - June 1

Up to \$11,500 CASH/Bonus Points

HAPPY HOUR & DRINK SPECIALS

Hessel | Christmas | St. Ignace | Manistique

Check out our Happy Hour Specials. Visit our Facebook Page for more information

EASTER DAY SPECIALS

Hop on over for good eats and drinks. Find more information at kewadin.com/dining

Point requirements for all promotions. See Northern Rewards Club to register and for more details.

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Michigan’s child passenger safety laws revised

Michigan’s updated child passenger safety law is a step forward in protecting its youngest residents. Understanding the new guidelines and ensuring proper car seat use could mean the difference between life and death in the event of a crash.

Starting April 2, 2025, Michigan’s child passenger safety laws got an important update aimed at better protecting young passengers on the road. The revised law outlines clearer age, height, and weight guidelines for car seat and booster seat use, aligning state regulations with national safety recommendations. According to the Michigan State Police and SafeKids.org, correctly using a child safety seat can

reduce the risk of death in a crash by up to 71%. And with vehicle crashes being the leading cause of death for young children, these changes could have a life-saving impact.

- What’s changing?**
- Under the updated law, parents and caregivers must follow new rules based on a child’s age, weight, and height:
 - Infants and Toddlers (Birth to 2 Years): Must ride in a rear-facing car seat until they are at least 2 years old or exceed the seat’s height or weight limits set by the manufacturer.
 - Young Children (Ages 2 to 5): Must be secured in a forward-facing car seat with an internal 5-point harness until at

- least age 5 or until they exceed the seat’s height or weight limits.
- Older Children (Ages 5 to 8): Must use a belt-positioning booster seat with a lap and shoulder belt until they turn 8 or reach 4 feet 9 inches in height—whichever comes first.
- Children Under 13: Must ride in the back seat of a vehicle unless all rear seats are occupied by other children or the vehicle has no rear seating.
- Additional requirements and recommendations**
- Children under 4 must ride in the rear seat if available. If all rear seats are taken by other children under 4, the child may sit in the front seat—but only in

- a properly secured car seat.
- Children in rear-facing seats are never allowed in the front seat unless the airbag is turned off.
- Even after age 8, if a seatbelt does not fit correctly, it’s recommended to continue using a booster seat.
- All children 12 and under should ride in the back seat whenever possible.
- Michigan law also mandates that all passengers ages 8 to 15, as well as drivers and front-seat passengers, must wear seat belts.
- Free resources available**
- To help spread awareness, the Office of Highway Safety

- Planning (OHSP) has released a new flyer summarizing the changes. Traffic safety partners can order printed copies for free by emailing TrafficSafety@michigan.gov or requesting them through the Traffic Safety Materials Catalog Order Form.
- Keeping kids safe**
- Choosing the right car seat—and using it correctly—is critical. Parents are encouraged to check manufacturer instructions and ensure their child’s seat is installed properly. For more information and tips, visit the Michigan State Police child passenger safety page at: www.michigan.gov/msp/divisions/ohsp/child-passenger-safety.

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month

FROM ACFS

April marks the nationwide observance of Child Abuse Prevention Month, a time to raise awareness about the serious and often hidden issue of child abuse and neglect. Tragically, abuse often occurs in the home and is committed by individuals the child knows, such as parents, grandparents, or caregivers. Abuse can take many forms, including physical, emotional, sexual abuse, and neglect. Each state and tribal nation is responsible for defining and addressing child abuse and neglect in alignment with federal

- guidelines. These definitions typically include:
- Neglect is the failure to provide for a child’s basic needs
 - Physical abuse involves intentional harm through actions like hitting or shaking
 - Sexual abuse includes any form of sexual exploitation or inappropriate contact
 - Emotional abuse involves patterns of behavior that harm a child’s emotional development or sense of self-worth
- Everyone has a role to play in preventing abuse. You can make a difference by:
- Being a nurturing and sup-

- portive parent or caregiver
 - Offering help to overwhelmed friends or neighbors
 - Taking time for self-care when needed
 - Getting involved in community efforts that support children and families
 - Reporting any concerns about possible abuse or neglect
- Reporting suspected abuse is essential. It can connect families to vital support and services that promote healing and stability. By standing with parents and caregivers, we help create safe, nurturing environments where children can thrive.

- The effects of child abuse can last a lifetime. In addition to physical harm, abuse and neglect can lead to emotional trauma, challenges in school, substance use, and difficulty maintaining relationships or employment later in life. Early support and intervention make a real difference.
- Anishnaabek Community and Family Services (ACFS) provides programs to support tribal children and families across our service area. If you or someone you know could benefit from assistance, please contact us at (906) 632-5250 to learn more.

- To report suspected child abuse or neglect, call the Michigan Department of Human Services Child Protective Services 24-hour hotline at (855) 444-3911, or contact ACFS at (800) 726-0093 or (906) 632-5250. All calls are confidential, and reporting sources are protected by law.
- As we observe Child Abuse Prevention Month, let’s come together to protect our most vulnerable, our children. By raising awareness and supporting one another, we build stronger, safer communities for future generations.

Stronghearts calls for Indigenous storytelling photos

StrongHearts Native Helpline is building a photo library of Indigenous storytelling photos that best represent our relatives. These photos will be used to develop media materials including advertising, PowerPoint presentations, brochures, and posters to promote StrongHearts Native Helpline and the relatives we serve. StrongHearts is a national helpline providing support to our relatives impacted by domestic or sexual violence. Built by and for American Indians and Alaska Natives, our advocates provide supportive services, including peer support, safety planning, information, and referrals to supportive service providers. Photos selected will be used in our media efforts (print, digital, and social media) to promote services provided by StrongHearts. We invite Indigenous creators to delve into Indigenous storytelling with photos. Categories include native-centered, trauma informed, and empowerment based advocacy. Subcategories include Indigenous life (everyday life), Indigenous places (scenic), Indigenous healing (cultural practices), and domestic, dating, and sexual violence. Indigenous life (everyday life) means authentic traditional and contemporary Native Americans at home. Indigenous places (scenic)

- means places where Indigenous people live. Scenic can include animals significant to Indigenous culture such as buffalo, bears, wolves, eagles, or whales. Indigenous healing (cultural practices) represents a cultural event that is a known healing practice. Healing can include burning tobacco or sage, and traditional healing activities such as beading or harvesting natural food sources. Domestic, dating, and sexual violence (types of abuse) such as emotional, physical, sexual, financial, digital and cultural abuse; activism or protest against social or racial injustice. Compensation will be based on content and quality as described below.
- Photos must honor Native American and Alaska Native people and culture.
 - Quality should be a resolution of at least 300 dots per inch (DPI) or 300 pixels per inch (PPI). Cellphone photos

- will be considered at a lower rate of pay due to lower resolution quality.
 - Compensation for photos will be paid up to \$250 based on quality and useability.
 - Required documentation including photo information and consent.
 - Payees must provide a Social Security number or tax identification number issued in the United States.
- Photos must be submitted with the photographer’s name, approximate date of photo, and location. Ideal photos will be in .jpg format, color, and vertical orientation preferred (horizontal also accepted). When possible, please submit 1920x1080 pixels and 8MP. A URL Dropbox can be utilized for photos more than 10 MP in file size. Photos may be emailed to submissions@strongheartshelpline.org. For more information, visit bit.ly/4aTfi1X.

PUBLIC HEARING ANNOUNCEMENT

The NEMCSA - Region 9 Area Agency on Aging will conduct a public hearing on its proposed Annual Implementation Plan for Fiscal Year 2026. The plan will outline the use of funds and provision of services under the Older Americans Act, for the counties of Alcona, Alpena, Arenac, Cheboygan, Crawford, Iosco, Montmorency, Ogemaw, Oscoda, Presque Isle and Roscommon.

The hearing is scheduled for Monday, May 19, 2025, at 1 p.m. at NEMCSA, 2569 US-23 South, Alpena, Mich. A virtual option is also available. To register, contact Connie at (989) 358-4661, or mcquarriec@nemcsa.org.

A summary of the plan will be available upon request, 15 days prior to the public hearing by calling (989) 358-4661. Written testimony or email will be accepted through June 13, 2025.

Accepting Applications

To be eligible, you must:

- ✓Be at least 18 years old
- ✓Meet eligibility requirements
- ✓Be within income guidelines; see below

Family Size	Annual Income
1	\$54,768
2	\$62,592
3	\$70,146
4	\$78,240
5	\$84,499
6	\$90,758
7	\$97,018
8	\$103,277

Sault Tribe Housing Authority

Now accepting applications for 3 & 4 bedroom units in NEWBERRY, MI

Applications are available online at www.saulttribehousing.com or by calling the Occupancy Department at 906-495-1450 or 906-440-6562 or by email: FSangelo@saulttribe.net DClement@saulttribe.net



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Anishinaabemowin 2025

Food from the land and waters nourishes our bodies. Our language and culture feed our spirits. Fill yourself up with goodness.

Namebin Giizis Sucker Moon

by Susan Askwith



Maampii tenoon niizh mino-dbaajimowinan nji sa Anishinaabe bimaadziwininaan.
Here are two good stories about our Anishinaabe way of life.

March brought spring solstice. Cold nights (25° F or so) and “warmer” days (about 44° F) encouraged sap to flow upward in maple trees awakening from winter rest. When the trees are about 40 years old and 10 inches in diameter, they can stand being tapped and generously share some of that sap with us. Lots of work, a good fire and careful attention turns about 40 gallons of sap into 1 gallon of delicious syrup. But by April, as temperatures remain consistently above freezing, the maple buds begin to swell, then burst open, and the sap gets bitter. The **ziisbaaka-doke** — maple sugar making — closes until next spring.

Did you know: Smelt were first introduced into Lake Michigan in 1912, and were first found in Lake Superior in 1946.

G’bakade na? Are you hungry?
Bi-wiisinin. Come and eat.
G’bishigenmaag na giigoonhik? Do you like fish?
N’bishigenmaag namebinak? I like sucker fish.
N’bishigenmaag bijjimaagozensak. I like smelt.
N’bishigenmaag piniik gewiinwaa. I like potatoes too.
G’bishigendaan na zaasigokwed-bkwezhigan?
Do you like fry-bread?
Enh. Miinwaa n’bishigendaan ninaatik ziiwaagmide!
Yes. And I like maple syrup!
Kina gegoo minopagwadoon. Everything tastes good.
G’chi miigwech kina gegoo.
Thanks so much for everything.

Mikwendan maanda.
(Remember this.)

The natural world responds as needed to different environments and as seasons change. Compare these stories with what goes on near where you live.



About when that (44° F) daytime temperature shuts down sugaring season, ice fishing gives way to smelt runs. They swim up lake tributaries to spawn, preferring sandy bottom streams. And right on their “tails,” the **namebinak** — sucker fish — get ready to spawn in streams with rockier bottoms. White, long nose, and red suckers are found in the upper Great Lakes. They suck up their food from lake bottoms like vacuum cleaners. Suckers grow for 7 years in the lakes, and get to be over a foot long before they’re ready to spawn. They may be 2-6 pounds by then, and they are safe and delicious to eat. From earliest times, our people have said “**Miigwech**” for the nourishment and the early hopeful sign of spring they bring. Females produce 30,000 to 100,000 eggs each. Some will hatch and some will be part of the food chain right away. Adults return to the lakes until next spring, and the great circle of life goes on.

Fun Fact: One sucker fish is **namebin**. More than one is **namebinak**. **Bijjimaagozens**, one smelt, becomes **bijjimaagozensak** in the same way. So do **giigoonik**. In English, the words sucker fish, smelt and fish refer to either singular or the usual plural.

Maple Syrup Glaze for Fish

2 fillets of fish ~ 8 oz. each
1/4 c. maple syrup
2 Tbsp. soy sauce
1 Tbsp. vegetable oil
Brush fish with glaze in a large dish.
Let sit for 5-10 minutes.
Grill or fry.



Pronunciation?? You’ll find the Anishinaabemowin words used here as well as those in the calendar, pronounced at our FaceBook link:

www.facebook.com/SaultTribeLanguageAndCulture.

You can also use the guide shown below!

Making our Sounds Most letters sound like they do in English. Here are the exceptions.
aa sounds like the a in *awesome* **a** sounds like the a in *about*
ii sounds like the e in *be* **i** sounds like the i in *dip*
oo sounds like the o in *go* **o** sounds like the oo’s in *book*
e sounds like the e in *Ed* **g** sounds only like it does in *go*
Pronounce all the letters. Big deal: ‘nh’ in a word has no sound! It’s only a sign to say the previous vowel nasally - as if you have a stuffed-up nose!



Aambe, baapin! (Come on, laugh!)
Why did the Vegan go fishing?
Just for the halibut.
Why kind of money do fishermen make?
Net profits
What did the magician say to his friend while fishing?
Pick a cod, any cod.
How did two ice fishermen initiate a conversation?
By breaking the ice.

Billy Mills to visit May 8 with his new book

Olympic Gold Medalist Billy Mills will be visiting Sault Ste. Marie on May 8, 2025, with his book, *Wings of an Eagle*, an autobiographical tale of Billy Mills’s awe-inspiring flight to a record-breaking gold medal with illustrations by acclaimed Lakota artist SD Nelson.

Billy Mills was once an orphan on the Oglala Lakota



Pine Ridge Reservation. But before his father was called to the ancestors, he told Billy how to conquer his suffering: You have broken wings, son. You have to dig deeper, below the anger, the hurt, the self-pity. The pursuit of a dream will heal you.

Despite poverty, racism, and severe health challenges, Billy raced toward his goal of becom-

ing an Olympic athlete, inspired by his Indigenous ancestors who stood strong when the odds were against them. Though at times he felt like his wings were clipped—a lone bird falling from the sky—he adapted and overcame, finally earning his place at the 1964 Olympics.

Mills will visit JKL School from 2 to 3:30 p.m. to speak to

the students about his new book, providing insights to help understand how the power of identity, connection and core values inspired him to achieve his dreams by overcoming harsh adversity.

From 5 to 6 p.m., he will attend a book signing at Island Book Store at 101 E. Portage.

Those with questions, please call (906) 440-8946.

Sault Schools Culture Night April 29

Sault Area Public Schools invites you to our second annual Indigenous Culture Night at Sault Area High School, April 29, 2025, 6-8 p.m.

Come join us for an evening of drumming, dancing, food, crafts, booths, and prizes! We encourage you to wear ribbon skirts, ribbon shirts, or regalia.

Monday ~ May 12

Movie Showing 5:30pm

Discussion led by Leora Tadgerson 7:30pm

Dream Maker’s Theater
Kewadin Casino
2186 Shunk Rd.
Sault, MI

All are welcome at this Episcopal Diocesan sponsored viewing in cooperation with the Sault Tribe Unit 1 Board Members

Questions

Aaron Payment
906-440-8946
aapayment@saulttribe.net

Popcorn, Refreshments & Light Snacks Provided



In 2021, evidence of unmarked graves was discovered on the grounds of an Indian residential school run by the Catholic Church in Canada. After years of silence, the forced separation, assimilation and abuse many children experienced at these segregated boarding schools was brought to light, sparking a national outcry against a system designed to destroy Indigenous communities. Set amidst a groundbreaking investigation, *SUGARCANE* illuminates the beauty of a community breaking cycles of intergenerational trauma and finding the strength to persevere.

Gerard Sagassige 2025 May Healer clinic hours

May 5,6,19,20,27

Sault Ste. Marie Health Center
(906)632-0236

Wednesday, May 14th

St. Ignace Health Center
(906)643-8689 or (877)256-0135

Wednesday, May 21st

















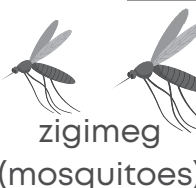




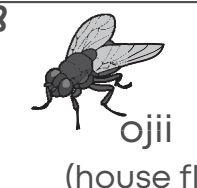


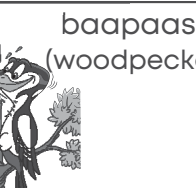








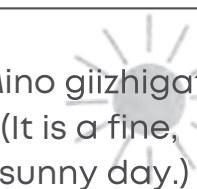

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Wednesday, May 28th

Munising Health Center
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CALL TRADITIONAL MEDICINE PROGRAM AT
906-632-0236 OR 906-632-5268**

WAASKOONE GIIZIS - FLOWER MOON - MAY 2025

SUNDAY (the 7th day)	MONDAY (the 1st day)	TUESDAY (the 2nd day)	WEDNESDAY (the 3rd day)	THURSDAY (the 4th day)	FRIDAY (the 5th day)	SATURDAY (the 6th day)
NIIZHWAASO GIIZHIGAD	NTAM GIIZHIGAD	NIIZHO GIIZHIGAD	NSWO GIIZHIGAD	NIIWO GIIZHIGAD	NAANO GIIZHIGAD	NGODWAASWO GIIZHIGAD
			 miishkoonhsan (grass)	 1 magakiinhsag (spring peepers)	 2 maang (loon)	 3 wiikenh (sweetflag root)
 4 Gitige. (S/he is planting.)	 5 gyaashk (seagull)	 6 jiijaakook (sandhill cranes)	 7 pakiinoon (blooming)	 8 Zhaashkiaaboo (It is muddy.)	 9 biipiige (nuthatch/warbler)	 10 kaadiginebik (salamander/lizard)
 11 Gashi Giizhigak (Mother's Day)	 12 Mooshkaneshin Dibiki Giizis (It is a full moon.)	 13 zigimeg (mosquitoes)	 14 mooshkasi (bittern)	 15 shki-niibiishan (new leaves)	 16 zhiginaawshag (worms)	 17 namebagoniin (trout lily)
 18 ojii (house fly)	 19 Aabowaa. (It is mild.) [as in weather]	 20 zhiishiib (duck)	 21 baapaase (woodpecker)	 22 zhaashkwedoonan (mushrooms)	 23 oginii (wild rose)	 24 mishiiminaatig (apple tree)
 25 saskwaajmi'ag (leeches)	 26 Makwenmagaazook Giizhigak (Memorial Day)	 27 nka (Canadian goose)	 28 jidamoozowan (yarrow)	 29 bineshiinhag (birds)	 30 Mino giizhigat. (It is a fine, sunny day.)	 31 Waawaaskonenh (flower)

Calendar created by Sault Tribe Language & Culture Division

Advocacy Resource Center hosts dance for teen dating violence awareness

The Advocacy Resource Center hosted a Teen Dating Violence Awareness Dance at Kewadin Casino on March 14, 2025. The dance was originally slated for Valentine’s Day to promote awareness for Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month, but

was postponed due to issues beyond ARC’s control. ARC was determined to host a fun-filled event for our local youth to teach them about healthy relationships and honoring and respecting one another. An educational board

was displayed prominently near the dance floor to point out red flags and unhealthy behaviors, as well as healthy behaviors often experienced in teen dating relationships. Facts and statistics were displayed at each table for teens to view while dining

on the delicious pizza made by Kewadin Casinos. Local teens and preteens were able to request their favorite songs and danced the night away while enjoying a free and fun event to remember for years to come.

ARC looks forward to this year’s prevention and awareness activities for our local communities. Watch the Advocacy Resource Center’s Facebook www.facebook.com/sault-tribeARC page for local event updates.



Teens on the dance floor.



ARC Victim Advocate Ashley Gravelle passing out Teen Dating Violence Awareness materials.



Community Educator Jess Gillotte King with sister Jennifer and niece Genevieve.



Cultural Healing Educator Krissy Giffin and daughter Bean at the photo booth.



Genevieve at the photo booth.



Maddie Lee (center) and pals at the photo booth.

Meet Sault Tribe Behavioral Health peer recovery coaches Bergsma, Gardiner, McCord

FROM SAULT TRIBE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Peer recovery coaches are individuals who use their own experiences with addiction and recovery to support and guide others who are on a similar journey. They provide encouragement, share resources, and help individuals navigate the challenges of recovery. They focus on building trust and empowering those they support.

Brook Bergsma has been in recovery since 2019. Brook is a member of the Sault Tribe and enjoys using the healing effects of nature when working with clients.



Peer Recovery Coach Brook Bergsma

Lucas Gardiner has been in recovery for 12 years. Lucas likes to help clients connect with their community as well as teaching how a healthier way of living can coincide with recovery.



Peer Recovery Coach Lucas Gardiner

Rachel McCord has been in recovery for 6 years. Rachel has been a recovery coach with the Behavioral Health Department since 2018. Rachel enjoys talking over coffee with clients.



Peer Recovery Coach Rachel McCord

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Sault Tribe Advocacy Resource Center brings you Denim Day April 30!

Denim Day is Wednesday, April 30, 2025. Denim Day began in 1999 as a way to promote sexual violence awareness. Wearing denim symbolizes that a person’s clothing does not matter when it comes to assault. Join us in our mission to eliminate sexual violence in our community and around the world! Wear your denim and show your support! (Dress down has been pre-approved for eligible Sault tribe team members.)

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Allen Cadreau chosen as 40 Under 40 honoree

The National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development (NCAIED) is recognizing 40 individuals under the age of 40 for exemplifying leadership, initiative and dedication while making significant contributions to their professions and communities.

The Class of 2025 includes Allen Cadreau— a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

“Each of these remarkable individuals has shown a commitment to going beyond boundaries to build a bright future for Indian Country,” said NCAIED President and CEO Chris James in announcing this year’s recipients. “They join more than 600 past honorees in what has been an increasingly tight-knit and collaborative group. “I’m excited to celebrate the 2025 Class’s achievements... and follow their

success in the years ahead.”

Cadreau and his cohorts were recognized at the Reservation Economic Summit held in Las Vegas, Nev., back in March.

“The 2025 class of Native American 40 Under 40 awardees reflect the depth of talent, dedication and leadership within our communities,” said Lillian Sparks, vice chair of the National Center’s Board of Directors. “These individuals are shaping

the future of Indian Country and setting a powerful example for generations to come.”

In nominating petitions, it was noted that Cadreau is the overall project manager for the largest and most complex tribal project the state of California has ever funded.

“Allen’s exceptional technical skills set and his leadership on this project is what will make it a fantastic success story

and I can’t think of anyone more deserving,” wrote one nominee.

“Given what I have seen of Mr. Cadreau in my time knowing him, I have no doubt that he will play a critical role in bringing ‘Energy Sovereignty’ to Indian Country,” wrote another. “Allen James Cadreau is one of the best and brightest and truly exemplifies what the 40 Under 40 program represents.”



Allen Cadreau (center) with his proud family and representatives of the Sault Tribe and other dignitaries.



Allen Cadreau— a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, honored by the NCAIED.



Allen Cadreau (right) receives a basket from Sault Tribe Board Representative Tyler LaPlaunt.



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Contact the Bay Mills Indian Community Environmental Coordinator, Jen Satchell at wastecollection@boymills.org or (906) 248-8655 for info, questions, or voucher if you can't access the website.
For more info, visit www.boymills.org/wastecollections

Ricky “The Savage” Seymour is undefeated

BY SCOTT BRAND

Ricky “The Savage” Seymour, a proud member of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians, will be taking his undefeated professional boxing record into the ring at the Menominee Casino Resort on Saturday, May 17.

“Ricky’s story is one of transformation, a testament to the power of hope and faith,” posted Team Seymour in promoting the upcoming fight. “At every event and during every fight, we proudly represent our tribal nation and our culture. We want to get the tribe involved in any way we can. We believe in the strength and resilience that our heritage brings, and we carry that sprit with us into the boxing ring. We feel it is important to share Ricky’s story, so others can see that life can indeed change, that it is possible to move from darkness into light. We hope his journey can inspire even one person to change their life!”

Seymour took his first two professional bouts, one at cruiserweight and the second as a

heavyweight, with first-round technical knockouts. “If you see that opening you take it,” he said to explain the quick end to his fights.

Seymour was born and raised on the Sault Tribe Indian Reservation in Escanaba, Mich.

In his early teens, he began sparring at the Hannahville Boxing Club where he learned the basics of “The Sweet Science.” Now, at the age of 32, he is trying to make up for lost time returning to the ring with a big goal in mind: “I’m trying to get big enough to take on Jake Paul.”

His other goal, as a father of seven children ranging from 5 months to 17 years old, is to serve as a good example.

“I’ve been sober and doing a lot of good things,” said Seymour. “I’m trying to show my kids you can go from being homeless to on television. Believe in your dreams.”

Seymour got back into boxing as a trainer for his older brother, Max Boursaw. A bad motor vehicle accident left Boursaw unable to fight, but he



Referee Mark Nelson lifts the hand of Ricky Seymour after he notched his first victory on Feb. 22 over Justin Echols.

has since returned to the ring as a trainer for Seymour joining fellow cornermen Tim and Ricky Smith on fight night.

Seymour utilizes a variety of training facilities in his spare time when not working full-



Team Seymour includes from left to right, Cutman Tim Smith, Ricky Seymour, Max Boursaw and Ricky Smith.

time as a welder for Fincantieri Bay Shipbuilding in Sturgeon Bay, Wis. He has a ring in his barn at home for training and he is also a frequent visitor to the Menominee Indian Boxing Club and the Forest County

Potawatomi Boxing Club to seek out new sparring partners in preparing for fights.

Ricky is the son of Dion Seymour, a two-time Michigan Golden Gloves Champion, and Elaine Eagle.

As bears push further south in Michigan, here’s how we can coexist

Editor’s Note: The following article has a lot of useful tips for dealing with bears, as they are not only being seen more often below the bridge, but in residential areas above the bridge. Read about how to keep bears from hanging around your property.

FROM THE MICHIGAN DNR

As bears continue expanding their ranges in Michigan’s northern Lower Peninsula, more residents and business owners may spot a hungry bear roaming through their property this spring.

Here are two important points to remember:

— Bird feed, including suet, is like fast food to a bear, which can smell the feed from a mile away and remember where it is year after year.

— A bear will likely keep on moving if there’s nothing tasty to eat, whether that’s bird seed, unsecured garbage or a food-splattered grill.

Living with bears has long been part of the fabric of the Upper Peninsula, which is home to about 10,000 bears. But bears have become a greater presence in the Lower Peninsula over the past two decades as they expand their footprint farther west and south, including into the Traverse City, Grand Rapids and Midland regions. About 2,000 bears now live in the Lower Peninsula.

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources manages Michigan’s wildlife, including its only bear species, the American black bear. The DNR regulates bear hunting season in the fall to help keep the bear population sustainable. Jared Duquette, a DNR wildlife biologist who specializes in human-wildlife interactions, noted that black bears are an important part of the state’s ecosystem.

“Bears eat a variety of fruits, berries and nuts, making them terrific seed dispersers,” Duquette said. “Their droppings help spread seeds across large areas, promoting plant growth and forest regenera-

tion. As opportunistic omnivores, bears help control populations of small mammals and insects. They also scavenge on carrion, which helps recycle nutrients back into the ecosystem.”

‘A fed bear is a dead bear’

The DNR has received an average of about 285 bear complaints per year over the past 20 years, including 303 complaints in 2024. Counties with the most bear complaints in 2024 included Marquette (41 complaints), Houghton (29), Otsego (26), Chippewa (25), Delta (24), Charlevoix (19), Leelanau (16) and Grand Traverse (13).

About half the complaints to the DNR’s Traverse City Customer Service Center are from people who see a bear in their yard or neighborhood and expect the DNR to come take it away. But that’s not necessarily how it works, said Mike Kowalski, a wildlife expert for 25 years at the Traverse City office, which oversees Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Benzie, Leelanau and Manistee counties.

A bear simply passing through someone’s property does not warrant action from the DNR. Remember that the bears live here too, Kowalski said, and if we take steps to keep food sources off our property, they’ll probably move

right through. To scare a bear off, make loud noises such as banging two metal pots together or using an airhorn.

Say a bear tears down a bird feeder, helps itself to the contents and causes minor property damage in the process. The DNR will instruct the homeowner to remove the bird feeder (including seed spilled on the ground) and give the bear at least two weeks to quit coming around. Other tips include replacing bird feeders with bird baths, securing household trash in a garage or shed, using bear-resistant trash cans (and bear-resistant dumpsters for businesses), and protecting beehives with electric fence.

“We had a homeowner who wanted us to trap a bear because it was coming by their home every day,” said Stephen Griffith, a veteran DNR biologist for the Traverse City area. “But if a bear is coming by every day, there’s a problem. You need to fix the problem. Bears have a very, very good memory.”

Griffith said two other residents in the Traverse City area decided to leave food out for the bears every day and even named them. This is bad news, he said, as bears can become conditioned and risk getting shot by another resident or euthanized by animal control offi-

cers.

Hazing, relocation and safety tips

The DNR can haze a bear or trap and relocate a bear if the animal becomes problematic or poses a potential threat to public safety. Hazing includes scaring off the bear with rubber buckshot or pyrotechnics.

A captured bear can be relocated to a more suitable habitat in the woods of northern Michigan. But that habitat is becoming scarcer as more land is developed.

“You can take a problem bear somewhere else, but then you run the risk of it becoming someone else’s problem,” said Kowalski, whose office relocates about six bears a year.

If a black bear approaches you, DO NOT RUN. Instead:

- Stand your ground.
- Back away only when the bear stops its approach.

— Make yourself look bigger by raising your arms and jacket, and/or standing on a rock or stump.

— Yell “HEY BEAR!” loudly.

— Always provide a clear, unobstructed escape route for the bear.

If a black bear makes contact with you:

- DO NOT play dead (that’s for a grizzly bear).
- FIGHT BACK with anything at hand.





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Community rallies at Battle of the Badges to honor fallen firefighter Lt. Jason Carstens

By **BRENDA AUSTIN**

A packed crowd at Big Bear Arena on Saturday, April 5, watched first responders swap sirens for skates in a high-energy charity hockey game that raised nearly \$10,000 for a scholarship honoring the late Lt. Jason Carstens of the Sault Fire Department.

A few hundred community members turned out for the 2025 “Battle of the Badges,” where local police officers and firefighters/

EMTs clashed in a spirited matchup that ended with a narrow 18-17 win for Sault PD.

The event was created by Detective Phil Donnay of the Sault City Police Department and Firefighter/Paramedic Aidan Levy as a tribute to Carstens, who passed away unexpectedly last September.

The scholarship fund established in his memory will support local students pursuing careers as first responders.

Donnay commented that this year’s game had the biggest turnout for a police vs. fire game in the Sault.

Both Fire Chief Edwin Miller and Police Chief Wes Bierling were on hand, cheering on their respective teams—and sharing a few laughs from the bench.

“He was a huge presence in our community,” said Bierling. “Seeing people from all over come together like this shows how much he meant

to everyone.”

The game included players from departments across the region, reinforcing the shared bond among first responders.

“It just confirms what we already knew—this community backs its police, fire, and EMS,” said Miller. “And this scholarship is a great way to keep Jason’s memory alive.”

Sault Tribe Law Enforcement Officers Harrison Thorne, Danny

Menard and Sgt. Josh Mayer tied on skates, taking to the ice to represent the Sault Tribe.

In addition to the game, the event featured a 50/50 raffle and a “Skate with a Hero” session where kids hit the ice with their favorite first responders.

The Battle of the Badges made its return after a COVID-era hiatus, and organizers say they plan to keep the tradition going strong.



Both the Canadian and U.S. national anthem’s were sung prior to the puck drop.



Sault P.D. defend the net during first period play.



From left, Sault Tribe Law Enforcement Sgt. Josh Mayer and Officers Danny Menard and Harrison Thorne tied on skates, taking to the ice to represent the Sault Tribe. Below, team Sault Ste. Marie Fire Department takes control of the puck.



“We Want to Be Counted” - Sault Tribe shines light on missing and murdered members

By **BRENDA AUSTIN**

For the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, remembering the missing and honoring the murdered is more than a campaign—it’s a promise to not let their stories fade.

Since 2021, the Tribe’s Advocacy Resource Center (ARC) has tracked 35 cases in its MMIP (Missing and Murdered Indigenous People) database. Of those, 22 were murder victims. Thirteen were reported missing. Four are still unaccounted for.

“It’s about visibility. It’s about justice. We want our people to be counted,” said Jess Gillotte-King, ARC’s community educator. “Too often, our missing don’t make headlines. They don’t get timely investigations. Their lives matter.”

To raise awareness, ARC will hang red dresses in all seven counties where the tribe is pres-

ent. The dresses are a powerful symbol of the women and relatives who never made it home and are set to go up on or just after May 1—rain or shine.

One name Gillotte-King shared is that of her relative, Yvonne Renee Scott, a tribal member who vanished on Jan. 3, 2004, in Wyoming, Mich. Yvonne had just spoken with police after reporting a robbery. She walked away from the scene and was never seen again. Her family has since passed, but they spent their final years searching for her. Anyone with information is urged to contact the Kent County Sheriff’s Department at (616) 632-6125.

According to the National Indigenous Women’s Resource Center, Native American women are murdered at rates more than 10 times the national average.

Gillotte-King said law enforce-

ment needs to do more. She urged agencies to stop delaying reports, take missing cases seriously from the start, and gather full racial and cultural data when documenting victims. Beyond policy change, she believes education and action at the community level can make a difference.

“We need to teach our youth what healthy relationships look like. Support shelters. Wear red. Ask questions. Show up,” she said. “You don’t have to be Native to care about what’s happening.”

For those who want to help, ARC encourages people to host red dress displays, contact lawmakers about MMIP legislation, and support Indigenous-led organizations.

“Every dress tells a story,” Gillotte-King said. “We owe it to them to keep telling it.”



The ARC will be hanging red dresses during May in all seven counties where the tribe is present. The dresses are a powerful symbol of the women and relatives who never made it home.

Weather provides a maple syrup harvest rebound for 2025 Sugar Bush



The taps and buckets returned this year allowing visitors to get a hands-on experience collecting their own sap at the Mary Murray Cultural Camp on Sugar Island. An early thaw in 2024 saw the maple trees begin to bud in January and those who run the camp felt it would be unwise to tap the trees last season. There were no such concerns this year with the weather following a more traditional schedule.



Left, a student collects a bag of sap for her bucket. Right, Bouschor explains the drip method used to determine the proper time to take the boiling sap off of the fire.



Above, Jasmine Craig of Deskan Zibbing and Shako Whiteye of Oneida, both near London, Ontario were some of the first guests to collect sap at this year's Sugar Bush taking a field trip while attending the five-day Language Conference hosted by Kewadin Casino. Below, Msko Ashawasega dumps her smaller bucket into a larger one atop the Ski-Doo Tundra snowmobile.



*Photos by
Scott Brand*



Ms. Garland's fourth grade class from J.K.L. Bahweting took the ferry over to Sugar Island on April 3 to learn about the traditional way to harvest maple syrup. The students donned heavy boots and warm jackets to venture into the woods.



Boiling in the kettle adds important minerals and nutrients to the syrup.



Above, Cultural Activities Coordinator Tyler Bouschor welcomed countless guests throughout the season. Here, he explains how it takes approximately 40 gallons of sap and 20 hours of boiling over an open fire to produce a gallon of high-quality maple syrup. Bouschor also entertained the crowds throughout the season with the Native American history on Sugar Island and traditional stories. Below, the work for Cultural Activities personnel extends well beyond the hours when visitors are on the grounds. They arrived roughly two weeks before anyone else to wash the taps and buckets, blaze trails to the trees and ensure there is plenty of wood to fuel the long hours over the fire required to make syrup.



Above, the fourth-graders collected sap, including some that had iced up overnight, and dump it into holding cans until there is room to add it into the boiling kettle.



Above, Walter Roy, a Language Conference attendee, spoke at one of the sessions. At the age of 65, he is working to become a teacher and utilized this opportunity to speak his native language in front of a captive audience. Below, Elaine Nahwegahbow, Meg Abotossaway and Jenny McGraw of Canada's Manitoulin Island belatedly realized they had not adequately dressed for a trip through the woods opting to seek warmth in the nearby building.



Above and below, students line up with their spoons waiting for their turn to taste some homemade maple syrup.



Klash at Kaines — 8U Soo Michigan Hockey

PHOTOS AND STORY BY EMILY TENEYCK

Klash at Kaines for the 8U Soo Michigan Hockey program was held Feb. 8-9, 2025. There were over 120 players in attendance, 35 from Soo Michigan Hockey and the rest from around the state.

Games were played in the historic Kaines Rink and included teams from Soo Michigan, Petoskey, Cheboygan, Kalkaska, Cadillac, Alpena and Gaylord. All teams played four games over the course of Saturday and Sunday.

The Klash at Kaines Tournament is organized strictly

by parent volunteers. The volunteers make this tournament successful by donating food, coaching, refereeing, cleaning the ice “the old fashioned way” and allowing the boys and girls to play hockey in a positive environment.

This year, thanks to our many

generous sponsors, we were able to raise over \$5,000 to help support the 8U hockey program with tournament registration fees for the season, equipment upgrades and a banquet for our players.

We would like to thank each and every person who sponsored

or donated time or services to our tournament.

At the conclusion of the weekend, each child was awarded a medal to take home.

We will be back on the ice for Klash at Kaines 2026 the second weekend of February, so come and check it out!



Soo Michigan Hockey 8U Yellow



Soo Michigan Hockey 8U Blue



Soo Michigan Hockey 8U White

Snowsnake competition held on tribe’s Rez March 23



Video Producer Joseph Street was at the snowsnake competition filming the event for the Sault Tribe Culture Department.



Jeani Reffruschinni and Culture Director Cathy DeVoy make sure the kitchen is organized for participants.



Larry Jacques lining up his snowsnake while his son watches.



Cookz Shawanda (left) gives her snake a good push while Jackie Robinson watches.



Assistant Cultural Activities Coordinator Scotty Garcia helps measure and flag the course for distance.



Cultural Activities Coordinator Tyler Bouschor and his daughter Myla.



Katherine Jacques takes aim for a good toss.



Twins Abigail and Lillian O'Crotty, Damien Hopper.



Jesse Bowen gives a snowsnake a toss on the track.



A young participant and her beautiful snowsnake.

Walking on...

BRADLEY ALLEN SMART

Bradley Allen Smart, 33, of Kincheloe, Mich., died March 16, 2025. He was born Oct. 26, 1991, in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., to Robert and Frances Marie (Lee) Smart. Brad grew up in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., and remained until the third grade, when his family moved to Missouri where he attended Clarkston High School. After returning to the Upper Peninsula in 2016, he started working at Service Pro as a lube technician. He met Kayla Benner in 2018 at the Merch with some friends and they later got married on Aug. 13, 2022. Brad was a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and enjoyed everything outdoors. He was a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Horseshoe Club, the Sault Ste. Marie, Softball League and a cornhole league. Brad loved spending time with his son Jaxon. He enjoyed camping, fishing, hunting, four-wheeling and spending time out with his friends on a pontoon boat. Brad was constantly working on cars, always looking for that “odd” noise sound. Brad is survived by his wife, Kayla; mother, Frances; sons, Jaxson Smart and Hunter Nolan of Sault Ste. Marie; daughters, Allie Nolan of Sault Ste. Marie and Annaleigh Smart of Missouri; nieces, Summer Smart, Aaliyah Smart, Brynlee Smart and Emma Benner; nephews, JJ Smart, Evan Smart, Keegan Smart, Sawyer DePlonty, Rowan Smart, Josh Green, Kayden Lee and Kohen Brenner; sister, Bobbie Smart; brothers, Jason (Jessie) Smart, Brandon (Tiffany) Smart, Robert (Jolene) Smart and Ricky Gamelin, all of Sault Ste. Marie, and Joshua (Ashley) Queen of Missouri. Brad was preceded in death by his father, Robert; uncle, Jessie Smart Jr.; aunts, Theresa Willis and Kelly Smart; grandmother, Joyce Lee; grandfather, Jessie Smart Sr. and cousins; David Smart, Carrie Willis, and Vickie Smart. Visitation was held March 19 at the Niigaanagiizhik Ceremonial Building and continued until the tribal ceremony on March 20, 2025. Final resting place will be at Wilwak cemetery on Sugar Island, Mich., in Spring 2025.

BRIAN ASHER SMALLMAN

Brian Asher Smallman, two days old, of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., died on March 8, 2025, at C.S. Mott Children’s Hospital in Ann Arbor, Mich. He was born on March 6, 2025, in Sault Ste. Marie, to Brian Adam and Renee Carrie Smallman. Asher, in his brief but deeply cherished time with us, touched

the lives of his family in ways beyond measure. He brought immense joy to his parents. Though his time on earth was far too short, he was surrounded by love every moment of his life. Asher was a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and the Upper Tanana Athabascan from the Native Village of Tetlin. His spirit, though young, will forever be a part of his family’s hearts and traditions. Asher is survived by his parents, Brian and Renee; sisters, Natalie Switalski, KyLee Baker, and Sunshine Baker; brothers, Aidan Anderson, Jacob Smallman, and Parker Tulgetski; grandparents, Robyn (Darryl) Hill; and many aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, and cousins. Asher was preceded in death by his sisters, Kluane Baker and Isabella Switalski; grandparents, Margaret Kirsch, Bill DeFrance, and Brian Smallman; and extended grandparents from both sides of his family. A memorial service was held March 22, 2025, at the Sault Christian Fellowship, in Sault Ste. Marie.

DEANNA JEAN SWANSON

Deanna Jean Swanson, 86, of Manistique, Mich., passed away at home surrounded by her loving family on Feb. 9, 2025. Deanna was born on May 26, 1938, to her parents Leo Kerridge and Eleanor Brawley Kerridge of Manistique. Deanna married Ray Swanson, also of Manistique, on June 22, 1996. They were married for 27 years before his passing in August 2023. Deanna retired from the senior center after 20 years of working as a cook. She loved reading and creating ceramics. Going out with her family and friends was a favorite pastime. She loved buying things for her grandkids and experienced much joy while shopping for them. Deanna had a heart of gold. She was a wonderful mother. Deanna is survived by her son, John (Renee) Pelon, of Cheboygan, Mich.; her daughters, Julie Pelon, of Kewaunee, Wis.; Joan (Scott) Larsen, of Manistique; Beth (Mike) Paradise, of Gladstone, Mich.; and Dorothy (Roland) Nelson, of Nevada, Texas. Deanna is also survived by her grandchildren Joey, Dustin, Amanda, Trisha, Jace, Jenny, Brett, Allyssa, David, Desiree, Olivia, Michael, Kyle, Sadie, Rose, Justin, and Delaney, as well as 25 great-grandchildren. Deanna was preceded in death by her husband Ray, son Jay, her parents Leo and Eleanor, her sister Charlene and brothers Chucky and Gary. If you wish to make a donation in Deanna’s memory, please consider the Manistique Senior Center. Deanna’s funeral details will be announced by the family in the spring. Fausett Family Funeral Homes

is assisting the family with arrangements.

DORRI ANNE GALLAGHER

Dorri Anne Gallagher, 60, died March 24, 2025, at her home in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. She was born on Nov. 15, 1964, in St. Ignace, Mich., to Oliver and Gertrude (St. Onge) LaDuke. Dorri grew up in St. Ignace and raised three children, Ashley, Heather and Anthony Gallagher. Dorri adored her lifelong partner, Randy Marsh; she had many fond memories with Randy and her children. Dorri loved laying in the sun on hot summer days and having family cookouts at the beach. She enjoyed four-wheeling, snowmobiling, boating, and playing dice with her family and friends. Dorri is survived by her daughters, Ashley Gallagher and Heather Gallagher of Sault Ste. Marie; son, Anthony Gallagher III of St. Ignace; grandchildren, Kionah Jones, Daniel Moreno, Alysia Moreno, Jeremiah Jones, Tay’Shavn Clark, Ah’Nesty Lay, Dominick Gallagher, Bently Gallagher, and Serenity Chingwa; and sister, Debbie LaDuke Baker of St. Ignace. Dorri was preceded in death by her parents, Oliver and Gertrude; and brother, Anthony “Tony” LaDuke. A celebration of life for Dorri will be held in the Summer of 2025. Family Life Funeral Homes assisted the family with arrangements. Condolences may be left to the family at www.familylifefh.com.

LLOYD PHILLIP MARSH

Lloyd Phillip Marsh, 66, of Kincheloe, Mich., died at McLaren Northern Hospital in Petoskey, Mich., on March 19, 2025. He was born Oct. 3, 1958, to Lloyd and Elizabeth (LaTour) Marsh. Lloyd had a passion for working on small engines, from riding and push lawnmowers to snowmobiles — if it had an engine, he could fix it. His creativity shined through his love for Native American crafts, especially his intricate beadwork, which he proudly shared with those around him. An avid powwow attendee, Lloyd found joy in storytelling around the fire, surrounded by family and friends. His happy-go-lucky nature and kind soul made him a cherished presence in the lives of many. Lloyd enjoyed snowmobiling, fishing, swimming, hunting, and hanging out with his friends. Lloyd is survived by his sisters, Mary Orr, Janice Marsh, and Rose Marsh of Kincheloe; brothers, Danny Marsh of St. Ignace

and Joey Marsh of Paradise, Mich. Lloyd was preceded in death by his parents, Lloyd and Elizabeth; sister, Alice Marsh; and brother, Randy Marsh. A celebration of life will be held in the Spring of 2025. Family Life Funeral Homes assisted the family with arrangements. Condolences may be left to the family at www.familylifefh.com.

RANDY JOSEPH MARSH

Randy Joseph Marsh, 56, died at his home in Moran, Mich., on March 9, 2025. He was born on June 19, 1968, in Grand Rapids, Mich., to Lloyd and Elizabeth (LaTour) Marsh Sr. Randy grew up in Whitefish Point, Mich., where he developed a strong work ethic and a wide range of talents, including mechanics, roofing, and plowing—just a few of the many skills he mastered throughout his life. Above all, Randy’s greatest joy was his life partner of 25 years, Dorri Gallagher. She was his world, and their love was unwavering and full of deep companionship. Randy enjoyed fishing with his father, brother and his friends. He loved to hang out with his friends. Randy is survived by his sisters, Mary Orr, Janice Marsh, and Rosie Marsh of Kincheloe, Mich.; brothers, Lloyd Marsh of Kincheloe, Daniel Marsh of St. Ignace, Mich., and Joseph Marsh of Paradise, Mich. Randy was preceded in death by his parents, Lloyd and Elizabeth; and sister, Alice Marsh. A celebration of life will be held in the Spring of 2025. Family Life Funeral Homes assisted the family with arrangements. Condolences may be left to the family at www.familylifefh.com.

PHYLLIS MYRNA BENSON

Phyllis Myrna Benson, 86, passed away March 29, 2025, at Bay Bluffs Medical Care Facility in Harbor Springs, Mich. She was born Sept. 9, 1938, in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., and lived a life defined by dedication, resilience, and a deep love for those around her. Phyllis was a proud employee of the Chevrolet V-8 Engine Plant in Flint, Mich., for 30 years, where she was an active and devoted member of UAW Local 659. Her strong work ethic and commitment to the union reflected her unwavering sense of purpose and perseverance. Phyllis was also a respected member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. Her heritage was an integral part of her identity, and she carried it with

pride throughout her life. Though she never had children of her own, Phyllis was lovingly known as “Aunt Myrna” to many. With an open heart and nurturing spirit, she became a maternal figure to countless nieces, nephews, and extended family members. Her warmth, kindness, and unwavering care left a lasting imprint on all who were fortunate enough to know her. Phyllis was preceded in death by her parents, Carl and Helen Benson of Sault Ste. Marie; her older brother, Gerald Benson of Flint, Mich.; her younger brother, Fredrick Benson of Sault Ste. Marie; her nephews, Carl Benson of Flint and Andrew Benson of West Virginia; and her niece, Brandy Sue Guiling of Flint. Phyllis is survived by her brothers Courtney (Donna) Benson, Andrew Benson, and Franklin (Peggy) Benson; along with many nephews and nieces. Phyllis’s memory will live on in the hearts of those she loved so deeply. Her legacy of generosity and kindness will continue to bring comfort to all who were touched by her life. A funeral mass will be held in May 2025, with the date to be determined. A graveside burial will follow. Family Life Funeral Homes Sault Ste. Marie assisted the family with arrangements.

JOHN RICHARD SPARKS

John Richard Sparks, 93, passed away peacefully at Freighter View Assisted Living in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., on March 30, 2025. He was born June 28, 1930, in Sault Ste. Marie to Edward and Viola (Gooderman) Sparks. John spent his early years in Sault Ste. Marie and began his service to his country on Dec. 13, 1948, when he joined the National Guard. His commitment to serving led him to enlist in the United States Armed Forces in February 1949. He was stationed in Anchorage, Alaska, and was honorably discharged on Sept. 17, 1952. John married the love of his life, Isabelle Grace Martin, on Nov. 8, 1952. Together, they raised five children, two sons and three daughters and built a life filled with love, laughter, and cherished memories. John worked at The Tannery; a leather company known for crafting shoe soles in the 1950s. In 1960, he moved his family to Racine, Wis., where he worked as a truck driver. By 1968, John returned to Sault Ste. Marie and began his long career with the Chippewa County Road Commission. He remained a dedicated employee until his retirement in May 1993. John was an avid outdoorsman who enjoyed fishing, hunting, camping, and playing cribbage. He especially loved deer hunting and took pride in teaching his sons the art of the hunt from

Sault Tribe elders announce scholarships

Applications are being submitted for two 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 of study as a full-time stu-

dent.

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 2025-2026 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.

The deadline for applications is Friday, June 20, at 5 p.m.

All requirements listed above must be received by the Elder Service Division, ATTN Elder Scholarship, 2076 Shunk Road, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783.

Please note, incomplete or late applications will not be considered.

If you have any questions, please contact Elder Services Division Director Katie Peabody at (906) 635-4971.

Interested elders can apply for a seat on the MIEA

The Michigan Indian Elders Association (MIEA) was established to aid and assist in the improvements of the economic, social, healthful and spiritual well-being of the American

Indian Elders of Michigan, providing a forum in which the American Indian Elders may speak, learn, grow and exercise control over their environment.

The MIEA meets in the

spring, summer and fall, at rotating sites throughout Michigan. Delegates and alternates would need to plan to attend the meetings throughout the year, and the term is for two years. In the

event the Sault is a host site, the MIEA delegates and alternate would assist with the planning of the gathering.

Interested Elders may apply by submitting a letter of intent,

and three letters of recommendation. For more information, please call Elder Services at (906)440-6537 or email Katie Peabody at kpeabody@saulttribe.net.

Annual Mother’s Day Brunch funds Sugar Island Powwow

The Sugar Island Powwow Committee invites you to our annual Mother’s Day Brunch fundraiser.

Please join us on Mother’s Day, May 11, 2025, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Niigaanagiizhik Cultural Center (11 Ice Circle, Sault, MI).

Feel free to dine-in or take out and participate in our silent auction, enter to win a door

prize, and enjoy some fresh baked goodies at the bake sale.

Meals are \$10 each. Mothers over 60 eat for free and kids 5 and under eat at a reduced rate of \$5.

All proceeds from this event will fund the Sugar Island Powwow.

For more information, follow “Sugar Island Traditional Powwow” on Facebook.

Munising elder position announcement

JOB TITLE: Community Health Program Clerk
DATE: March 28, 2025
DEPARTMENT / LOCATION: Health Division/ Munising Tribal Health Center
CLASSIFICATION: Non-Exempt Part-Time / Regular (14 Hours per week)
REPORTS TO: Marlene Glaesmann RN MPA, Rural Health Program Manager
REMUNERATION: \$14.50 per hour
CLOSING DATE: Up to 90 days of posting date
Position will assist front

desk, medical records staff with front desk reception and operations duties. Will answer phones, schedule patients, filing and sorting of medical records documents, fax, email, scan medical records documents, as needed. Assist with processing of patient requests and medical documentation flow from reception and medical records to the medical clinic and other departments. Under the direct supervision of the Secretary or Medical Assistant will assist with archiving of all hard copy medical records. Assists with

all other clerical or direct service duties, as needed by other departments such as Community Health Program services.

High School diploma or equivalent required. Minimum of 1 year of experience working in a general office setting. Must be a Sault Tribe member age 60 or over and reside within the seven-county service area.

Reply to: WIOA / Senior Employment Program, Attention: Brenda Cadreau, 2 Ice Circle, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783. (906) 635-4767, bca-dreau@saulttribe.net

Walking on continued

From “Walking on Page 15

a young age. He was also an exceptional horseshoe player and spent several years competing in a league, earning a reputation as a formidable opponent. A lover of country music, John often listened to the timeless tunes of Hank Williams, Patsy Cline, and Johnny Cash.

John was a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

John is survived by sons Melvin (Susan) Sparks and John (Colleen) Sparks; daughters, Carol (Gary) Maleport and Lisa (Frank) Killips, all of Sault Ste. Marie; grandchildren, Mandy (Dan) Emplit, Domine King, Michelle Shoe, Jenifer Perks, Niki (Brad) Pfluger, Michael Sparks, Jody Sandhagen, Zackary (Tiffany) Maleport, Kayla (Orlando) Garibay, Jesse Killips, and Frank Killips; sisters, Lorraine (Richard) Brown, Loretta McCormick; as well as many great-grandchildren.

John was preceded in death by his wife, Isabelle; daughter, Deborah Kellis; his grandson, Billy Killips; parents, Edward and Viola Sparks and his brothers, Edward, William, and Donald Sparks.

A visitation was held April 7, 2025, at Family Life Funeral Home in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. The Funeral Service followed, officiated by Carol Maleport.

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

She was born Oct. 23, 1940 in Cross Village, Mich., to John and Louise Keller. She was 12 brothers and sisters, Ann, Jack, Joe, Pete, Gordon, Fran, Tony Aggie, Edward, Kathy, Mary and Patsy Keller.

In the late 1950s she moved to Mackinac Island, Mich., for work where she met Deward Perrault, got married and had five sons, Deward, John, Mike, Gordon and William.

She had a life-long love for music, painting, reading, gardening and bird watching.

She taught music at Mackinac Island School. She also served as chairperson for the Title IV Tribal Program and played a role in helping the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians obtain federal recognition.

Funeral services will be held on Aug. 9, 2025 in Cross Village at the Holy Cross Church with burial to follow at the Holy Cross Cemetery. There will be a luncheon and family reunion following services at the Cross Village Town Hall.

GARTH SQUIRES POPOUR

Garth (lovingly known as Gary) Squires Popour, 86, of Port Hope passed away unexpectedly Wed, March 26, 2025.

Garth was born in Thompson in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan on June 13, 1938. He moved with his family to Harbor Beach when he was 10, and joined the U.S. Navy at 17 where he was



assigned to the Amphibious force and later became a disbursing clerk. After discharge from the military, he worked with his dad on I-75 for several years, for GM in Pontiac and later moved to Port Hope where he farmed and helped his wife with the Adult foster Care Home.

He married Martha Reinke on April 11, 1964. He always wanted 12 children, but was blessed with 3, Garth W. (Shannon) Popour, Lisa (Duane) Pleiness, Dawn Deer, and seven grandchildren, Zachari Popour, Zane (Kim) Pleiness, Terra (Kevin) Ginther, Nevin Pleiness, Caitlyn (Kevin) Kraft, Trent (MacKenzie) Popur, Cody (Maria) Deer and 12 wonderful great grandchildren, Harvey, Sawyer, Hudson, Spencer, Clara, Beckett, Noah, Rowan, Grayson, Emerson, Ella and Kipton.

Gary was a proud member and elder of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians, a devoted member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, an ordained priest and gave the gift of life through organ donation. Gary was preceded in death by his parents Merle Catherine (Squires) & Edward Wilford Popour, brother Wilford (Pete), Sister Patricia Popour Michaels, brothers-in-law Clarence Osentoski, Glenn Hunter and Chuck Heit.

He is survived by his wife Martha of 60 years, sisters Donna Osentoski, Sharon Hunter, Sandy Heit, Tammy Richardson, brother David Popour, and numerous



nieces and nephews Cremation has taken place.

A memorial service will take place at a later date.

Arrangements are being handled by the Ramsey Funeral Home of Harbor Beach.

Memories can be shared at WWW.RamseyFH.com

PRISCILLA CATHERINE PINE

A fierce warrior for her family and community, Priscilla Catherine Pine has crossed over to the spirit world to join her father Alex Pine, grandmother Lucille Nertoli, Grandfather Germano Nertoli, Aunt, Barb Pine, Uncles Ed Pine and Anthony (Tony) Nertoli, and beloved father figures Jon Graney and Doc Bob Graham. A member of the Crane clan, Priscilla was known as Shaabiasing (two points that meet), Mom, Auntie, Little Sister, Pill, Prissy, and Boget-kwe.

The warmth of her family surrounded her till her last day, proving a true reflection on how Priscilla kept family in her heart her entire life. Priscilla is survived by her daughter, Aubrie Pine; mother, Jolene Nertoli; aunts, Catherine (Nertoli) DeVoy, Mary Pine Shipp, Princess Pine, and Keeta Pine Allred; siblings, Debra Ann (Christopher Hall) Pine and children Jada, Alexia, Justin, Nick, Steven (Carrie) Pine and children Hunter, Samantha, and Chance, Mariea (Dan) Pine-Mongene and children Jolene, Joe, Melinda;



cherished family, Luci Jo-Lillian DeVoy, Rita DeVoy and daughter Luna; Michael (Becky) Pine and children Dave, Doug, and Christopher; Phillip Nertoli Jr., Becky Nertoli, children Jennifer Cook, Nathan Nertoli, Brandon Nertoli, Samantha (Al) Cameron and children Carmen, Mason, Braden; Loretta McLeod, Becky Dekeyser, Scott Marble, Laura Aikens-McKay, Jen Day, Tom Day, Amy Ganga Sheets, Brian Clement, Jeani Reffruschinni, Ashly Erlichman, Bucko Teeple, and Michelle Teeple.

Priscilla’s compassion towards the tribal community was shown through her work contributing to the Youth Education Activities as a coordinator in the drug elimination program.

Priscilla was a leader in the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians community offering instruction in culture and teaching dance to tribal children, inspiring others to embrace their culture with confidence as she did. She loved to dance like no one was watching. Her extravagance and charisma in her youth spread a light to those around her. Priscilla worked with her family at the Chippewa Animal Clinic for 21 years, providing a fun-loving environment in the workplace.

A life with light Priscilla Catherine Pine, July 14, 1973 - March 28, 2025.

Traditional services were held at Niigaanagiizhik Ceremonial Building until the final committal on April 1.

Family Life Funeral Homes assisted the family with arrangements.

The deadly mix of substance use and farm machinery

REMINGTON RICE AND SAMANTHA WOLFE, MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

Farming is one of the toughest professions, demanding long hours, sharp focus, and the ability to handle high-risk situations.

Whether it’s operating heavy machinery or working with large animals, even minor changes in coordination or reaction times can increase risks. In this context, it’s important to recognize how substances such as alcohol, medications, or other drugs might impact farm safety.

Studies have indicated a link between alcohol use and higher rates of on-farm injuries and

fatalities – not as a judgement on individual choices, but as a recognition that even small amounts of substances can alter coordination and reaction times. This is a universal observation noted in the United States but in other countries.

Here in Michigan, researchers at Michigan State University’s Division of Occupational and Environmental Medicine are examining the root causes of agricultural workplace injuries. Their work is focused on exploring ways to improve safety and support farmers in making choices that best align with their well-being.

Real-world consequences
Stories from farming commu-

nities, including here in Michigan, highlight the real risks of substance use in agriculture. While not all fatal incidents undergo toxicology testing and non-fatal injuries may go unreported, 29 Michigan farming deaths between 2002 and 2021 were linked to a non-zero blood alcohol content (BAC). Detailed investigations into incidents in 2002 and 2017 are available on the Michigan State Fatality Assessment & Control Evaluation Program (MIFACE) website. Although these reports can be graphic, they serve as a reminder that impaired operation of machinery can have far-reaching consequences across families, farms, and communities.

These stories are not about pointing fingers of blame or shame for substance use. Instead, they acknowledge the challenges of balancing the demands of farming with personal well-being, and they stress that even minor impairments can have serious outcomes. Small, intentional actions — like taking breaks, leaning on support systems, and staying mindful of safety protocols — can save lives.

Choices for a safer farm
Farm safety is a shared responsibility. While no one is perfect and each farmer’s situation is unique, here are a few practical suggestions:
Avoid substances or manage

substance use around high-risk tasks. If you choose to use substances, be aware that even small amounts can impact your coordination. Consider avoiding alcohol or other substances before or during high-risk tasks. Always read prescription medication labels for potential side effects such as impaired vision or slowed reaction times.

Maintain your equipment. Regular safety checks and diligent equipment maintenance reduce the risk of unexpected malfunctions.

Take breaks, especially during long workdays. Fatigue is a common cause of mistakes. Short pauses can help you recharge and refocus.

Use personal protective equipment. Items like gloves, goggles and hearing protection might seem small, but they play an important role in reducing injury risks.

Stay current on certifications like pesticide licenses. Keeping up to date ensures you are informed about the latest safety practices.

Establish and follow safety protocols. Simple steps, like ensuring someone is nearby during high-risk tasks, can save lives. Working alone in potentially dangerous situations increases risk.

Healthy ways to manage stress
Stress is a constant in farming, and many people have used alcohol to unwind or escape the pressures of daily life. However, using alcohol and other substances can disrupt sleep, heighten anxiety, and negatively impact overall well-being. Consider reflecting on what has worked for you in the past to manage feelings of stress – whether it was attending social events with other farmers or community events, taking breaks, or leaning on a trusted support system. Sometimes, managing stress is about revisiting and strengthening these social and personal habits, rather than using substances.

There are also resources available to make drinking alcohol safer and ways to change how much and when you drink.

You can explore new strategies to manage stress. Talking with a friend, family member, or counselor can provide relief, while physical activity, mindfulness, or deep breathing can help you recharge and stay focused.

MSU Extension offers stress management courses and free counseling services tailored to farmers, and in a crisis, calling 988 connects you to immediate support. Asking for help is a sign of strength and a step toward a safer, healthier future for yourself and those around you.

Opportunities to connect
MSU Extension offers programs such as Mental Health First Aid, which can teach you how to support someone who is experiencing a mental health challenge or crisis.

Resources and information can be found at the Managing Farm Stress website. These resources include teletherapy services, the free virtual training Rural Resilience, the AgrAbility project, which supports people with disabilities working in agriculture and more.

This article was published by Michigan State University Extension. For more information, visit <https://extension.msu.edu>.



Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians 2025 Elk Application

The 2025 elk application period will run from May 1, 2025 to June 2, 2025. **All applications must be received by Sault Tribe Law Enforcement before 5:00 pm on June 2, 2025.** Applications received after 5:00 pm on June 2, 2025 **will NOT be accepted.** A lottery will be conducted at the June Conservation Committee Meeting. Tribal members **MUST** possess an Inland Hunting Harvest license and be at least 10 years of age to hunt bear and elk.

Name: _____
First Middle Last

Mailing Address: _____
Street City State Zip

☐ Male Tribal File #: _____ STS #: _____

☐ Female Date of Birth: _____ Phone #: _____

Email Address: _____

There is a \$4 application fee for each application. Each application must be accompanied by a check or money order (you may write one check for multiple applications). Checks and money orders can be made out to “Sault Tribe”. Sault Tribe Elders (60 & older) and youth (10-16) are not required to pay application fees.

Please send all bear and elk applications to:

**Sault Tribe Law Enforcement
Bear & Elk Applications
P.O. Box 925
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783**

For any questions, please contact Sault Tribe Natural Resource Department at 906-632-5040.

STLE Office Use ONLY

☐ Elder Pymt Method: _____

☐ Youth Date _____

Advocacy for our people at every government level



AUSTIN LOWES
TRIBAL CHAIRMAN

Advocacy at the federal level

I continue to advocate for our tribe at the national level to ensure our needs are met and our treaty rights are upheld. Recently, I had the privilege of traveling to Washington, D.C., for Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes (MAST) Impact Week alongside a delegation from the Sault Tribe. Our delegation, which included Directors Tyler LaPlaunt, Robert McRorie, and Aaron Payment, our legislative director, and myself, participated in key MAST meetings and followed up with crucial Capitol Hill visits.

These visits included productive meetings with Congressman Bergman, staff from Congressman Moolenaar’s office, Senator Peters, and newly elected Senator Slotkin. We also met with Representative Sharice Davids and Lt. Governor Peggy Flanagan of Minnesota. It’s important to understand that when tribal leaders meet with elected officials, it’s not because we endorse or support them but rather because we have a responsibility to advocate for our people, land, and Indian Country. When we disagree with elected officials, it’s even more important to make our voices heard and hold them accountable to the needs of Indian Country.

Throughout our visits, we proposed several Congressional Directed Spending (CDS) projects and highlighted the impacts that the current administration’s policies are having on Indian Country. Key concerns included the executive order to dismantle the Department of Education

and proposed cuts to the USDA, which could negatively impact food systems in our region.

One of the most powerful moments of the trip was visiting the National Archives, where we viewed the Treaty of 1836. Our ancestors signed this treaty, ceding nearly 14 million acres of land for Michigan to become a state. In exchange, they secured our rights as Indigenous people. Viewing this treaty firsthand was a profound reminder of why these trips to Washington are so important—to remind the federal government of its trust and treaty obligations to tribes like ours. Our rights were prepaid with our ancestor’s blood, and they are worth fighting for.

Advocacy at the state level

In addition to advocating at the federal level, I also prioritize engaging with state leaders to ensure that our tribe’s interests are represented. Recently, I had the opportunity to participate in the annual consultation with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS). This consultation is a crucial platform for tribal leaders to discuss the issues impacting our communities and to ensure that our voices are heard in shaping policies, funding, and services. The MDHHS consultation is particularly important because it receives more funding than any other department in the state.

During this meeting, we focused on several areas of concern, including streamlining the licensing requirements for tribal providers, increasing funding for elder services, improving foster care funding, and securing additional resources for inpatient behavioral health services. We also discussed allowing tribal members with substance abuse convictions to transfer to tribal drug courts instead of being required to complete their sentences in state drug courts. Tribal drug courts are preferable because they offer more services and include a cultural element that is

absent in state courts.

Advocacy at the local level

At the local level, I recently met with the mayor of Sault Ste. Marie and the city manager to discuss issues related to our community. A key highlight from this meeting was the agreement to allow snagging at the Powerhouse this summer, which will enable Sault Tribe citizens to have greater access to their treaty fishing rights. I would like to thank the mayor and city manager for their collaboration on this.

Feeding America

I am also proud to continue coordinating the monthly Feeding America food distribution in Sault Ste. Marie. This vital service has provided over 40,000 pounds of food to our community, supporting roughly 350 households, or around 800 individuals. With the recent announcements of USDA cuts totaling roughly a billion dollars, I am concerned that this vital service could be impacted. While the tribe does not financially contribute to the distribution, if these cuts affect the program, I will ask the board of directors to consider providing financial support to ensure that the distribution continues at its current levels. This would serve as another example of how valuable of a community partner the Sault Tribe is.

Retirements

Finally, I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to three incredible individuals who recently retired after decades of service to the tribe: Steve Sprecker, Teri Romano, and Lisa Bumstead. Steve retired as the general manager of the Shores Casino in St. Ignace after 39 years of service. Teri retired as the office manager at the ACFS after 31 years of service. Lisa retired as ACFS’s accountant after 30 years of service. Their contributions have been immeasurable, and the tribe will feel their absence. I wish them nothing but happiness in their retirement and thank them for their years of hard work.

A MESSAGE
FROM THE
CHAIRMAN



Viewing the Treaty of 1836.



Teri Romano retiring after 31 years at ACFS.



Lisa Bumstead retiring after 30 years at ACFS.



Tribal Chairman Austin Lowes and Sault Tribe officials attend the annual consultation with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS).

Time for a three-branch separation of powers



AARON PAYMENT
DIRECTOR, UNIT I

With the cyber attack on our tribe and impending massive federal cuts to the treaty and trust obligation drawing away our attention, we must not lose sight of one of the most significant challenges facing our tribe — that is institutionalizing permanent long-term stability as a three-branch separation of powers government. Decentralizing power in government to vest the ultimate authority with the people is not a foreign concept but that which originated in the Iroquois Confederacy Great Law of Peace. The fact that we have ignored or resisted this reform for the last 50 years since our Constitution was ratified is inexcusable.

WHAT’S HOLDING US BACK?

Eighth grade social studies curriculum educates us about the importance of the creation of co-equal branches of government to serve as a check and balance on our actions as a government. The filibuster effort to push a two-branch government option is once again rearing its ugly head, which

demonstrates a willful ignorance of what is needed to ensure a true balance of power. Worst yet, could it be an intended distraction to avert relinquishing the board’s discretionary, arbitrary and capricious approach to governance?

SIMPLY PUT

I have no doubt when some board members first ran for office and provided an obligatory campaign promise for a three-branch separation of powers, they may have actually meant it. What happens once elected where their campaign promises get cast aside? A board member once called it, “winning the tribal lottery,” where someone with little demonstrated education and experience goes from obscurity to making nearly \$70,000 a year. Sadly, some misinterpret the act of just getting elected as some amazing feat. Without delivering on your campaign promises, however, this rings hollow.

DRUNK WITH POWER

Free meals, free hotel rooms, free travel, and a salary at 2.5 to 3 times what entry level team members earn can be intoxicating for some. While I support board travel to national meetings to advocate for our people, habitually attending conferences in Las Vegas (in some cases two or three times a month) or other vacation spots as if that is their primary duty further separates some from the work they were elected to do. This lifestyle can lead to an elevated sense of self-importance and further disconnection from the very people they were elected to represent.

Of course, I am not referencing all board members. Barking out commands, however, from

the board table (just watch the Livestream), “chewing out” staff in public and denigrating their performance is endemic to a lack of humility, which some preach as one of our Seven Grandfather teachings. This is called, “talking the talk but not walking the walk.”

PATERNALISM

The worst aspect of refusing to allow you to vote to establish a three-branch separation of powers is the paternalism at which some conclude they know what is best for you rather than inviting you to make this decision for yourself. Once some get a taste unitary power and not having to answer to anyone by denying you standing in Tribal Court, they refuse to relinquish this drunk-with-power approach. While some claim they are advocating for their constituents by bringing issues forward, you as a tribal citizen become dependent on the board member to advocate your interests rather than you having direct legal right to litigate violations of your rights. Your rights should not be filtered through the board. Your rights should be inalienable, protected and you should be armed with true legal recourse by granting you standing in Tribal Court. Who in good conscience can stand in your way even one day longer?

TRAIL OF BROKEN PROMISES

Over the years, when asked, I have collaborated with board candidates to help shape their campaign platforms. As an in-kind service, I have even laid out or consulted on campaign ads supporting a three-branch separation of powers. Of course, it is the

candidate’s duty to report in-kind contributions to the Election Commission. At least a majority of the current board have promised a three-branch separation of powers in their election platforms. Did they really support this or say what they needed to in order to get elected?

SHOULD BROKEN PROMISES BE REWARDED?

Do the research yourself by looking back at their mailers and campaign ads (see link at the bottom of this report for the Sault Tribe News Archives) to see who made the promises but have done little to nothing since being elected to advance their promise for a true separation of powers. Currently, there are six to seven board members who have pledged to support a three-branch separation of powers and another five who have not committed to either a two- or three-branch separation of powers. As I understand it, more may be leaning toward a three-branch separation. We need seven votes to move the draft amendments to a secretarial election. This means every single board member is responsible for supporting or not supporting inviting you to make this historical decision.

TRIBAL MEMBERS KNOW THE SCORE

Over the years, I have observed well-intended board members lose themselves in the discretionary power they wield once elected. Like any drug or substance abuse, once anointed with discretionary power, some morph into entirely different people. With its origins in the Algonquin wendigo teachings, this all consuming and arrogant discretionary power eventually

begins to cloud one’s judgement. As traditional stories tell us, while some may feel they can control it, more likely they contort reality to fit their lustful desire to retain such power. In the end, every decision is manipulated with the “ends justifying the means.”

It feels like an act of dishonesty to have campaigned and secured an election victory on this false promise to reform our government. Whether they believed it then or lied to get your vote, the outcome is the same — they are denying you the right to vote to secure and stabilize our future with a real three-branch separation of powers and real rights and standing in Tribal Court to uphold such rights.

WARRIOR UP!

On the federal level, we continue to face the threat to upholding the treaty and trust obligation. I urge you to contact your elected federal representatives to remind them of the treaty and trust obligation and that we already pre-paid in full for everything we get. Whatever austerity measures they have to make, please recognize we are not a special interest, we are sovereigns that expect the U.S. government to honor their promises. Afterall, a nation is only as good as it’s word.

U.S. House of Representatives
www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative
US Senators (2)
www.senate.gov/senators/senators-contact.htm?lang=en
Tribal Members, please take care and love yourself, your family and your tribe!
Chi Miigwech ~ Aaron
Phone: (906) 440-8946
aapayment@saulttribe.net

Constitutional reform: A call for change now



ISAAC MCKECHNIE
DIRECTOR, UNIT I

After many years of preparation, hundreds of thousands of dollars in costs, and countless meetings of the Constitutional Convention Committee, the new constitution is nearly ready to be put before the people for a vote. Our current constitution is fundamentally flawed and in urgent need of reform. Our government lacks a clear separation of powers between its judicial, legislative, and executive branches, concentrating authority in the hands of too few individuals. This structural deficiency has led us to a critical juncture in our history — and the only thing standing in the way of meaningful progress is our current board of directors.

Many members are justifiably frustrated with the current board. The perception is that we are mired in conflict rather than

working for the people. Sadly, this perception is true. Our board has become dysfunctional, bogged down by internal squabbles over minor issues when we should be united in service to the membership. It’s time for that to change.

What is the root cause of this dysfunction? I believe it is the very structure of our government, which fosters corruption and internal conflict. We need a board that recognizes this and acts decisively to support a new constitution — one that can serve as the foundation for a more functional and accountable government.

If you research tribes across the country, you’ll find a common theme: those still operating under outdated, boilerplate constitutions — often issued by the Bureau of Indian Affairs upon federal recognition — are facing internal turmoil. While economic development may have masked these issues in the past, the cracks are now visible. Many of these tribes are experiencing chaos born of structural flaws. I do not want that for our people. That is why I support a new constitution — to ensure a better, more secure future.

Now is our moment.

Sovereignty means we have the power to choose. And I choose to let the people decide whether we should adopt a new form of government. We will never achieve lasting stability without addressing these core issues. I urge my

fellow board members to support sending this constitution to the people for a vote. The new document includes critical reforms: separation of powers, checks and balances, a bill of rights, an independent judiciary, and broader representation.

I understand that constitutional reform may not seem like a major issue to some, but that view is dangerously short-sighted. The upcoming elections will not fix



SHAWN BOROWICZ,
DIRECTOR, UNIT III

Boozhoo,

This winter has been a long one and it seems like its not over as yet. Mother nature does not seem to want to cooperate in bringing us warm weather and sunshine, but that’s why we live and play in our great state. The

what is fundamentally broken in our system. The flaws in our current constitution will persist regardless of who occupies the board seats. If we do not act now, I fear things will only deteriorate further.

As a sitting board member, one of the few powers I have is to place items on the agenda. I anticipate that the new constitution will soon come before the full board. Each board member will

More casino promotions are needed

recent ice storm was and is way worse than they had predicted, we north of the bridge took a pretty good hit, but below the bridge in certain areas is complete devastation. I hope by the printing of this all power and utilities are restored to all involved.

Now that the cyber threat seems to be behind us the various departments are working to restore services back to normal and maybe even better. The IT team and other government employees did a fabulous job in working through this ordeal and they all should be commended for their tireless effort.

We had a presentation by the casino marketing team and it seems as though they are on the right track in what they are doing, but from my perspective in visiting other Michigan casinos I would like to see more giveaways, as in side-by-sides, ATVs, boats, camping gear and so forth. This

then have to take a public stand. I am ready to cast my vote and take a stand for our people — to give them the choice they deserve. At the very least, let us give our people the opportunity to decide their future.

If you have questions or concerns, please don’t hesitate to contact me:
Isaac McKechnie
imckechnie@saulttribe.net
(906) 440-6661

seems to draw a lot of people in to gamble and to have a chance to win some tangible goods other than money or free play. We should have a new general manager at the Shores casino and I hope whoever is chosen gets involved with every department and continues to promote the best casino in Michigan.

We have a lot of work to do with the ongoing fishing decree, the ever-growing wolf population, the separation of powers, the Trump administration, the proposed Line 5 tunnel project, our Unit 3 housing project and the upcoming summer months activities just to name a few.

Our newspaper as well as the St. Ignace and Mackinaw visitor’s bureau websites will always post the upcoming events all year long. Until next time stay safe.
Respectfully, Shawn Borowicz
(906) 379-8511, (906) 430-7612 or sborowicz@saulttribe.net

Representation at local, state and federal level



TYLER LAPLAUNT
DIRECTOR, UNIT V

Aanii, Boozhoo,

It looks like spring is off to a very slow start this year. I don't know about you, but I'm ready to end this hibernation for some much needed sun and warmer weather. As I mention every year, spring and fall are great times to hold yourself to a traditional fast to reset or vision your path as you move forward. While the tribe usually holds fasting clinics, you don't have to be a part of one to get out into nature, pray to the Creator and your ancestors, and focus on your inner thoughts with intent. Maybe even focus on an important decision, recent milestone, or your or your family's health.

If you haven't done so already, I encourage everyone to make an appointment with Traditional Medicine at least once to get your name, clan, and colors. Traditional Medicine can be reached at (906) 632-0236 or (906) 379-8230. We have an amazing team in our Traditional Medicine department and they can also treat you for ailments and spiritual guidance. It's one of the many amazing services that our Health Division offers and it is completely free of charge.

ENROLLMENT UPDATE

As of March 21, there are 4,931 adult applications entered into Enrollment's tracking system. A total of 160 adult applications have been denied and 2,575 new members have been enrolled, including children. An additional note, since the cyber-attack, Enrollment has not yet been able to recover all of their information back into their system. This has delayed the enrollment review process as they are redoing a lot of work that had already been done. Slowly but surely, they will get through this and everyone who rightfully belongs in this tribe will finally have that opportunity. We appreciate everyone's patience during this process.

RES

At the beginning of March, I attended the RES 2025 summit. RES is the largest tribal economic summit in the United States. I took the opportunity to build on existing relationships, make some new ones, and bring back some potential opportunities and new ideas for the tribe. At this year's summit, I focused heavily on the agriculture and food production industry. Starting a Food Sovereignty Program has been one of our goals, and seeing what tribes are already doing across the country is nothing short of amazing. Hopefully, we can build off of these new relationships and get something moving.

At RES, I also had the amazing opportunity to present one of our very own with a black ash basket on tribe's behalf. Allen J. Cadreau was selected as one of the 40 under 40 up and coming stars in Indian Country. Allen and his cohort of 40 under 40 were nominated for exemplifying leadership, initiative, and dedication, making significant contributions to their professions and communities. The Sault Tribe couldn't be more honored to see our citizens performing at such high levels. Congratulations to Allen for his amazing achievement, and all of the work he will continue to do in Indian Country in the future. Your tribe and your ancestors are proud.

MAST IMPACT WEEK

In March, I also attended the Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes (MAST) Impact week in Washington, DC. MAST is an event where tribal leaders from across the Bemidji Area come together to advocate for like issues en masse on Capitol Hill. We meet with a mix of congressional representatives as well as senators to build relationships and have our voices heard in unison. Most of these visits are representatives from our region.

Our legislative team and policy experts also set up Sault Tribe specific visits to our Michigan reps. This year, we had the opportunity to meet with Congressman Bergman, Senator Peters, and Senator Slotkin.

The meeting with Congressman Bergman was our most productive meeting that we've had with him since my time in office. He was very interested in one of our congressionally directed spending requests to the point where he may come for a site visit. We will continue to push this issue to garner his support on our housing requests.

The meeting with Senator Peters and his staff went well and was about maintaining that relationship while he is in office. As always, we ask that he continue to support our treaty and trust responsibilities from the federal government. We also shared the same congressional directed spending requests that we presented to Congressman Bergman and let him know which one Bergman was supporting and asked for support from his office as well. It's our best path forward to get people to work together and try to get some of these housing projects fully funded and moving forward.

Our meeting with Senator Slotkin was the first meeting any of us have had with her since she was elected. We spent most of our time slowly building our relationship and getting to know her and her priorities before shifting into our requests. She was very receptive and very straightforward. I look forward to strengthening this relationship over the next few years and continue to work together to uphold treaty and trust responsibilities.

Finally, and most importantly, we were able to have a viewing of our treaty at the National Archives. That was an absolutely surreal experience. It's one thing to talk about uphold the treaty and trust responsibilities. It's



Sault Tribe officials visit Congressman Bergman (above) and Senator Slotkin (below).



a whole different experience to come face to face with the document that our ancestors made their mark on that gave us those rights and gave us the ability to fight and be a sovereign nation.

Our ancestors had the foresight to protect our right to hunt, fish, and gather. They had the foresight to cede 14 million acres of land to establish healthcare, education, and welfare in perpetuity. Our treaty rights are not handouts, they were prepaid by the blood and suffering of our ancestors to protect our next seven generations and we must always fight for those rights for the sacrifices they made. It's our duty as tribal people and it is our number one duty as tribal leaders and I will never take that lightly. Seeing our treaty with my own eyes was the most powerful experience of my life and I'll continue to advocate and do my best to honor the sacrifices that were made to get us to where we are today.

FLAG AT NMU

Since I was elected, I've been trying to make our tribe more prominent in our communities. As recent as last year, Munising schools finally hung our Sault Tribe flag in their gymnasium and there was an awesome little ceremony. I put in a request for NMU to do the same for the past three years, and we finally received approval. There will be a small ceremony at the end of the month to hand over the flag and raise it. We also have requests out to Grand Island and Pictured Rocks. I'm going to continue to work with local governments to increase our presence wherever I can.

Would there be any interest from Unit 5 business owners to fly one of our Sault Tribe flags? If so, please reach out to me through

my contact information below. I'd love to see Sault Tribe business owners proudly displaying our flag throughout Unit 5.

POWWOW

Our next powwow planning meeting will be held April 16 at 5 p.m. at the Munising Tribal Health Center Community room. If anyone is interested in helping with the planning or volunteering, feel free to show up. I'll also be making a Zoom call available for Unit 5 members interested in assisting but unable to attend. Please reach out if you need a link to join. The Bay Furnace Park Powwow will be held on Saturday, Aug. 9, 2025, and flyers should be developed shortly.

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES UPDATE

We are in the planning phases of multiple spring cultural workshops in both the Munising and Marquette areas. We are bringing everyone back together and getting a supply list. Dates should be chosen soon and flyers will be posted as soon as we have everything solidified. Those workshops will be ribbon skirts and shirts, moccasins, tobacco, and another hand drum workshop by request of the Munising Elders. As long as our teacher is available, we will get another one of those scheduled, too. If anyone has any teachings, crafting, storytelling, cooking, harvesting, or any cultural activities you are willing to share in a workshop, please reach out to me so we can support those new ideas. We are trying our best to bring in folks from our own communities for sustainability and future growth.

A reminder that the Marquette Culture Night is still happening at 204 Cherry Creek Road from 5:30 to 8 p.m. the second and fourth

Thursday of each month. Dinner is always provided and everyone is welcome. We primarily hold drum group practice, but it has turned into something much larger. The next three cultural nights are April 10, April 24, and May 8. As I've mentioned in the past, I'd love to support similar activities in the Munising area if someone is willing to step up and take the lead on that. At least until we get a Unit 5 Cultural Coordinator in place.

Finally, we are working with the Episcopal Diocese and KBIC to host a showing of Sugarcane, nominated for Best Documentary Feature at the 2025 Oscars, at Thomas Theaters in Marquette on May 10 at 1 p.m. The event will be free of charge and paid for by the Diocese. Sugarcane is a documentary of a boarding school near the Sugarcane reservation. It's a very powerful movie, especially for those who were directly impacted by the boarding school era. We are working on trying to bring in some support for those who may need someone to talk to after the showing. If you are interested in attending, you will need to pre-register. I will make sure to share that information on my Facebook page as soon as it's available. Our tribe will put it up on the website as well.

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

Chi Miigwech,
Tyler Migizii Migwan LaPlaut
Unit 5 Director/Vice-Chairman
tlaplaunt@saulttribe.net
(906) 440-8294

Some reminders on tribal members’ services



BRIDGETT SORENSON,
DIRECTOR, UNIT III

After the cyber-attack, we held our first workshop on March 11 and our first meeting on March 18.

At the meeting we passed a continuing resolution for our governmental budgets until June. We had previously passed it for the end of March but then the cyber-attack happened and some

information needs to be rebuilt.

The board passed the health compensation study at the April 1 meeting. All staff will be met with individually to be updated on their position within the grid. All team members will receive a check with retro pay for the increases to Oct. 1, 2024. Thank you to all the team members for their patience in this process.

The tribe has had some hard knocks in this first part of the year with the cyber-attack, the crazy U.P. weather, and on the political front. We remain diligent and put one foot in front of the other in hopes for relief soon.

It surely does seem that the Creator could be angry with us with some things that are happening in the world from floods, fires, tornadoes, ice storms, and so forth. Thankfully most of the U.P. has gained most of its power back. Many communities came together with warming shelters and food for people and essential

workers. The devastation below the bridge is pretty sad with many going without power for well over a week and still no end in sight. Prayers for the safety of all involved.

The latest numbers we have received from Enrollment is having 4,931 adult applications in the system and have enrolled 2,575 so far and declined 160 adult applications. Please continue to be patient if you haven’t heard on your application yet.

Some reminders, such as Inland harvest reports were due in February and you need to file yours before you can get a new card for the 2025 season.

Any children that may need assistance for senior pictures, driver’s ed training, sports programs, camps, etc., please contact the Education Department at Big Bear or print an online application. They can receive up to \$250 annually. This applies to service area members only.

I have gotten a few calls about the tribe’s applications for wells and septs through Housing. At this point, Housing hasn’t had any concrete information on what will be happening with IHS and the sanitation funding. For the latest information, it is best to contact Housing directly at (906) 495-1450 and if there was a person you were working with, ask for them. Housing will be the first agency to know.

The education scholarships should be open soon for the 2025-2026 school year for high school graduates. Please keep an eye on the tribe’s website for an application and deadlines.

The Feeding America truck will be at the Little Bear Arena on Thursday, April 17, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. for those in the St. Ignace area.

On March 31, my grandma walked on at 1:30 a.m. and I was thankfully able to be with her. She was one of the most influ-

ential people in my life. I had the opportunity to live with her on a couple different occasions and even cooked with her at the Galley restaurant where she was famous for her homemade macaroni and cheese and many soups, entrees and desserts. She was an extremely hard worker, working almost 50 years as a cook.

I was the oldest grandchild and I was fortunate enough to have her in my life for almost 52 years. She would have turned 92 on April 8. She was the oldest of 12 children with only three that remain.

She was a very proud member of our tribe and will be missed by many. My family has had a lot of losses in the last 4.5 years and it sure makes you put some things in perspective.

If anyone has a questions or concerns, please contact me at bsorenson@saulttribe.net, bridgett91@yahoo.com or (906) 430-0536.

Continuing work on constitutional amendments



MICHAEL MCKERCHIE,
DIRECTOR, UNIT I

I wish I could report more good news but we are in uncertain times and many of our funding sources and programs

are being challenged. Our tribe continues to fight for and educate our federal partners that access to health care, education, and being able to hunt, fish, and gather on our ancestral homelands are previously bought and paid for and are guaranteed treaty rights. The U.S. Constitution guarantees these rights by making treaties with Native Americans the law of the land. Regardless of this, we will still have to fight to keep these rights and funding all our programs will be challenging.

Our team members continue to re-build our data infrastructure after our ransomware attack and we are still sorting through all the damage such an attack can cause. I urge you to be patient with our team members as we continue to

navigate this. But good work is continuing. Our tribe continues to move forward on compensation studies and addressing worker compression. I realize its not happening as quickly as we want, but we are still making progress as many team members in our Health Division recently received adjustments and retention incentives.

We recently approved the construction of a Hessel Community Center as well as a new building to house our Natural Resource Division, bringing together our Wildlife, Fisheries, and Environmental programs under one roof. Even with all the uncertainties of our federal partners, there is a lot of work needed to continue to be good stewards of

the land and waters. We recently lost our appeal on our treaty fishing case (as expected) but we are going to continue fighting for our rights. We hope the Supreme Court will take the case, as we believe the law is on our side and no tribe should be forced into a multi-decade agreement that does not address our needs as a tribe.

Speaking of courts, we continue to work on the constitutional amendments for a separation of power for our tribe. The cyber-attack put us in a set-back and legal review had highlighted several concerns with the drafts as written. I do not want to see us lose momentum on the huge undertaking but do ask for some patience while we re-construct what was

lost with the attack. We will be hosting more input sessions for our communities as we move forward. I look forward to hearing from you and there are still enough board members that want to see this change occur.

Stay tuned and look for announcements to participate with the constitutional amendments or attend community meetings and voice your concerns there or online. As always, I urge members to continue to get involved and continue to hold the board accountable with your voices.

Please reach out to me to discuss issues and concerns. I can be reached at (906) 440-7768. Chi Miigwech.

Some reminders on tribal members’ services



KIMBERLY LEE,
DIRECTOR, UNIT II

Aanii! As we embrace the arrival of spring, it feels as though the spirit of renewal is showing up all around us. As Mother Earth awakens from its winter slumber, we will soon witness blossoms, budding trees, and the return of animals emerging from their cozy hideaways. This season of growth and rejuvenation invites us to reflect on our journeys. Just as nature transforms and revitalizes itself, we, too, can renew ourselves. This means nurturing our physical well-being, restoring passions long set aside, or focusing on connections with those around us. Let’s take inspiration from

Mother Earth’s signs and seek ways to recharge our spirits and lives.

On April 1, 2025, the Board of Directors approved the Compensation Study for the Health Division. This study seeks to address the division’s current compensation structures, ensuring that they align with industry standards and reflect employees’ contributions—the board’s commitment to fostering a fair and competitive workplace where worker performance and satisfaction are prioritized.

The findings will be instrumental in guiding future compensation policies and adjustments, ultimately supporting the strategic goals and enhancing overall employee retention and motivation. I want to express my gratitude to the members of the Compensation Study Team for their efforts to improve recruitment and retention for the health and well-being of all. We are still working on the other tribal divisions to ensure that we can establish a fair and equitable compensation structure for all team members.

Unit 2 Structure Updates

We have officially entered into a contract for the foundation of the Hessel Housing project! This project will surround a variety

of essential civil engineering tasks, including site clearing, utility installation, foundational infrastructure development, and the construction of driveways. In addition to the Hessel project, we are in the advanced stages of securing a contract for a similar scope of work at the Newberry site.

Although we received only one bid for both projects, the costs were higher than anticipated. However, we remain optimistic that our committed team, with their expertise and resourcefulness, will ensure we stay within the allocated budget. The team has begun to solicit bids for various mechanical trades, including heating, cooling, plumbing, and electrical work. Our ambitious goal is to have our dedicated crew in Newberry by July 1 to begin construction and prepare the sites. Once work in Newberry is underway, the team will transition to the Hessel site to maintain the momentum and continue the project’s progress. We look forward to a successful and positive outcome for both developments!

The contract for the construction and development of the Hessel Multi-Purpose Building has officially been awarded. This facility is designed to serve various community needs.

Construction is expected to begin as soon as the weather allows. Stay tuned as we get closer, and join the ground-breaking ceremonies for all projects.

Epoufette Road Access Site

Sault Tribe Construction is actively monitoring the warmer weather and conditions at the Epoufette site to start road construction as early as possible. Mackinac County implemented road limits March 17, 2024.

Construction will begin promptly once the county lifts these road limits. In preparation, materials have already been stockpiled at the project site, ready for placement onto the approved access road corridor, which was

cleared in 2024.

The Health Division has shared that they are nearing completion of efforts to restore full functionality and regain the ability to serve our healthcare needs. Newberry phones are still being worked on. For the time being, please continue to call (906) 293-8181 and connect with your friends and family. A simple message or call can truly brighten someone’s day. Take care of yourselves.

As always, Miigwech for your time.

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

Moving?



Don't miss an issue! Email slucas@saulttribe.net to update your address at the newspaper BEFORE you move.

Unit 2 has multiple construction projects underway



LANA CAUSLEY-SMITH,
DIRECTOR, UNIT II

I’m excited to update our unit on projects that are seeing solid forward movement.

We will be entering in a contract to have the members in the Newberry and surrounding areas have access to services at Yoooper Fitness in Newberry. Our Heath Division is working out the details and once the set up is complete, flyers will be posted and the Newberry Clinic will have the information in place so that our members can access their membership at that location. This is a direct need for community heath and wellness and having to take a legislative vote to get this moving is complete.

We have also secured the plans moving forward for the work to be completed at the Epoufette

Launch access site. This has taken so long and with all the funding and permits in place, this project is slated for completion this spring-summer. This has been many years in the works. Thank you to all the fishermen who remained patient as we made it through this plan.

Great news for some of our housing needs in Hessel and Newberry. Bids are now out and we are actively seeking bids to start the project with next steps in place. Some bids are already out and now in the slate are bids for the electric and plumbing. These plans will also begin this year and I look forward to Elders in our area having additional housing. We are also working on plans for housing needs for low income as well as fair market. We are always meeting on plans and projects to work on the homelessness in our unit and entire tribe. This is a real issue and I will continue to work toward those needs as well.

And, finally, the complete bid has been awarded for the construction of our community fitness/youth center. Retired Director Hollowell and I stated that plan in 2020-2021. We held community input, gathered many ideas and suggestions for needs in our area and came to a decision on location based on available land. In 2022, all funds

were placed on “hold” for audit purposes and after much stalling we had a clear green light to continue as we were. It’s been a real struggle to get this moving again and actually at a higher cost than in 2021 but we are here and this work will begin this spring. A reminder that this center is structured to accommodate our community heath and fitness as well as steer toward increased activity and room for our entire Unit 2 youth to participate in special projects and activities. Director Lee and I plan to work closely with our youth programs to accommodate and propose bussing solutions to gather our youth for a health lifestyle as well as community and youth engagement. This has been a priority of mine and I’m thankful that we are finally at the construction stage. Thank you to all in the tribe’s departments that helped us toward this.

With all of these projects moving forward — this has been funding that had already been secured through the Treasury for ARPA funds and will not take from tribal support dollars. During the next year it’s crucial for us to spend wisely and keep a very close active eye on what is happening at the federal and state levels. We have a very good Legislative Department with many people advocating and

education officials at those levels. Community tribal members are also very active with concerns to be heard as well. I’m looking forward to traveling to also educate and discuss our needs and remind the government of its treaty responsibilities to our tribal nation.

In closing, we have many needed projects moving forward. These have been in the coffer for quite some time and through persistence and educating our own government about the needs of our unit, we are finally there. Thanks to all who helped make this happen as well.

Our latest trouble with the cyber issues are resolving and most phone lines and internal needs are up and running with better systems in place. Our own IT team is truly dedicated and thanks need to be given to them for their steadiness in keeping us going on those levels.

We will be hosting a spring feast at the Hessel Tribal Center on April 27 around 3 p.m. We invite all our unit members to attend to offer semaa to the fire and bring in the new season with offerings of food. The details are being worked out and flyers will be posted for this as well.

We have many items and discussions of projects and problems at the board level. Some projects I agree with and, frankly, some

I don’t. I’m fair and will hear everyone out professionally. I think we have many items on the horizon that need or immediately attention — like moving toward a constitutional amendment to separate the court so that it’s independent. As always, I have stated that single amendments can and do work, therefore, I feel that keeping clear and concise will help us move forward on our structural needs. I feel our board makes it much more difficult than it needs to be. We have had amendments work in the past and they can work again if it is properly planned for, and no political agenda in the mix. I will leave it at that and advocate amendments to our Constitution.

I just want to end the report by saying thank you to all who have been patient with the projects. I feel I’ve written about them for so long that I hardly believed myself that they would all work out. With persistence and help from our community and our tribe’s departments, we are there and it’s a good thing.

Please reach out to me if you would like to meet or discuss any items or you have suggestions or needs: lcausley@saulttribe.net or (906) 322-3818.

Baamaapii and please take care of each other.

Lana Causley-Smith, Unit 2 Tribal Board Representative

Hampton, Barbeau report on Unit IV issues, events



KIMBERLY HAMPTON,
DIRECTOR, UNIT IV

Aaniin and welcome, April. Let’s hope that the saying “April showers bring May flowers” is true. It feels like this winter is just never ending. On a positive note, it is April so there must be warm weather on its way, right?

By the time this report will be published we will have had the Manistique Fitness Center Grand Opening, as long as no crazy weather makes its way in over the next few days.

The opening of the fitness center is way overdue and certainly needed to help our people create community in this avenue while combating health issues. Along with this there are plans to begin a community garden in the Escanaba area, with hopes for similar in Manistique. However, such an endeavor will require a group of volunteers who are willing to help with the planning, building, planting and maintaining. If this is something you, or someone you know, would be interested in, feel free to let one of us know.

Since our last report we have been collaborating on develop-



LARRY BARBEAU,
DIRECTOR, UNIT IV

ing some sort of a process for our newly acquired cemetery, Indian Point Cemetery. There will be a clean up date sometime in May.

Additionally, we have been working on a way to combat the homelessness our members are experiencing within our unit and beyond.

Reminders:

Niiwin Noodin Pow Wow

As we begin to dig deep into planning, we are in search of volunteers to help with planning as well as the day of the Pow Wow. Examples of volunteer opportunities are helping in kitchen with refilling food containers, pointing individuals in the right direction for information etc. Feel free to attend a Pow Wow meeting to express interest or just observe.

Pow Wow planning meetings are as follows:

- April 28, 2025
- May 5, 2025
- May 12, 2025
- May 19, 2025
- May 28, 2025

SAVE THE DATE for the

2025 Niiwin Noodin Pow Wow scheduled for June 7, 2025.

We encourage everyone to “like” the Niiwin Noodin Pow Wow Facebook page to keep updated on events.

Unit 4 Elder Meetings

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

The next meeting in Manistique will be held May 14, 2025, at 12 p.m. EST at the Manistique Tribal Center. The next meeting in Escanaba will be held May 14, 2025, at 4:30 p.m. EST at the Escanaba Community Center, 3721 Jingob Street, Escanaba, Mich. If you plan to attend please RSVP at (906) 635-4971 at least a week prior.

Looking Forward

Some additional adventures being worked on are as follows: obtaining additional permission to land for traditional ceremonies, building accessible lodges throughout Unit 4, growing the Niiwin Noodin Pow Wow volunteer crew, expanding the Unit 4 Elder Subcommittee groups and their outings, and more. Updates to these and additional projects will be provided as able.

This spring there will be the annual spring cleanup of the Indian Point Cemetery. Once the date and additional details are available information will be shared.

Lastly, we wanted to remind members to watch for upcoming cultural events to participate in. Our culture is a priority and we must continue partaking in learning and passing knowledge

on to others.

We both want to give our sincerest thanks for trusting us to represent Unit 4 members and Sault Tribe. We are always available for questions, comments, and ideas for growth. We encourage members to participate in Maamawi Craft Nights, office hours, community input sessions, Katchup with Kim, and all other activities and events

occurring throughout Indian Country.

Our contact information is below:

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

Kimberly Hampton, Unit 4 Representative. Phone (906) 440-8138. Email is khampton@saulttribe.net.

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For more information contact Ashley Morrow at
(906) 495-1232 or
amorrow@saulttribe.net

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