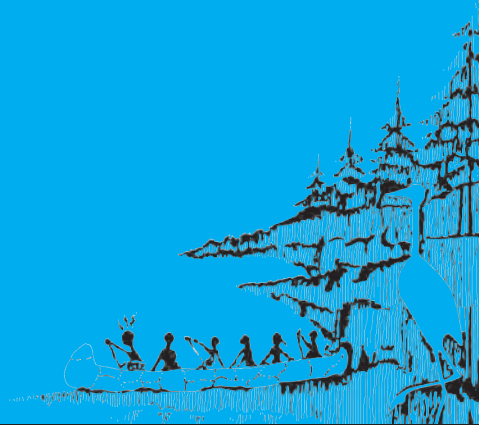




Win Awenen Nisitotung

September 17, 2025
Leaves-Turning-Color Moon • Waabagaa Giizis
Vol. 46 • No. 9



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

Soo Township Fire Department received 2% funding for wildland fire gear from tribe

BY SCOTT BRAND

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

In the latest round of funding, the Soo Township Fire Department requested \$6,900 earmarked for the purchase of wildland fire gear. The specialized clothing is designed to protect the firefighters when battling grassfires.

“Our stuff started to fall apart when we were washing it,” Fire Chief Jeff Killips said.

Fifteen new Fireline Ground Pounder Classic Coats were purchased from the Dinges Fire Company of Amboy, Ill., with a similar number of matching

pants bought from the same company. Each unit of clothing costs \$345 apiece.

The Sault Tribe’s 2% commitment of \$6,900 funded the purchase of 10 new coats and 10 pairs of pants.

Killips said the firefighters were able to try on different sizes before placing their order to ensure a good fit for each individual.

“Hopefully they won’t change too much before they have to wear it again,” joked Killips.

The Soo Township Fire Department is currently fully-manned with 20 members on the roster. In addition to battling blazes inside their jurisdiction, the firefighters also assist other departments throughout the Eastern Upper Peninsula on an as-needed basis.



Soo Township Fire Chief Jeff Killips took delivery of 15 Fireline Ground Pounder Classic coats and matching pants for his department utilizing 2% funds from the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

Sault Tribe’s pharmacies receive significant upgrades, including new refill mobile app

BY DANIELLE GOUDREAU, CHIEF PHARMACIST

The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians is thrilled to announce a significant upgrade to its pharmacy systems, aimed at providing its community with improved services and a more convenient experience. As part of this transition, the Pharmacy will be implementing a host of new enhancements that will benefit all patients at the tribe’s pharmacy locations. Here’s what you can expect from the upgraded pharmacy system:

Mobile App Refill Request

System

Patients will soon have the ability to request refills through our user-friendly mobile app, making it easier than ever to manage your prescriptions on the

Phased rollout of these enhancements begins later this month.

- Manistique Pharmacy from Sept. 19 to Sept. 21.
- Sault Ste. Marie Pharmacy Oct. 3 to Oct. 5.
- St. Ignace Pharmacy from Oct. 17 to Oct. 19.

go. Patients can also continue to use the dedicated phone lines to request any refills over the phone.

Text Notifications

Stay informed with automatic text notifications when your refills are ready to be picked up. No more guessing games—know exactly when your medication is waiting for you.

Automated Inventory Management

Our new system will streamline inventory management, ensuring that the medications you need are more readily available for you.

Increased Prescription Filling Efficiency

With advanced technology, we are enhancing our prescription filling processes, leading to shorter wait times in the pharmacy. You can expect a quicker, more efficient experience during your

visits.

Electronic Prescription Capabilities

Our pharmacies will now have the ability to process electronic prescriptions, making prescription management simpler and more secure for both patients and prescribers.

The phased rollout of these enhancements begins later this month is as follows:

Manistique Pharmacy from Sept. 19 to Sept. 21, 2025

Sault Ste. Marie Pharmacy from Oct. 3 to Oct. 5, 2025

St. Ignace Pharmacy from Oct. 17 to Oct. 19, 2025

During the upgrade weekends, patients should be aware that the select pharmacy will be CLOSED to process refills and new prescriptions on the Friday of each upgrade weekend.

It is crucial for patients to

plan ahead and ensure that any necessary refills are called in by the Wednesday prior to the upgrade. If you have a scheduled visit to the Health Center, we can assure you that any immediate prescription needs will be filled at a designated outside pharmacy location at no cost to you. This proactive approach will help avoid any interruptions in medication access.

Although refills and new prescriptions won’t be available for processing on the Friday, patients will still be able to pick up their previously filled medications as scheduled.

The Sault Tribe is committed to providing quality health services and appreciates the community’s understanding and cooperation during this important transition. Contact your pharmacy with any questions.

Registered tribal voters to receive survey soon

The Board of Directors, under the authority of Tribal Resolution 2025-164, will be sending out a mailer to all registered voters of the tribe with a survey about Tribal Constitutional Reform. The survey will be asking tribal members what their wishes are for a change in the tribe’s Constitution to include a Separation of

Powers. Included in the survey will be a memo from the tribe’s Legal Department summarizing some of the pros and cons of different structures of government. The memo will discuss the pros and cons of a one-branch, and two-branch, and a three-branch government. In anticipation of the survey, it is encouraged for tribal

members to do their own research on what type of Separation of Powers they would like the tribe to implement. Make sure you are properly registered to vote and make sure your address is up to date with the tribe! Be on the lookout for that Constitutional Reform Survey coming in the next few months.

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Unit I celebrates elder birthdays



Photo by Elders Services

Unit 1 celebrated their September birthdays at the recent Unit 1 Elder Sub-Committee meeting. Celebrating another trip around the sun in Unit 1 are (L-R) Carol Eavou, Aimee Penrose, Tim Lalonde, Brenna Conlon, Marilyn White and Nicole Golanka. Happy Birthday!

Birthday boy turns five



Happy 5th birthday Mason Fox —Love, Nonna & Papa

Wild bird sightings



This turkey hen was spotted near Kewadin Casino recently.



Photos by Scott Brand
Partridge spotted in Brimley, Mich., looking for a pear tree.

SAULT TRIBE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH'S 15TH ANNUAL

NATIONAL RECOVERY MONTH

Recovery Walk!

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2025
BIG BEAR ARENA
REGISTRATION BEGINS AT 4:30
SPEAKERS TO START AT 5:15
WITH THE WALK TO FOLLOW!

FREE Family Event!
Dinner provided. Swag Bags & T-shirts. Face Painting. Balloon Twisting. Glitter Tattoos. Resource Tables.
Come join us for an evening of fun!

QUESTIONS?
CALL SAULT TRIBE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
(906) 635-6075
FUNDED THROUGH SAMHSA GRANT #6HT79T108563-02M002

Calling: Tribal Members, Descendants

We offer the following services:

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Primary care, Pediatrics, Sick and Well Visits for all Ages, Diabetes Management, Physicals, Referrals, Immunizations and More!

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Family and Individual Counseling, Pyschiatric Services, Case Management, Outpatient Substance Abuse Treatment and More!

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Now Offering Telehealth and Prescription Delivery!

Munising Elder Picnic held at local tribal center



The Hertzlers and Syers.



Pete and Vernie, buddies at the picnic.



Kim Swanberg, Karen Derwin, Tribal Vice Chairman and Unit 5 Director Tyler LaPlaunt, Tara Lowes and daughter.



The Hautamakias, Paquettes and Susie.

SUBMITTED BY ANITA NELSON

The Munising Elder Picnic was held at the Munising Tribal Center on Sept. 8.

Fish, hamburgers, brats, and hot dogs were served along with favorite dishes brought by members and a full dessert bar.

Workers did not stand still long enough for photos and did an excellent job under the direction of Unit 5 Elders Chair Vicki Walden and the Unit 5 Elders Committee.

Volunteers were Carleen, Wendy and Julie, who also assisted with the powwow, and our regular elder dinners.



Tyler LaPlaunt (left) and Tribal Chairman Austin Lowes (right) with Tara Lowes and daughter.

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- Community college
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- Career training



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7x7 bull elk bagged in Gaylord area August 26 by 16-year-old tribal member Chayse Liedel

Less than 30 minutes into his very first elk hunt, 16-year-old Chayse Liedel, a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, bagged a massive 7x7 bull elk while hunting in the Gaylord area.

Chayse submitted his 2025 elk application ahead of the June 2 deadline and became the lucky recipient of an any elk permit when the Sault Tribe’s Conservation Committee held its lottery during the June meeting. After learning he would be participating in this year’s hunt, Chayse began practicing with his Ruger American, 30.06, topped with a Weaver scope and had the rifle zeroed in at 200 yards. His grandfather, Dan Liedel, offered to accompany Chayse on this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to go after a bull elk in Michigan.



The August hunt can be difficult as the weeds, grass, ferns and leaves are usually at their tallest and thickest state of the season,

and the dog days of summer can suppress elk movement during the day.

The Liedel’s hired Pat Samalik

and his partner Brad to serve as a guide for the hunt. There were others who assisted in preparing for the big day. Ernie Bumstead handloaded the 30.06 shells that would be used, and Dan’s friends, Tim and Loretta Cwalinski, offered lodging at their Gaylord home providing a short trip to the hunting grounds on opening morning.

Dan said they caught a break on the morning of Aug. 26: “A cold front rolled in and it was 48 degrees,” he said.

Brad took the Liedels to a private parcel of agricultural land where sunrise found four bull elk congregated in a large hay field sandwiched by corn fields to the north and south.

“Shooting hours started at 6:27 a.m.,” said Dan, recalling the action, “and by 6:50 a.m. it was

done.”

The trusty Ruger barked multiple times at a distance more than double what Chayse had anticipated when he was sighting in his rifle, but the handloads delivered in the clutch.

“It took like six people,” said Chayse of the help required to load the field dressed elk, which tipped the scales at 740 pounds.

The elk was then transported to a meat processor in Vanderbilt, while the head, cape and antlers are destined for a taxidermist, thanks to Grandma Janet Liedel and Great-Grandma Arlene King, who pledged to pay for the mount.

Chayse is a junior at Sault Area High School and expressed his desire to share the harvest with friends and family once the meat is picked up from the processor.

Quagga and Zebra mussels threaten whitefish populations

The Sault Tribe has long shared a deep and meaningful history with the Great Lakes, both economically and culturally. Tribal commercial and subsistence fishermen rely on steady populations of Great Lakes fish species such as whitefish and lake trout to make a sustainable living and support themselves and their families. However, the ever-growing presence of non-local beings here and in the surrounding watersheds has threatened that

relationship, which has been maintained by the Sault Tribe for thousands of years.

Some of the most prolific non-local beings in the Great Lakes today are dreissenid mussels, specifically zebra and quagga mussels. These mussels look very similar, as both have multiple concentric rings on their shells. However, quagga mussels have rounder shells and can grow up to 2 inches in length, while zebra mussels have more trian-

gular shells and average around 1 inch in length. Dreissenid mussels were first established in the Great Lakes in the late ’80s and early ’90s, most likely through ship ballast water that was contaminated with mussels and later discharged.

Although zebra mussels were established first, today quagga mussels dominate the benthic zones of Lake Huron and Lake Michigan. The term “benthic zone” refers to the lake bottom

and provides habitat and food resources for a variety of aquatic species. The presence of these mussels has had detrimental effects on important commercial fish species for the tribe, particularly Atikameg (lake whitefish). Dreissenid mussels gather in very high densities and cover the crevasses in reefs where Atikameg like to spawn, leaving no safe location for fertilized eggs to hatch. The mussels can filter one or more liters of water daily, leav-

ing less nutrients for organisms that are the preferred diet of the Atikameg. Because of all this, the presence of zebra and quagga mussels are heavily responsible for the decline of Atikameg populations in Lakes Huron and Michigan.

Currently, Lake Superior, most likely due to having colder water temperature and lower calcium levels, does not have mussel invasions on the same scale as

See “Quagga,” page 8

CASH or CREDITS?


PICK YOUR POISON

SATURDAYS IN OCTOBER ALL SITES

WIN YOUR SHARE OF OVER \$58,000 CASH & CREDITS

Draws Start at 5 p.m.
Win up to \$150 Kewadin Credits or \$300 CASH

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All Sites | Saturdays in September
Win Your Share of Over \$81,000 CASH

906 DAYS
Manistique | Fridays in September
Win Your Share of \$16,000 CASH

HALLOWEEN COSTUME PARTY CASINO STYLE
All Sites | Fridays, October 31
Win Your Share of Over \$8,000 CASH and Credits

WICKED WINNINGS
Christmas | Thursdays in October
Win Your Share of \$4,750 CASH and Credits

REV UP & RIDE OUT SIDE-BY-SIDE GIVEAWAY
St. Ignace | August 1 - November 1
Earn Entries to Win a 2025 Polaris RZR Trail S 900

STARTLING OCTOBER SAVINGS
Kewadin Casino Hotel Sault Ste. Marie | Sunday - Wednesday
Buy Two Nights at Full Price and Get the Third for FREE

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Check out our Happy Hour Specials. Visit Our Facebook Page for More Information

TOURNAMENTS
EARLY BIRD SLOT TOURNAMENT
Sault Ste. Marie | Thursdays | September 4 - October 9
Daily 45,000 Bonus Points Prize Pool

FALL FRENZY SLOT TOURNAMENT
Sault Ste. Marie | Mondays & Tuesdays | September 8 - October 7
Daily \$300 CASH and 70,000 Bonus Points Prize Pool

\$22,500 MEGA BINGO
St. Ignace | October 4
13 Games Plus a \$7,500 Mega Bingo Jackpot Game

PINKTASTIC SPIN TO WIN
St. Ignace | October 3-4 | Sault Ste. Marie | October 17-19
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Committee vacancies — volunteers needed!

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

Anishinaabe Cultural Committee - Two vacancies - males (One 4-year term, one term

expires July 2028)

Child Welfare Committee - One vacancy (4-year term)

Elder Advisory Committee

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

Unit II - Newberry - One alternate 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 I - Sault - One alternate vacancy, expires September 2027

Unit II - Hessel - Two regular vacancies, one term expires April 2027, one term expires August 2026, One alternate vacancy - term expires May 2027

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, one alternate vacancy - term expires March 2028

Unit IV - Escanaba - One regular vacancy (4-year term)

Unit IV - Manistique - Two reg-

ular vacancies - one term expires November 2026, one term expires January 2027

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

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

Food Sovereignty Committee - Four vacancies (4-year terms); one vacancy, term expiring February 2027

Higher Education Committee - One regular vacancy, term expiring August 2026

Housing Commission - One vacancy

Unit 2 Seat, term expiring November 2026.

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

Unit 2 or 3: one vacancy

Sault Tribe Election Commission - Two current vacancies, five upcoming vacancies (terms expire January 2026). Four appointments will be 5-year terms, three seats will be 3-year terms.

When submitting letter of intent and recommendations, include the length of term you are seeking.

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

Membership liaisons answer your questions

Where to get a Sault Tribe flag

Q: I recently saw a home with a Sault Tribe flag flying outside, are they available to members?

A: You can purchase the flags in various sizes at the Sault Tribe casino gift shops. You can also email the Casino Gift Shop Manager at gnelson1@saulttribe.net and they can assist with a flag order.

Can my spouse help me fish?

Q: I have my Sault Tribe Harvest Card and my non-tribal spouse and I just purchased a new fishing boat. Can he be with me and pilot the boat when I’m exercising my treaty rights to fish on the inland lakes?

A: The answer is “yes” but he may not use a spear or set the hook on a fish and hand you the pole. Also, just to avoid any problems with a state conservation officer, he should have in his possession a valid state of Michigan fishing license while he is with you even if he is not fishing.

Can I sell the firewood I harvest?

Q: The ice storm we had back in March left acres of downed trees on the state lands in the northern Lower Peninsula. Can I harvest some of wood from those trees and sell it as firewood with my Inland Harvest Card?

A: Unfortunately, the answer is “no.” Members may not sell harvested firewood from state of Michigan land. Members can obtain a firewood harvest permit from the Law Enforcement Department (906) 635-6065 for gathering up to five cords from downed trees, in designated areas, for their own personal use. Members are allowed one permit, per household, annually.

Membership liaisons work to assist with membership issues and concerns. 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. Although 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
(906) 643-2124
chudak@saulttribe.net

Mary Jenerou
Manistique Tribal Center, (906) 341-8469. Munising Tribal Center, (906) 450-7011
mjenerou@saulttribe.net

Sault Tribe News offers digital edition

Tribal members and subscribers’ 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.

WIOA accepting applications

The Sault Tribe WIOA Department is accepting applications for the Work Experience Program. Must be Native American between the ages of 16 to 21 and reside within the seven-county service area (Marquette, Alger, Chippewa, Luce, Mackinaw, Delta and Schoolcraft counties). To apply for after school employment, applications may be picked up at the WIOA office at 2 Ice Circle, Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., or call Brenda Cadreau at (906) 635-4767 or bcadreau@saulttribe.net. Deadline is Sept. 25, 2025.

Avery Square Fall Craft Show
October 10&11
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.

September 17, 2025
Leaves-Turning-Color Moon
Waabagaa Giizis

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. Miigwech!



Sault Tribe Member Newspaper Subscription Form

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

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City: _____

State and Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

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☐ change of address

☐ digital subscription OR

☐ print subscription

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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.

Anishinaabemowin 2025

Creating something new will require some tools, patience and practice. So does learning — like learning Anishinaabemowin. Satisfaction usually comes when you complete your project, but not with language. Every little step forward feels good!



Draw a line from the type of tool (**nakaaswin**) to any worker (**e-nokiid**) who could possibly use it. Make all possible connections! You’ll get a “world-wide web” snaggle. Have fun with some new words! Go slow at sounding them out. Choose your favorite ones to play with first.

<div>nbiish zaagidaasjigan</div>		<div>zhibiiganaatik</div>
<div>wiikwaasjigan</div>		<div>baakaakzhige’igan</div>
<div>sipinigan</div>		<div>geshkigwaasoonh</div>
<div>giishkiboojigan</div>		<div>gaa-dakwanjigaadeg</div>
<div>mookiman giinaak</div>		<div>biimskoobijigan</div>
<div>mijimenjigaanhs</div>		<div>jiishdagan</div>
<div>tkwonjigaanhs</div>		<div>nbaagaabik</div>
<div>biiminagigan</div>		<div>shkiizhigokaajiganan</div>
<div>jiishkamigagan</div>		<div>pikite’igaanhs</div>
<div>diba’igan</div>		<div>biimskawagan</div>

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

a sounds like the a in *awesome*

ii sounds like the e in *be*

oo sounds like the o in *go*

e sounds like the e in *Ed*

a sounds like the a in *about*

i sounds like the i in *dip*

o sounds like the oo’s in *book*

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! Emphasized syllables are underlined.

Aambe, baapin! (Come on, laugh!)

*Why did the pliers go to the gym? To work on its grip.

*Why did the shovel break up with the rake? It just wasn’t digging their relationship anymore.

*Why did the tape measure do well in school? It always measured up!

*Don’t trust scissors in the kitchen; they’re always trying to cut corners.

*What’s a saw’s favorite kind of joke? A cutting remark.

*What is the screwdriver’s favorite dance? The twist.

Detroit Institute of Arts presents Contemporary Anishinaabe Art special exhibition through 2026

DETROIT – The Detroit Institute of Arts (DIA) proudly presents Contemporary Anishinaabe Art: A Continuation, a special exhibition that celebrates the enduring culture and creative achievements of the Anishinaabe, featuring more than 60 Anishinaabe artists from Michigan and across the Great Lakes region of the United States and Canada. With over 90 works on view, this extensive and inspiring show is one of the largest presentations of contemporary Native American art in the Midwest, and the first major Native American art exhibition at the DIA in over 30 years.

On view Sept. 28, 2025, through April 5, 2026, this survey of contemporary art will highlight and explore the history, perspectives, and continuing story of the Anishinaabe people. The DIA’s exhibition aims to challenge perceptions about what Native American art can be, how it should be seen, and how it can be interpreted, by highlighting a breadth of viewpoints artistic voices. The exhibition will showcase a diverse range of Anishinaabe artists through more than 90 contemporary art works, including beadwork, birchbark artistry, clothing, film, photography, graphic design, jewelry, painting, pottery, sculpture, and woodwork.

“This exhibition has been a collaborative process that could not have happened without the trust, guidance, and generous sharing of knowledge from our Anishinaabe advisory board and the artists themselves,” said Dr. Denene De Quintal, DIA Assistant Curator of Native American Art. “We have worked together to ensure that this exhibition represents the diversity and dynamism of contemporary Anishinaabe art while honoring the cultural traditions from which these works originate. What emerges is not just an art exhibition, but a testament to the creativity, and continuing presence of the Anishinaabe people.”

Dr. De Quintal conceived the exhibition with guidance and collaboration from an advisory board of Anishinaabe artists. The exhibition will be

presented in English as well as Anishnaabemowin.

Exhibition galleries work as a throughline to connect a variety of themes including clothing and style, nature, water protection and generations. The passing of knowledge between generations becomes visible through works that honor elders while speaking to youth experiences, creating bridges across time that strengthen cultural continuity. The profound connection between the Anishinaabe people and their ancestral lands and waters runs throughout the exhibition, reflecting an understanding that identity, spirituality, and artistic expression emerge from a place, in this case the Great Lakes. Several works depict symbols like the Thunderbird, a significant icon across communities with different artistic interpretations, illustrating

how historical meanings acquire new layers of significance in contemporary contexts.

“This exhibition marks a major moment for the DIA as we celebrate the vibrant, living cultures of the Anishinaabe and their profound contributions to contemporary art,” said Detroit Institute of Arts Director Salvador Salort-Pons. “The DIA’s presentation demonstrates that Native American artists are at the fore-

See “Exhibition,” page 13



Sault Tribe member Cressandra Thibodeaux’s entry.

Sault Tribe Traditional Medicine Program

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BNAAKWE GIIZIS - FALLING LEAVES MOON OCTOBER 2025

NIIZHWAASO GIIZHIGAT	NTAM GIIZHIGAT	NIIZHO GIIZHIGAT	NSWO GIIZHIGAT	NIIWO GIIZHIGAT	NAANO GIIZHIGAT	NGODWAASWO GIIZHIGAT
			1 Boodwe. (S/he makes a fire.) 	2 zhashkwedoonh (mushroom)	3 shiingwaak (pine tree)	4 jiibay (spirit/ghost)
5 zenbaansag (ribbons)	6 Mooshkaneshin Dibiki Giizis. (It is a full moon.)	7 manidoo- minenhsag (beads)	8 niibiishan (leaves)	9 ziisbaakwadoonhs (a candy)	10 mishkiig (bog)	11 Mina maagwat gojiing. (It smells good outside.)
12 Nbwaachwe. (S/he is visiting.) 	13 Anishnaabejig Giizhigad (Indigenous Peoples' Day)	14 Shkaakamakwe (Mother Earth)	15 jiibay kanan (skeleton)	16 bgiw (chewing gum)	17 Manise. (S/he is making firewood.)	18 mndaamin bkwaakwod (popcorn ball)
19 esbikenh (spider)	20 koosmaanan (pumpkins) 	21 mkadewozi gaazhag (black cat) 	22 Zegis. (S/he is scared.)	23 niibiishkaa (lots of leaves) 	24 mshkimod (bag)	25 Dibikad (It is dark.)
26 jiibay wiikongewin (spirit feast)	27 bkwezhigaanhsag (cookies)	28 nboop (soup) 	29 Aandeg (crow)	30 Biiskwanyen (Get dressed)	31 Tasewan (Halloween)	

Honoring the 29: Edmund Fitzgerald Memorial Swim

BY BRITTNIE WALLIS

This summer, swimmers from across the country took part in the Edmund Fitzgerald Memorial Swim, a 411-mile relay from the wreck site in Lake Superior to Belle Isle in Detroit. The event marked the 50th anniversary of the SS Edmund Fitzgerald tragedy and honored the 29 crew members who lost their lives on Nov. 10, 1975.

Among the participants was Sault Tribe member, Brittnie Wallis-Mroueh, who joined fel-

low open-water swimmers in carrying iron ore pellets—the very cargo the ship hauled on her final voyage—to symbolically complete the ship’s intended route.

The swim began with a memorial at the wreck site, where roses were placed on the water and tributes read for each sailor. From there, relay swimmers traversed Whitefish Bay, the Soo Locks, Lakes Huron and St. Clair, and the Detroit River. Each stage served as a powerful

reminder of both the dangers and the beauty of the Great Lakes.

In addition to honoring history, the swim raised over \$200,000 to support preservation of the Whitefish Point Light Station, ensuring it will continue to shine as a guiding light for ships navigating the Great Lakes now and for generations to come. The journey was both a memorial and a celebration of resilience, ensuring the legacy of the 29 lives lost will never be forgotten.

Water is Life teachings offered

FROM GREAT LAKES CREATIVES

Over the end of summer holiday, there were a number of events for Bimaadiziwin Niibiish Aawan (Water is Life) Water Weekend.

Starting on Friday, Aug. 29, there were water ceremony and teachings, a community feast, art build, panel discussion and documentary film Bad River screening held in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. The event was focused on responding to the call of the water supporting the work against Enbridge’s Line 5 pipeline. Joe Bates (Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa), Sandy Deragon (Bad River Band), Isaac Murdoch (Serpent River First

Nation), Sue Chiblow (Garden River First Nation), and Chevaun Toulouse (Sagamok First Nation) spoke over the course of the event. This event was sponsored by Indigenous Climate Action, the Frontline Fund, and OPIRG Guelph.

On Saturday, Aug. 30, the 10th annual Pipe Out Paddle Up Floatilla was held in St. Ignace, Mich., sponsored by the Anishinaabek Caucus of the Michigan Democratic Party, Michigan Climate Action Network, the People’s Water Board Coalition, Great Lakes Water Protector Network, and Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. It was organized by Andrea Pierce (Little

Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians), Odessa Weidner, Monica Cady (Sault Tribe), Amanda Jean Robert (MICAN), Andrew Kaplowitz (GLWPN), Tammy Warren, and Valerie Jean Blakely (PWBC). Kayaks were provided by Black to the Land Coalition and Mackinac Straits Water Sports. At the drum was Sturgeon Bay Singers and Ice Circle Singers (Sault Tribe).

With around 200 attendees and over 50 watercraft, the event raised awareness about the Line 5 pipeline and proposed Tunnel Project, as well as built community among those in opposition. Many community members participated including:

See “Water is Life,” page 9

Invasive mussels create barriers to fish populating efforts

From “Quagga,” page 4

Lakes Michigan and Huron. This has allowed the populations of Atikameg in Lake Superior to remain stable. However, the presence of zebra and quagga mussels in the lower lakes have led to declines in Atikameg populations. Minimizing the effects of these mussels is therefore critically important to secure the successful restoration of Atikameg, a fish that has always been significant in Anishinaabe culture.

The development of control techniques for mussels is still in the early stages. One method being tested to reclaim smaller areas is placing mats over the top of invasive mussels in order to cause suffocation. Mats are sometimes paired with applications of Zequanox (a mussel treatment chemical) or carbon dioxide. These methods are most effective for small areas covered with mussels, but can also decrease the amount of larval mussels, called veligers, that are released into the water column. Using these mats, researchers can target mussel populations in areas of concern, like reefs that are optimal for fish spawning. By removing mussels from these locations, fish species like lake trout and whitefish may see more spawning success in the future.

of mussel within the Great Lakes to continue protecting and restoring our whitefish populations for the next seven generations.

For questions regarding zebra and quagga mussels, please call Amy Schneider at (906) 632-0072, ext. 73117.



Dreissenid mussels pulled up from a gill net by Sault Tribe biologists while conducting sampling in the Great Lakes.

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Photo by David Volk

Stage 13 teammates, Jacob Marsh, RYANNE MOROSCHAN, BRITTNIE WALLIS-MROUEH, THERESE WEIR, and swim director, JIM, “THE SHARK” DREYER (center).

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Water is Life ceremonies and teachings held

From “Water is Life,” page 8
Sault Tribe Chairman Austin Lowes, Sault Tribe Unit 1 Directors Aaron Payment and Rob McRorie, Sault Tribe Unit 3 Director Shawn Borowicz, Little Traverse Bay Bands of Ottawa Indians Chairwoman Winnay Wemigwase, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Mae Wright (LTBB), Dr. Nichole Biber (LTBB), Dr. Kyle Whyte (Citizen Potawatomi Nation), and Sue St. Onge (Sault Tribe). There was a family picnic and feast with traditional foods. Bison sliders were prepared and cooked by Chef Matthew and Leann Brown (Sault Tribe), with whitefish, salmon, and trout served with a wild rice salad donated by LTBB.

Later that day, the annual Water Is Life Festival took place in Petoskey, Mich., sponsored by many organizations, including the LTBB and Bay Mills Indian Community. Multiple groups tabled at the event, including Great Lakes Creatives, a state-wide group working in water protection through the arts, and Protect the Porkies, a group of volunteers working to protect the Porcupine Mountains and nearby land from construction of a copper mine.

On Sunday, Aug. 31, the Crooked Tree Arts Center in Petoskey screened the documentary film Bad River. The film was offered in partnership with the Water is Life Festival, LTBB Natural Resources Dept., and 50 Egg Films. The film chronicles the Bad River Band’s fight for sovereignty in Wisconsin, specifically against the Canadian oil corporation Enbridge, which owns and illegally operates the Line 5 pipeline running through the tribe’s lands. This 72-year-old pipeline runs through the Upper Peninsula and under the Straits

of Mackinac, through the Lower Peninsula and to refineries in Sarnia, Ontario, which lies on the shores of Lake Huron. After the film, Joe Bates (Bad River Band) hosted a Q&A and discussed the threat that Line 5 poses to the Bad River, Lake Superior, and the Great Lakes watershed.

On Monday, Sept. 1, Great Lakes Creatives, organizers, and other volunteers participated in the annual Mackinac Bridge walk in Mackinaw City, Mich., alerting the public about the decaying Line 5 pipeline and problematic proposed tunnel. Bridge walkers were met with large puppets of rivers and turtles, a Hydration Station where they could fill up on free water and sample local springs, and other activities to creatively engage walkers and counter Enbridge’s aggressive tunnel sales pitch. Tunnel construction requires large amounts of water diverted from Lake Michigan and dumped as wastewater after use (5 million gallons a day!), has high risk of explosion, will cause irreparable damage to the Mackinac breccia putting the local geology at risk, will create years-long noise and light pollution, additional bridge traffic and only a limited number of short term jobs.

There was also the Creation Water Walk starting in Naubinway, Mich., Aug. 30 and 31, with some choosing to walk the bridge on Sept. 1. This Indigenous-led water walk was for the water in the Straits of Mackinac following the teachings of Josephine Mandamin / Biidaasega-ba and Eddie Benton Sr. / Bawdwaywidun Binaise-ba. Walkers also visited the Great Lakes Creatives booths in Mackinac City after walking across the bridge to build relationships and support outreach.



With around 200 attendees and over 50 watercraft, the event raised awareness about the Line 5 pipeline and proposed Tunnel Project. Below left, Unit 1 Director Rob McRorie and Sault Tribe Chairman Austin Lowes lift their paddles. Right, participants gather on the shore.



Invasive non-local plant identification made easier

FROM SAULT TRIBE NATURAL RESOURCES

One of the most pervasive problems in our environment is the presence of non-local beings. More commonly known as “invasive species,” non-local beings are organisms from another region that have been introduced outside their native range. Non-local beings can put pressure on native species through competition of resources and alteration of ecosystems. They can also cause economic problems through damage to infrastructure, such as clogging pipes, damaging foundations, and increasing fire risk.

Below are a few examples of some non-local plants that you may encounter in this region:

EURASIAN WATERMILFOIL

A fully submergent aquatic plant, Eurasian watermilfoil can grow in large dense mats that can block out light to native vegetation and clog water intake pipes. It has featherlike leaves with 12-21 leaflet pairs per leaf. This species looks very similar to several native submergent aquatic plants, including northern watermilfoil. As Eurasian watermilfoil can get stuck on personal equipment when recreating, it is very important to clean all equipment before using it on a different waterbody.

EUROPEAN FROGBIT

European frogbit is a free-float-

ing aquatic plant that is native to Europe, Asia, and Africa. It can be found in slow-moving water in wetlands and around the edges of lakes, rivers, and other waterbodies. Leaves are small and heart shaped, while flowers are white with three petals. European frogbit can form dense mats in high clusters, negatively affect habitat and food availability for fish and waterfowl as well as reduce light and oxygen in the water. European frogbit was first detected in the Upper Peninsula in Munuscong Bay in 2013. However, it can get caught and spread on boats and other gear, and is now established in a lot of highly trafficked areas of the St. Mary’s River. It is important to watch for this plant when recreating at Munuscong Bay and clean equipment before using it in a different waterbody.

GARLIC MUSTARD

Garlic mustard is a flowering plant that smells like garlic when it is crushed. The small, white flowers bloom in early spring, and they grow in small clusters around the plant. Garlic mustard can grow very well in shaded spaces. This can lead to the plants outpacing other native species that grow in understories, including young trees. It is also very easy to spread garlic mustard through seed dispersal, particularly stuck on the tires of

Non-Local Beings Around You

					
EURASIAN WATERMILFOIL	EUROPEAN FROGBIT	GARLIC MUSTARD	JAPANESE KNOTWEED	PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE	WILD PARSNIP
A fully submergent aquatic plant that can grow in large dense mats. They block out light to native vegetation and clog water intake pipes.	Forms dense mats in high clusters, negatively affecting habitat and food availability for fish and waterfowl. It also reduces light and oxygen in the water.	Because of their rapid growth, they outpace other native species that grow in understories and easily spread through sticking on vehicle tires.	These large shrubs grow aggressively in roadside ditches, wetlands, streams and river banks. They shade out native plant species.	A perennial that thrives in wetlands and roadside ditches. They spread rapidly, overtaking and replacing native vegetation.	A biennial plant that contains photo-sensitive sap. If it comes in contact with skin, it can lead to increased sensitivity to the sun, rashes and blisters.
<small>Photo: Allison Fox, University of Florida, Bugwood.org.</small>	<small>Photo: Meghan Johstone, Invasive Species Centre.</small>	<small>Photo: Chris Evans, University of Illinois, Bugwood.org.</small>	<small>Photo: Jan Samanek, State Phytosanitary Administration, Bugwood.org.</small>	<small>Photo: John D. Byrd, Mississippi State University, Bugwood.org.</small>	<small>Photo: Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org.</small>

vehicles.

JAPANESE KNOTWEED

Japanese knotweed is a large shrub originating from Asia. It can grow up to 10 feet tall with creamy-white flower spikes that bloom from August through September. Japanese knotweed likes to grow in roadside ditches, wetlands, and stream and river banks. These shrubs grow very aggressively, and can shade out native plant species. Japanese knotweed can look very similar to bamboo during the winter months, so if you believe that you have “bamboo” property, please reach out to the Sault Tribe

Natural Resources Division.

PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE

This species is a perennial that thrives in wetlands and roadside ditches that originates from Europe and Asia. It blooms from July through October, and can grow several feet tall. True to the name, purple loosestrife has whorls of magenta flowers and a green, square stem covered in small hairs. As it can spread rapidly, purple loosestrife can overtake and replace native vegetation.

WILD PARSNIP

Wild parsnip is a biennial plant that can be found throughout the

United States. Wild parsnip contains photo-sensitive sap that, if it comes in contact with skin, can lead to increased sensitivity to the sun, rashes and blisters. Flowers will bloom from June until July, so caution should be taken during that time in areas where wild parsnip grows.

Many resources are available for identifying and reporting invasive plants, such as the Midwest Invasive Species Information Network (misin.msu.com). If you see any of these species, contact Amy Schneider at aschneider@saulttribe.net with a photograph and location information.

Eastern UP foster families attend annual picnic

FROM ACFS

On Aug. 26, the EUP Adoptive Foster Parent Recruitment and Retention (AFPRR) Coalition held its Annual Foster Parent



Foster parents Cathy and Charles Campbell attended. Below: Police at bounce house with kids.



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Appreciation End of Summer Picnic at Sherman Park in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. The event honored foster families and their contributions, offering a day filled with activities and community engagement. Partnering agencies included the Department of Health and Human Services, Great Lakes Recovery, Anishnaabek Community and Family Services, and UP Kids.

A total of 31 foster families attended the picnic, enjoying a variety of activities such as rock painting, glitter tattoos, a bouncy house obstacle course, swimming, and exploring the playgrounds. Children especially enjoyed interacting with local emergency first responders.

Representatives from the Sault City Police and Sault Tribe Law Enforcement showcased their vehicles, engaged with families, and provided giveaways for the foster children. Sault Fire and EMT services brought fire trucks and ambulances for families to explore, giving children a hands-on experience with local first responders.

Attendees enjoyed meals from the Blue Moon Fusion Taco Food Truck, followed by ice cream bars, juice boxes, and cotton candy for a sweet finale to the day.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to everyone who participated, especially the foster families whose dedication, love, and commitment continue to make a difference in the lives of children. We also extend our gratitude to the volunteers and partnering organizations whose support helped create a memorable and meaningful day for these incredible families.

Sault Tribe Early Childhood Education team members gather



Photo by Joe Street

Sault Tribe Early Childhood Education team members from the Sault and St. Ignace gathered for their annual pre-service training Aug. 28 and 29 to prepare for the new school year. The program offers Head Start, Early Head Start, and child care services to children ages 0-5 years old. For more information, call (906) 635-7722 or email ece@saulttribe.net.

Indigenous Food Week 2025 Social Media Challenge

Take a photo of your Indigenous food or activity that led to the indigenous food. See examples to the side. Alternatively, you may write a story, memory, or poem about indigenous food.

Email pictures or stories that may be posted on Tribal Food Sovereignty Collaborative or Sault Tribe Healthy Living Facebook pages to mbunker@saulttribe.net.

Entry must be received by 12pm on Monday, October 13th

Each picture/story e-mailed is one entry into a prize drawing for a new food dehydrator!

Examples of an indigenous food or activity:

- a bushel of apples
- a wild rice dish
- people fishing
- foraging or harvesting
- preserving foods
- saving seeds

This event is funded by the Sault Tribe TPWIC grant and the Special Diabetes Program for Indians grant. Made possible with funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Indian Health Service.



Rx Kids program impacts lives of EUP families

Since March 1, 2025, Rx Kids has prescribed eligible mothers in five counties of the Eastern Upper Peninsula (EUP) \$1,500 during pregnancy and \$500 per month throughout the baby’s first six months of life—no-strings-attached.

As Rx Kids nears its six-month milestone in the EUP, it will have the first group of moms and babies graduate from this historic program. A recent survey conducted by Rx Kids provides valuable insights into how the program is impacting the lives of EUP families.

To date, Rx Kids has reached more than 320 families, prescribing more than \$800,000 in cash prescriptions to moms and babies in five counties in the EUP — Alger, Chippewa, Luce, Mackinac, and Schoolcraft. The impact is already clear: families are reporting improved health, financial stability, and greater confidence in their ability to care for their children.

“Rx Kids is a prescription for health, hope, and opportunity—and the families of the Eastern Upper Peninsula are proving it. In just six months, we’ve seen how trust and support helps parents navigate life’s challenges, and how that strength translates into thriving, healthier children,” said Dr. Mona Hanna, director of Rx Kids and associate dean of public health at Michigan State



Photo by Scott Brand

From left to right, Dr. Mona Hanna of RxKids, Karen Senkus of the Chippewa County Health Department, baby Julianna with mom Haley Stewart, Unit I Director Mike McKerchie, Tribal Chairman Austin Lowes, Sault Tribe Health Division CEO James Benko and Sen. John Damoose gather for a ceremonial check presentation. The Sault Tribe, on Aug. 5, donated \$200,000 in support of the Rx Kids program, helping Eastern Upper Peninsula families who are expecting a baby.

University College of Human Medicine.

Originally launched in Flint, Mich., in 2024, Rx Kids has expanded to Kalamazoo, Pontiac, five counties in the Eastern Upper Peninsula, and last month to Clare County. Expansion of the program into the EUP significantly broadened the program’s geography and allowed Rx Kids to reach rural communities in Michigan for the first time.

“Rx Kids is a game-changer for rural families in the Eastern Upper Peninsula. In just six

months, we’ve seen how targeted, local investment can strengthen families and improve health outcomes,” said State Sen. John Damoose (R-37). “As I’ve shared with my colleagues in the Legislature, this program is about empowering parents, respecting personal responsibility, and delivering real results where they’re needed most.”

Rx Kids provides unconditional cash support to pregnant mothers and infants—helping families meet basic needs, access healthcare, and navigate life’s

challenges with greater stability and dignity. Families are using their monthly cash prescriptions for essentials like baby supplies, food, utilities, and rent — making healthier choices and feeling more secure during a critical time in their lives.

In May 2025, a survey of Rx Kids participants in the EUP found the following impacts: 84% say Rx Kids helps them make ends meet financially; 47% experienced a “financial shock” (most commonly reported were auto, rent/ utilities, job loss, basic expenses, and moving). Of those, 72% used Rx Kids payments to mitigate the financial shock. 65% say the program made it easier to access healthcare; 93% of participants say they attended at least three prenatal care appointments in a three-month period, and 98% attended at least one; 98% of participants say that they took their Rx Kids infant to at least one pediatric appointment; 68% agreed that Rx Kids has helped improve their health and their infant’s health; 76% say Rx Kids helped them take time off work to care for themselves or loved ones.

In a powerful demonstration, the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians has committed \$200,000 to support Rx Kids in the Eastern Upper Peninsula.

This investment reflects the tribe’s deep commitment to maternal and child health, and to uplifting families across the region.

“Rx Kids reflects our commitment to supporting mothers, honoring children, and strengthening families—especially within our Tribal communities,” said Chairman Austin Lowes of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians. “With 25% of Rx Kids participants in the Eastern Upper Peninsula identifying as American Indian, this is proving to be a powerful and efficient program for reaching our members at a time of critical need for their families.”

“It meant so much to me,” said one of Chippewa County’s first recipients, Haley Stewart of the program and the subsequent benefit for her family. “My husband was able to take time off work and that was huge for us.”

Rx Kids is led by Michigan State University Pediatric Public Health Initiative, in collaboration with Poverty Solutions at the University of Michigan, and administered by GiveDirectly.

The program is made possible with generous support from the State of Michigan and a growing family of funders and supporters.

In the EUP, Rx Kids is generously supported by the Bezos Family Foundation, the Michigan Health Endowment Fund, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, the Perigee Fund, the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians, the Superior Health Foundation, and the William J. & Dorothy K. O’Neill Foundation.

Up to date addresses for tribal elders are needed

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

Adams Jr, Donald H
Adams, Craig P
Adams, Mark W
Adams, Scott M
Agy, Gary M
Albinger, Robert P
Alexander Jr, Fred M
Alexander, Laurie J
Allen, Ronald J
Allison, Stephen W
Andrews, Tammy
Anguilm, Anthony P
Anthony Jr, Daniel R
Arntz, Debra E
Arseneau, Lawrence R
Aultman, Inez A
Baker, Vince W
Barber, Gary L
Barber, Robert A
Barker, Melanie F
Barr, Brian J
Beckman, Kristin A
Bedrick, Mildred A
Beigel, Leon J
Belisle, Danny L
Bell, Gerald W
Bellant, James L
Belonga, Francis J
Benedict, John A
Berkland, Karen M
Bernard Jr, Lawrence G
Bicknell, Gerald L
Biron, Gary B
Blanchard, Gregory S
Boahbedason, Francis J
Bobee, Joseph F
Bohrer, Michael G
Bonno, Clyde A
Bosley, Ricky L
Boston, Julie A
Bourasaw, Peter J
Boursaw Jr, James D
Braley, Sharon L
Brasseur, Bernie
Brauer, Edward A
Brenchley, Frederick K
Brewer, Karen

Brigman, Rod R
Brothers, Keith A
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Clark, Robin L
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Delpriore, Cheryl L
Dewar, Debra L
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Dilworth, Lawrence M
Doyle, Vickie S
Eaton, Gregory A
Edmonds, James B
Elegeert, Thomas J
Erickson, James S
Ettawageshik, Joel Q
Ettawageshik, John L
Falbe, Brian D
Faragher, Elaine R
Fischer Jr, David A
Fischer, Dale A
Fischer, Dawn A
Ford, Deborah M
Fouracre, Douglas V
Fournier, Anna M
Fox, David R
Fralick, Jonathan E
Frazier, William J
Gagnon, Lynne M
Gale, Danny M
Gokey, Todd S
Gomez Jr, Jose A
Gouine, Gerald H
Grant, Diane L
Grathwohl, Randall E

Green, Richard G
Green, Sheri A
Gregg Jr, Peter H
Greggs, Jason J
Gregory, Richard J
Grimmer, Joseph P
Groh, Vicki J
Grondin, Charles J
Hallesy, James F
Hansen, Marianne
Hanson, Peter J
Harned, Todd
Harris, Bruce K
Harris, Patricia A
Hartrick, Tim M
Hascall, Stanley
Hatch, Mark H
Hatch, Susan
Hayes, George A
Heckert, Douglas W
Heximer, Larry G
Hill, David J
Hillman, Judy G
Hoffman, Gina L
Holle, Janis A
Holmberg, Patti A
Holmes, Donald J
Hylo, Dana W
Hylo, Lee A
Jackson, Charles D
Jackson, Jennie M
Jensen, William J
Jochman, Carolyn M
Kerr, David T
Keyandwy, Ronald D
Kilstofte, Tammy K
King, Timothy G
Kivisto, Douglas J
Klepper, Marion M
Konkel, Cynthia E
Kopacki, Marcia L
Kotarski, William J
Kravis, Valerie K
Laceby, Lawrence W
LaCross, Donald K
LaLonde, Dennis G
LaLonde, Rene A

LaPine, Michael T
LaPlaunt, Charles F
Laughton, Jerry D
Leask, Daniel J
Lee, Rodney J
Leveille-Gaillard, Lori J
LeVernois-Myette, Yvonne
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Lewis, Robin J
Lewis, Tina M
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MacArthur, Tracy L
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Martineau, Allen R
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Mastaw, Kevin
Matteson, Richard C
Mattson, Melanie A
McCarthy, Kenneth P
McCarthy, Richard J
McClelland, Gary W
McCondra, Raymond P
McCondra, Ronald K
McDermott, Edward J
McDonald Jr, John
McDonald, Brent S
McDonald, Tom
McKerchie, Debra A
Metivier, Lynette S
Meyers, Cathy J
Michaels, Violet L
Miles, Richard J
Moffatt, April M
Monck, Steven J
Montague, Lark L
Montgomery, Debra S
Moore, Bonnie A
Morris, John P
Mullendore, Carolyn M
Murray, Charles E
Neal, Cathy L
Neal, Linda A
Nesbitt, Rebecca L
Nichols, Bobbie J
Osogwin, Laurie A
Ozant, Gregory K

Paciocco, Stephen J
Page, Lisa A
Paquin, Carolyn J
Paquin, Kathleen M
Paquin, Michelle
Parrish, Glenn R
Paschall, Karen L
Patterson, Randal J
Paulsen, Camie A
Pederson, Denise M
Pembroke, James L
Perry Sr, Joseph P
Perry, Raymond A
Perry, Robert F
Phillips, Doris M
Pilcher, David J
Poole, Lisa R
Povey, Dell E
Powell, Patricia S
Pratt, Katherine A
Pratt, William J
Pressley, Kimberly A
Quinn, Suzanne M
Radford, Sharon D
Ray, Linda S
Rittenhouse, Bonnie K
Rivard, Loretta J
Rivers, John N
Robbins, Merlin S
Rohlf, Debra J
Ruperd, James K
Ryckman, Barbara
Samuel, Debra E
Sari, Jeffery M
Schell, Debra L
Scheuring III, James W
Schmid, Raymond L
Scobey, Peggy M
Scott, Jack T
Sepienza, Anne M
Sepienza, Joseph
Sepienza, Steven
Seymour, Michael S
Shields, Edwin R
Simonds, Deborah S
Skupin, Lalona I
Slabaugh, Joan B

Smith, Alfred L
Smith, Karan A
Snowbeck, Duane B
Sosnowski, Paul M
St. Louis, Robert F
St. Louis, Wayne A
Stewart, Cherrie J
Stierman, Mary T
Sturm, Christian A
Suffield, Steven D
Summers Jr, Wilfred G
Sylvester, James G
Thibodeau, Marilyn R
Thomas, Robert R
Thornhill, Lorry D
Toland, Geraldine P
Trudell, Candice R
Vanhouten, Kevin L
Vanier, Tina M
Vanzile, Sherri L
Vieau, Gary D
Vincamp, Lisa A
Wagner, Sherrie R
Weatherly, Mary H
Weber, Daniel B
Welch, Michael L
Welchner, Nancy A
Weston, Charmaine T
Westveld, Holly J
Wheeler, Henry A
Whisenant, Albert T
White III, Daniel
White Jr, Gerald R
White Sr, Lyonl J
White, Randy P
Wicketts, Betty M
Willingham, Jody L
Willson, Susan M
Wiseley, Patricia L
Wood, Daniel J
Wood, Kathryn A
Woodworth, Tami L
Yancy, Pamela J
Young, Laurie A
Young, Rose A

Sault Tribe Golf Scholarship Classic held

Golfers from across the state and Wisconsin competed in the 24th Annual Sault Tribe Golf Scholarship Classic held in Sault Ste. Marie on Friday, July 25, 2025. The annual event generated over \$113,000 for the Tribal Scholarship Fund.

The two-day event began Thursday evening with a reception held at Kewadin Casinos & Convention Center. The reception, sponsored by PNC Bank, provided golfers with the opportunity to pre-register for the Classic, place bids on silent auction items and enjoy complimentary hors d'oeuvres.

The main event began with a shotgun start at 10 a.m. on Friday. In the Mixed Division, the top three teams all finished with a 65. Following a score-card playoff, the Sault Printing Co. foursome won the division, followed by Automated Comfort Controls and in third place was The Huntington National Bank. In the Men's Division, CompOne Administrators / The Mahoney Group took first place with a 60, followed by Team Nelson with a 61 and in third place was Light & Wonder with a 63.

During the tournament, golfers had the chance to win cash prizes of up to \$25,000 and



Left, men's winners: Comp One/Mahoney Team Bruce Stubbs, Alan Boose, Doug Goudreau, and Gordon Bowdell (L-R). Right, mixed winners: Sault Printing Company Team Randy Maleport, Tanya Maleport, Todd Beaumont, Kelly Beaumont (L-R).

one of two vehicles, sponsored by Rodenroth Motors and Soo Motors, during hole-in-one contests. Prior to the Classic, golfers had the opportunity to test their skills for a chance to win \$10,000 during the Putting Contest sponsored by Meritain Health / The Mahoney Group. While on the course, golfers were treated to lunch with all the fixings sponsored by The Huntington National Bank and beverages sponsored by Reyes

Coca-Cola Bottling. Following the Classic, golfers and sponsors attended the awards ceremony and enjoyed dinner sponsored by Gordon Food Service. During the ceremony, Tribal Chairman Austin Lowes recognized sponsors for their generous support and contributions towards the Scholarship Fund. In addition, those attending the dinner had the opportunity to win fantastic door prizes donated by our generous local



vendors. Closing out the night, prizes were awarded to the top teams in each division, Mixed and Men's.

Funds generated by the Classic are placed into an endowment fund, which ensures the Sault Tribe is able to provide scholarships annually to tribal members wishing to further their education. The fund distributes 5% annually in scholarships and this year a total of 63 scholarships will

be awarded. To date, over 450 scholarships have been awarded to Sault Tribe members advancing their education.

The 2025 Sault Tribe Golf Scholarship Classic was organized by Bill Connolly, Jessica Dumback, Jeff Holt, Jennifer Markey and Ashley Samuelson.

The event was hosted by Kewadin Casinos and the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. Next year's event is scheduled Friday, July 31, 2026.

Thank you to our Golf Scholarship sponsors

The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians would like to thank our generous sponsors, many volunteers and dedicated committee members who helped make the 24th Annual Sault Tribe Golf Scholarship Classic a tremendous success!

- Triple Diamond Sponsor:** Gordon Food Service
- Double Diamond Sponsors:** Blue Stone Strategy Partners, CompEdge, Kewadin Casinos, Missanabie Cree Business Corporation
- Reception Sponsor:** PNC Bank
- Lunch Sponsor:** The Huntington National Bank

- Diamond Sponsors:** Alliant Insurance Services/Tribal First, Aristocrat Gaming, Automated Comfort Controls, Gundlach Champion, Imagine This, Sault Printing Company, Sault Tribe, Inc.
- Beverage Sponsor:** Reyes Coca-Cola Bottling
- Putting Contest Sponsor:** Aetna ~ Meritain Health
- Platinum Sponsors:** Caesars Entertainment, The France Firm, International Gaming Technology, Integrated Designs, Inc., RSM US, S. Abraham & Sons UBS Financial Services, WilmerHale
- Gold Sponsors:** AvidXchange, Bellwether Public Relations,

- Black Rock Bar & Grill, Bovia Design, Butzel Long, Central Savings Bank, CompOne Administrators, William P. Connolly, CPA, Khoury Johnson Leavitt, Lume Cannabis Co., Mackinac Straits Health Systems, The Mahoney Group, National Painting Contractors ~ JAMA Development, North American Video, Petoskey Surgeons, U.P. Engineers & Architects
- Hole Sponsors:** Albert Heating & Cooling, Aldridge Electric, Ashmun Creek Apartments, Blarney Castle Oil, Cavco Industries, Cloverland Electric, DK Security, Duhadway, Kendall & Associates, Everi

- Solution, Foster Garvey, Gitchi Enterprises, Imperial Dade, J & M Digital Print, Light & Wonder, McGahey Construction, Mr. Clean Septic Services, On the Mark Golf, Pickford Building Centers, Plath Meats, Slotbrokers, Sonosky, Chambers, Sachse, Endreson & Perry, Soo Co-op Credit Union, Staples, Upper Peninsula Health Plan, Zarembo
- Car Hole in One Sponsors:** Rodenroth Motors, Soo Motors
- Cart Sponsors:** Grand Traverse Mobile Communications, Mackinac Environmental, Manistique Oil, Mark's Tire, Plugged in Media, Pingatore Cleaners, Roy Electric,

- Sawyer Village
- Prize & Silent Auction Sponsors:** Alpine Chocolat Haus, Bay Mills Resort & Casino, Bear on the Mountain Golf Course, Black Rock Bar & Grill, Central Savings Bank, Cheboygan Golf Club, Grand Traverse Resort & Spa, Great Lakes Shipwreck Museum, Highland Golf Club, Imagine This, Kewadin Casinos, Marchetti Distributing Company, MyMichigan Health, Parker's Ace Hardware, Pictured Rocks Golf Course, Sault Ste. Marie Country Club, St. Ignace Country Club, Tanglewood Marsh Golf Course.

Sault Tribe Golf Scholarship awardees list

Danyelle Clement, Cathy Abramson Scholarship
Janet Kosiewicz, Donald "Duck" Andress Scholarship
Logan Trusty, Bernard Bouschor Scholarship
Laura Innerebner, John P. Carr Scholarship
Peyton Perilloux, Denise Chase Scholarship
Anna Leask, Don Corp Scholarship
Regan Mortensen, June Curran Porcaro Scholarship
Robyn Smith, Pamela Cable Gershon Scholarship
Kaylee MacInnis, Fred L. Hatch Scholarship
Kaylee Komejan, Lori Jump Scholarship
Brooklynn Sebert, Vic Matson Sr.Scholarship
Ryan LaPlaunt, Ken McCoy Scholarship
Haley Tolan, Mary & Harold "Cub" McKerchie Scholarship
Payton Cotey, Dennis McKelvie

Scholarship
Faith Cummings, Martha Miller Scholarship
Nora Hendges, Anita Nelson Scholarship
Faith White, George K. Nolan Scholarship
Alea Ward, Mary Sabina Osagwin & Christine Muscoe Anderson Scholarship
Trenten Maleport, Barb & Ed "Pie" Pine Scholarship
Wyatt Kulik, Kenneth J. (Otis) Pond Scholarship
Samuel Kartes, Martha "Marty" Snyder Scholarship
April Morgan, VanAlstine Scholarship
Ash Jacobson, Wright-Hatch Scholarship
Olivia Forrest, Joseph K. Lumsden Scholarship
Aliyah Grendel, Sault Tribe Undergraduate Scholarship
Skylar LaPine, Sault Tribe Undergraduate Scholarship
Emerson Brown, Sault Tribe

Undergraduate Scholarship
Danielle Villanueva, Sault Tribe Undergraduate Scholarship
Sasha Willson, Sault Tribe Undergraduate Scholarship
Trevor Bosanic, Sault Tribe Undergraduate Scholarship
Tristan Bouschor, Sault Tribe Undergraduate Scholarship
Annette Thibert, Sault Tribe Undergraduate Scholarship
Haleigh Mattson, Sault Tribe Undergraduate Scholarship
Brianna Miller, Sault Tribe Undergraduate Scholarship
Jemma Norkoli, Sault Tribe Undergraduate Scholarship
Isabella Norman, Sault Tribe Undergraduate Scholarship
Brieann Hamann, Sault Tribe Undergraduate Scholarship
Kyra Johnson, Sault Tribe Undergraduate Scholarship
Taylor Wheatley, Sault Tribe Undergraduate Scholarship
Leah Goudreau, Sault Tribe Undergraduate Scholarship

Leah Creech, Sault Tribe Undergraduate Scholarship
Nicole Schlegel, Sault Tribe Undergraduate Scholarship
Ava Yon, Sault Tribe Undergraduate Scholarship
Elishia Morelli, Sault Tribe Undergraduate Scholarship
Emma Jarrell, Sault Tribe Undergraduate Scholarship
Ryan Eicher, Sault Tribe Undergraduate Scholarship
Kadence Potoczak, Sault Tribe Undergraduate Scholarship
Taylor Andress, Sault Tribe Undergraduate Scholarship
Theresa Barras, Sault Tribe Undergraduate Scholarship
Emily Richy, Sault Tribe Graduate Scholarship
Marlee Huskey, Sault Tribe Graduate Scholarship
Miguel Purtee, Sault Tribe Graduate Scholarship
Kennedy Kammers, Sault Tribe Graduate Scholarship
Amanda Crux, Sault Tribe

Graduate Scholarship
Carrie Gregg, Sault Tribe Graduate Scholarship
Shawn Menard, Sault Tribe Graduate Scholarship
Madison O'Dell, Sault Tribe Graduate Scholarship
Laura Dean, Sault Tribe Graduate Scholarship
Jack Dehring III, Sault Tribe Graduate Scholarship
Karlee Mayer, Sault Tribe Graduate Scholarship
Delaney Carlson, Sault Tribe Graduate Scholarship
Autumn Henry, Sault Tribe Graduate Scholarship
Jessica McMillan, Sault Tribe Technical/Vocational Scholarship
Thomas DesRosiers, Sault Tribe Technical/Vocational Scholarship
Addison Feathers, Sault Tribe Technical/Vocational Scholarship

Detroit Institute of Arts Contemporary Anishinaabe Art

From “Exhibition,” page 7
front of contemporary artistic expression, creating powerful works that speak to both ancestral influences and present-day experiences. We are honored to provide a platform for these original voices and to deepen our community’s understanding of the rich artistic traditions that continue to flourish in our region.”

The show will feature more than 60 artists hailing from across 21 Anishinaabe tribes.

A full-length, illustrated catalogue with essays will be published to accompany the exhibition.

Legislation announced to combat human trafficking

On Sept. 3, Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel, state Representative Kelly Breen (D-Novi), and state Senator John Damoose (R-Harbor Springs) announced a bipartisan package of bills aimed at combating human trafficking. The legislative package would strengthen Michigan’s law against human trafficking and provide vital protections for survivors.

“I want to thank Representative Breen, Senator Damoose, and all the other legislators who have championed this bipartisan package of bills,” Nessel said. “Human trafficking will not disappear overnight. It is entrenched, organized, and fueled by billions of dollars, but we can make Michigan a far more dangerous place for traffickers to operate and a far safer place for survivors to heal with this legislation.”

“There aren’t words to describe how sickening it is that so many women, children, and men are literally enslaved by criminals who use another person’s life for their own pleasure or profit,” Damoose said. “No matter what one’s background or political ideas may be, we can all unite around the fact that human trafficking is a grave moral evil, and it is time to stand up to ensure that Michigan has the toughest laws in the country to clamp down on both those engaged in the trafficking and those who prey upon the victims who are being abused.”

Human trafficking can take on many forms, including forced labor and sexual exploitation. Labor trafficking is found in many different markets that consumers might not suspect, such as convenience stores, nail salons, massage parlors, farming and agriculture, and restaurants. Those being trafficked often do not even realize they are victims of human trafficking or are not aware of how to get help.

Michigan received an “F” rating from Shared Hope International and the Polaris Project in 2023 for the state’s human trafficking statutes. While the Michigan Legislature took up measures last year to combat some of these issues and provide better protections for survivors and victims, they fell short of passing much-needed legislation.

See “Trafficking,” page 17

tion. The book’s essays delve into how contemporary Anishinaabe art resonates with the present while paying homage to enduring artistic traditions and celebrates the voices of artists who have

been historically excluded from the mainstream art world.

More about the exhibition can be seen online here: <https://dia.org/events/exhibitions/contemporary-anishinaabe-art-continuation>.

Lead support is generously provided by the Ford Foundation.

Major support is provided by Jennifer Adderley and the Henry Luce Foundation.

Additional support is provided

by the DTE Foundation, Richard Sonenklar and Gregory Haynes, Andra Rush and the Rush Group of Companies, Carlene and Rob Van Voorhies, and Peggy and Dave Meador.

Sault Tribe Community Health

2025 Flu Clinics

Check flu & COVID clinic schedule for your area and Mark Your Calendars!

FREE flu shots for:

- Sault Tribe members
- Members of a federally recognized tribe
- Health Division Employees

Flu Shots are a \$10 Co-Pay for Non-Native Spouses



Please wear short sleeves

Flu and Covid Walk-In Clinic Schedule

SAULT STE. MARIE AREA

Big Bear Arena, 2 Ice Circle Dr.
Tuesday, Oct. 7, 10 a.m. -2 p.m. (Health Fair)

Nokomis-Mishomis Bldg., 2076 Shunk Rd.
Wednesday, Oct. 15, 11 a.m. -1 p.m.

Kewadin Casino, 2186 Shunk Rd.
Friday, Oct. 17, 1-4:30 p.m.
(Kewadin Casino Employee Clinic)

Sault Tribe Health Center, 2864 Ashmun St.
Wednesday, Oct. 22, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Friday, Nov. 7, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Monday, Nov. 17, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Monday, Nov. 24, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

KINROSS AREA

Kinross Rec Center, 43 Wood Lake Rd.
Friday, Oct. 10, 10 a.m. -2 p.m. (Health Fair)

ESCANABA AREA

Gladstone Tribal Health Facility, 2002 Minneapolis
Friday, Oct. 3, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Escanaba Community Center, 3721 Jingob St.
Friday, Oct. 17, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. (Health Fair)

NEWBERRY AREA

Newberry Tribal Health Center,
4935 Zee Ba Tik Lane
Sunday, Sept. 28, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Wednesday, Oct. 15, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. (Health Fair)

MARQUETTE AREA

Marquette Tribal Health Center
1229 W Washington St.
Saturday, Oct. 4 ... 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
(DRIVE THRU - Flu & COVID Clinic.)

DETOUR, DRUMMOND AREA

DeTour Municipal Bldg., 260 Superior
Thursday, Oct. 2, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. (Health Fair)

DeTour Tribal Health Center, 200 S. Superior St.
Thursday, Oct. 16, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Thursday, Oct. 30, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

HESSEL AREA

Hessel Tribal Health Center, 3355 N. 3 Mile Rd.
Friday, Oct. 3, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. (Health Fair)
Tuesday, Oct. 14, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Tuesday, Oct. 28, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

MANISTIQUE AREA

Manistique Tribal Health Center
5698 W. HWY 2
Monday, Oct. 6, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. & 1 - 3:30 p.m.
Friday, Oct. 10, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. (Health Fair)

MUNISING AREA

Munising Tribal Health Center
622 W. Superior
Monday, Sept. 29..2 - 5 p.m.
Thursday., Oct. 2 .11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Wednesday, Oct. 8 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

ST. IGNACE AREA

Kewadin Casino Tent, 3015 Mackinac Trail
Wednesday, Oct. 1, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. (Health Fair)

Elder Meal Site
Tuesday, Oct. 28, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

St. Ignace Health Center, 1140 N State St.
(CONFERENCE ROOM)
Friday, Nov. 14, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Wednesday, Nov. 19, 1 - 4 p.m.

Gladstone Health Center	341-1836
Hessel Tribal Health Center.....	484-2727
Manistique Tribal Health Center ...	341-8469
Marquette Tribal Health Center ...	225-1616
DeTour Health Center.....	442-0111

Munising Tribal Health Center	387-4721
Newberry Tribal Health Center	293-8181
Sault/Kinross Community Health..	632-5210
St. Ignace Tribal Health Center ...	643-8689,
	ext. 34531

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

CLIP & SAVE



Gathering of the Eagles Powwow in Hessel & St. Ignace hosts Rendezvous at the Straits



YEA Assistant Jacquelyn Lee helps Kenzie Perry, 9, of Rudyard get ready for the Hessel Powwow.



Junior head female dancer Sophia Huffman with Head Female Sancer Sara Lynn. In the background, Emcee Josh Homminga can be seen on stage working the crowd.



Lead Male Dancer Jeremy Burnside with Jr. Male Lead Dancer William Ruthruff.



Amber Gentry holds 1 1/2-year-old Nimkii Noodin Visnaw.



Preparing for the grand entry.



Jingle dancers Molly Escherich, Poppy Solomon and Sophia Huffman.



Jackie Minton leads this group of dancers.



Becki Miller and Danielle Marble share a laugh between dances at this year's Hessel powwow.



Above, the Ice Circle Singers performed at the Hessel Powwow on Aug. 16 and headed south to the St. Ignace Powwow the following weekend. Below Mukkwa Giizhik, likewise provided drumming and singing at both locations.



Above and below dancers in action.



Photos by Jennifer Dale-Burton and Scott Brand



Above, the Sturgeon Bay Singers take their turn before the crowd. Below, Tesla, 7, claimed \$20 in a spot dance.



Above, dancers in full regalia. Below, Twila Shapely, 2, hitches a ride with her aunt, Rosey Hartshorn.



Illiana Graves, 4, and her mother Colleen Graves pose with Alec Lindenberg.



A fancy shawl dancer.



Grand Entry at the St. Ignace powwow.



William "Wium" Perault



Hundreds of people converged on the Little Bear East Grounds in St. Ignace for the 2025 Rendezvous on the Straits. Some like those on the left came to dance, while many others just came to watch and learn.



Birch Bark Bill who creates art for The Waters Collection was one of many vendors.



Wild rice (Manoomin) Community seeding

More than a dozen volunteers converged on the Munuscong State Wildlife Management Area on Sept. 4, as part of an annual effort to restore wild rice beds throughout the St. Mary’s River System. “A little over 900 pounds,” said Sault Tribe Wildlife Biologist Mike Castagne of the supplied seed he helped haul back from the White

Earth Nation in Minnesota. “We’re putting it out on five spots along the St. Mary’s River.” White Earth Nation also supplied the Bay Mills Indian Community, the Keweenaw Band of Chippewa Indians and the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians with seed as efforts continue throughout the

region to re-establish rice beds. “Our long-term hope is to have beds (of wild rice) that the community can harvest from,” said Interim Director and Wildlife Program Manager Danielle Fegan in a previous interview regarding the ongoing project. The 2025 was a grueling affair. In previous years, canoes

and kayaks were employed to float the buckets of rice out into the shallow water for seeding. A stiff northwest wind combining with lower water levels, however, derailed that method of transportation. The initial roughly 150 pounds of seed was conveyed by hand-carried buckets to the planting site after traversing a

foot-beaten trail of tall cattails and thick mud by the crew. Castagne, in a Herculean effort, made two long trips across the mud flat delivering a pair of 70-pound bags of seed to the islands where the planters were able to refill their buckets as they were emptied hastening the completion of this project.



From left to right, Sault Tribe Wildlife Biologists Michael Castagne and Aimee Baier were joined by Water Quality Scientist Molly Engelman. The shallow water prevented work crews from using the canoes and kayaks.



Lori Gambardella offered a prayer and smudging before the rice was planted after visiting with Interim Director and Wildlife Program Manager Dani Fegan.



Above and below, it was tough slogging for the volunteers as they made their way through tall cattails and deep mud to transport the rice to the planting site.



Above, Food Sovereignty Committee’s David Lockhart throwing rice seed. Below, volunteers gather in the marsh to strategize their next move.



Above, Castagne muscled two large bags of rice seed into the marsh, while below Bailey fills up buckets for transport.



Photos by Brenda Austin and Scott Brand



Above, Colton Hudak and Molly Engelman scatter rice seed in the shallow waters of Munuscong Bay. Below, Katie Schultz returning an empty bucket after completing her mission.



Larry Jacques and son Larry III, enjoyed paddling in the deeper waters away from the planting location during their visit.



Engelman is all smiles as the weather clears up before take-off.



Walking on...

DARRYL “GUS” JOSEPH GOETZ

Darryl “Gus” Joseph Goetz, 65, of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., passed away at McLaren Northern Hospital in Petoskey, Mich., Aug. 21, 2025. He was born Oct. 13, 1959, in Sault Ste. Marie to James and Eldrus (Cryderman) Goetz.



Gus grew up in Dafter, Mich., and graduated from Sault Area High School with the Class of 1977. He began his career as a welder in the shipyards of Manitowoc, Wisc., later working for Olofsson Fabrication for ten years. He eventually transitioned into corrections, serving as a corrections officer with the Michigan Department of Corrections until his retirement.

A proud member of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians, Gus was well known throughout his community. He was a musician, a gifted storyteller, and a fixture of downtown Sault Ste. Marie. He could often be found driving around town, visiting with friends, serenading those in need of cheer, or enjoying a meal at one of his favorite local eateries.

Music was one of Gus’s lifelong passions. At just fourteen years old, he taught himself to play the guitar, and he went on to write original songs and perform with his band, Chaparral. Beyond music, he loved the outdoors—hunting, fishing, and spending time in nature. He also enjoyed many years of playing hockey and softball, staying active in the sports he loved until health challenges made it difficult to continue.

Gus is survived by his loving wife, Faith; children, Christopher Goetz and Jaclyn Goetz; step-children, Lance Anderson, Lisa Anderson, and Breeanna McDowell; grandchildren, Dawson and Lahanna; brothers, David (Beverly) Goetz and Terry (Marcia) Goetz; and sister, Debbie (George) Ashetzie.

Gus was preceded in death by his parents, James and Eldrus; and siblings, Diane Goetz and Larry Goetz.

Visitation was held Friday, Aug. 29, 2025, at Family Life Funeral Homes in Sault Ste. Marie. The Funeral Service was at 4 p.m. with burial following.

Gus’s final resting place is Oaklawn Chapel Gardens in Bruce Township, Mich.

Family Life Funeral Homes in Sault Ste. Marie assisted the family with arrangements.

Condolences may be shared at www.familylifefh.com.

DAVID JAMES MOORE

David James Moore, 54, passed away peacefully Aug. 5, 2025, at his home in Paradise, Mich. A life celebration took place at the Whitefish Township Community Center on Sept. 14.

Born June 17, 1971, in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., to Shirley Jane Moore (McGillvary) and the late Gerald Lee Moore, Sr., Dave worked for his family’s commercial fishing business and graduat-

ed high school from Brimley in 1990.

He went on to Lake Superior State University where he graduated from the Criminal Justice-Corrections program and served the Michigan Department of Corrections for 25 years.

Dave loved life but anyone who knew him could see that what he loved most in the world was his wife Tanya Jean Moore (Orr) and his son Wyatt James Moore. Tanya and Dave met and became fast friends while they both attended Whitefish Township School. Later in life they fell in love and married on Oct. 9, 1999, in Paradise, Mich., where they made their home for 27 years. In October of 2007, they welcomed their baby boy Wyatt into the world with so much joy and admiration, their hearts were full. Their family was complete and blessed beyond measure.

Dave enjoyed spending time with his friends and family. Camping, fishing, ATV’s, snowmobiles, traveling, he lived life to the fullest! He especially enjoyed a round or two of golf with his best buddy, Chris Saunders, or an adventure with his good friend Bill McKay. Dave was a wonderful human who cared deeply for those he loved and often checked on others to show his affection and let them know “I’m here if you need me”. He will be loved and missed by the many people whose lives he touched.

Dave is survived by his wife Tanya Jean Moore and his son Wyatt James Moore. His siblings Maragret Ann Moore of Hulbert, Gerald Lee Moore Jr. of Shelldrake, Melissa Marie Moore of Hulbert, his nephew Logan Moore of Hulbert, niece Ashley Kerridge (Lance) of Engadine, nephew Travis Peake of Hulbert, niece Brooke Gartland (Tony) of Escanaba, many great nieces and nephews, and his mother Shirley Moore of Hulbert. Dave was preceded in death by his father Gerald Lee Moore Sr. and both maternal and paternal grandparents.

Dave will be remembered for his dedication to family, unwavering integrity, and his smile that lit up a room. Rest now in God’s loving arms for eternity until we meet again on Heaven’s fairway.

Beaulieu Funeral Home in Newberry is assisting the family. Condolences may be expressed at www.beaulieufuneralhome.com.

DOROTHY “DOTS” GENEVIEVE GERVAIS

Dorothy “Dots” Genevieve Gervais, 97, of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., went to be with the Lord on Wednesday, July 16, 2025, at the Ball Hospice House in Sault Ste. Marie. Dorothy was born in Baie de Wasai, Mich., to Edmund and Genevieve (McKerchie) Andress, on Dec. 5, 1927.

She was born third in line of



seventeen children and received her 8th Grade Diploma from Harding School in 1941. After the birth of her 10th sibling, she and her family moved to Sault Ste. Marie.

On Jan. 10, 1953, Dorothy married her husband Raymond “Ray” Gervais at the Nativity Church in Sault Ste. Marie. Together they created a loving home complete with their eight children: John, Janis, Jonelle, Jerry, Jinny, Joel, Jolynda and Judy, quickly followed by nineteen grandchildren, twenty-one great grandchildren, and two great-great grandchildren. Dorothy’s home was commonly filled with family, friends, and endless laughter. Her door was always open and a pot of coffee was always on.

Dorothy was a kind, caring woman of faith. Her love of God began in 1928 when she was baptized at the Sacred Heart Church on Sugar Island. She carried her faith into adulthood as a long-standing member of the St. Joseph Catholic Church where you could find her every Sunday morning in one of the front row pews often with a daughter or a grandchild in tow.

Dorothy was an honored member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. Dorothy along with her siblings, many cousins, and friends were particularly active in the Sault Tribe Elders Program where she not only enjoyed the daily luncheons, bus trips, powwows and holiday luncheons, but was also the proud recipient of the Elder Volunteer of the Year Award.

Dorothy’s cherished pastime was creating and sewing exquisite handmade quilts and embroidered pillowcases to share with family and friends, a craft she learned from her mother. Nevertheless, loving, humble, and kind Dorothy had spunk. She was a long-standing hockey fan and could often be found in her corner at the Pullar ringing her cow-bell loud and proud for her sons, sons in law, and grandsons. She loved country music and dancing until the wee hours of the morning. Dorothy also enjoyed playing cards with her family and close friends, often walking away a winner.

Dorothy is survived by her children, Janis Wilson, Jonelle (Harry) Killips, Jerome (Pam) Gervais, Jenevieve (Tim) Gillett, Joel Gervais, Jolynda (Terry Carrick) Brown, and Judy Girard; nineteen grandchildren and their families, Shondra (Eric Maleport) Gervais, Jason (Tracy) Gervais, Brian (Melissa) Wilson, Marcy (Jim) Smith, Patrick (Jackie) Killips, Mindy (Mark) Kavanaugh, Raymond (Britnee) Gillett, Charlie (Christina) Gillett, Brittany (Joel) Feldhake, Alicia P Gervais, Courtney (Adi) Patel, Jerome Gervais, Alicia K Gervais, Alex Young, Scott (Erica) Gervais, Stephanie Gervais, Bailee (Marty Porcaro) Brown, Jordan (Jay) Ware, and Jesse Girard; five siblings, Louie (Judy) Aikens, Ted (Laura) Aikens, Paul (Marybeth) Aikens, May (Slim) Lockhart, and Fauncy (Skee) Sawasky; as well as many nieces, nephews, great grandchildren, and great-great grandchildren.

Dorothy was preceded in death

by her husband, Raymond; son, John Gervais; sons-in-law, Dale Wilson and Kelly Girard; parents, Edmund Andress and Genevieve Aikens; the much loved man who raised her, Wilfred Aikens; and siblings; Loretta (Bill) Smith, Jean (Leonard) Perrault, Leonard (Anita) Hatch, Glen (Helen) Hatch, Leo (Millie) Hatch, Bernard Aikens, Walter Aikens, Merlin Aikens, Grace (Bill) Sauro, Evelyn Berkland, and Viola Thompson.

Visitation was held on July 21, 2025 followed by a Memorial Mass at the St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church, 606 E 4th Ave, Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, 49783. Fr. Matthew Chartier was celebrant for Mass.

Interment followed at Oaklawn Chapel Gardens.

Memorial contributions in Dorothy’s honor may be made to St. Mary’s Catholic School, 360 Maple Street, St. Joseph’s Catholic Church, 606 E 4th Avenue, or the Sault Tribe Elders Program, 2076 Shunk Rd., all in Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783.

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

ERNEST “BOB” ROBERT KING

Lifelong Naubinway resident, Ernest “Bob” Robert King, 82, died Aug. 12, 2025, at his residence in the presence of his loving family and the care of North Woods Home Care and Hospice. Bob was born Aug. 16, 1942, at the homestead in Naubinway, the son of the late Ernest “Pete” and Vides (Whitford) King.



Bob was a 1960 graduate of Engadine High School and on Sept. 9, 1961, he married the former Beverly “Bev” McNeil at St. Stephens Catholic Church in Naubinway.

Bob’s employment career began with the family business, working for Kings Fish Market in Naubinway, eventually purchasing the business in 1986. During his time, he also was a commercial fisherman and employed with Great Lake Gas Company in Naubinway for 13 years.

Bob was a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and former volunteer of the Garfield Township Ambulance Corp. and Garfield Township Fire Department. Bob was an avid outdoorsman, especially hunting. Bob also enjoyed playing cribbage in addition to reading and spending time with his family, especially his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Bob was a collector of antique automobiles, especially fast ones, and was always first in line purchasing the latest fast auto on the market. Bob and Bev also spent winters in Florida for several years, frequenting garage sales.

Survivors include his loving wife of over 63 years, Bev, of Naubinway; children, Theron (Helen) King of St. Ignace,

Laurie (Ralph) Stabile of Petoskey and Kenny (Lila) King of Naubinway; eight grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

Per request, cremation services were accorded with no public services scheduled.

Memorials may be directed to the American Legion Post #290, PO Box 86, Engadine, MI 49827 in his loving memory. Contributions in Bob’s name will be designated to offset medical travel expenses to VA clinics and hospitals for the area veterans.

Condolences may be expressed at www.beaulieufuneralhome.com. Beaulieu Funeral Home in Newberry assisted the family.

BRAD ALLEN HORN

Brad Allen Horn, 38, passed away unexpectedly at his home on Mackinac Island, Mich., Aug. 27, 2025. He was born Sept. 4, 1986, at the Medical Center on Mackinac Island to Loren William Horn and Amanda Maria (St. Onge) Wandrie.



Brad attended Mackinac Island Public School and graduated with the Class of 2004. He worked for many years in the hospitality industry, at some of Mackinac’s most notable establishments, including Horn’s Bar and the Pink Pony. He loved to share his stories of growing up on Mackinac providing a rare glimpse of Island life to thousands of tourists, summer workers, and locals each year. He recently established Mackinac Painting LLC. Shifting careers to painting, another skill he had perfected during the off-season and was in the process of completing his third professional project, with many more to follow. Brad attended Lake Superior State University and graduated in 2016 with a bachelor’s degree in accounting.

Brad loved his family and his partner Sierra Woodgate. Brad and Sierra welcomed a son, Oliver, on Jan. 21, 2019. Brad was an exceptional father and enjoyed spending time with his family. Whether he was helping his stepson, Lincoln, with homework or surprising the family with a mysterious online purchase, he always had his family at the top of his to-do list.

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

Brad loved everything outdoors. He was an avid mycophile, survivalist, who loved fishing, hiking, kayaking, and camping on Round Island. He had just returned from taking his son Oliver camping on Round Island for the first time about a week ago. He was well traveled spending time in Hawaii, Milwaukee and Arizona with his best friend Justin Gallagher, Germany, France and Italy with his brother Ben, and recently went to Puerto Rico with Sierra.

Brad is survived by his partner Sierra Woodgate; son, Oliver William Horn; stepson, Lincoln
See “Walking on” Page 18

Walking on continued...

From “Walking on” Page 17
Leveille; brothers Benjamin Horn and Paul Wandrie Jr.; niece, Aura Horn; nephew, Dexter Horn; HLM Justin Gallagher; stepfather, Paul Wandrie; mother-in-law, Teresa Woodgate Procter; sisters-in-law, Savanna Woodgate and Alexa Miller; and brother-in-law, Spencer Woodgate.

A celebration of life was held Saturday, Sept. 6, 2025, at Great Turtle Park.

In lieu of flowers, an account will be established with Central Savings Bank for Oliver and Lincoln’s future educational expenses. Additionally, please contact Mary Patay if you would like to make a donation to Great Turtle Park in memory of Brad who had recently picked up frisbee golf as a new hobby.

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

JENNIFER MARIE LAMBERT

The song has ended, but the melody lingers on forever. It is with profound sadness that the family of Jennifer Marie Lambert announces her passing to the other-side camp, to be greeted by her loved ones.



“Ussheitt-kalaxiasse” (Outstanding Flicker) was her Native name, given to her by the late Joe Ten Bear. She was a member of the Whistling Water Clan and is the child of Greasy Mouth, On her maternal side, she was a descendant of Chief Plenty Coups.

Jennifer began her journey home at the Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit, Mich., due to complications of a stroke.

Jennifer was born Nov. 14, 1971, in Manistique, Mich., a daughter of the late Peggy Rides the Horse and Gregory Lambert.

Her early childhood years were spent with her parents in Detroit, then Ann Arbor, Mich., while her father attended college. Her dad told stories of people often wanting to take pictures of her in her dresses or play with her for a few minutes during trips to the park.

The family then moved to Pryor, Mont., where she grew up in the country. During this time, she loved riding horses with all of her cousins. Everyone looked out for their “Pretty girl,” and every day was wholesome play time in the beautiful countryside of Pryor.

Her mother, Peggy, showed her how to bead, beaded her outfits, then took her to many Crow cultural events and powwows. She grew up practicing in the Native American Church and, during recent years, attended Faith Chapel in Billings, Mont. Her dad often referred to Jennifer as “Miss Congeniality,” as she was a social butterfly who loved to visit with others and had many friends.

Jennifer attended and graduated from Plenty Coups High School in Pryor. She played var-

ious sports and had a passion for cheerleading. She won many high school pageant awards as she was a “girly-girl” who loved getting dressed up in her cowboy boots.

She completed her college education in Billings and North Dakota, there began a career in health care. Ultimately, she began assisting her mother with her cafe/catering business. She was taught to sew by her grandmother, Madeline Comes Up. She loved to make beautiful creations, and she won Best Design on numerous occasions for the Arrow Creek District. She travelled extensively with her sister, Devona, showcasing her designs, ornaments, earrings and hair accessories at various craft shows.

Jennifer made her home in Billings and she loved to attend various sports functions of children and her nieces and nephews. She was very proud of each of them. She was often found at area softball complexes cheering on her brother Jr. Bear’s team. Although they spoke daily or Facetimed, she said, “I want to see my dad; take me to dad,” so her sister moved her to Mount Pleasant, Mich. There she made a home and visited with her father’s large family and made new friends until her passing. One great friend who kept her company and advocated for her during her illness was Arlene Green (Graves) from Munising; the family appreciated all that she did.

Jennifer loved her family and friends fiercely. She supported every one of her family members when they needed assistance.

She leaves behind three children, Neal Jr., Ashlee and Patricia, all of whom she “loved to the moon and back.” She also leaves behind two grandchildren, Apollo and Helios, including numerous nieces and nephews whom she called her own. Jennifer also leaves behind two sisters, Devon and Nicole, and her baby brother Jr. Bear Spotted Bear. Please pray for her father, Greg Lambert, as he is dealing with the unimaginable loss of losing his first “Little Girl.”

Jennifer is preceded in death by both maternal and paternal grandparents, Madeline Comes Up, Theodore Rides Horse, Lena Sangraw and Clifford Lambert; her mother Peggy Rides Horse; and her aunts, Clara Rides Horse and Bernadine Bad Bear.

Family includes, Lion Shows, Little Light, Big Day, Howe, Rides Horse, Not Afraid, Covers Up, Stand Over Bull, Rock Above, Dust and Brown, as well as others.

We would like to take this time to thank and acknowledge her “Sisters,” Crissy Farwell, Shannon Plain Feather, Arvaleen Monk Monroy, Lujuaan Plain Feather, Belle Lavedure, Quincy Whiteman, and Alda Big Horn. Apologies if we failed to mention anyone.

We thank Detroit Henry Ford Hospital for the extraordinary care she received in there Neurological ICU.

Aho! (Thank you) to everyone who looked after us and prayed for us. Some of her last words were, “I love you all too!” We

love you Jennifer. We will see you later. “Don’t forget, cowgirls don’t cry!”

THOMAS EDWARD PHILLIPS

Thomas Edward Phillips, 60, of Cheboygan, Mich. passed away Aug. 28, 2025 after a long illness.



Tom was born Aug. 4, 1965 in Cheboygan, the son of Patrick and Geraldine (Kwiatkowski) Phillips.

He is survived by his parents, sisters Sharone (Robert) Jewell, Katherine (Wade) Whitman and Anne (Brian) Whitman as well as many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his brother Gregory.

He worked as a commercial fisherman on Lake Huron for many years. He cut boughs for Maple Ridge Evergreen of Posen, Mich. and Spray’s Landscape and Nursery of Cheboygan. He also worked for Rose’s Septic Service of Cheboygan.

He was well loved by his great nieces and nephews.

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

LEON WILLIAM MCCOY

Leon William McCoy, 82, of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., died Aug. 11, 2025, at the Ball Hospice House in Sault Ste. Marie. He was born Oct. 11, 1942, in Sault Ste. Marie, to Albert and Marguerite (Gariepy) McCoy.

Leon grew up in Sault Ste. Marie and graduated from Sault Area High School with the Class of 1961. Shortly after, he joined the United States Navy, proudly serving his country for four years. Following his military service, Leon began working for Great Lakes Steel in Detroit, Mich., where he dedicated thirty years before retiring. Upon retirement, he returned to his hometown of Sault Ste. Marie, to enjoy his later years.

Leon valued his heritage deeply and was a proud member of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

Leon found great joy in the outdoors, whether it was spending long days hunting in the woods or simply enjoying the fresh air. He also loved the excitement of visiting the casino, where he enjoyed the chance to try his luck.

Leon is survived by his sister, Linda Trimai of Independence, Mo.; sister-in-law, Christine McCoy of Brimley, Mich.; and many nieces, nephews, great-nieces, and great-nephews.

Leon was preceded in death by his parents, Albert and Marguerite; and siblings, Ava Shampine, Betty Mae Faunt, and James McCoy.

Per Leon’s wishes, no services will be held.

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

LEVI WILLIAM MOSES

Levi William Moses of St. Ignace, Mich., 79, passed away peacefully Sept. 4, 2025, at McLaren hospital in Petoskey, Mich., surrounded by family. He was born July 5, 1946, in St. Ignace to Antoine and Gladys Moses.



After graduation, Levi started work at a lumber yard in Baraga until he found his true passion as an AA counselor for the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians for many years in St. Ignace and Baraga. In his later years, he worked for A&P and Family Fare grocery stores.

Throughout Levi’s life, he enjoyed hunting and fishing, watching NASCAR, playing cards, and his daily car rides with his wife.

Levi is survived by his wife, Donna (Portz) Moses; step-children, Chris Boucha, Theresa Packer and Derek Packer all of St. Ignace; special great-grandchildren, Ryder Packer, Artie Boucha and Carter Boucha; sister, Phyllis (Louis) Colegrove; nephews, Bob (Diane) Colegrove, Joe (Mila) Moses; niece, Kay Link; and several great nieces and nephews all very close to him.

Levi was preceded in death by his parents, Antone and Gladys; siblings, Francis Moses, Betty Colegrove, Audrey Dunlap, and Antoine Moses Sr.

Levi will be remembered for his gentle warm smile, his gentle spirit, and friendly banter with everyone he met.

A memorial gathering was held on Sept. 13, 2025, at the Lighthouse Assembly, in St Ignace, Mich.

Levi’s final resting place is at Wequayoc Native American Cemetery, in St. Ignace.

Memorial contributions in Levi’s honor may be directed to Family Life Funeral Homes, 24549 S. M-129 Pickford, MI 49774, to assist with expenses.

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

WILLIAM “BUCK” HAROLD GRAVELLE

William “Buck” Harold Gravelle, 71, of Sugar Island, Mich., passed away on July 19, 2025, surrounded by his loving family. Buck was born on May 29, 1954, in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., to Harold and Bernadette (Souliere) Gravelle.



Buck was known for always lending a hand and was a man who could fix anything. He was dependable, loyal, and always willing to help anyone in need. Buck loved to tease, had a great sense of humor, and never sugar-coated a thing, but he had the biggest heart. He enjoyed hunt-

ing, boating, fishing and cook-outs at the family cabin, where laughter and stories were always shared. Buck was truly one of a kind, with a quick wit and warm spirit that touched many lives.

In his early life, Buck worked in construction, maintenance, and industrial painting. He was a steeplejack on the Mackinac Bridge for twelve years before transferring to the International Bridge, where he worked until his retirement in 2016.

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

Buck is survived by his wife, Kim of 44 years; sons, William “Buckshot” and Joseph (Jordan); and grandchildren: Evan Gravelle, Nora Sawasky, Gideon, and Scarlett Gravelle.

He is also survived by his siblings, Theresa Little, Gene (Leeanne), Marvin (Yvonne), and Jim (Kimmy) Gravelle; in-laws, Chris (Tom) Farnquist, Kerri (Randy) McCommon, Billy Sams, Karla (Donny) Soper, Linda (Jamie) Grossett, Tracy (Duane) Gurnoe, and Marcie Smith; several nieces, nephews, cousins, special friends, and Uncle Jimmy Lewis of Garden River.

Buck was preceded in death by his parents; stepfather, Jerry Benoit; grandson Bryce A. Gravelle; brother-in-law, James Little; and nephew, Daniel Little.

A Gathering was held at Niigaanagizhik Ceremonial Building, on July 25, 2025

Buck will be deeply missed and forever remembered. The family extends heartfelt thanks to all who offered support during his time of need.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to Sugar Island Fire & Ambulance Service, attn: Sugar Island Township 6401 E. 1 1/2 Mile Rd. Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783.

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

LYLE “DOUG” ST. ANDREW

Lyle “Doug” St. Andrew, beloved husband, father, grandfather, and brother passed away peacefully on Aug. 30, 2025. He was born on Dec. 17, 1942 in St. Ignace, Mich. Doug was the son of Clement and Margaret St. Andrew.



Doug married the love of his life, Brenda L. Beeck, on Jan. 2, 1965, in their hometown of St. Ignace. Together, they built a life rooted in love, family, and community.

Doug was preceded in death by his parents, Clement and Margaret St. Andrew (née Roy); his brothers, Louis St. Andrew, Robert St. Andrew and Floyd St. Andrew; and his grandson, Raymon Perrault.

He is survived by his brother
See “Walking on” Page 20

Austin Lowes, Tara Maudrie unite in marriage



Sault Tribe Chairman Austin Lowes and Tara Maudrie Ph.D. joyfully announce their marriage, celebrated in Gaylord, Mich., with close family and friends. The ceremony was officiated by Colleen Powers, with a traditional blanket ceremony led by Dr. Martin Reinhardt and Tina Moses. The couple is grateful for the love and support shown by relatives, friends, and their community. The couple will continue making their home in Sault Ste. Marie.

Legislation announced to combat human trafficking

From “*Trafficking*,” page 13

The legislation introduced seeks to strengthen protections for human trafficking survivors and enhance accountability for traffickers. The legislative package consisting of House and Senate bills would:

- Allow survivors of human trafficking to have criminal convictions set aside if those offenses were a direct result of their victimization;
- Provide an affirmative defense for survivors if a crime was committed as a consequence of being trafficked;
- Modify safe harbor protections for minors who are victims of sex and labor trafficking;
- Set criteria for expert testimony in human trafficking cases;
- Replace the term “prostitution” with “commercial sex”;
- Increase fines and sentencing guidelines for violations involving commercial sex and human trafficking;
- Expand protections for children, giving courts and child welfare systems the authority to intervene when a child is trafficked by their parent or guardian; and
- Increase penalties for trafficking offenses.

Victims of human trafficking or those who have identified someone they think may need help can contact the National Human Trafficking Resource Center at (888) 373-7888 or text 233733. This is a national, toll-free hotline that is available to answer calls, texts, and chats from anywhere in the country, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, every day of the year. All calls are confidential. People who live in the state of Michigan who suspect human trafficking can call 855-MICH-TIP for assistance.

Thank you to our supporters
The Sault Tribe would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the businesses who generously contributed to our 2025 Team Building Day event. Your support helps make this special day possible, and we deeply appreciate your commitment to our community.



SAULT TRIBE
COMMUNITY HEALTH
PRESENTS

FALL HEALTH FAIRS

FLU AND COVID VACCINES
HEALTH INFORMATION
TRIBAL PROGRAM BOOTHS
SCREENINGS
GIVEAWAYS
PRIZE DRAWINGS
REFRESHMENTS



10/1/25- ST. IGNACE KEWADIN CASINO TENT 10-2
10/2/25 - DETOUR MUNICIPAL BUILDING 10-2
10/3/25 - HESSEL TRIBAL HEALTH CENTER 10-2
10/7/25 - BIG BEAR ARENA 10-2
10/10/25 - KINROSS RECREATION CENTER 10-2

Flu & COVID vaccines available to Sault Tribe members, other federally recognized tribes, non-native spouses, and Sault Tribe employees.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Walking on continued...

From “Walking on” Page 18
Jerry (Trudy) St. Andrew of Foley, Ala., and his sister Linda Christensen (née St. Andrew) of Sarasota, Fla. Doug leaves behind a legacy through his children: Sherry (Tony) Stage of Wallace, Mich.; Russel (Chrissy) St. Andrew of Lincoln Park, Mich.; Doug (Cara) St. Andrew of St. Ignace; Phyllis (Jeff) Ellison of Auburn, Ala.; and Todd (Tonya) St. Andrew of Watford City, N.D.

Doug was a proud grandfather to twenty-two grandchildren and thirty-four great-grandchildren.

He will be deeply missed and fondly remembered by all who knew him.

Services will be held in St. Ignace.

Arrangements entrusted to the DeWitt Chapel of the Gorsline Runciman Funeral Home, in DeWitt, Mich.

REBECCA ANN MARCHAK

Rebecca Ann Marchak, 33, of Gwinn, Mich., crossed over peacefully surrounded by her loving family on Sunday, Aug. 31, 2025 at the University of Michigan Hospital in Ann Arbor due to a congenital heart disease. She was born on Nov. 1, 1991, in Iron Mountain, Mich., to Michael and Kimberly (Kallio) Marchak. At birth, the doctors found that Becca had a heart defect, making her way to U of M where the medical staff provided life saving surgery at seven days old. She continued to receive love and care at Mott’s Children’s Hospital during her three surgeries in her first eighteen months. Knowing that was where she received the best care possible throughout her life, it was consoling to the family that she came full circle under the University of Michigan’s care.

Becca grew up and went to Superior Central, Gwinn, and graduated from North Star Academy in Marquette in 2010 with her brother, Michael. She went on to take courses at Bay College where she took the trip of her lifetime on a school trip to Ireland.

Becca’s bravery and resilience shone throughout her life, and she didn’t even get rattled when she was lost in London on the Tube for two hours.

She worked as a housekeeper at the Island Resort and Casino, she was a summer hire at Potlach Paper Mill, and she loved her time working at the Huron Mountain Club where she was a hostess and server.

Becca loved visiting with the families and exploring the property and grounds taking in all the beautiful sites. She also worked as a clerk at Target and Meijer where she loved to visit with the customers and to put a smile on everyone’s face. When her health stopped her from working, she became a caregiver helping her mom care for her grandmother and great-grandmother.

Becca loved music (espe-

cially tuning into KLOVE radio) and going to concerts with her most recent being Green Day, Avril Lavigne, Dave Matthews Band, and Casting Crowns. She enjoyed camping and hiking and loved nature, wild animals, sunflowers, and butterflies. While cuddling with her cat, Chrissy, you could find Becca scrolling TikTok and watching Pawn Stars and Storage Wars. Becca’s lived and loved a selfless and amazing life. She never complained about what she was going through and was always worried about others instead of herself, she touched a lot of people and was a real-life superhero. Becca had hope and love in Jesus that made the hard times in her life a safer and happier place.

Becca is survived by her parents – Kim and Mike Marchak of Gwinn; siblings – Dreama and Michael Jared of Gwinn; her Nana – Donna Marchak of Gwinn; grandmas – Verna Kallio of Marquette and Sandra Collins of Pickney, Mich.; aunts and uncles – Julie (Jim)

Magoon of Albuquerque, N.M., John Marchak of Traunik, Mich., Tammy Kallio of Escanaba, Mich., Lisa (Greg) Horton of Kentucky, Wanda Donaghe of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., and Deb (Glenn) Smale of Big Bay; numerous cousins; many great friends, especially Melissa, Jennika, Holly, and Tonya; and her beloved dog – Daisy and cat – Chrissy. She was preceded in death by her grandfathers – John Marchak, Don Kallio, and Robert J. Leon; grandmother – Phyllis Blackstock, great-grands – Viola and Peter “Joe Pete” Pine; uncles – Robert J. Leon, Jr. and Richard Pine.

Visitation was held at the First Baptist Church in Gwinn on Saturday, Sept. 13, with Daryl Johnson leading the memorial service. A fellowship gathering took place immediately following the service. Becca’s obituary and online guestbook may be viewed and signed at bowermanfuneral-home.net.

Becca’s family would like to thank the many people who

helped care for her over the years: Dr. Edward Bove who started it all, Dr. Timothy Cotts and Rose, Dr. Reinhart, Dr. Michelle Kroupa- Kulik and her family, Dr. Mary Tobin Anderson, the emergency department at UPHS-Marquette especially PA Michael White, Forsyth Emergency Responders and EMT’s, and the pilots and staff at Life Flight. Thank you also to singer Ruby Leigh and Roger at Dollywood for your thoughtfulness you will never be forgotten.

KARL M. MICHELS

Karl M. Michels, our beloved father, grandfather, and brother passed away peacefully at his residence on Tuesday, Sept. 2, 2025, at the age of 51. Born on Aug. 28, 1974, in Dearborn, Mich., Karl was the beloved son of the late David Wheeler and Patricia



Jean (Popour) Michels. A proud graduate of Unionville-Sebewing Area High School, Class of 1993, Karl went on to serve his country with honor in the United States Marine Corps Reserves for 6 years. He dedicated much of his professional life to construction, where he worked as a skilled finish carpenter, known for his craftsmanship and attention to detail.

Karl was a proud member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and found great joy in the outdoors. He loved fishing and camping—activities that brought him peace and connection to nature. A passionate sports fan, Karl cheered faithfully for the Detroit Lions and University of Michigan football, always hopeful and loyal.

Above all, Karl was a devoted father, grandfather, brother, and friend. He is survived by his children: Jared Frank (Dezirae), Alex Michels (Alexis), and Alyssa Michels (Branden); and his cherished grandchildren:

See “Walking on” Page 21



FREE LSSU Volleyball Ticket Application FOR SAULT TRIBE MEMBERS



NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

EMAIL _____ # IN HOUSEHOLD _____ FILE # _____

Indicate the number of tickets requested for each game, this cannot exceed number in household.
You will receive a detailed email indicating which game tickets are available for you at the LSSU Norris Center for pick-up.

Please note, tickets are limited and are not guaranteed for all games requested. Incomplete applications may not be processed.

# Tickets	Date	Opponent
_____	10/03/25	Michigan Tech
_____	10/04/25	Northern Michigan
_____	10/10/25	Davenport
_____	10/11/25	Ferris State
_____	10/30/25	Saginaw Valley State
_____	10/31/25	Purdue Northwest
_____	11/07/25	Wayne State
_____	11/08/25	Grand Valley State



Attach or Insert
Copy of Tribal Card



Email or mail copy of Sault Tribe membership card AND application to:
Email: tgraham@saulttribe.net

Big Bear Arena
ATTN: Laker Tickets
2 Ice Circle Drive, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

Applications available online at: www.bigbeararena.com
Select the FORMS tab (have digital file of tribal membership card available for upload)

OFFICE USE ONLY:

Date & Time Received: _____ Email / Mail / In Person / Website Membership Verified: _____ Staff: _____

August & September board resolutions passed

August 19 meeting:
The Sault Tribe Board of Directors met on Aug. 19 at the Kewadin Casino and Convention Center where it passed a number of resolutions including:
— Approved a budget modification in the amount of \$49,371.59 for the purchase of new tabulation software and equipment to be utilized in upcoming elections.
— Approved a contract with Clear Ballot Group for \$54,754 in year one and a support service fee for year two out of the Elections Cost Center with a subsequent support service fee to be included in future Elections budgeting. It also designated the chairman of the Election Commission to execute all documents related to this resolution after a legal review and recommendation.
— Amended Tribal Code Chapter 10: Election Ordinance.
— Gave support to submitting for the One Time Supplemental Funds for Nutrition and Healthy Eating for Head Start Children and Families to the Office of

Head Start.
— Instructed the General Counsel, CFO and HR Director to appoint an individual to represent their departments on the Committee for Appeals under the Workers Compensation Committee and also determined that a person with medical insurance background shall serve on this committee.
— Executed a land lease for lots 689 and 690 in Kinross Township’s Cedar Grove Estates.
— Established a \$1 per unit tax on all vape sales with half of the collected monies going to Youth Education and Activities (YEA) and the other law allocated to the Land Claims Fund.
September 2 meeting:
The Sault Tribe Board of Directors made quick work of their lengthy agenda at the Sept. 2 session approving the following resolutions:
— Approved continued funding for governmental and health budgets at the current levels through Dec. 31, 2025.
— Approved a fiscal year

2025 budget modification to third-party revenue for an increase in the transfer out to Maintenance, Improvements & Capital Outlays in the amount of \$979,765.47.
— Authorized the Sault Tribe Health Department’s application for funding through the Public Health Infrastructure Grant.
— Approved the recommended contractor, Obestar Inc., to conduct site work renovation at the new Marquette Health Center as specified and designed.
— Authorized the purchase of a GE X-ray machine for \$279,401.28.
— Approved an “Indefinite Delivery-Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ) with U.P. Engineers and Architects for professional engineering and consultation services to ensure the completion of the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Tribal Transportation Project.
— Approved a second IDIQ for professional engineering and consulting services with Coleman Engineering to oversee the Rebuilding American

Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Act Project.
— Authorized a contract with Sault Tribe Construction, not to exceed \$289,912.76, for renovations to be made at the Sault Tribe Elder Center.
— Approved a resolution designed to improve recruitment and retainment for early childhood bus driver positions allowing the drivers to be paid more money to compete with other local school districts.
— Approved a vacation pay-

out for Governmental, EDC and Housing team members who wish to trade in hours exceeding 160, in 8-hour increments, for cash. Employees can cash in on up to 80 hours under this provision.
— Authorized Human Resources to enter into negotiations for a new Chief Financial Officer (CFO) and a new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) having selected two candidates to fill those positions. Neither individual was identified during the Sept. 2 meeting.

Ballot access platform to launch for military and overseas voters

The Michigan Department of State is launching a new online option to better serve the needs of military and overseas voters. The new system will launch publicly on Monday, Sept. 15, 2025.
The Electronic Delivery and Return Portal (EDARP) delivers ballots electronically to eligible voters and allows eligible over-

seas active military members the option to conveniently mark and return an absentee ballot to their clerk’s office electronically through a secure online portal.
Details about the upcoming launch of EDARP will be provided to members of the public and affected voters in the weeks approaching the launch date.

Walking on continued...

From “Walking on” Page 20
Andrew Frank, Cayde Frank, Blair Michels, Braxton Michels, Braelyn Michels, and Laiella Wilcox. He also leaves behind his sister Tammy Richardson; brothers Richard Green, Bryan Green, Todd Green, Eric Michels (Shawna), Joe Michels, Jason (Billie) Michels; and dear friend, Sheri Riggs.
Karl was preceded in death by his parents, David and Patricia, whose memory he carried with him always.
Karl will be remembered for his warm heart, his love of family, and his deep connection to the land and traditions that shaped him.
His legacy lives on in the lives he touched and the memories he leaves behind.
A Celebration of Karl’s Life was held Saturday, Sept. 6, 2025, at Bay City State Park Recreation Area. Those planning an expression of sympathy may consider monetary donations to the Bay Veterans Foundation in Bay City or the Multiple Sclerosis Foundation @ msfocus.org
William E. Collins
William E. Collins (Billy) son of Charles (Chuck) Collins and Loretta Peterson, passed away June 17, 2025 at 12:56 a.m. in Kansas City, Mo. Bill was 67 years young.
He was preceeded in death by his dad (Chuck), his sisters, Patty and Jeanie, and his stepdad, Bob.
He is survived by his mom, Loretta, his sister, Joan and his son, Bill.,
Billy’s remains will be buried at Fort Custer National Cemetery in Battle Creek, Mich.
His mother and sister are members of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.
He has many relatives in Michigan.



FREE LSSU Basketball Ticket Application FOR SAULT TRIBE MEMBERS

APPLICATION DEADLINE: October 17, 2025



NAME _____ PHONE (____) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

EMAIL _____ # IN HOUSEHOLD _____ FILE # _____

Indicate the number of tickets requested for each game, this cannot exceed number in household.
AFTER THE APPLICATION DEADLINE, you will receive a detailed email indicating which game tickets are available for you at the LSSU Norris Center for pick-up.

Please note, tickets are limited and are not guaranteed for all games requested. Incomplete applications may not be processed.

# Tickets	Date	Opponent	# Tickets	Date	Opponent
_____	11/14/25	Findlay (W)	_____	01/01/26	Purdue Northwest (M/W)
_____	11/15/25	Northwood (W)	_____	01/03/26	Wayne State (M/W)
_____	11/20/25	Tiffin (W)	_____	01/15/26	Northern Michigan (M/W)
_____	11/22/25	Hillsdale College (W)	_____	01/17/26	Michigan Tech (M/W)
_____	11/24/25	Malone (W)	_____	01/29/26	Roosevelt (M/W)
_____	11/29/25	Lawrence Tech (M)	_____	01/31/26	Wisconsin-Parkside (M/W)
_____	12/15/25	Walsh University (W)	_____	02/12/26	Saginaw Valley State (M/W)
_____	12/17/25	Kuyper College (M)	_____	02/16/26	Ferris State (M/W)
_____	12/19/25	Rochester Christian (M)	_____	02/19/26	Davenport (M/W)
			_____	02/21/26	Grand Valley State (M/W)

Email or mail copy of Sault Tribe membership card AND application to:
Email: tgraham@saulttribe.net



**Big Bear Arena
ATTN: Laker Tickets
2 Ice Circle Drive
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783**

**Attach or Insert
Copy of Tribal Card**

Applications available online at: www.bigbeararena.com, Select the FORMS tab

OFFICE USE ONLY:			
Date & Time Received: _____	Email / Mail / In Person / Website _____	Membership Verified: _____	Staff: _____

Message from the chairman: Budget must be balanced



AUSTIN LOWES
TRIBAL CHAIRMAN
UNIT 1 ELDER GARDEN
The Unit 1 Elder Garden has been a major success this summer. The garden produced yellow corn, winter squash, summer squash, jalapeños, potatoes, tomatoes, green cabbage, purple cabbage, onions, radishes and Brussels sprouts.

This project was made possible through an allocation from the Unit 1 board members’ cultural enhancement fund. I’d like to thank the board members for their support, as well as Aaron Payment, Robert McRorie, and Isaac McKechnie for planting and maintaining the garden this year.

Vegetables harvested from the garden are donated to the Unit 1 Elder Center. Elders are also welcome to stop by the garden, located on East 16th Ave. in Sault Ste. Marie, and pick what they need.

MICHIGAN STATE GUEST LECTURE

I am honored to share that I was recently invited to return to my alma mater, Michigan State University’s School of Social Work, as a guest lecturer this October.

It is a privilege to connect with students who are just beginning the same journey

that shaped me. I’ll be discussing several large projects I’ve been fortunate to be a part of, including RX Kids, the Lodge of Hope (our homeless shelter), the Healing Place (our MAT clinic), and the Shedawin Haven (a recovery meeting space). Coming full circle in this way is deeply humbling, and I am grateful for the opportunity.

Feeding America
I continue to coordinate the Feeding America distribution at the Big Bear in Sault Ste. Marie. This event provides critical nutrition to both tribal and non-tribal families in our community.

Each month, our volunteers and I distribute an average of 10,000 to 15,000 pounds of food. For many families, this supplemental nutrition is invaluable. If you are interested in volunteering, please reach out. This event has been a wonderful way to bring our community together, and it’s been an honor to be part of such an impactful service.

BOARDING SCHOOL STUDY CONSULTATION

On Aug. 28, I attended the Boarding School Study consultation with the state of Michigan. In 2021, the U.S. Department of the Interior launched the Federal Boarding School Initiative, which produced a two-part investigative report on the federal government’s role in the Boarding School Era. In 2022, the state of Michigan authorized a similar report to examine its own role.

This consultation, which I attended with staff and survivors, presented tribes with the state’s findings and sought input on next steps. During the process, tribal leaders selected technical advisors. I chose Sault Tribe citizen Lacey Kinnart, Co-Director of the Oral History Project for the National Native American Boarding School Healing

Coalition. Lacey traveled from Oregon to attend and provided invaluable expertise.

SHUT DOWN LINE 5 RALLY

On Aug. 30, I attended the annual Pipe Out Paddle Up: Shut Down Line 5 Rally in St. Ignace. This event, supported by the Sault Tribe, raises awareness about the environmental risks of Line 5.

I want to recognize Sault Tribe citizen Monica Cady for her hard work in helping coordinate this important event every year. The tribe remains committed to advocating for decommissioning Line 5.

BRIDGE WALK

On Sept. 1, I participated in the annual Mackinac Bridge Walk alongside state leaders. This was my third time being invited to this event, and it remains a valuable opportunity to strengthen the Sault Tribe’s relationship with state officials from both political parties. This year, U.S. Senator Gary Peters also joined the walk. Walking the bridge with him provided an excellent chance to discuss the issues our tribe is currently facing at the federal level.

MANOOMIN SEEDING EVENT

On Sept. 4, our Natural Resources Department held its annual manoomin (wild rice) seeding event. Staff and volunteers worked together to plant hundreds of pounds of wild rice in Munuscong Bay. I am grateful for their dedication to restoring this traditional food.

UNBALANCED BUDGET

As several board members and I have shared, the Sault Tribe is currently facing an unbalanced budget.

The tribe received hundreds of millions of dollars through CARES and ARPA—funding that represented the largest influx of federal support in our history.



However, this also grew our government to a size that our regular revenue streams cannot sustain without significant deficit spending from our fund balance. That fund balance can only carry us for so long before it is depleted, creating a financial crisis.

Despite repeated warnings, some board members have not grasped the severity of this situation, and our staff have had to tell them that the deficit cannot be fixed by simply reducing government spending by 1–5%. For years, I and others have advocated for responsible spending—efforts such as selling the Sibley property instead of paying the JLLJ developers an additional \$5 million from the fund balance, closing unprofitable businesses that the board directed staff to purchase, covering the Lodge of Hope’s operating expenses with federal funds from the Housing Authority funds rather than the general fund, reducing board travel to Las Vegas and other conventions at vacation destinations, and avoiding politically motivated spending to attack other board members.

In the coming year, the board will need to make difficult, and likely unpopular, decisions to balance the budget. That is the

responsibility of leadership. I encourage you to contact your Board representatives and urge them to:

- Stop unnecessary travel until the budget is balanced.
- Spend as much time discussing the budget as they do minor issues such as sheds.
- Remember that these funds belong to the tribe—not to individual board members.

Some long-term board members oppose creating separate but equal branches of government. If they believe they have the expertise to solve this issue within our one-branch government, I challenge them to do so. This situation serves as another example of why the tribe needs to separate its powers, as an executive branch would never approve budgets from a legislative branch with this level of deficit spending.

CLOSING

As always, it is my honor to serve as your chairman. I will continue making the best decisions I can, even when they are difficult or unpopular. If you would like to discuss this, or any other matter, please contact me at (906) 635-6050.

Austin Lowes
Sault Tribe Chairman

Constitutional Reform survey going out to members



ISAAC MCKECHNIE
DIRECTOR, UNIT I

Dear Citizens,
The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians is offering free identity protection services to members, employees, and others potentially affected by the Feb. 9 cyberattack that disrupted tribal operations, including Kewadin Casinos and the tribe’s medical service.

A Widespread Attack

The ransomware attack targeted multiple arms of the tribe’s government and enterprises. While systems have since been secured, investigators determined that personal information may

have been compromised. Data potentially exposed includes:

- Name and address
- Date of birth
- Social Security number
- Driver’s license
- Email address and phone number
- Medical and health insurance information
- Financial account and/or passport numbers

Although there is no current evidence that this information has been misused, the tribe is taking proactive steps to safeguard those affected.

Identity protection through IDX

On Aug. 28, 2025, the tribe mailed notification letters to individuals whose information may have been exposed. Each recipient is eligible for 12 months of free identity protection services through IDX, a leading provider of credit monitoring, identity theft detection, and fraud recovery. Tribal representatives said the goal is to provide members peace of mind and practical tools for protection. “We understand the concern this incident has caused,” the tribe stated. “That is why we are offering every impacted per-

son comprehensive support, at no cost to them.”

Support for those who did not receive a letter

Members who believe they may have been affected but did not receive a notification letter can still receive assistance. IDX has established a dedicated hotline to help verify eligibility and answer questions:

- Call: (855) 202-2043
- Hours: Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. - 9 p.m. EST
- Website: IDX online enrollment portal

IDX representatives are familiar with the circumstances of the attack and will guide callers through enrollment and available protections.

Strengthening Cybersecurity

This incident highlights the growing threat of cyberattacks against tribal nations and governments. The Sault Tribe is not alone in facing these challenges, but its leadership has pledged to strengthen defenses and prepare for the future.

Steps now underway include:

- Upgrading security protocols across all tribal departments and enterprises.
- Partnering with outside

cybersecurity experts to monitor threats.

— Providing additional staff training to prevent phishing and other breaches.

— Exploring long-term strategies for tribal data sovereignty and secure storage.

“The protection of our members’ information is paramount,” tribal leaders emphasized. “We are committed to learning from this incident and building stronger systems to ensure it cannot happen again.”

A call to vigilance

The tribe encourages all members to remain vigilant. Even with no evidence of misuse at this time, individuals should monitor their credit reports, review bank and insurance statements carefully, and report any suspicious activity immediately. As cyber threats become increasingly sophisticated, tribal governments are being called to balance sovereignty, economic development, and security. By moving swiftly, the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians is setting an example of transparency, responsibility, and care for its citizens. For more information, or to enroll in the identity protection program,

tribal members should contact IDX directly at (855) 202-2043 during business hours.

Constitutional Reform

A successful separation of powers requires that each branch of government be able to exercise its duties without undue interference from the others. There is a fine line between establishing effective checks and balances and creating a system that becomes gridlocked by political maneuvering between branches. Unfortunately, many tribes have struggled with this balance, leading to increased lawsuits between branches, budget disputes, and excessive judicial activism. For this reason, it is important for the tribe to carefully evaluate different models of government to determine which structure will provide an efficient, accountable system that works for its members rather than against them. To that end, through Resolution 2025-164, the Board of Directors has requested that the Legal Department prepare a pro and con list of each potential structure and draft a survey for board approval to gather membership input.

Branches of Government

The following is a pro and con analysis of three potential

See “McKechnie,” Page 23

Tribal, Unit 5 updates with Director LaPlaunt



TYLER LAPLAUNT
DIRECTOR, UNIT V

Aanii, Boozhoo,
Fall came early and fast this year. On top of the cold and rainy weather, many of the leaves are changing, and the pumpkin spice has been rolled out at coffee shops everywhere. Nevertheless, fall is a great time to reflect and put things to rest or make those important decisions you’ve been hesitant on. What I love most about living in the UP is the beautiful unique changes of every season, and how our culture reflects those changes both in ceremony, and within us. If you’re looking to make a change, don’t wait until the new year, get out and fast or hold ceremony, think deeply about any conflicts you are facing, and choose a new direction now.

ENROLLMENT UPDATE

As of Sept. 5, there are 5,260 adult applications entered into the tracking system. A total of 186 adult applications have been denied and 3,198 new members have been enrolled, including children. The total membership in the tribe is currently 52,470. Simultaneously, enrollment is also working with a vendor to update the artwork and security features on our tribal IDs. Hopefully, that will also be moving forward very soon. We appreciate all of your patience during this process.

I also wanted to note, as I’ve been hearing a lot of negative buzz, the Sault Tribe is only enrolling those that descend from the historic and original bands of this tribe as written in our

Constitution. Open enrollment does not mean that anyone can enter our tribe. It means that they must submit proof of lineage, which is why enrollment is taking so long. They have to research and verify everything that is submitted. I hope this helps clear things up for some.

**HOUSING UPDATE:
MUNISING**

Nothing but good news as the Munising tiny home project progresses. The tiny home foundations are all installed, and we are currently waiting on the utility work to progress on the site development. The tiny homes are in the process of being manufactured in a warehouse. So far, everything is still on schedule. Let’s continue to hope and pray that we can get those up and running and occupied before the winter months hit. While it won’t meet the demand we have, at the very least it will get a few more folks housed for the holidays.

Unit 5 has a new Housing Commissioner. Cody Mayer, who is a City Commissioner in Marquette, stepped up and put his application into a vacant position. Previously, the Unit 5 seat was held by a Unit 1 member due to the lack of applicants. It’s great to have a voice on the Housing Commission from our own unit. Cody is extremely interested in meeting with both folks who have lived or live in housing, as well as those who are in need to guide his advocacy and decision-making at the table for our unit and our tribe as a whole. It says a lot about his character that he wants to truly represent our people and come up with long-term viable solutions that can meet our needs as a tribe. I look forward to his contributions on this very important commission.

**CULTURAL ACTIVITIES
UPDATE**

Still no update on the cultural coordinator for Unit 5. I still have high hopes that someone will be hired in very soon. Until then, we have a few folks in both Munising and Marquette that are stepping up to fill the gap and help get some classes rolling

again. We have some sewing machines headed to both locations, and once all of the supplies are received, we will put out a notice on social media and the website to get that information shared for signup.

As a reminder, the Jim Paquette presentation will still be on Sept. 20 at the Marquette Tribal Community Center from 1 to 3 p.m. With Jim’s generous agreement, this will also be broadcast to all tribal members to watch from our Facebook page and archived on our YouTube channel.

Drum Group and Culture Night is still happening on the second and fourth Thursday of every month from 5:30 to 8 p.m. at the Marquette Tribal Community Center. Everyone from any unit and at-large are welcome to attend if you are rolling through town. Meals are always provided and fun and connection are always encouraged. Feel free to stop by to see what we are all about.

ADVOCACY

As I am writing this report, I am currently in attendance at the National Indian Health Board (NIHB) 2025 National Tribal Health Conference in Phoenix, Ariz. Yesterday, I had the opportunity to provide testimony in a listening session with IHS addressing the proposed changes and re-organization, as well as their treaty and trust responsibilities to tribes. Over the course of the week, there are many opportunities to network with other tribal leaders, federal employees, and sit in on sessions to learn more about health and policy. My focus this week will be on data modernization as our tribe takes it’s first steps towards implementing a new Electronic Health Record (EHR) system for our Health Division, as well as many IT modernization and security upgrades that are on the way as well.

I will be attending the HHS STAC in a few weeks to provide testimony and advisement to both Secretary Kennedy and the many division directors of HHS. At



Unit 5 Director and Vice Chairman Tyler LaPlaunt testifying at the IHS Listening session at NIHB to Acting Director of IHS Benjamin Smith.

these meetings, I attend this as the delegate for the Bemidji area but have asked several divisions of our tribe to pull real life data and examples to strengthen my points at the table with fact. It provides far more impact when advocacy is met with data and fact at the table. I want to thank all of the staff who helped pull together this information for me to better represent not only our tribe, but all Indian people across the country.

Finally, I was just appointed to Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Medicaid Advisory Committee. This role will be essential as a Native voice within the state of Michigan and interact nicely with my seat at the HHS STAC table. With changes coming at the federal level, it’s extremely important that our voices be heard within the state of Michigan so that nothing gets missed. Likewise, if something is being misinterpreted within the state, I can report that up directly to the Secretary himself at our quarterly meetings. I am honored to be selected for this important role and I always take this advocacy work as serious as life or death, because for us, it is.

ELDERS

The next Munising elder meeting and meal will be held

on Thursday, Oct. 2 from 11 a.m. to 1p.m. at the Munising Tribal Health Center Community Room. If you are an elder ages 60-plus and living in Unit 5, you are welcome to show up and attend. New faces are always welcomed.

The next Marquette elder meeting and meal will be held on Thursday, Oct. 2 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Holiday Inn in Marquette. If you are an elder ages 60-plus residing in Units 4 or 5 in the Marquette County area, you are welcome to show up and attend. New faces are always welcomed.

At the last elder meeting, it was determined that the Marquette elder group will be officially moving into the new Community Center in November, and meetings there will now be permanent. No more being moved around or dates that don’t work. You will finally have a permanent home and place to meet. I look forward to seeing this group progress and grow in the future.

Finally, for both Munising and Marquette, we are looking at slowly increasing the elder meal services over the next few years. Now that these services now qualify under the authorized use of third party revenue, the tribal government will no longer be responsible for footing the bill and we will be able to expand based on nutrition and elder services. With that being said, all the more reason to encourage your family members who are insured to present their insurance card at the Health Division. The third party revenue we receive from each of these visits will allow us to continue to expand programs such as this.

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

Director Isaac Mckechnie’s report, continued —

From “Mckechnie,” pg. 22
structures: the current one-branch government, a two-branch government, and a three-branch government.

**One-Branch Government
(Board of Directors)**

- Pros:
- Most efficient structure; creates a streamlined process where the board maintains full control.
 - Clear authority and expectations, as all power flows directly through board action.
 - Simplicity; aligns with the current Tribal Code.
- Cons:
- Concentrates power entirely in the board, with no external checks or balances.
 - Risk of micromanagement of the tribe’s day-to-day operations.
 - No independent judiciary.
 - With board turnover, policies and laws may be quickly rescinded.
 - Any separation of powers must be enacted by code chang-

es, which can be easily reversed by future boards.

**Two-Branch Government
(Legislative & Judicial)**

- Pros:
- Establishes an independent judiciary to check legislative power.
 - Encourages compromise and negotiation, producing more balanced laws and policies.
 - Creates greater transparency and accountability, fostering trust in government.
 - Clear delineation of responsibilities reduces overreach between branches.
 - Provides tribal citizens with avenues for redress when rights are violated.
 - Protects due process and improves access to justice.
 - Insulates the justice system from legislative politics.
 - Prevents the concentration of power and promotes stability by limiting rapid policy swings.
 - Requires fewer code changes compared to a three-branch system.

- Cons:
- Potential for judicial activism or overreach into policymaking.
 - Risk of legislative retaliation through budget control or constant law changes.
 - Increased friction and inefficiencies between branches.
 - Lawsuits and decision paralysis may create gridlock.
 - Higher costs than a one-branch government due to added legal staff and litigation expenses.
- Three-Branch Government
(Executive, Legislative and Judicial)**
- Pros:
- Distributes power among three branches, preventing concentration and abuse.
 - Specialization: Legislature makes law, Executive enforces law, Judiciary interprets law.
 - Increased transparency, accountability, and trust in government.
 - Encourages negotiation and compromise.

- Provides multiple avenues for checks and balances.
 - Executive oversight reduces legislative micromanagement.
 - Offers stronger protections for tribal citizen rights through an independent judiciary.
- Cons:
- Most complex and potentially inefficient structure.
 - Greater risk of political gridlock, lawsuits, vetoes, and friction between branches.
 - Higher costs due to expanded staff, legal capacity, and separate branch infrastructures.
 - Increased election costs if more positions become elected.
 - Can create blurred accountability, where branches blame each other for failures.
 - Requires significant revisions to current Tribal Codes to ensure consistency.
- Draft Survey**
- The following survey has been approved by the Sault Tribe Board of Directors to gather membership input on poten-

- tial constitutional amendments regarding separation of powers. A memo from the Legal Department with the Pro/Con analysis of each structure is attached for member review. Members are encouraged to research further to make informed decisions.
- In the coming months, you will be asked to decide whether to amend the Sault Tribe Constitution, and which option best reflects your wishes for separation of powers?
1. I do not want separation of powers in the tribe’s Constitution.
 2. I prefer a two-branch government (Legislative and Independent Judicial).
 3. I prefer a three-branch government (Executive, Legislative, and Judicial).
- In closing, please feel free to contact me with any of your questions or concerns.
- Sincerely,
Isaac Mckechnie,
(906) 440-6661
imckechnie@saulttribe.net

Causley updates projects underway in Unit 2



LANA CAUSLEY-SMITH,
DIRECTOR, UNIT II

It’s been a couple months since I have written a unit report and I apologize for that — I need to acknowledge everyone’s understanding of that, I’m on my way to some healing and appreciate everyone’s patience and understanding through a difficult time. Updating for our unit, we have many projects underway. Both Elders housing homes in Newberry and Hessel are on schedule and due to be complete in early 2026. We had to hold back from hosting a powwow in Newberry this year due to safety issues for participants at the site; this was discussed with at a com-

munity meeting held with members attending with Director Lee and I. We appreciate the members that gathered to step up and help this year and we all look forward to hosting a powwow next year and also celebrate a new Elder complex to assist with the need of homes in this area. We will make everyone aware of when we will start planning for 2026. We are also hoping to host a drum social or feast in its place this fall or winter at the Newberry health center.

As reported in the past, we utilized ARPA funding to help with home rehabilitation projects for members across our unit. After the applications and funds have been awarded we will be funding approximately \$410,000 to assist with these projects. This was a way to help members all across our unit. Applications were reviewed and selections being made by our Housing Department. I appreciate the work they did to walk this program through for members.

The Unit 2 fitness/youth center project is scheduled to be complete in January 2026 as well. Our YEA staff is very excited about having the additional room and space to advance our program and again make this a hub for all our

youth across the unit. The board has been working on budget assessing for 2025 — at this point we have been notified that some of our funding has already not been awarded at the federal level, such as Housing funding for our sanitation projects. In the past, we received a certain amount to award for this need and this year to date we still have not received the funds. It came with a real problem as members counted on this as our message was not clear that we may be in jeopardy. I am inquiring with the Housing Commission if there is any other way we can help fund these as there is simply no other funds available this late in the year to assist these members counting on this. I’m hoping we can come to some resolve to help in anyway.

With the summer coming to an end, there are some already gearing up to defame and deflect for the upcoming elections in 2026. I absolutely cannot believe how cruel things have been getting in these times. I ask that members really reach out to your unit representatives before believing many hurtful rumors. I’m open to talk about anything that you view as concerning and please call or reach out anytime and I will give you the truth no matter

what the item is. It’s alarming how we try to unite and grow our communities and some just want the divide with mistruth and pure lies. I won’t be part of it, and, as always, please reach out about anything that concerns you. I’ve been around a very long time and when I think I have seen the bottom of a barrel of filth — some just continue to be cruel — I stand with the members that want us to move forward and do better. Those are the circles I believe in and trust. As always, I will quietly use my professional assertiveness to help, represent our families and grow us as a tribe.

So, Unit 2 is well on its way to some major assets to be complete in 2026 — these items have been in the works since Director Hollowell was representing and moved forward with Director Lee and I. I’m very grateful that us three stood together and had the vision to move these items along the way for the betterment of our families.

I want to sincerely thank all the community members, Cultural Division staff members, head staff that we asked by offering semaa, and to our local Elders that stood up and took over our Annual Hessel powwow this year. I had to stand back and could not

be part as I have the past years of this gathering in our community. I cannot say how grateful and thankful I am to Director Lee and Jackie Minton, working together to keep things moving and making our powwow run smoothly. The time and energy they placed in this to make things good and cherished by so many is appreciated by me.

In closing, I would be amiss of if I didn’t recognize my dad, John Causley Jr., who recently passed in late June of this year. My dad was a man that was always dedicating to leading our communities and dedicated his time and self to anything that would help make us thrive as Indian people. I’m so honored to have been his daughter and thank everyone that reached out to our family to speak about him and his life’s work to our people. He will be missed so much and I just appreciate all that have respected and loved him.

I will be back on schedule to attend our Elder meeting and making rounds around our units. Please reach out if you have any questions or concerns and we can meet or speak anytime. Take care of each other. Baamaapii.
Lana Causley-Smith,
Unit 2 Representative
(906) 322-3818

Members with compromised data getting letters



MICHAEL MCKERCHIE,
DIRECTOR, UNIT I

Many members will be receiving a letter from our tribe indicating that parts of their data were compromised during our cyber attack earlier this year. I urge anyone who received this letter to follow up and take the steps to safeguard your identity and to prevent any misuse of your information. Not everyone will be

getting a letter as not everyone’s information was stolen. As we re-build our executive team, the new CIO over our information systems has made better protections a top priority. He has also stated creating a membership portal is high on his list of things to accomplish.

A member portal has been discussed for the last few years and has had many obstacles to overcome but with the recent attack and a new CIO, this has become a priority and will be a valuable tool for many members. It will be a members-only website to allow the membership access to information for the many services our tribe provides. It will be used as a space to help combine services in a one-stop shop and allow members to more quickly update their records. Our tribe recently updated our Membership Services Directory, and its available as a booklet at our Administration Building or online at saulttribe.com.

Our tribe has continued to re-build our executive team with offers made to a new CFO and a new CEO. With filling these vacant positions, my hope is that we can continue to move forward in a positive way and not let our old ways of micro-management stall our tribe from succeeding. Keeping the board accountable is key to our tribe moving on; I continue to urge the membership attend our meetings either in person or online and continue to raise your voices when needed.

We continue to spend out the last of the ARPA and Cares Act monies on the projects that we earmarked in previous years. Much needed community and Health service related buildings

have recently opened or are scheduled to open soon. Unit 1 Elder Services Building will be getting renovations done as well, including new bathrooms and a new kitchen among other updates, look for updates as meal services will be interrupted and will be held nearby.

I’m grateful for a fantastic powwow season, but remember, being involved and being part of the community is a year-round commitment. Miigwech to our Language and Culture Department who has teamed up with our Advocacy Resource Center for a Community Feast on Sept. 30 to be held at the Niigaanaggiizhik Building. I hope to see many of you there; help

take care of your community by staying involved. As a reminder, Unit 1 directors continue to host monthly membership meetings; you can go in-person or join online. Come check it out, it’s an opportunity to ask questions and we will do our best to answer all questions. Also, be sure to check out our meetings available online and on our Facebook page. You can watch old meetings and get a general sense how our tribe works. As always, I urge members to join a committee, attend events when you can, and get both sides of a any story you hear. Please reach out to me to discuss issues. I can be reached at (906) 440-7768. Chi Miigwech.

Unit 3 Housing moving forward



SHAWN BOROWICZ,
DIRECTOR, UNIT III

Good morning all, Hope all is well and that you have had a great summer filled with fun, travel and a lot of family time. I attended several powwows in the service area this summer and unfortunately I was not able to attend our Rendezvous at the Straits event as I had one of my son’s wedding downstate.

I did attend the Line 5 Paddle Up event in St. Ignace and met a lot of people from our state. This is an ongoing issue and I’m torn between the current lines that are in the Straits and have been there past there life expectancy and the proposed tunnel project that will incase a new line and from what I read will make it more secure. Under the Canadian/US pipeline agreement I don’t think the line is going anywhere soon and if, as has been reported, the new line and tunnel will be safer it should be the way to go. Should all lines be removed from mother earth, maybe and maybe not. Should all underground and overhead electrical lines be removed, maybe and maybe not. We are too dependent on our fossil fuels and electrical grid to turn back now is just my thoughts. I’m sure this will be an ongoing issue as it has been for many years and we will just have to wait and see what happens. Our housing project in Unit

3 is still moving forward. One parcel has been cleared of all buildings and graded flat our second parcel is in the process of being logged off and cleared flat as well. The next phase is to install underground utilities and temporary roads to be utilized to begin placing foundations for the homes. I’m hoping for an easy winter so we can continue with the progress. This is a much needed infrastructure in Unit 3 and will be working hard to see this get done. A big thank you to Sault Tribe Construction crew who excavated the parcels ahead of schedule and did a fabulous job. Give your loved ones a big hug, I for one have had too many family and friends passing away this past month, slow down and enjoy life. Respectfully, Shawn Borowicz, sborowicz@saulttribe.net, (906) 430-7612 or (906) 379-8511

Ride to Wellness starts



KIM GRAVELLE,
DIRECTOR, UNIT I

Aaniin, I would like to thank those who reached out to me and my

family during my husband’s illness and who assisted with his memorial service. On a happier note, I enjoyed seeing everyone at the Elder Picnic and would like to thank my fellow Unit 1 board representatives and the elder staff who helped make this an enjoyable day for everyone. A reminder to tribal members, if you are not an elder you won’t receive the Win Awenen Nisitotung (Sault Tribe paper) automatically. Anyone under 60 years of age will need to contact the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Communications Department to request a tribal paper be mailed to them. Please pass on this message
“See Gravelle,” page 25

Reviewing summer activities, looking forward



KIMBERLY HAMPTON,
DIRECTOR, UNIT IV

Aniin kina waya. *This is Kimberly* and I want to say that I am astonished at how fast this summer was. I hope that everyone enjoyed the warmth because we certainly have fall upon us and soon snowflakes. I also want to say miigwech to everyone who supported myself and family during the crazy medical times we have had these last few months, ranging from my mother to my aunt, to her grandson, to my youngest son graduating high school and beginning his journey in the Army (I will be honest when I say I did not realize how much I am not a military mom. Every phone call and week without hearing from my son has me a mess). For a month there we had a family member in the hospital up to Marquette and in Grand Rapids nonstop. That time feels like a whirlwind and we would not have gotten through it without all of the community’s support. Everyone’s support, prayers, well wishes, and laying of Semaa is appreciated. *This is Larry* and I also want to say I hope everyone had a great summer. My summer went quickly between exercising those treaty rights fishing out on the water, to summer activities, and my daughter’s busy traveling sports events. I am hoping for life to slow a little this fall to allow me to take some deep breaths. I look forward to moving forward with projects for our unit, the upcoming Christmas parties, and the holidays that are approaching. I wish a great fall to you all. A community garden in Escanaba has been in the process, thanks to a group of individuals who have offered to volunteer their time with this adventure. Now that fall is upon us and winter is not far off, so the remainder of the garden will be completed once weather permits. Miigwech to all involved in this great adventure. We also wanted to provide some somber updates pertaining to the Escanaba Elder Complex for the property adjacent to the current housing site. Despite the community input session held at the Escanaba Community Center with Housing staff and community members, there is no current plan for an Elder Complex. We are looking for ways to still make this a possibility. We also wanted to update everyone that the transitional



LARRY BARBEAU,
DIRECTOR, UNIT IV

housing project in Manistique is no longer moving forward. The contractor we were going to partner with backed out on us and went forward with another entity. Additional housing options are being explored and researched to help meet the housing need. Over the last couple of months we have been busy with the following: **Months of June, July, August and beginning of September:** Week of June 9: Attended court hearings to offer support and advocacy for tribal youth, attended JKL Fiduciary meeting, attended board workshop, participated in key employee interviews, attended a meeting organized through Schoolcraft Memorial in an attempt to form a community advisory group, held Kimberly’s son’s graduation party and celebrated Father’s Day. Week of June 16: Attended board workshop and meeting, attended Head Start Advisory meeting, attended National Institutes of Health Tribal Advisory Committee meeting, participated in the monthly governor/tribal call. Week of June 23: Attended court hearing for tribal youth, held a powwow wrap up meeting, attended Conservation Committee meeting, participated in a Kewadin Gaming Authority meeting. Week of June 30: Attended board workshop and meeting, participated in key employee interviews, Kimberly’s son went off to the Army. Week of July 7: Attended JKL Fiduciary Committee meeting and board workshop, attended a celebration of life for a tribal elder. Week of July 14: Larry traveled to Lansing for board workshop, meeting and community session, participated in Department of Health and Human Services listening sessions, participated in National Institutes of Health meeting, attended monthly governor/tribal call. Week of July 21: Participated in Kewadin Gaming Authority meeting and board workshop, attended Head Start Advisory meeting. Weeks of July 28-Aug. 4: Board workshops and meetings, meetings pertaining to key employee candidates. Week of Aug. 11: Wristband

hand out at the U.P. State Fair, board workshop, bidding at the U.P. State Fair to support tribal youth in the 4H Program. Week of Aug. 18: Participated in key employee interviews, attended Conservation Committee meeting, board workshop and meeting, attended the monthly governor/tribal call, attended the Manistique Elder Picnic. Week of Aug. 25: Board workshop, Kimberly traveled to Washington, DC to attend the National Institutes of Health Tribal Advisory Committee meeting. Week of Sept. 1: Celebrated Labor Day, board workshop and meeting **U.P. State Fair** Thursday, Aug. 14, was Native American Day at the U.P. State Fair and was also the day that Larry and Kimberly, with the assistance of a couple of individuals, handed out over 570 wristbands to tribal youth. This was the biggest turnout since Kimberly has been handing out wristbands beginning in 2022. We both hope that everyone enjoyed themselves at the state fair. Saturday, Aug.16, we both participated in bidding at the animal auction and bid on and purchased four pigs, all from tribal youth in Unit 4. Processing, packing and distributing will be conducted at a later date, which will be announced. **Trip Report from the National Institutes of Health Tribal Advisory Committee In-Person Meeting by Kimberly:** While traveling to Washington D.C. as an alternate delegate for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Tribal Advisory Committee, I was able to meet with many NIH department directors. Topics discussed throughout the two days I was there included federal research grants that had been canceled are slowly being reinstated, although have not been 100% reinstated yet; Institutional Review Boards (IRBs) and protections for Indigenous Peoples; notification of two new policies regarding biospecimens and IRBs; education being prepared to help Native tribes know more about research and how to protect Native members, the Chickasaw National having a research facility and IRB process. The Chickasaw Nation and Indian Health Service are partnering together for the first Native American Research Center in Oklahoma, set to open in 4-5 years. The new IRB policy as of July 2025 requires approval of the specific tribe prior to NIH approving research. The approval of the tribe has to be submitted to the NIH IRB. The goal of the policy is to engage with tribal communities throughout the research lifecycle, to plan, review, and conduct research in an ethically and culturally sensitive manner. I want to say how valuable this was and a huge miigwech to the National Institutes of Health’s Tribal Health Research

Office for covering mileage and the hotel cost for this experience. **REMINDERS** **Niiwin Noodin Pow Wow** SAVE THE DATE for the 2026 Niiwin Noodin Pow Wow, which has been scheduled for June 6, 2026. 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 Oct. 8, 2025, at 12 p.m. EST at the Manistique Tribal Center. The next meeting in Escanaba will be held Oct. 8, 2025, at 4 p.m. EST at the Escanaba Community Center, 3721 Jingob Street, Escanaba, MI. If you plan to attend please RSVP at (906) 635-4971 at least a week prior. **Feeding America Schedule** Wednesday, Sept. 10, 2025: 10 a.m. CST Dickinson County (Drive Thru), Redemption Hill Church, 332 S. Carpenter Ave, Kingsford, MI 49802 Thursday, Sept. 11, 2025: 10 a.m. EST Marquette County (Drive Thru), Silver Creek Thrift Store, 219 Silver Creed Road, Marquette, MI 49855 Wednesday, Sept. 17, 2025: 10 a.m. EST Delta County (Drive Thru), Salvation Army Escanaba, 3001 5th Ave S, Escanaba, MI 49829 Wednesday, Sept. 17, 2025: 12 p.m. EST Marquette County (Drive Thru), NMU Berry Events Center, 1401 Presque Isle, Marquette, MI 49855 Wednesday, Sept. 24, 2025: 12 p.m. EST Marquette County (Drive Thru), Building 604 Ave C and Third-KI Sawyer, Corner of Ave C and Third Street, KI Sawyer, MI 49841 Wednesday, Oct. 1, 2025: 10 a.m. EST Schoolcraft County (Drive Thru), Schoolcraft Memorial Hospital, 7870 West US-2, Manistique, MI 49854 Thursday, Oct. 2, 2025: 9 a.m. EST Marquette County (Drive Thru), North Iron Church, 910 Palms Ave, Ishpeming, MI 49849 Thursday, Oct. 2, 2025: 3 p.m. EST Dickinson County (Drive Thru), Norway Community Food Pantry, 130

O’Dill Drive, Norway, MI 49870 Thursday, Oct. 2, 2025: 4 p.m. EST Marquette County (Drive Thru), Grace Lutheran Church, 558 W M-35, Gwinn, MI 49841 Wednesday, Oct. 8, 2025: 10 a.m. CST Dickinson County (Drive Thru), Redemption Hill Church, 332 S Carpenter Ave, Kingsford, MI 49802 **Looking Forward** Unit 4 Children’s Christmas Parties will be scheduled and posted soon as well as Unit 4 Elder Christmas Parties. Keep your eyes open for information. Some additional adventures being worked on are as follows: obtaining additional permission to access 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. Kimberly is scheduled to attend the Tribal Leadership Summit in Mount Pleasant, Mich., Sept. 16-17, mileage and hotel covered by Uniting Three Fires Against Violence (UTFAV). Kimberly is scheduled to attend the G2E Gaming Conference in Las Vegas, Nev., Oct. 6-10, 2025. Katchup with Kim, Maamawi Craft Nights and Office Hours will be resuming this fall and winter since the business of spring and summer are behind us, watch for schedules. 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. **Gravelle Report Cont’d —** have any questions, contact Transportation Planner Wendy Hoffman at (906) 635-6050, ext. 26602. Miigwech to Wendy and her staff for bringing this plan to fruition. As always, keep the men and women in the armed forces in your prayers for a safe return to their families. I would also like to thank our team members for their hard work and continued dedication. Please feel free to call me at (906) 259-3742 or email at kkgavelle@saulttribe.net. Please leave a message and I will return your call. Miigwech, Kim Gravelle

Subversive efforts to undermine tribal voters



AARON PAYMENT
DIRECTOR, UNIT I

STOP SUBVERSIVE EFFORTS UNDERMINE TRIBAL VOTERS’ ELECTIVE CHOICE!

For tribal members who have been around a while and read our tribal unit reports, you will recall past efforts to try and remove tribal board from office despite your elective choice of who you want to represent you. My policy analysis of 100% of removals from office across our history is that they were executed in a subversive way to undermine the voters and to thwart efforts at transparency in government.

When I was fresh out of grad school, armed with a Master’s degree in Public Administration and working as policy advisor for our tribe, I was requested to draft a removal code to promulgate the tribal constitutional provision for removal from office. I took this very seriously as I respect elective choice. Thus, I drafted a code based on progressive discipline with the steps of censure, rebuke, fine and with removal from office as the very last resort. I took seriously our democratic right to elect our representatives such that 12 other seated board members should not have the ease of convenience to remove your elected board member merely because they don’t like them, or worse, if the board member in question exposes board or chairman corruption.

BILL OF ATTAINDER

Upon drafting up a code to give ample opportunity to correct behavior rather than the drastic step to undo a democratically elected official, I was advised that is not what was requested but that we needed a code to remove “a board member” meaning a specific board member. I then realized this was due to this person exposing corruption and sharing with the membership what she was witnessing. I subsequently resigned from my senior policy position with the tribe in 1993 as I just could not associate with such graft and corruption. Shortly thereafter, that board member was removed with no semblance of due process of law.

Shortly after I left employment, I was approached by an elder who helped secure federal recognition. He informed me that the tribe’s first removal of a board member was none other than Verna Lawrence who was accused of mispresenting the tribe to federal authorities of the US Housing and Urban Development. She was accused of nothing more than exercising her free speech in sharing what she understood to be corruption in our tribal administration. She was not afforded any real due process of law and was removed from office. As tribal members in Sault Ste. Marie know, she went on to become elected to the Sault City Commission and became our City’s first female mayor. Before Verna passed away, she shared with me copies of her removal proceedings which I found to be entirely without merit.

In 2002, after having been re-elected with the highest vote count in the off-chair election cycle, Mike Lumsden exposed the threat to fire him as executive director if he did not vote as a board member to grant the then chair an annual salary of over \$850,000! He voted “no” and sure enough he was fired, as was his fiancé. Upon determining no cause to terminate existed, the

tribal administration agreed to pay severances in the amount of well over \$.5 million! Firing someone out of retribution is wrong. Paying out their severance for the right to fire them without cause was not in the best interest of the tribe. Shortly thereafter, a removal petition submitted by the then-chair’s former secretary resulted in removing Lumsden from office based on allegations alone with no civil or criminal filings in any jurisdiction.

PATTERN OF CORRUPT REMOVALS?

Beginning to see a pattern of removal from office elected officials who dare to represent their constituents, challenge corruption, and protect the assets of the tribe?

Upon first being elected in 1996 and again in 2000, with more than 122% more votes than the first time, I appreciated having the strong an unyielding support of our Sault Tribe voters. Those who voted for me, did so to confront the corruption at the time. When I also challenged the chair’s raise request of \$850,000 annual salary, I too was fired. I refused to sue my tribe and in doing so, lost out on a \$432,000 severance. I just could not sue my tribe but I do not fault those who also lost their employment and sued. I estimate the total cost of arbitrary fires to be well over \$4 million.

REMOVAL MADNESS

During the era when I was exposing corruption like:

- 1) Giving away 50% ownership of the Greentown Casino;
- 2) Inheriting a debt of over \$260 million;
- 3) Exposing over \$30 million in failed economic development schemes, and
- 4) Exposing the wanton corruption surrounding nepotism in tribal employment I faced over eight removal petitions that found their impetus back to the former chair’s office secretary and supporters. The cost of hiring legal counsel to prosecute just one

removal is easily over \$20,000, such that it is incredulous to believe an office secretary’s salary alone could afford sustain hiring an attorney to remove someone. I estimate the cost to engineer eight removals to be well over \$100,000.

A lull existed for about over a decade with no removals as the board strengthened the Removal Code to have to include evidence of crime rather than allegations alone. In the Lumsden removal, individuals were paraded in to make allegations with no corroborating police reports at all. Thus, his removal was based on unsubstantiated allegations alone. Again, political retribution and to shut him up.

REMOVAL FOR POT

The last removal from office happened about a decade ago to remove a board member for alleged possession of marijuana at a tribal property. While I am and have been drug and alcohol free for over 30 years, I don’t and did not support removal for an offense that is now legal in Michigan — namely to possess medical or recreational marijuana. In fact, we are now in the pot business with leasing to a recreational dispensary on the reservation. Further, we financed another pot dispensary in Unit 4. Removing someone from office and threatening to destroy that person’s life for something that is now legal and for which the tribe turns a profit seems hypocritical.

VACATE ALL PAST REMOVALS!

It is my opinion that not one of the removals from office to date were done properly with all violating each individual’s due process rights. Thus, all past removal actions should be vacated. While most of the current board may have not been serving at the time of these removals, to ignore the blatant due process violations is tantamount to complicity. Thus, all removals to date should be vacated.

BULLYING TO SILENCE SPEECH

The bullying effort to quell free speech and intimidate individual board members into submissiveness or compliance is unfortunately not a thing of the past. Recall, my previously reporting that an individual filed a police report in the past accusing me of assault following a board meeting? This was investigated with both the police and the prosecutor determining there was no assault and therefore no case. Nonetheless, after the prosecutor dismissed the allegations due to no legal basis and no evidence, the board voted to redirect the prosecutor to “reconsider” her decision. Given the prosecutor in our one branch system serves at the pleasure of the board, this was like directing her to prosecute no matter what. Nonetheless, the prosecutor determined no assault occurred and was terminated shortly thereafter. Think of the overreach of a lay board of directors with no legal or law training voting to redirect a prosecutor to prosecute when no crime occurred.

Our tribe needs to move past the era when a board member, an elective representative of the people can be threatened, stifled or cajoled into silence.

Next month, I will further lay out the argument for instituting the protections of due process and to uphold our U.S. and tribal constitutional rights to free speech and other civil rights. The only way for this to occur, is through enacting a three-branch separation of powers so past efforts as judge, jury and executioner to remove an elected board member, chosen by the people cannot be undone without due process of rights.

Tribal Members, please take Care and love yourself, your family and your Tribe!
Chi Miigwech, Aaron
Phone: (906) 440-8946
aapayment@saulttribe.net

Director Lee reviews Unit 2 issues and events



KIMBERLY LEE,
DIRECTOR, UNIT II

Aanii, friends and relatives, I hope this message finds you in good health and spirits as we enter the new season. Summer passed quickly, and now the crispness of fall surrounds us, reminding us of the changes and blessings each season brings.

For your information: The board has been informed that if the audit report is not approved

by Sept. 30, the release of the Annual Report to the membership will be delayed. The report, which is typically sent out in September, will be issued in October. As the financial section of the annual report is among the most important for tribal members to review and distribute to all households, ensuring it includes all necessary information is not an option.

Newberry Elder Quadplex Update: The contractors have begun. With continual hard work from a team of individuals we are blessed to work with, we anticipate a spring of 2026 completion date.

Hessel Elder Duplex: This duplex is being built in phases, following Newberry and progressing steadily and successfully.

Unit 2 Multipurpose Building: The project is moving forward on schedule! The foundation, framing, and roof are complete, with doors and windows now being set. Parking lot work and the drain field are nearly finished, and about 30% of the elec-

trical work is done. In the coming weeks, crews will focus on electrical, HVAC, insulation, and siding, with drywall expected to start by mid-October. Steady progress continues as we move toward the following stages of construction. We have many exciting projects moving forward in Unit 2.

The Hessel powwow came together beautifully. We celebrated our people, traditions, and community. From the sound of the drums to the smiles of our youth and elders, the weekend was filled with spirit, laughter, and togetherness. The powerful grand entries honored our ancestors and brought dancers of all ages together, while the drummers carried the heartbeat of our people with strength and respect. Elders offered prayers and wisdom, grounding us in tradition, and our youth danced with pride, reminding us that our ways remain strong for generations to come. I want to extend a heartfelt miigwech to our dancers, drummers, elders, veterans, vendors, volunteers, and all community

members whose time, generosity, and spirit made this powwow possible. The Hessel powwow is more than an event — it is a living reminder of who our ancestors were, strong enough to move us forward. Together, we will continue to honor the past, live in the present, and carry our ways proudly into the future.

The Naubinway elders cook-out was a wonderful evening that brought the community together to appreciate our elders. Delicious steaks were shared, and the atmosphere was filled with companionship, laughter, and heartfelt stories. It was a special time to honor our elders’ wisdom and knowledge and say miigwech for all they have done and continue to do to pave the way for us.

Seeing so many of our youth at the fair to get their wristbands was terrific as they prepared to return to school. While there are sometimes differing opinions about the purpose of such events, I choose to recognize the positive impact. A day at the fair, surrounded by peers, creates an

atmosphere where our youth can celebrate their identity, strengthen connections, and take pride in being Anishinaabe. This gathering promotes a sense of community and cultural pride, which are valuable for our youth in many ways as they begin the school year.

Annual Ghost Feast: The annual ghost feast will be held on Saturday, Nov. 1, at 3 p.m. Location: Hessel Tribal Center. Please bring your ancestor’s favorite dish to pass. All are welcome.

Miigwech to each of you for your continued support, guidance, and dedication to our community. As we move forward into this new season, may we carry with us the strength of our ancestors and the unity of our people. I wish you and your family health and happiness.

As always, miigwech for your time.
Kimberly Lee
Unit 2 Board of Directors
klee@saulttribe.net
(906) 379-8965

Sorenson discusses tribal issues and events



**BRIDGETT SORENSON,
DIRECTOR, UNIT III**

I will be traveling to DC this week for my HUD TIAC meeting. We will be meeting on the first day with only the TIAC members as well as visiting the Innovative Housing Showcase at the National Mall. The second day our group will meet with HUD staff and discuss our concerns and any new updates. I enjoy working with this group of leaders and learning their struggles and successes in their tribes.

Our Sault Tribe Head Start program has been without a bus driver for at least 3 years. We recently passed a resolution to increase the wage to be more competitive with the local market. We are keeping our fingers crossed that we will have a bus driver very soon. I know it has been very hard on working parents with having to worry about transportation. Hopefully,

this will increase our classroom enrollment.

At the Aug. 19 meeting, we passed a resolution to upgrade election equipment and software from Clear Ballot Inc. There was also a resolution to amend Chapter 10 of the Election Code including changing the number of commissioners from 9 to 7 members, change the terms of the members so that four will serve for 5 years and three will serve for 3 years, and the timeline to allow more time to turn in ballots.

There was a resolution to amend the vape sales to allow for \$1 off of each sale to be split between the YEA and the Elder Fund. The prior resolution did not work with the intent that the board had intended.

At the Sept. 2 meeting, the board voted to pay out vacation time to Housing, the EDC and the governmental side. The casino already has this benefit. This has been happening in the past few years with being short staffed; the team members are not able to take their time off. I believe everyone needs time off to cope with life and to regroup but I also know that with all the increasing costs that some appreciate this to cover extra expenses or for their Christmas.

The elder meal in the Sault will be renovated in the next few months. The Marquette health center is also is moving forward with site work.

We voted to do a continuing resolution for the Health Division and schedule B 2026 budgets that have an October-September budget cycle and a September-August budget cycle. We have not had the opportunity to work through these proposed budgets yet.

We also voted to hire the government CEO and CFO. Both are Sault Tribe women that have worked for our organization for many years and will do a great job. Congratulations to CEO Jessica Dumback and CFO Holly Halaapa. We are fortunate to have Bill Connolly help transition the new CFO. We still have an open CFO on the casino side.

We have been reviewing budgets for 2026 and we are trying to close the potential funding gaps. The casino for many years had given \$17 million to the government side and has recently given, I believe \$6 million. The casino business at this time doesn't allow for the \$17 million to be given, but we have to at least comply with the current tax code or make changes to the code. Many times, people want you to believe the sky is falling. Obviously we have some obstacles to overcome but it is not necessary for people to always try to inflict fear and panic and then turn around and say, we saved the tribe, remember us at election time. It is best to be cautious and try to prepare the best we can without chaos.

Congratulations as well to Sault Tribe member Rich Smith for his promotion to Slot Director. He has managed the Shores Slot Department for many years.

All units were going to get a cultural coordinator to help facilitate culture and language in all of our areas. Unit 3 will welcome Caden Colegrove as our coordinator. She grew up in St. Ignace and is the granddaughter of Phyllis and Louis Colegrove.

I want to thank Darryl Brown, Ron Daniels, Sue St. Onge, Tom and Francie Wyers, and others who helped coordinate the Rendezvous at the Straits Powwow. It turned out to be a great location at the St. Ignace Little Bear for vendors and attendees. I believe there was also four to five drums that attended.

The Father Marquette Memorial is where it usually takes place and they have been under construction but I would rather not go back there. The hoops the state makes us jump through and then making sure everyone has recreation passports and not to mention the difficulty for attendees and vendors. I hope in the near future we have our own venue on tribal land.

Thank you to the Shores Shipping Department for delivering the chairs and to Tyler Bouschor for delivering and manning the PA system.

Mark your calendar for

Tuesday, Sept. 30 for Orange Shirt Day at the Museum of Ojibwa Culture. There will be some ceremonies, a drum, speakers, food, and shirts from 12 to 5 p.m. and a walk through downtown at 3 p.m.

I would like to offer my condolences to the families of a few elders who have walked on in our community — Debbie Obeshaw, Levi Moses and Bill Brown.

We had our Unit 3 elder picnic at the elder complex on Aug. 28. We had a full dining room, which was nice. Big shout out to Sue and Laurie for preparing the food. I completely forgot to take pictures.

With school back in session, please remember if your student needs help with athletic fees, senior pictures or driver's education training and live in the service area, there is help, up to \$250 a year. The application is on the website www.saulttribe.com, under Education and downloads.

We are going to be planning a community ghost feast in Unit 3 for next month. Details will be completed soon. The target date is Saturday, Oct. 25.

I am looking forward to working with Caden to plan many cultural teachings and workshops in the next coming months. We may also be targeting a certain day of the week to have craft nights too.

Any questions or concerns, please contact me at bsorenson@saulttribe.net, bridgett91@yahoo.com or text (906) 430-0536.



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