



# Win Awenen Nisitotung

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Sucker Moon  
Namebin Giizis



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

## Sault Tribe wins court case, continues efforts to open new casinos in Michigan

SAULT STE. MARIE, Mich. — The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians won an important federal court case recently and is continuing to pursue economic opportunities that could include opening two new casinos in Michigan pursuant to two federal statutes — the 1997 *Michigan Land Claims Settlement*

*Act* and the 1988 *Indian Gaming Regulatory Act*.

Sault Tribe has successfully operated tribal casinos in the state since 1984 and owns five Kewadin Casino properties in the eastern Upper Peninsula. As the largest tribe east of the Mississippi, the tribe seeks to generate its own revenues in

order to provide services to all its citizens by appropriating 100 percent of net gaming revenues for tribal services. The tribe has sought to open casinos in Ingham and Wayne counties and entered into agreements with two development companies to help develop, finance and build the casinos. In both communities selected, revenue sharing agreements are already in place to benefit local government.

While the tribe has not yet received approval from the U.S. Department of the Interior to move forward with either project, it is confident its mandatory trust petitions will prevail as have the Tohono O'ohdam Nation's. The court judgment dealt with the tribe's former developers asking the federal court to declare that the Kewadin Casinos Gaming Authority had breached its contracts with them. Chief U.S. District Judge Robert Jonker, however, ruled March 30 that the federal court had no jurisdiction to hear the dispute. The tribe expects to move to dismiss any further appeals as frivolous and lacking jurisdiction on a federal mandatory land claim right.

"Judge Jonker's ruling upheld our tribal sovereign immunity," said Sault Tribe Chairperson Aaron Payment. "We are free to

renew our efforts to pursue additional economic opportunities for our tribe to benefit our people."

After the tribe's request to take land in Lansing and Romulus into trust were ambiguously turned down in 2017 by the Department of the Interior under the Trump Administration, the tribe sued the agency over the denial. In March 2020, a federal judge with the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia ruled that the agency had abused its authority and wrongly refused to take the land into trust. The case has been sent back to the Department of the Interior for further proceedings. So far, the agency hasn't taken the land into trust in order for the tribe to move forward with the casinos. The tribe is working to gain approval from the Interior.

Although the tribe's 2012 agreement with Lansing included building a casino downtown in Lansing's entertainment district, Payment said the tribe is open to other Greater Lansing area locations at the direction of the City. "We aren't going to build anywhere we're not wanted, but the tribe's long record of providing safe, well-run casinos that offer jobs and entertainment for visitors from throughout Michigan and Canada makes it an excellent partner for additional developments," he said.

The tribe estimated its earlier plans for a \$245 million,

125,000-square-foot Lansing casino would have created a 1,500 permanent jobs at either property and more than 700 construction jobs. The City of Lansing planned to use its share of revenue payments from the facility, estimated to be about \$6 million annually, to create the Lansing Promise, a program to fund four-year college scholarships for Lansing School District graduates.

Payment expressed his intent to work to respect other tribes' economic interests so that adding more tribal casinos in the state doesn't cut into funding other tribes use to provide services.

"I count our fellow tribal leaders from area tribes as friends. I respect their efforts to protect their market share," he said.

"After all, generating revenues to provide critical services to our people is what we do."

When Sault Tribe gains federal approval to put the land into trust for the two new casinos and can reach agreements for the tribe to move forward, it will use the money it earns to improve programs and services to members, including health care, education, housing, elder care, social services and more. In addition, 10 percent of the revenues are obligated via referendum to be deposited into the tribe's Self-Sufficiency Fund that benefits tribal elders and future investments.

### Tribal member Michael Pins moves from tribe's Law Enforcement to Gaming Commission



Sault Tribe Law Enforcement Detective Sergeant Mike Pins is retir-

ing April 23, and Sault Tribe Gaming Commission Executive Director Mike Pins's first day is April 26.

Pins spent the last 27 years with Sault Tribe Law Enforcement, starting out as a patrol officer and advancing to detective sergeant. In the course of his career, he had the opportunity to take many advanced courses in leadership, complex investigations and forensic analysis of mobile devices. His education and experience were crucial in the path to his new career.

"We are very honored and appreciative of this background that will help strengthen the Gaming Commission," said the tribe's executive director, Christine McPherson.

### Did Enbridge intend to mislead the press and the public?

YPSILANTI, Mich., — The Anishinaabek Caucus of Michigan alerts the media and the public of misleading representation of tribal positions concerning Line 5. Enbridge recently posted a video implying that the 12 federally recognized tribes of Michigan are open to "starting

the journey and the possibility of reconciliation" concerning Line 5 via traditional peacemaking. This is false.

The video was created by 7th Legacy LLC, and thus does not have any authority to speak on behalf of any tribe. The video conveys a false narrative of cul-

tural "peacemaking traditions" and it was not endorsed by the Michigan tribes. Neither, to our knowledge, have the respective tribal leaders been consulted.

Decisions of tribal bodies are not made by a single leader nor by any single member of a tribe. Rather, decisions are the result of a process of consensus and formal legislative enactment. The consensus of Michigan's tribes around the continued harm and threat brought by Enbridge's Line 5 remains the same. Most, if not all, tribes in Michigan have passed resolutions to shut-down Line 5, and the United Tribes of Michigan have voted on a resolution to support the shut-down of Line 5.

According to Aaron Payment PhD, chairperson of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and president of the United Tribes of Michigan, "Misuse of our cultural concepts is cultural appropriation and is patently offensive. Enbridge is hereby instructed to stop!"

Anishinaabek Caucus of MDP is a political caucus of the Michigan Democratic Party advocating for the issues and concerns of the 12 tribes in Michigan.

### Tribal Elder Rose Gerrish turned 101 March 16



Submitted by Ann Marie Bour

Rose Gerrish celebrated her 101st birthday on March 16. Rose lived her first 95 years in the Sault Ste. Marie. She now resides at Aperion Nursing Home in Michigan City, Ind., to be near her daughter, Ann Marie. Her health is good, her memory, not so much, but she never forgets that her home is the Sault! Her husband, Andy, and her son, Paul, have passed away. Her other three children are Brenda, Bob and Ann Marie. She has a combined 26 grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

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# Sexual violence often intersects with other forms of victimization

FROM THE ADVOCACY RESOURCE CENTER

Sexual violence is a widespread social issue that takes many forms, and because of the breadth of the issue, it's easy to overlook how other crimes intersect with it.

Domestic violence, human trafficking, stalking, murdered missing indigenous peoples (MMIP), elder abuse and teen dating violence can all have some aspect of sexual violence.

Perpetrators often use isolation and intimidation as a way to increase power and control over their victims. Human trafficking, especially sex trafficking, involves the same dynamics of power and control present in patterns of domestic violence and sexual assault.

There is a common misconception that sexual violence occurs only in sex trafficking. Another way sexual violence can occur is in intimate partner relationships. This can turn into human trafficking where the victim is forced by their intimate partner or spouse to perform sex acts. Often the victim is emotionally manipulated, coerced or forced into having sex with their intimate partner or trafficker or other individuals.

Sexual abuse also happens along with elder abuse and is also a serious, underreported problem. Sexual violence towards older adults can involve a range of offences, including "hands-on" behaviors, such as rape and molestation; or "hands-off" behaviors, such as voyeurism, exhibitionism, sexual threats or unwanted comments. In the com-

munity, older victims of sexual abuse are violated most often by spouses or partners, along with domestic violence.

Domestic violence is a leading cause of homelessness for women and children, and the need for safe and affordable housing is one of the most pressing concerns for survivors of violence and abuse.

While most victims know their perpetrators, one demographic of victims stand out alone. Native American women and girls experience all the categories listed above more than any other race. There is sufficient evidence that there are predators who target Native women and girls for trafficking. There is

some indication that certain types of predators are aware that Native women and girls are particularly vulnerable because of the complicated jurisdictional variables that arise when they go missing.

FBI Agent Jolene Goeden said, "Native girls are targeted in part because they're considered 'versatile,' meaning they can be advertised on the Internet as Hawaiian or Asian."

The Sovereign Bodies Institute database has over 1,870 murdered and missing indigenous women (MMIW) in the United States. Most of the database is recent — approximately 75 percent of MMIW names are cases from 2000

or later. The average age is 26, but over one-third are 18 years old and under. While there is no single cause (no primary risk factor) that one can point to as the reason for high rates of MMIW, experts suggest several explanations for the disparity. These explanations include jurisdictional barriers, indifference from government officials, the lack of cross-jurisdictional communication and planning, failure to adequately fund tribal justice

systems and sex traffickers and other predators specifically targeting Native women.

If you are a victim of sexual violence, in an abusive situation or are the victim of a crime, REMEMBER, YOU ARE NOT ALONE, YOU ARE NOT TO BLAME AND HELP IS AVAILABLE.

Contact the Advocacy Resource Center and see what we can do to help you, call 632-1808 or toll free (877) 639-7820.



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## ACFS Child Care & Development Fund Program announces FUNDING AVAILABILITY

The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Anishnaabek Community and Family Services Child Care & Development Fund Program is announcing funding availability.

Applications are being accepted for:

- Income-Based Program
- Essential Employee Program

Children must be Sault Tribe members 0 to 13 years old and live in the 7-county service area. Child care provider must be licensed, a relative care provider or a certified in-home aide.

For information, contact Trish at 906-632-5250 or psterling@saulttribe.net; or visit [www.saulttribe.com/membership-services/acfs/direct-services/child-care-development-fund](http://www.saulttribe.com/membership-services/acfs/direct-services/child-care-development-fund)



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# Registration open for virtual Matter of Balance program

Michigan State University Extension will be offering the newly revised Virtual Matter of Balance program to assist older adults with concerns about falling and balance.

Falling is a major concern for many people as they get older

and the fear of falling often acts as a restriction to activities, impeding quality of life. "Matter of Balance" is an award-winning program designed to reduce the fear of falling, manage falls and increase activity levels. The program is scheduled for Monday

and Wednesday starting May 3 until June 2.

The program is designed to help people:

- View falls as controllable
- Set goals for increasing activity
- Make changes to reduce fall risks at home
- Exercise to increase strength and balance

If you are worried about falling, interested in improving balance, want to know more about becoming more flexible or getting stronger, you can email Anita Carter at [carte356@msu.edu](mailto:carte356@msu.edu) for more information and to register. The program is free, but space is limited. Registration is required. You will need to have the ability to use video and audio to partici-

pate in this class.

Virtual Matter of Balance program registration information:

Location: Zoom (Please have a free account set up prior to the class - <https://zoom.us/>)

Start date: May 3, 2021

Time: 10 a.m.- 12 p.m. (EST)

Registration link: <https://events.anr.msu.edu/MatterofBalanceMWMay3/>

## Chi miigwech to community

Sharon Hovie and her family would like to thank and acknowledge the following people for playing such an integral role in making her benefit fundraiser such a successful event.

Close friend and co-worker, Barbara Parker, who organized the event and worked tirelessly for weeks to pull it all together. Tahneal Willis who was her mother Barb's helper during the whole process. Josh Biron, Bud Biron, Kim Gravelle and Michael McKerchie for being strong spiritual leaders and rolling up their sleeves to help out in the kitchen. Close family friends, Mikki Messer, Karla McLeod, Karen Gorenflo, Violet Patton and Jen Roy for working the benefit and cleaning up afterwards. Family members Dawn Hovie and Jessie Bearden, who baked many of the bake sale goods and brought beautiful baskets and blankets

for the silent auction.

The benefit was very successful and thank you to everyone who helped us sell out of food. We believe that was possible because of your kindness and generosity and it's a true testament of the love that Sharon has put out into the community coming back full circle to support her and her family during this time of need.

Thank you to everyone who donated silent auction items, bake sale goods, money, supplies and food. Thank you to others who wrote cards and notes and those who stopped by to share stories and offer help.

So many people from our tribe and beyond pulled together to help us out and thank you doesn't cover it.

We are humbled by the support and generosity of our tribal community and well beyond.

Chi miigwech.

## Sault Tribe committee vacancy announcements

The following committees have vacant seats. Sault Tribe members interested in filling these vacancies should submit one letter of intent and three letters of recommendation from other members to Joanne Carr or Linda Grossett, 523 Ashmun St., Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783. Call (906) 635-6050 with any questions.

Anishinaabe Cultural Committee - six vacancies - three male (4-year term), three female (4-year term)

Child Welfare Committee - three vacancies (4-year term), one vacancy (expires May 23)

Conservation Committee - one vacancy - Fisheries (term expiring March 3, 2023)

Election Committee - four vacancies (4-year term)

Higher Education Committee - Two vacancies (4-year term)

Health Board - five vacancies

(4-year term)

Housing Commission - one vacancy - Unit I (4-year term) one vacancy - Unit II (4-year term)

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

Elder Advisory Committee Unit I - Sault (4-year term), one regular vacancy and one alternate vacancy

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

Unit II - Naubinway (4-year term), one alternate vacancy

Unit III - St. Ignace (4-year term), one regular vacancy and one alternate vacancy

Unit IV - Manistique (4-year term), one alternate vacancy

Unit IV - Escanaba (4-year term) one regular vacancy and one alternate vacancy

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

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

Elder Subcommittee Unit I - Sault (4-year terms), two regular seat vacancies, two alternate seat vacancies

Unit II - Hessel (4-year terms), two regular seat vacancies, two alternate vacancies

Unit II - Newberry (4-year term), two regular seat vacancies, one alternate vacancy

Unit II - Naubinway (4-year term), two alternate seat vacancies

Unit IV - Manistique (4-year term), two regular seat vacancies, one alternate vacancy

Unit IV - Escanaba (4-year term), two regular seat vacancies, two alternate vacancies

Unit V - Munising (4-year term), two regular seat vacancies, one alternate seat vacancy

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

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## Join Law Enforcement for Mike Pins' retirement party

After 27-plus years in Law Enforcement, Sergeant Michael Pins is retiring effective Friday, April 23, 2021! Sault Tribe Law Enforcement is hosting a retirement celebration in Mike's honor to show our appreciation for his years of service and dedication to Sault Tribe and its communities! Please feel free to join us — bring your funny stories to share and have a bite to eat as we wish Mike well in his future

endeavors! The celebration takes place at the Sault Kewadin Casino in Dream Maker's Theater on Friday, April 23, from 2 to 5 p.m. Due to COVID policies, we recommend social distancing and masks.

### Traditional Medicine Program schedule April and May 2021

Due to Fasting and Releasing, clinic hours are limited for April and May. Please watch for upcoming clinic flyers. Please call for questions or to set up an appointment.

#### Gerard Sagassige

April 19, 20; May 24, 26: Sault Ste. Marie Health Center, Lori Gambardella (906) 632-0236, Annie Thibert (906) 632-0220

May 25: Munising, (906) 387-4721; (800) 236-4705.

#### Joe Syrette

April 22, 23: Sault Ste. Marie Health Center, Lori Gambardella (906) 632-0236, Annie Thibert (906) 632-0220

May 26: St. Ignace Health Center, (906) 643-8689, (877) 256-0135

## MSU Extension Educator sought

MSU Extension is seeking candidates for an Extension Educator position that will focus on Tribal Health and Food Safety. Please visit <https://careers.msu.edu> and search for posting#693170 to learn how you can become the next SPARTAN WHO WILL!

MSU is an affirmative-action, equal-opportunity employer, committed to achieving excellence through a diverse workforce and inclusive culture that encourages all people to reach their full potential. The university actively encourages applications and/or nominations of women, persons of color, veterans and persons with disabilities.



## \*Downpayment Assistance Program\*

**Sault Tribe Housing Authority, Downpayment Assistance Program will be open year round starting January 11, 2021. This will make it easier for applicants to purchase their first home when they are ready. The DPAP will stay open until funds are exhausted and open up immediately in January of the following year.**

**General Information about the Program:** The program is available to qualifying low-income tribal members who wish to purchase their first home in the Sault Tribe's seven (7) county service areas. The program provides financial assistance to first-time homebuyers to help with down payment and closing costs if you meet all of the program requirements. Members who wish to qualify to receive assistance under this program must meet the basic eligibility requirements outlined on the application. Sault Tribe Membership Assistance is only available to enrolled Sault Tribe members, applicant must be at least 18 years of age, have a minimum household income of at least \$25,000 annually, must qualify as a first-time homebuyer, and must be able to obtain a mortgage loan with a lender.

If you have any questions please contact Dana Piippo Homeownership Specialists at 906.495.1450 or 1.800.794.4072.

## Win Awenen Nisitotung

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

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

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

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

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

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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](http://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.

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# Haaland makes history with appointment to head DOI

By Rick Smith

New Mexico Democratic Congresswoman Debra Haaland recently became a historical figure as Congress confirmed her nomination by President Joe Biden to head the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI), making her the first American Indian to be a cabinet secretary. Haaland, a citizen of the Laguna Pueblo in New Mexico, is the 54th United States Secretary of the Interior. She was officially sworn in by DOI Chief of Staff Jennifer Van der Heide on March 16.

Many in Indian Country are elated that someone with intimate knowledge of the special government-to-government relationships, obligations and historical failures between tribes and the federal government is now at the helm of one of the key federal agencies for Indian Country.

“At my confirmation hearing, I said that we all have a stake in the future of our country. No matter your political party or Zip code, your ancestral heritage or



**U.S. Secretary of the Interior Debra Haaland**

income level, we all must take the formidable challenges that lie ahead seriously, and we will take them head-on, together,” Haaland said in a prepared statement. “I am proud and humbled to lead the dedicated team at Interior as we seek to leave a livable planet for future generations. Together, we will work to advance President Biden’s vision to honor our nation-to-nation relationship

with tribes, address the climate and nature crises, advance environmental justice and build a clean energy future that creates good-paying jobs and powers our nation. The change we need will take hard work and perseverance, but I know that together there is nothing we cannot accomplish.

The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) applauded Haaland’s appointment in an announcement calling her confirmation a “watershed moment for Indian Country.”

NCAI President Fawn Sharp said, “The impact of Native American representation at the top of a federal agency that so directly affects our daily lives cannot be overstated, and we congratulate Secretary Haaland on this historic achievement. The relationship between tribal nations and the federal government has been fractured for far too long. Having an ally like Secretary Haaland who is not only deeply qualified but is from our communities has the potential to transform

the government-to-government relationship and will be vital in advancing Native American issues for generations. We are grateful to President Biden for her nomination to the post, to the Senate for their support and to everyone in Indian Country who supported Secretary Haaland in this historic journey. Most importantly, we are grateful to Secretary Haaland’s history-making commitment to serve and look forward to working with her in her new role.”

Haaland resigned as House representative for the First Congressional District of New Mexico on March 16 but her staff continue office functions under the supervision of Clerk of the House of Representatives Cheryl L. Johnson.

Her biographical information on the DOI website paints a picture of a woman of resolve and determination. She was born in Winslow, Ariz., into a military family on Dec. 2, 1960, attending 13 public schools before graduating from Highland High School

in Albuquerque, N.M. For a time, she volunteered at her child’s preschool so she could afford the early childhood education and relied on food stamps. She struggled to get through college and, when she was 28, enrolled in the University of New Mexico earning a bachelor’s in English and later on a juris doctorate.

Her child also graduated from the University of New Mexico and both are still paying off student loans. Haaland owned and operated a small Pueblo Salsa business and served as a tribal administrator for the San Felipe Pueblo and as the first woman to serve on the Laguna Pueblo Development Corporation Board of Directors.

She also became the first American Indian woman elected to lead a state political party. While serving in Congress, she focused on matters concerning environmental justice, climate change, missing and murdered indigenous women and family friendly policies.

## Sault Tribe Summer 2021 Internship Program applications due by May 14

The Sault Tribe Internship Program is intended to be an exciting experience providing Sault Tribe member college students with an opportunity to learn more about the Sault Tribe and gain practical experience in their chosen field of study. Interns will work approximately four days per week at their assigned placement and approximately one day per week will be spent attending

Leadership seminars and career development workshops. In addition, interns will be divided into teams and will compete in challenges involving special projects; for example, designing and implementing a fundraising event. Interns will have the opportunity to interact with the tribal board of directors, executive administrators and program directors.

Potential internship locations

include communications, language and cultural, education, fiscal services, fisheries, health, housing, judicial services, Kewadin Casinos, law enforcement, MIS, recreation, social services, tribal administration and tribal enterprises.

The internship program runs from June 28 to Aug. 20. The wage is \$12.50 per hour with a schedule of Monday-Friday with

some special events occurring on weekends or after a typical work day.

Interns are expected to make their own arrangements for housing. There are low cost, short-term rentals available in the Sault Ste. Marie area and referral information will be provided to successful candidates.

Applications are available online at saulttribe.com and at

the Administrative Building, 523 Ashmun St., Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783. The deadline to apply is Friday, May 14, at 5 p.m. Submission requirements are the completed application, advisor recommendation, transcripts, verification of tribal membership and essay.

Point of contact is the tribe’s assistant executive director’s office, (906) 635-6050.

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## TOURNAMENTS

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Manistique - Wednesdays & Thursdays

Hessel - Mondays & Tuesdays

Daily Prize Pool 25,000 Bonus Points

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

# Member with Tourette syndrome joins federal board

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

Sault Tribe member Jerry Gidner has recently joined the board of directors of the Tourette Association of America (TAA), the only national nonprofit organization serving the Tourette syndrome (TS) and tic disorder community.

Gidner, who has Tourette syndrome, has served throughout the Department of the Interior (DOI) in a variety of capacities including as the deputy bureau director for Indian Services, director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, deputy chief learning officer for the department, senior policy advisor in the Office of Natural Resources Revenue, principal deputy special trustee for American Indians, acting special trustee for the Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians, and director of Bureau of Trust Funds Administration.

Gidner said, “Recently I came to realize that I might be the highest-ranking federal career employee with Tourette syndrome. With that realization came a burning desire to be a better role model to those coming up behind me, whether they are the middle school kids being shoved in the hallway or a junior employee trying to navigate an unforgiving workplace. I am still figuring out exactly how to do that.”

Gidner holds a law degree and a master’s degree in natural resources policy and management from the University of Michigan and an MBA from American University. He received his bachelor’s degree in zoology from Michigan State University. Gidner is also a published writer.

Win Awenen Nisitotung (WAN) asked Gidner a few questions, here are his answers:

**WAN:** Have you ever visited the Sault area? Did you grow up learning about or practicing your tribal heritage and culture?

**Gidner:** “I did not grow up in the Sault, but I have been there a number of times. My parents were both from Michigan. My mom, a Sault tribe member, grew up around Petoskey, and by the time I came along her parents lived in Topinabee, between Burt and Mullet lakes, about 30 miles south of the bridge. My dad was from Potterville, southwest of Lansing. They met as students at Michigan State. I grew up outside of Philadelphia, where my dad worked for Boeing, but we moved to Michigan just after my senior year of high school, and I attended Michigan State myself.

“Growing up, we knew that my mom was Native on her mother’s side. That was hugely important to my mom, my sister and myself, but we didn’t know much about our ancestor. Over time, my mom and grandmother pieced together the puzzle, and we found out a lot about our ancestor, Catherine Andress, who was my grandmother’s grandmother.

“Fifteen years of my career have been with federal agencies serving Natives and Native communities, so I work every day with Natives from numerous tribes, and have had the pleasure of visiting dozens of reservations and working with tribal leaders



and citizens from all over the country.”

**WAN:** Can you explain Tourette’s disease, and how it has impacted your life?

**Gidner:** “Tourette syndrome is not actually a disease. It’s best characterized as a neurological disorder, that might affect 1 in 100 people. Let’s say there are three million Natives in the United States. That means there are 30,000 of us with Tourette syndrome.

“People with Tourette, or TS, as a lot of us call it, have uncontrollable motor tics (blinking, grimacing, finger twitching, all the way to jumping, hopping, patting the top of your head, etc.) and vocal tics (sniffing, coughing, repeating words, saying random words, swearing, etc.). You are born with it, although symptoms won’t typically show up until you are least five or so. Mine didn’t really start until I was around nine years old. Given the range of possible tics, it’s different for everyone who has it. The tics can be moderate to severe. Some people tic so hard they break bones! I don’t do that, but after 51 years of non-stop ticcing, I definitely have body parts that are chronically sore. Imagine twitching your toes 10 times a minute, all day, every day, for more than five decades. Yes, my feet hurt.

“There is no cure and it’s not contagious. Oddly enough though, if you have TS and watch someone else with a tic, you can pick up that tic and start doing it yourself. There are some medicines that can lessen the tics for some people. But none of them are designed to treat Tourette Syndrome. They are designed for other conditions, but have been found to be of some help. Many of them have severe adverse side effects, though, so a lot of people with TS decide to live with the tics instead. One of the most effective treatments is CBIT, or Comprehensive Behavioral Therapy for Tics, which is basically being aware of the urges that precede a tic, and then training your body to do something besides tic. It’s hard, and there are not that many people trained to provide that therapy, so it doesn’t help that many people yet. I would imagine that across Indian Country, Tourette syndrome is often undiagnosed and untreated.”

**WAN:** How did you become interested/aware of career positions within the federal government? Are you still with the DOI in some capacity?

**Gidner:** “After Michigan State, I went to the University of Michigan, where I got a law degree and a master’s in natural resources policy. My wife and I wanted to go somewhere we

could both work in the environmental field, and we thought we would try Washington, D.C., for a couple of years, and then move out west somewhere. More than 30 years later, we are still in D.C. I started off with the Environmental Protection Agency, but years ago I had an opportunity to combine my environmental and tribal interests in a job in the Bureau of Indian Affairs environmental program in the Department of the Interior. It was a dream job. Since then, I have held a number of positions in Interior, and became a member of the Senior Executive Service many years ago. I am currently the director of the Bureau of Trust Funds Administration. We manage the funds that are generated when the Bureau of Indian Affairs leases tribal or individual Native lands for oil, gas, agriculture, forestry, etc.”

**WAN:** What made you want to be a board member and represent the TAA? Are you the only Native American who has served

on the TAA board?

**Gidner:** “I have served on the board of a local non-profit children’s theater in Arlington, Virginia, and really enjoyed volunteering that way. I had been hoping to move to a non-profit board at the national level, to see if I could have more impact. Over time I started having discussions with staff at the Tourette Association of America. Since it’s a national non-profit, and obviously helps with an issue near and dear to my heart, I thought it would be a great organization for me to engage with. I inquired about board positions, and several months later, here I am.

“Also, I can tell you from painful experience that kids with TS get shoved in school hallways, teased on the playgrounds, called names, get mimicked to their faces. It’s not fun. In fact, it’s brutal and dangerous. Having survived all the bullying and stigma that comes with having Tourette Syndrome, and having a very successful career, I really wanted

to be a role model for all the kids coming up behind me. I decided that I might be able to use my position on the TAA Board of Directors to be a resource for kids, particularly Native kids, with Tourette. I couldn’t pass up that opportunity.

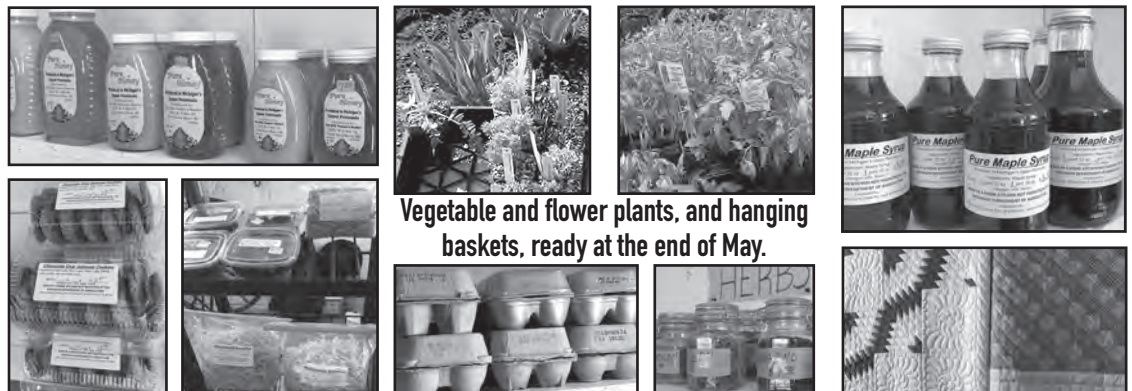
“As far as I know, I am the only Native ever to serve on the TAA board. One thing the TAA wants to do is bring more awareness and treatment to underserved populations, and I hope I can be an ambassador to help bring that awareness to Indian Country.”

**WAN:** What books have you published? Where are they available for sale?

**Gidner:** I currently have one book published. It’s called, *If You Were an Aardvark: An ABC Book Starring Mammals*. It’s available through Xlibris.com as a hardcover and paperback. It is also available as an ebook and paperback on Amazon. I am also working on a fantasy series; some of my writing can be viewed at [www.jerrygidner.com](http://www.jerrygidner.com).

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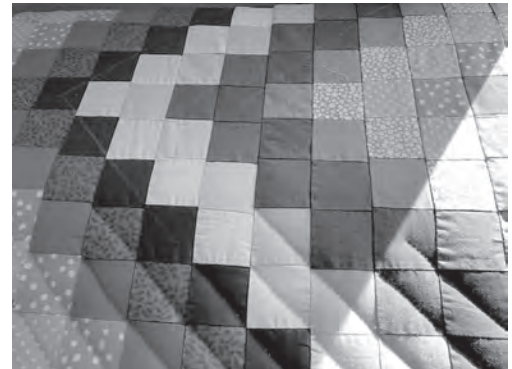
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# Anishinaabemowin 2021

by Susan Askwith

## Namebin Giizis Sucker Moon



Suckers are the first fish to return here to spawn in the spring. They come in large numbers; we're grateful for the nourishing food they provide.

Take a walk in the forest and smell the wild air. (unknown)

**Aanii kina waya!**  
(aa-nii ki-na way-a)\*  
Hello everyone!

**N'gchi-nendam ka waabminaan miinwaa.**  
n-gi-chi-nen-dam ka waab-min-aan miin-waa.  
I'm happy to see you again.

**Nimkii Nimosh ndi zhinikaaz.**  
nim-kii ni-mosh n-di zhin-i-kaaz  
Thunder Dog is my name.

\*underlined italic syllables are stressed when you say them

**Skekshaa!**  
s-kek-shaa!  
Look!

**Wegonesh wi?**  
we-go-nesh wi?  
What is that?

**N'bishigendaan**  
n-bi-shi-gen-daan  
**e-bijmaanijige'aanh.**  
e-bij-maan-ji-ge-aanh  
I like smelling things.

**Nooj gegoo nda mnomaandaanan**  
nooj ge-goo n-da min-o-  
maan-daan-an  
I like the smell of all  
sorts of things.



**Kina gegoo nda mbazhigoog.**  
ki-na ge-goo n-da m-ba-zhi-  
goog.  
Everything interests me.

**Nda mbazhig wi.**  
n-da m-ba-zhig wi.  
It interests me.

**N'wii oo baamase mitigwaakiing.**  
n-wii oo baa-ma-se mi-tig-waa-kiing.  
I plan to go for a walk in the woods.

**K'wii baa wijiww na?**  
k-wii baa wii-jiww na  
Do you want to go (together) with me?

**Baamase-daa miikaanhasing.**  
baa-ma-se-daa mii-kaanh-sing.  
Let's walk on the trail.

**Minamaagwat noodin.**  
mi-na-maag-wat noo-din.  
The air smells good.

**Aanin gegoo nchiwmaasowag gegeti.**  
Aa-nin ge-goo n-chii-w-maa-so-wag ge-  
ge-ti.  
Some things smell bad of course.

**N'debiz!**  
n-de-biz!  
I'm lucky!

**N'gchi-nendam!**  
n-gi-chi-nen-dam!  
I'm in good spirits!

Draw lines to connect the Nishinaabemowin word on the left to the Zhaaganaashimowin (English) word on the right!

Miinwaa  
Gegeti  
Kina gegoo  
Nimkii  
Aanii  
N'gchi nendam  
N'debiz  
Giizis  
Baamase  
Nchiwmaasowag  
Wijiww  
Aanin  
Nimosh  
Noodin  
Wi  
N'bishigendaan  
Namebin  
Skekshaa

Some  
Together  
Moon  
I am lucky  
Everything  
Dog  
Air (or wind)  
I am in good spirits  
Sucker  
Look!  
Hello  
Again (or "and")  
That  
Of course  
It smells bad  
I like it  
Thunder  
Walk

### Strategy for learning . .

We hope you can find words and phrases here that will be useful to you in your daily living. Pick your favorites. Put them on a note for your pocket or on your cell phone. Repetition is the name of the game. Use the pronunciation "helps" here.

Don't get overwhelmed. Get one or two under your belt then go for the next couple. Have fun with it, play and laugh, and you will succeed!

### Our Nishnaabe psychology!

N'gchi-nendam (I'm in good spirits, I'm glad, I'm happy) literally translates as "I have big thoughts." When we have sad or worried or angry thoughts, our world seems to narrow down and focus on hurtfulness.

When we're happy our thoughts are as wide as the sky - open and clear. We indeed have big thoughts then, and our language expresses that.

The next step of *course* (*gegeti*) is to find little nuggets of positivity and goodness that open us up. May you find many of them!

**What did one eye say to the other eye?**

*Between you and me, something smells.*

**Did you see the dog's new outfit?**

*It was quite fetching.*

**What kind of construction are dogs best at?**

*Roofing.*

**Mistakes happen.**

*No need to terrier-self up about it.*

**How are these dog puns?**

*Some of them are ruff, but a few of them have pet-tential.*

**Making our sounds** Most letters sound like in English.

Here are the exceptions.

**aa** sounds like the a in *awful*

**a** sounds like the a in *tuba*

**ii** sounds like the e in *be*

**i** sounds like the i in *sip*

**oo** sounds like the o in *go*

**o** sounds like the oo's in *wood*

**e** sounds like the e in *end*

**g** sounds **ONLY** like it does in *go*

Pronounce all the letters. *Italic type* will tell you which word-parts to stress. No italics in a word means the parts have equal stress. Long words are broken up with dashes (-); still, say each word smoothly. And notice "nh" has **NO SOUND** of its own. It is a sign to say the vowels just before it "through your nose."

# Interior Department welcomes president's *American Jobs Plan*

WASHINGTON – The Department of the Interior (DOI) recently applauded President Biden's proposed *American Jobs Plan*, a bold proposal that will bolster the nation's infrastructure and create millions of good-paying jobs. The plan contains several provisions that would fund DOI initiatives seeking to address the climate crisis, advance environmental justice, honor our nation-to-nation relationship with American Indian tribes and invest in a clean energy future.

"The *American Jobs Plan*

represents an historic investment in the American people, and in particular tribal and rural communities. From plugging orphan oil and gas wells and cleaning up abandoned mines to creating a new Civilian Climate Corps, Interior stands ready to support this sweeping effort to create millions of good-paying jobs, rebuild our country's infrastructure and address our pressing climate challenges," said DOI Secretary Deb Haaland.

The *American Jobs Plan* calls for investing \$16 billion to put

hundreds of thousands to work in union jobs plugging oil and gas wells and restoring and reclaiming abandoned coal, hard-rock and uranium mines. In addition to creating good jobs in hard-hit communities, this investment will reduce the methane and brine that leaks from those wells, just as we invest in reducing leaks from other sources like aging pipes and distribution systems.

Fulfilling the president's commitment to addressing the nation's climate crisis, the plan also calls for establishing

a Civilian Climate Corps, a \$10 billion effort to put a new generation of Americans to work conserving and restoring public lands and waters, increasing reforestation, increasing carbon sequestration in the agricultural sector, protecting biodiversity, improving access to recreation and addressing the changing climate.

The *American Jobs Plan* will also support our nation's rural and tribal communities by targeting funding as part of broader investments to expand

broadband coverage and improve roads, bridges and water systems, and a \$5 billion Rural Partnership Program for economic development in rural regions, including tribal nations.

This plan comes after the passage of the *American Rescue Plan*, which contains several provisions that fund DOI initiatives and benefit the communities we directly serve, including tribal governments and schools, and investment in addressing wildlife-related pandemic concerns.

# Bill would establish national Native languages resource center

**By Rick Smith**

A bill recently introduced in the U.S. Congress would support revitalization of Indigenous American languages and help the federal government fulfill trust responsibilities established in 1990 by the passage of the *Native American Languages Act*. The new bill, titled the *Native American Languages Resource Center Act of 2021*, would authorize a national Native American languages resource center to help interested federal, tribal, state, territory and local governments and educational institutions to spread international best practices in indigenous language revital-

ization.

According to congressional records, the 1990 law rejected past U.S. policies of eradicating American Indian languages and declared a policy to preserve, protect and promote the rights and freedoms of American Indians to use and promote their own languages. The new bill would enable the federal government to be actively involved in furthering the policies set forth in the 1990 law with the establishment of a national resource center.

The bill also calls for the identification of barriers to Native American languages education and learning within federal laws

and actions needed to align federal policies with the *Native American Languages Act of 1990*. It also encourages and supports the inclusion of Native American language instruction in curricula of preschool programs through to institutions of higher education as other languages are taught.

Guidance is also given to support the development of appropriate teacher preparation programs including appropriate alternative paths to teacher certification. The center would provide technology resources for using various types of educational programs in teaching Native American languages

by governmental and private entities and a means of assorted other

needs to improve the capacity to teach the languages.

# Meeting social-emotional needs of students, families

LANSING, Mich. – The National Governors Association (NGA) will collaborate with Michigan and five other states on strategies for equitably meeting the social-emotional needs of students and families during and beyond COVID-19.

The NGA Center for Best Practices recently announced it has selected the six states for technical assistance from its staff and national and state partners, as well as grant support to develop and carry out action plans focused on one or more specific state policy priorities related to students' social-emotional development during and beyond COVID-19. In addition, governors' offices will engage with and learn from peers and national and state experts to advance their policy priorities.

Michigan's project is centered on informing and implementing recommendations from Governor Gretchen Whitmer's cross-agency, cross-sector Student Recovery Advisory Council. The council is identifying strategies for Michigan to ensure students have the tools and resources they need to get back on track.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has been hard on all Michiganders, especially our young people. As we continue to reopen school buildings and vaccinate more people every day, we need a comprehensive recovery plan to support students' academic and social emotional needs," said Whitmer. "This partnership with the National Governors Association will strengthen our efforts to support each and every young person in a comprehensive recovery."

The initiative comes as students and their families confront fear, anxiety, trauma, isolation and stress during COVID-19, as well as growing public concern about economic instability and persistent racial inequities. Governors have

increasingly emphasized and prioritized the importance of addressing the holistic needs of students as schools reopen.

The rapid shift to remote learning brought on by widespread school closures in the spring of 2020 amplified the importance of creating positive and equitable learning environments; building and sustaining strong relationships and engagement among students, their peers and teachers; and meeting the unique needs of all students,

including students with disabilities, English learners and those experiencing homelessness.

The pandemic has also highlighted the need for comprehensive whole child approaches to education grounded in the science of learning and development, including support strategies such as community schools, wraparound services, and parent, family, student and community engagement. NGA's work with the six states will run through March 2022.

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The Miller Family Farm is looking for health conscious partners to secure a share of the farm's bounty in 2021. Boxes will begin the week of June 28, 2021, and continue for 16 weeks to Oct. 18 and be ready for pick up at a central location.

Spots secured and paid for by June 1 will receive a priority status.

Discount price of:

- \$475 for a family box – feeds 4-6 people (\$85 savings)
- \$350 for an individual box – feeds 1-3 people (\$50 savings)
- Bonus item each month (i.e. eggs, fresh bread or jam)



To sign up, stop by The Journey Matters, 545 Ashmun St. in the Sault, visit the Miller Family Farm at 845 W. 6 Mile Rd., email [jdebruler@att.net](mailto:jdebruler@att.net), or call (616) 558-9958.

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# FEMA to help pay funeral costs related to COVID-19

WASHINGTON, D.C. – FEMA began processing applications for funeral assistance on April 12, helping ease some of the financial stress created by the COVID-19 pandemic. FEMA is providing financial assistance for COVID-19-related funeral expenses incurred after Jan. 20, 2020, under the *Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021* and the *American Rescue Plan Act of 2021*.

The call center received thousands of calls on the first morning, which caused some technical issues. Some applicants are reaching operators, while others are receiving a busy signal. We ask that applicants be patient as we work to correct these issues and have all their important documents ready when they call to apply. There is no deadline to apply and applicants will have the ability to open a case.

Applicants may apply by call-

**Fraud alert: We have received reports of scammers reaching out to people offering to register them for funeral assistance. FEMA has not sent any such notifications and we do not contact people prior to them registering for assistance.**

ing (844) 684-6333 (TTY: 800-462-7585) from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. EDT, Monday through Friday. Multilingual services are available.

To be eligible for funeral assistance, applicants must meet these conditions:

The death must have occurred in the United States. The applicant must be a U.S. citizen, non-citizen national or qualified alien who incurred funeral expenses after Jan. 20, 2020. The death certificate must indicate the death was attributed to COVID-19. There is no requirement for the deceased person to have been a U.S. citizen, non-citizen nation-

al or qualified alien.

For the fastest service, after you have called to apply, submit documentation online through [Disasterassistance.gov](https://www.disasterassistance.gov), or by fax (855) 261-3452. Documents may also be mailed to COVID-19 Funeral Assistance, P.O. Box 10001 Hyattsville, MD 20782.

Applicants can also visit [FEMA.gov/funeral-assistance/faq](https://www.fema.gov/funeral-assistance/faq). Information is provided in several languages both by telephone and the website.

# Pursuing justice for missing or murdered Indigenous victims

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland recently announced the formation of a new Missing and Murdered Unit (MMU) in the Bureau of Indian Affairs Office of Justice Services (BIA-OJS) to provide leadership and direction for cross-departmental and interagency work involving missing and murdered American Indians and Alaska Natives. The unit will help put the full weight of the federal government into investigating these cases and marshal law enforcement resources across federal agencies and throughout Indian country.

“Violence against Indigenous peoples is a crisis that has been underfunded for decades. Far

too often, murders and missing persons cases in Indian Country go unsolved and unaddressed, leaving families and communities devastated,” said Haaland. “The new MMU will provide the resources and leadership to prioritize these cases and coordinate resources to hold people accountable, keep our communities safe, and provide closure for families.”

Approximately 1,500 American Indian and Alaska Native missing persons have been entered into the National Crime Information Center throughout the U.S., and approximately 2,700 cases of murder and non-negligent homicide offenses have been reported

to the federal government’s Uniform Crime Reporting Program.

A task force on Missing and Murdered American Indians and Alaska Natives — Operation Lady Justice — was formed in 2019 to pursue these unresolved cases. The announcement builds on that work by designating new leadership and support positions, including a unit chief responsible for stakeholder collaboration, continued policy development and overall performance of the unit. The department is also designating new positions with existing federal funding to support the investigative needs of the MMU, including the collection and analysis of performance

data and coordination of services with the families of victims.

Investigations remain unsolved often due to a lack of investigative resources available to identify new information from witness testimony, re-examine new or retained material evidence and review fresh activities of suspects. The MMU, in addition to reviewing unsolved cases, will immediately begin working with tribal, BIA and FBI investigators on active Missing and Murdered investigations.

The MMU will also enable the department to expand its collaborative efforts with other agencies, such as working to enhance the DOJ’s National

Missing and Unidentified Persons System, and developing strategic partnerships with additional stakeholders such as the FBI’s behavioral analysis units, forensic laboratory, the U.S. Marshals’ Missing Child Unit and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

“Whether it’s a missing family member or a homicide investigation, these efforts will be all hands-on deck,” Haaland continued. “We are fully committed to assisting tribal communities with these investigations and the MMU will leverage every resource available to be a force-multiplier in preventing these cases from becoming cold case investigations.”

# EPA to hold listening sessions on impacts of lead exposure

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently announced coming public listening sessions and roundtables to ensure that communities and stakeholders have the opportunity to provide their perspectives to the agency on protections from lead in drinking water. The impact of lead exposure, including through drinking water, is a public health issue of paramount importance and its adverse effects on children and public health are serious and well known. The goal of public engagement is to obtain further input on EPA’s lead and copper rule revisions, including from individuals and communities that are most at-risk of exposure to lead in drinking water.

“Lower income communities and communities of color are often

disproportionately exposed to lead, which can cause life-long negative effects,” said EPA Administrator Michael S. Regan. “We are inviting these communities and other stakeholders to share their perspectives so that EPA can ensure its review of the revised lead and copper rule is grounded in their lived experiences.”

Virtual public listening sessions will be on April 28, 2021, and May 5, 2021, from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., eastern daylight time. Those interested in speaking can sign up for a three-minute speaking slot on EPA’s website at [www.epa.gov/safewater](https://www.epa.gov/safewater).

During this event, registered members of the public will be provided the opportunity to share their thoughts and concerns about the impact of lead in their community

as it relates to the rule revisions with EPA senior officials and managers.

EPA will then host community-focused virtual roundtables, starting in May of 2021. The roundtables will facilitate discussion of their unique perspectives on rule revision related topics among EPA and local organizations including but not limited to, local government entities, public water utilities, community-organized groups, environmental groups and elected officials.

Starting in June of 2021, EPA will also host virtual roundtables with other important stakeholder

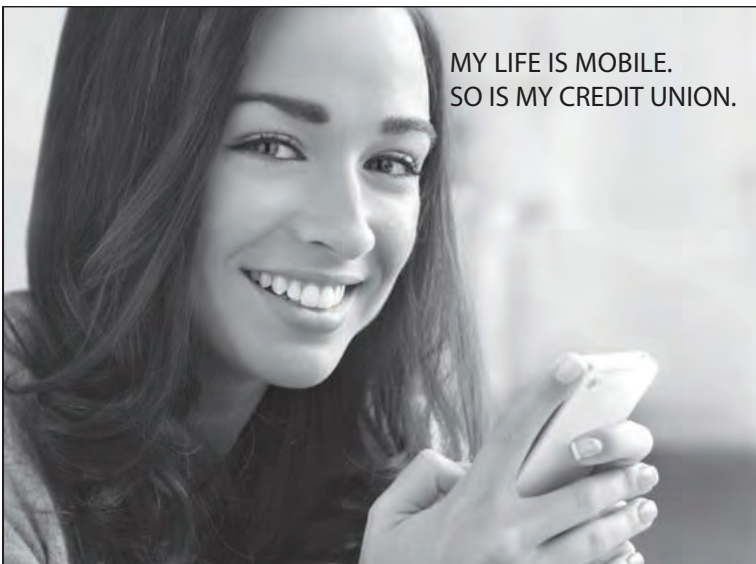
groups, including drinking water utilities, intergovernmental associations, environmental organizations, environmental justice organizations, public health organizations and consumer associations. These stakeholder roundtables will allow representatives of national organizations to discuss revision-related topics and provide their national perspective to the agency. Finally, EPA also intends to host a national co-regulator meeting with primacy agencies (e.g., states, tribes and territories) in July 2021 to discuss the feedback received from communities and stakeholders.

EPA requests that communities

or organizations that would like to be considered for a community-focused or stakeholder roundtable, submit a nomination letter to the agency not later than April 23, 2021.

Members of the public who are unable to attend any of the events will be able to submit comments via the docket at [http://www.regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov), docket identification EPA-HQ-OW-2021-0255, until June 30, 2021.

For details on what should be included in the nomination letters, meeting materials, and for additional event details, visit [www.epa.gov/safewater](https://www.epa.gov/safewater).



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your address.





# EPA releases updated tool to protect recreational waters

WASHINGTON, D. C. – The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently released an improved web-based app to help communities identify potential sources of pollution to recreational waters.

This science-based and data-informed tool empowers communities and supports engagement in local decisions in protecting the health of swimmers and recreators from contaminants at lakes, rivers and beaches while supporting the vitality of water-based economies.

“Everyone has a role in protecting public health and the environment. With EPA’s new app, community members can play a part in ensuring safer recreation and cleaner drinking water sources,” said Director of EPA’s Office of Science and Technology Deborah Nagle.

She added, “Real-time, high-quality data help improve prioritization of remediation actions and the development of models that would support same-day decisions on swimming advisories.”

EPA’s new *Sanitary Survey*

*App for Marine and Fresh Waters* is designed to help protect swimmers and other recreators while improving management decisions that can help keep recreational waters open for use.

EPA recognizes the role of community participation in supporting robust water quality datasets. This tool can help citizen scientists provide data on sources of pollution in a watershed and information on potential harmful algal blooms in surface waters that public health officials need to protect a com-

munity. These efforts can also ultimately promote safe public access to urban waterways and lead to aquatic ecosystem restoration.

While previous versions of the app focused on marine waters, this improved version has been expanded to include monitoring for fresh waters.

Additionally, it has new functions including photo storage, geolocation data and links to weather-related websites.

The web-based app does not require the use of the Internet or WiFi to use. The agency will

be conducting free, live training webinars between late April and late May on how to use the app. The dates and pre-registration instructions for the live training webinars are available on EPA’s Beaches website.

Detailed instructions on how to access the app, as well as user manuals and training videos, will also be posted on the website.

For more information, visit <https://www.epa.gov/beach-tech/sanitary-surveys-recreational-waters>.

# Cloverland Electric commits to hydro plant as clean energy fuel source

DAFTER, Mich. – Cloverland Electric continues its commitment to its hydroelectric facility as part of its clean energy fuel mix. With concerns related to the recent power outage event in Texas, the cooperative wants to reassure its members about one of its primary fuel sources that powers 43,000 meters for approximately 34,000 residential and business members of the eastern Upper Peninsula.

“We are fortunate to have hydroelectricity as part of our fuel mix,” said Cloverland’s president and CEO, Mike Heise. “We are committed to ensuring our hydropower serves as a major component of our fuel mix to continue supplying our cooperative members with affordable, clean energy.”

Heise explains that the 119-year-old facility is one of Cloverland’s greatest assets that produces approximately 30 percent of the cooperative’s power in addition to the approximate 20 percent produced through the hydro plant at the Corps of Engineers. Together, this renewable fuel source keeps rates low for the cooperative’s members, particularly when compared to other utilities in the Upper Peninsula.

To safeguard the historic

hydroelectric structure and the energy it produces, the cooperative invested in measures to assure it is functioning economically, safely and at its fullest capacity. To ensure the best value for its members, the cooperative recently commissioned a comprehensive hydro facility analysis with Barr Engineering Company, headquartered in Minneapolis, Minn., Completed in December 2020, this study evaluated every extent of the hydro facility from the intake of the canal to the hydro dam and all civil works along the 2 ¼ mile canal. In addition, this study assessed the current condition of the facility and ongoing maintenance and capital projects.

“Using best industry practices, Barr Engineering provided recommendations and developed long-term capital and maintenance recommendations to ensure safe and economical operation of the hydro facility for decades to come,” said Cloverland’s director of generation, Roger Line.

An additional study scheduled to begin this year will analyze existing turbine/generator equipment and perform a cost/benefit analysis of equipment upgrades. This analysis will assure that the cooperative maximizes its energy

value from every gallon of water passing through the plant.

Cloverland Electric Cooperative stands committed to its mission of delivering exceptional services through the generation and safe delivery of reliable and affordable energy solutions that encourage growth, foster innovation and strengthen the communities we serve.

Cloverland Electric Cooperative is a not-for-profit, member-owned utility in Michigan’s eastern Upper Peninsula that energizes 43,000 meters for 34,000 residential and businesses members in Chippewa, Mackinac, Luce, Schoolcraft and Delta counties.

# Dashboard to track Rebuilding Michigan progress launched

LANSING, Mich. – Governor Gretchen Whitmer launched a new dashboard in collaboration with the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) to track road projects and make information easily accessible to the public as construction continues under the governor’s Rebuilding Michigan program. The program will finance new projects throughout the state and free up funding to expand the scope of other projects or reduce construction times. The new dashboard will be

available at [Michigan.gov/RebuildingMichigan](http://Michigan.gov/RebuildingMichigan).

“As we continue to invest in better roads and bridges under the Rebuilding Michigan program, this new dashboard will be important to ensure our efforts to fix the damn roads remain on time and on budget,” said Governor Whitmer. “The Rebuilding Michigan plan is financed without an increase at the gas pump, and it’ll help jumpstart our economy by creating thousands of good-paying construction jobs.”



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# Sault Area Public Schools Summer Programs

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**Summer Reading & Math Program**  
June 14 – August 5, 2021  
9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

**Grades 5-12**  
**Summer CAMP - Boys & Girls Club**  
June 14 – August 6, 2021  
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

**Grades 10-12**  
**Summer Credit Recovery Program**  
June 14 – August 6, 2021  
Monday – Thursday,  
9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

**Special Education - Extended School Year**  
June 14 - July 22, 2021, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.



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# Child Advocacy Center gets forensic interview vehicle

BY RICK SMITH

A ribbon cutting ceremony conducted on April 13 at the Niigaanagizhik Ceremonial Building in Sault Ste. Marie introduced the new Sault Tribe Advocacy Resource Center (ARC) mobile Child Advocacy Center forensic interview vehicle.

Using U.S. Department of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime grant funding and following a formal bid process, the mobile unit was custom built by a recreation vehicle firm in Colorado.

According to ARC Director Jami Moran, the vehicle began as a vision back in 2017 and the ARC submitted a project proposal under a Tribal Victim Set Aside grant solicitation in 2018. Notification came later that the project would be funded beginning in 2019. The COVID-19 pandemic caused many unavoidable delays, but all the work to

acquire the mobile unit came to fruition when it was delivered from the Colorado manufacturing facility to Sault Ste. Marie during March 2021.

“It will be used by project partners of the Eastern Upper Peninsula Child Advocacy Center who are all dedicated towards the provision of trauma informed services to children who must be interviewed due to their involvement with physical and sexual assault investigations,” said Moran.

Sault Tribe Board Unit II Director Lana Causley-Smith expressed great pride and appreciation to all involved for their dedication and hard work in acquisition of the mobile unit. She said the unit will provide a way for children to feel safe and comfortable during difficult times and demonstrates the tribal organization’s continued commitment to serve members and their families.



Photo by Rick Smith

**Celebrating the new Sault Tribe Advocacy Resource Center (ARC) mobile Child Advocacy Center forensic interview vehicle. Sault Tribe board members, above, cutting the ribbon, from left, Unit II Director Lana Causley-Smith, Unit I directors Betty Freiheit and Austin Lowes, ARC Director Jami Moran, Unit III Director Keith Massaway, Unit I directors Kim Gravelle and Mike McKerchie and Unit III Director Bridgett Sorenson.**

## April is recognized as Child Abuse Prevention Month

FROM ACFS

April is nationally recognized as Child Abuse Prevention Month. It is observed to raise public awareness about child abuse and neglect. With the current social distancing protocols, and with some school and sports activities cancelled, it is leaving children vulnerable. They become isolated from friends, teachers, coaches and other people who would notice and report the suspicion of abuse or neglect.

According to the data from Michigan’s Department of Health and Human Services, reports of child abuse plunged in the early months of the pandemic when schools switched to virtual learning. Reported cases of child abuse took a 45 percent drop in April and May 2020 compared to the cases reported during these same months in 2019.

As schools reopen the reports of child abuse are picking up, but the numbers still lag by thousands of cases. It is more important than ever to notice the signs of child abuse and neglect, and to be a

### Sault Tribe Appellate Court judge vacancy announcement

The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., is seeking tribal members for the community and elder member positions on their appellate court in its tribal court system. Judges at the appellate court level hear appeals as prescribed by Chapter 82 of the Tribal Code. The successful candidates will be one of five appellate judges. Additional candidates may be appointed as reserve judges.

Pursuant to Tribal Code Chapter 82.134(2)(d), the successful candidate(s) will be based on:

1. Integrity and moral courage
2. Legal ability and experience
3. Intelligence and wisdom
4. Culturally oriented
5. Deliberate and fair minded in reaching decisions
6. Industrious and prompt in performing his or her duties as a judge
7. Personal habits and outside

part of the solution. We all share the responsibility to protect children from abuse and neglect.

Child abuse and neglect often takes place in the home at the hands of a person the child knows well, and could include a parent, grandparent, babysitter, live together partner, or friend of the family. There are four major types of child maltreatment, and many times they occur concurrently. Each state and tribe are responsible for establishing their own definitions of child abuse and neglect that meet federal minimum standards. Most include the following:

— Neglect is failure to provide for a child’s basic needs.

— Physical abuse is physical injury as a result of hitting, kicking, shaking, burning or otherwise harming a child.

— Sexual abuse is any situation where a child is used for sexual gratification. This may include indecent exposure, fondling, rape or commercial exploitation.

— Emotional abuse is any

activities compatible with judicial office

8. Courteous and considerate on the bench

Applicants shall have the highest moral and ethical character; and significant experience and knowledge of the tribe and its history and culture.

Application deadline is: May 13, 2021.

Applications can be found at [www.saulttribe.com](http://www.saulttribe.com), under government/tribal court tab, downloads section, or by contacting the court below.

Qualified candidates should send a letter of interest, resume and completed application to:

Sault Ste. Marie Chippewa Tribal Court  
Attn: Traci Swan  
2175 Shunk Road  
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783  
Telephone: (906) 635-7747  
Or by E-mail: [tswan@saulttribe.net](mailto:tswan@saulttribe.net)

pattern of behavior that impairs a child’s emotional development of sense of self-worth, including constant criticism, threats and rejection.

How can I help?

— Be a nurturing parent, children need to know that they are loved and capable.

— Parenting isn’t easy, help a friend, neighbor or relative when needed.

— Help yourself, take a break when you need one.

— Get involved in your community to help meet the needs of children and families.

— Report suspected abuse or neglect

Making a report of suspected abuse or neglect can often lead

to getting parents and children the necessary services and assistance to improve their current circumstances and ensure a safe environment for the entire family. Parenting is one of the toughest and most important jobs. We all have a stake in ensuring parents have access to the support they need to be successful.

There are a number of family support programs offered through Anishnaabek Community and Family Services (ACFS) to assist children and families in the tribe’s seven-county service area. The primary goal of these programs is to help parents of tribal children with a variety of resources and support to ensure their children are safe, protected and cared for.

If you or someone you know is interested in learning more about family support programs or requesting services offered through ACFS, please call (800) 726-0093 or 632-5250.

To report a case of suspected abuse or neglect of a child, please contact the Michigan Department of Human Services, Child Protective Services 24-hour intake hotline at (855) 444-3911 or Anishnaabek Community and Family Services at (800) 726-0093. All calls are confidential and reporting sources are protected by law.

Your help is essential in order for children, families and communities to get the help they need and start to heal.

#### TRIBAL MEMBER REGISTRATION IN THE TAX AGREEMENT AREA

##### TRIBAL MEMBERS’ RESPONSIBILITIES

(Including the Issuance of Certificates of Exemptions)

##### INITIAL REGISTRATION AND OR CHANGE OF ADDRESS

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

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

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

##### CERTIFICATE OF EXEMPTIONS

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

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

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

# Kevin Leonard, Ph.D., accepts assistant director post

Dr. Kevin P. Leonard was recently hired as the new assistant director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) for the Office of Admissions, Student Life and Inclusivity in the College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM) at Michigan State University. In this role, he will strategically lead DEI work in the MSU CVM with an emphasis on the recruitment and retention of diverse students, faculty and staff; examination of the curriculum and co-curricular programs to ensure best DEI practices and

the promotion of a culturally competent CVM culture.

Prior to taking on his role at the College of Veterinary Medicine, he served as senior program coordinator with the MSU Multicultural Business Programs in the Eli Broad College of Business. Leonard provided academic advising, promoted internship opportunities,



coordinated tutorial programs and supervised a staff of 30 tutors who provided services to minoritized business students. Leonard also has an extensive portfolio in enrollment management, as he previously served at Olivet College as the director of admissions.

He has received awards for leadership and service from MSU and his community, the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. His given name is Waabshka Mai'ingan N'Dishnihcoz Migizi Doodem, "White

Wolf is who I am, and Eagle is my Clan."

Leonard also serves as president of Educating Anishinaabe: Giving, Learning and Empowering (EAGLE) the Native faculty/staff association at MSU and as executive board member for Coalition of Racial and Ethnic Minorities (CoREM).

"Becoming the assistant director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion for the College of Veterinary Medicine at MSU is a great honor," Leonard said. "I am extremely passionate about

DEI work and this position provides me with the opportunity to use my 20-plus years of experience in outreach, recruitment, retention and placement to continue and expand on the phenomenal DEI work started by my colleague, mentor and now supervisor, Dr. Hilda Mejia Abreu (associate dean of Admissions, Student Life and Inclusivity). I am humbled to have this opportunity and look forward to serving the faculty, staff and students of CVM."

# Bringing awareness of missing persons in Indian Country

*Correction: WAN is rerunning this article because of missing text in the last issue.*

**BY JESSICA GILLOTTE-KING**  
The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indian's Advocacy Resource Center (ARC) wants to ensure continued awareness surrounding the epidemic of missing persons occurring in Indian Country. Typically, one day in February and the month of May is dedicated to Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women (MMIW) Awareness; however, with the staggering amount of recently updated information and resources being made available to support families in their search for missing family members, the ARC would like to take this opportunity to dedicate March 2021 to Missing Person Awareness.

On average, 600,000 people go missing each year. Often, missing persons are runaways, victims of crime, or simply just vanish. Currently, Michigan has 3, 923 people reported missing. Among those missing are our mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters, children, friends and loved ones. Although an almost 4,000 missing persons seems like a high number in just Michigan, the number has dropped by nearly 1,000 with new advances in technology, more awareness about the subject and more functional tools to help locate the missing.

Among the many tools available for families of missing loved ones to use is a national website and database called NamUS, which stands for the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System. NamUs is a program that connects criminal justice agencies and families across the nation with information and resources to

This article is dedicated to MMIW Yvonne Renee Scott (nee Jones) who was last seen Jan. 3, 2004, at approximately 11 p.m. in the vicinity of the 2900 block of Clyde Park Ave. SW, in Wyoming, Mich. Yvonne was 31 years old at the time of her disappearance and is married with two sons. Any information about this Sault Tribe member would be welcomed by her family and may be provided to the City of Wyoming Police Department at (616) 530-7335.



**Yvonne Renee (nee Jones) Scott**

With permission from his family, a dedication to Robert "Bob" Dale is also in order. Bob went missing in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., in May 1996 after attending a wedding. On the night of his disappearance, Bob was last seen

by multiple witnesses travelling northbound on Mackinac Trail (H-63) in a van driven by his wife, Kristi, to The Downtowner, a bar in Sault Ste. Marie. He has not been seen or heard from since. Dale left behind a wife and three children, which family members say was out of character, as he is very family-oriented. He did not have more than \$5 or so in his pocket. Any information about Bob Dale can be forwarded to the Sault Ste. Marie Police Department at (906) 632-3344.



**Bob Dale**

If you'd like ARC to share information about a missing family member, message the ARC Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/saulttribeARC](http://www.facebook.com/saulttribeARC). For information, call the ARC at (906) 632-1808.

the Automated Fingerprint Identification System, to scan and identify millions of fingerprints and finds it to be one of the most effective ways to identify missing persons. NamUs has an array of DNA analyses and forensic testing, including nuclear and mitochondrial DNA analyses. NamUs also specializes in forensic odontology (forensic dentistry). Dental records from agencies all over the country can be uploaded and scanned by NamUs to assist in identifying remains of the missing.

Forensic anthropology is another form of human identification that specializes in skeletal

remains. Anthropologists are able to distinguish between historical/archaeological remains and modern remains. They are able to develop biological profiles – such as sex, ancestry, stature and age to aid in searches for possible matches. NamUs is also able to provide a trauma analysis to contribute to cause and manner of death determinations of remains. Family members can submit DNA, dental records, hair samples or other forms of DNA to NamUs to store in its database.

NamUs has a wide array of victim services and is willing to assist families obtain resources for support and mental health care. They provide families with outreach and educational materials, networking with families with similar experiences and reunification services when deceased loved ones are transported home. NamUs also provides assistance with exhumation, transportation of the deceased and re-interment.

Anyone may enter a case or information and use the many services provided by NamUs by simply creating an account at [www.NamUs.gov](http://www.NamUs.gov). If you have a missing loved one and wish to enter infor-

mation into the NamUs database or search the website, it is an easy website to navigate.

The ARC is also developing an MMIP toolkit designed to assist family members of missing persons in the unlikely event that a loved one goes missing. The toolkit will include step-by-step instructions on how to report a missing loved one and how to assist law enforcement with conducting the most thorough investigation. By providing accurate and detailed descriptions of the loved one and maintaining logs of people and places the loved one is known to frequent can be extremely helpful to authorities. The ARC is able to assist family members with printing and distributing missing person flyers in addition to providing other supportive services.

Throughout the month of March, ARC provided helpful information on the its Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/saulttribeARC](http://www.facebook.com/saulttribeARC), along with an awareness display at the Kewadin Casino Art Gallery and at the Sault Ste. Marie Tribal Court building.

Jessica Gillette-King is a community educator for the Advocacy Resource Center.

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# Brandann R. Hill-Mann self-publishes novels

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

Brandann R. Hill-Mann is a Sault Tribe member living in O'ahu, Hawaii, and is the granddaughter of Brimley resident Nancy Hascall and the late Patrick Hascall. She is currently working on her third book and is hoping for a pre-Thanksgiving release date.

As an indie writer, she publishes her novels herself and is responsible for every step from drafting and writing the book to publishing and marketing.

She agreed to answer some questions about her self-publishing journey for *Win Awenen Nisitotung* (WAN).

**WAN:** You have two books published? What are their titles, genre and target age? Where are they for sale?

**Brandann:** "I have two books currently published: *The Hole in the World*, and *Blood of the True Believer* (*The Hole in the World* book 2). They're low fantasy or magical realism by genre. The first is a young adult title, the second a new adult title. "New adult" is a newer category separating young adult (ages 12-18) from adult fiction (late 20s+) and focuses on those cusp years around 19-23, when people would typically be settling into their life.

My third book, *The Dwelling of All Souls* which will be out later this year, will also be in the new adult category.

The premise of the first story is a pair of lifelong best friends, Kahrin and Innes, a skeptic and a believer respectively, encounter the hidden world of magic after a car accident. It challenges their friendship as they try to reconcile what they see with who they know. The story continues into the next book where they are exploring their respective dating lives, and finding that the world of magic follows them everywhere.

They're available for sale anywhere you buy books (Amazon, Barnes & Noble), though you'll have to request them at your local bookstore if they don't already carry them, they should be able to order them for you."

**WAN:** What does it mean to be an indie writer.



**Brandann:** "Think of it a little like any other freelance gig, like coding or journalism, except you're publishing the work yourself. Every step of the book from drafting to marketing post-launch is your job. It's a lot of work, and sometimes makes switching hats challenging. Indie authors maintain full control of the whole book, artistically, but the majority of us still use the rigorous editing standards of traditional publishing. Indie publishing really changed the publishing world, where it often takes luck to get your book in front of someone at the right moment when they are looking for exactly what you're offering. It's especially good for underrepresented voices who are often overlooked by traditional publishing houses."

**WAN:** What is the new book you are working on now and when will it be available? Tell me about it....

**Brandann:** "My third book, *The Dwelling of All Souls* (*The Hole in the World*, book 3), is a continuation of the first two. The protagonists, Kahrin and Innes, are establishing themselves as adults, and settling into their lives. The world of magic seems to always have its say in their choices, for better or for worse. This book is especially important to me, as one of the pair is 'Nish, and she's forced into a circumstance where she must choose whether to embrace a culture and heritage that was kept from her for various reasons, or to keep her distance from family she never knew, and who never tried to know her."

**WAN:** How did you get into writing?

**Brandann:** "I've always loved

writing. I've been doing it at least since I was eight years old. My grandparents, Patrick and Nancy Hascall, always encouraged me to make up stories of my own. I started very young writing *Babysitter's Club* fanfiction, inserting myself into the stories of these girls I wanted to know. I didn't consider publishing until my late 30s, when *The Hole in the World* came to me in the form of a platonic love letter to a dear friend. She pushed me to publish it, and I did. The book is dedicated to her, but I could not have written it without that foundation from my grandparents."

**WAN:** How and where do you get inspiration and ideas for stories?

**Brandann:** "I think all authors pull from many different elements of their lives. *The Hole in the World* came to me partly while watching *The Last Unicorn* movie with the friend I mentioned above. I read the Peter S. Beagle book right away after it, and fell in love. Some of my characters have touches of me, or touches of people I've known in life. For instance, Kahrin is Anishinaabekwe like me, and Innes has a lot of the traits I adore about my friend for whom I wrote the book. He's also not a small bit like Prince Lir from *The Last Unicorn*, and has light touches of another paladin-esque character named Alistair from a video game franchise I love. Kahrin grew with some of the traits I love about the character Captain Marvel (Carol Danvers), and the way Kelly Sue DeConnick wrote her and Brie Larson played her in the movie. Most authors are also influenced by the types of media we consume, from other books to movies (and video games).

I'm also a participant in the Bradbury Challenge, named for science-fiction writer Ray Bradbury, where you write a short story every week for 52 weeks. My particular group takes turns giving inspiration prompts."

**WAN:** What is your educational and job history background?

**Brandann:** "I grew up with the same lines every Gen X per-



son was told: Graduate, go to college, get married and buy a house, and the rest would work out. That template of life didn't work out for me, and I've worked a variety of jobs from bar supervisor in the casinos to Navy linguist. In my mid-thirties I decided to finish my education, and enrolled in the theatre and dance program at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa in Honolulu on illegally occupied O'ahu. I went in with no theatre experience, and I fell in love with stage management. It was a challenge to finish a degree with a family, especially a military one, and especially a degree as demanding as theatre, but it meant so much to finally do so in 2019."

**WAN:** How long have you lived in Hawaii?

**Brandann:** "This is our eleventh year on O'ahu, though altogether we've called it home for fifteen years. We spent four years in Seoul, Republic of Korea, for my husband's job, but came back in 2012. Our daughter graduated high school here."

**WAN:** You are a Sault Tribe member?

**Brandann:** "I am! My family is split over both Bay Mills and Sault Tribe, but I, my brother Craig (Hill), my mother Brandann (Hissong), and my grandparents Patrick and Nancy Hascall, are all Sault Tribe members. I didn't get to grow up in the culture like I wish I could have, as things were much different back then and I think each family had to make



their own choices on survival. My Uncle John Hascall helped me find my way back to it after my daughter was born in 2002. I'm doing my best to educate myself, to learn as much as I can, and reconnect with this part of me that I always identified with but didn't have resources to explore.

When my grandfather Pat Hascall passed in January of 2020, I came home to Brimley to help the family for a couple of months, and was able to reach deeper into that history. I've since connected with tribal members where I can, as well as other 'Nish and people of other nations online. I want my kids to have the connection I always felt was missing for me. I've started reading histories and cultural books by authors like Basil Johnston, and fiction by Louise Erdrich and Cherie Dimaline. I've actually finally received my copy of Angeline Boulley's book, *The Firekeeper's Daughter*, and that's my current read at the moment. Finding other 'Nish authors has been a real pleasure for me, and given me a bravery to put my identity as Sault Tribe into my stories. I am hoping I'm doing it justice. I just want to connect with as much about being a 'Nishkwe as I can."

Both of Brandann R. Hill-Mann's novels, *The Hole in the World*, and *Blood of the True Believer* (*The Hole in the World* book 2), can be found on Amazon.com and Barnes & Noble.

## April honors National Crime Victims' Rights week

BY JESSICA GILLOTTE-KING

National Crime Victims' Rights Week (NCVRW) has been honored every April since 1981. President Ronald W. Reagan professed the first National Crime Victims' Rights Week and shortly thereafter issued an executive order that established the President's Task Force on Victims of Crime. The dedicated week of honor is to focus on the achievements of those who have fought hard for the rights of victims of crimes, to honor those who have served victims of crime and, of course, to recognize and remember victims of crime.

A victim is defined as "a person who has suffered physical or emotional harm, property damage or economic loss as a result of a crime." There are rights available to victims of crime as well as several pro-



grams available to help recover from the detriment of a crime. Victim advocates, counselors, lawyers and assistance programs are available for victims across Michigan. Michigan's Crime Victims' Compensation Program (CVCP) is available to assist eligible crime victims and their immediate families with financial costs of a crime. Basic eligibility requirements must be met to qualify for such compensation. Compensation may cover victimization related medical, dental, optical or counseling

services. The CVCP may cover loss of earnings due to physical injuries preventing the victim from working or loss of support to dependents of homicide victims. Victims who require eyeglasses, hearing aids, dentures or prosthetic devices may have the cost of the items covered by the CVCP. Funeral expenses, crime scene clean-up or grief counseling services may also be covered for victims or surviving family members of crime.

Michigan's Department of Health and Human Services

(MDHHS) has a Crime Victim Compensation Reference Guide that helps determine the qualifications for receiving assistance. It is important to clarify what is not covered by the CVCP. The loss of or damage to personal property or vehicle; pain and suffering or emotional distress, relocation costs, living expenses or cost of participating in a court trial are not covered by the CVCP. Expenses paid by public or private health insurance, life insurance, disability insurance, workers' compensation, automobile insurance or those of the like are, additionally, not covered by the CVCP.

This year, National Crime Victims' Rights Week's theme is, "Support Victims. Build Trust. Engage Communities." The theme celebrates the progress made by those before us as we

look to the future of crime victim services that are even more inclusive and accessible.

(Source: The Division of Victim Services, 2021). Michigan's DHHS website provides information for victims of crime and may be found at [www.michigan.gov/crimevictims](http://www.michigan.gov/crimevictims). A victims-only toll-free number is also available at (877) 251-7373. If you are a victim of crime, you have many rights and services available to help you. A list of direct services for crime victims can be found at <https://ovc.ojp.gov/help-for-victims/toll-free-and-online-hotlines>. The Sault Tribe Advocacy Resource Center has victim advocates available to assist and may be reached at 632-1808 or toll-free at (877) 639-7820.

Jessica Gillotte-King is a Sault Tribe Advocacy Resources Center community educator.

# Award-winning filmmaker coming soon to Sault Tribe

Award-winning filmmaker Cressandra Thibodeaux is coming soon to the Sault Tribe to interview tribal elders and Sugar Island residents. Thibodeaux is a Sault Tribe member whose grandparents were from Sugar Island.



“My grandmother was our family’s oral historian — her maiden name was Adelaide Leask and she was born on Sugar Island, Aug. 21, 1905. She instilled in me the importance of preserving history,” Thibodeaux said.

While in the Sault,

Thibodeaux plans to interview tribal Elders to help preserve the tribe’s history.

“During COVID, so many Native American elders passed on, and I want to honor the ones who are still alive. I know there are numer-

ous individuals who are already preserving our stories, and I just want to be one of them. I will upload all interviews on YouTube and Vimeo channels. I would also like to photograph elders and their family members and folks from Sugar Island.”

Thibodeaux said,

If you are an elder, or soon to be elder, or a resident of Sugar Island, and are interested in participating in sharing a story or being photographed, call or text Thibodeaux at (906) 440-8270, or email her at [cressandra@mac.com](mailto:cressandra@mac.com).

Cressandra Thibodeaux is the Executive Director of 14 Pews, [www.14pews.com](http://www.14pews.com) a nonprofit arts organization. You can also visit her personal websites at [www.cressandra.org](http://www.cressandra.org), [www.cressandra.com](http://www.cressandra.com) or <https://vimeo.com/cressandra>.

## Book review: *The Nine Lives of John Aslin*

By RICK SMITH

*The Nine Lives of John*

*Aslin* is an easy-reading work about a Sault Tribe member with an unfortunate life spent mostly incarcerated. The book is difficult to



put down. Once one has started reading it, the writing keeps pulling the reader deeper into the story. The author, attorney

Jill Creech Bauer, bills the book as “a non-fiction novel.” As she explains in the introduction, John Eric Aslin initiated contact with her while she was working as an attorney in Flint, Mich., in 2009. He sought her help in applying to have his prison sentence commuted by then Governor Jennifer Granholm. She has maintained contact with Aslin since that time.

**Book sheds light on unjust conviction and sentence of Sault Tribe member nearing elderhood, calls for help in securing his freedom**

Aslin’s misguided early life and errors, often fueled by alcohol and drugs, is recounted in the book. He was convicted of murder in 1984 when he was 21 years old. A conviction Bauer deftly examines and explains is unwarranted because, for starters, it appears he didn’t actually kill anyone and a much lesser charge should have been in order. At the very least, Bauer describes a situation where Aslin could not have known his actions might eventually lead to someone’s death. Bauer takes readers through another horrific ordeal in looking at the lives of John Aslin’s father and his father’s siblings when they were wrested away from their widowed mother and shuttled off to live in a boarding school meant for the mentally feeble. “I did as much research as I could on the previous generation of the Aslin family, but little information exists because the entire generation has no offspring to whom they could pass along introduction.

She related how the lack of

personal sources required that she imagine some of the details of their lives based on her research of Ojibwe customs and traditions; John Eric’s familial knowledge and cultural history; media cov-

erage of John’s uncle, Fred Aslin, who filed a lawsuit against the state of Michigan; investigations of John Henry Kellogg, the shocking episode of the Michigan  
See “Book review,” page 20

## Book signing at Kewadin Casino



Bestselling author Angeline Bouley was in town March 16 to sign copies of her debut novel, *The Firekeeper’s Daughter*, currently no. 1 on the NY Times YA best seller list. Bouley, a tribal member, worked solidly on her first book over the past decade. *The Firekeeper’s Daughter* is a book she wished she’d been able to read when she was a youth, about a young Anishinaabe woman who must solve a grisly murder to keep her community together.

## EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic:

- Are you at risk for Housing instability?
- Are you facing eviction?
- Are you behind on your rent or utilities?

Contact the Sault Tribe Housing Authority to learn more about the Emergency Rental Assistance Program.

Income eligible, members of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and households who rent homes any where in the United States may make application for assistance. Income eligibility is based on 80% of area median income.

Emergency Rental Assistance can provide funding to assist with:

- ☑ Rental Arrears
- ☑ Utility Arrears
- ☑ Current and Prospective Rent Payments
- ☑ Current and Prospective Utilities and Home Energy costs
- ☑ Other Housing Expenses incurred related to housing due, directly or indirectly, to COVID-19 that qualify for assistance under federal law

**For more information or to make application contact:**

**Sault Tribe Housing Authority**

**154 Parkside**

**Kincheloe, Michigan 49752**

**(906) 495-1450 or 1-800-794-4072**

# ACFS hosts Family Fun Day in St. Ignace



Sault Tribe Anishnabek Community and Family Services and the Mackinac County Roundtable hosted the 18th annual Family Fun Day in St. Ignace on March 13 in the middle school parking lot. The function, which usually takes place in the Kewadin Shores Casino Sprung structure, was conducted as a drive-through event this year as a pandemic precaution. The 2020 St. Ignace Family Fun Day was suspended due to the pandemic.

Children and their families enjoyed raffles, prizes, hot dogs and chips, a bike giveaway along

with goodie bags filled with useful and educational information from a variety of local agencies. Attendees were invited to decorate their vehicles for a parade in the parking lot and don costumes.

Other agencies involved were the 4H, Hiawatha Behavioral Health, St. Ignace Public Library, Mackinac County Communities That Care, Mackinac County Sheriff's Department, Great Start Readiness Program, St. Ignace Police Department, First National Bank, Moose Lodge, St. Ignace Fire Department and Straits Area EMS.

*Photos by Rick Smith*

Sault Tribe Anishnabek Community and Family Services can be contacted by telephone at the main office in Sault Ste. Marie at 632-5250 or (800) 726-0093, St. Ignace office at (906) 643-8689, Manistique at 341-6993 or (800) 347-7137 or the Munising office at 387-3906 or (800) 236-4705.

Kharizma Labinski of the St. Ignace First National Bank hands out some goodie bags to visitors.



Attendees don costumes in anticipation of a parking lot parade.



Folks in line awaiting their turns to pass through in their vehicles.



The Mackinac County Sheriff's Department as well as the St. Ignace Police Department were on hand distributing goodie bags and goodwill.



A shiny fire truck from the St. Ignace Fire Department gleams for admirers.



A car decorated in the theme of the approaching St. Patrick's Day.



An ambulance from Straits Area EMS represented one of the participating area agencies.

# ARC hosts assault awareness fair in the Sault



Jessica Gillotte-King of the ARC greeting visitors amid a mountain of bags.



Jena McKerchie, ARC victim advocate, registering arrivals at the drive-through information fair.



From the Diane Pepler Resource Center in Sault Ste. Marie, from left, Whitney Humphrey, Megan Hall and Lenny Walker; alongside Trish Sterling of Anishnabek Community and Family Services and Stacey O'Neill of Hiawatha Behavioral Health.

The Sault Tribe Advocacy Resource Center (ARC) sponsored a drive-through awareness fair on April 1 in observance of April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Staff members of the Anishnabek Community and Family Services (ACFS), Sault Tribe Housing Authority, Uniting Three Fires Against Violence, U.P. Coalition Network, Hiawatha Behavioral Health and the Diane Pepler Resource Center also participated in the function to pass out goodie bags containing free and handy promotional items along with an array of useful information to help victims of sexual assault.

According to federal figures furnished by the ARC, American Indians are 2.5 times more likely to experience sexual assault compared to all other races, one in three Indian women report having been raped during their lifetime; and, according to a 2010 Government Accountability Office study, U.S. Attorneys declined to prosecute 67 percent of sexual abuse, firearms violations, homicide and other violent crimes perpetrated against American Indian women. Violence against Native women spans a continuum of verbal abuse on one end and murder at the other end. Most Native women do not report such crimes due to the

belief that nothing will be done.

While the whole of April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month, April 28 is designated as Denim Day, a day of protesting the myths surrounding sexual assault against females. The roots of Denim Day go back to 1992 in Italy, where a driving instructor forcefully raped an 18-year-old girl along an isolated road as he took her on her very first driving lesson. The instructor was arrested, tried, convicted and sentenced to imprisonment. Years later, he appealed his conviction claiming he and the girl had consensual relations. The Italian Supreme Court overturned the conviction and the defendant was released. The Italian Supreme Court stated the victim had been wearing very tight jeans and would have had to help him remove them, and by removing the jeans she implied consent. This became known as the "jeans alibi."

Women in the Italian Parliament were enraged by the verdict and launched a protest by wearing jeans on the steps of the Supreme Court. The protest received international attention and Denim Day was launched in the United States in 1999 and continues as an annual observance.

*Photos by Rick Smith*



Nicole Sambrano of Anishnabek Community and Family Services distributed goodie bags and promotional materials.



Cecilia Atkinson and Ashley Gravelle of the ARC at their stand where visitors received goodie bags along with boxed lunches from Subway.

The Advocacy Resource Center (ARC) is a multi-faceted direct services program providing voluntary assistance and support to victims/survivors and their children regardless of law enforcement involvement or length of time since the assault, abuse or crime. The ARC can be reached by telephone at 632-1808 or (877) 639-7820. Find out more details about the services offered on the tribe's website at [www.saulttribe.com](http://www.saulttribe.com).

# Environmental conducts uranium study

FROM SAULT TRIBE

ENVIRONMENTAL DEPARTMENT

Starting in May, the Sault Tribe Environmental Department will be conducting free water samples of private tribally-owned wells for traces of uranium in partnership with Indian Health Services. The department is looking at uranium levels from wells on or near the Jacobsville Sandstone formation for the uranium study. The information gathered from this study will be used to pursue funding for installation of treatment systems where needed.

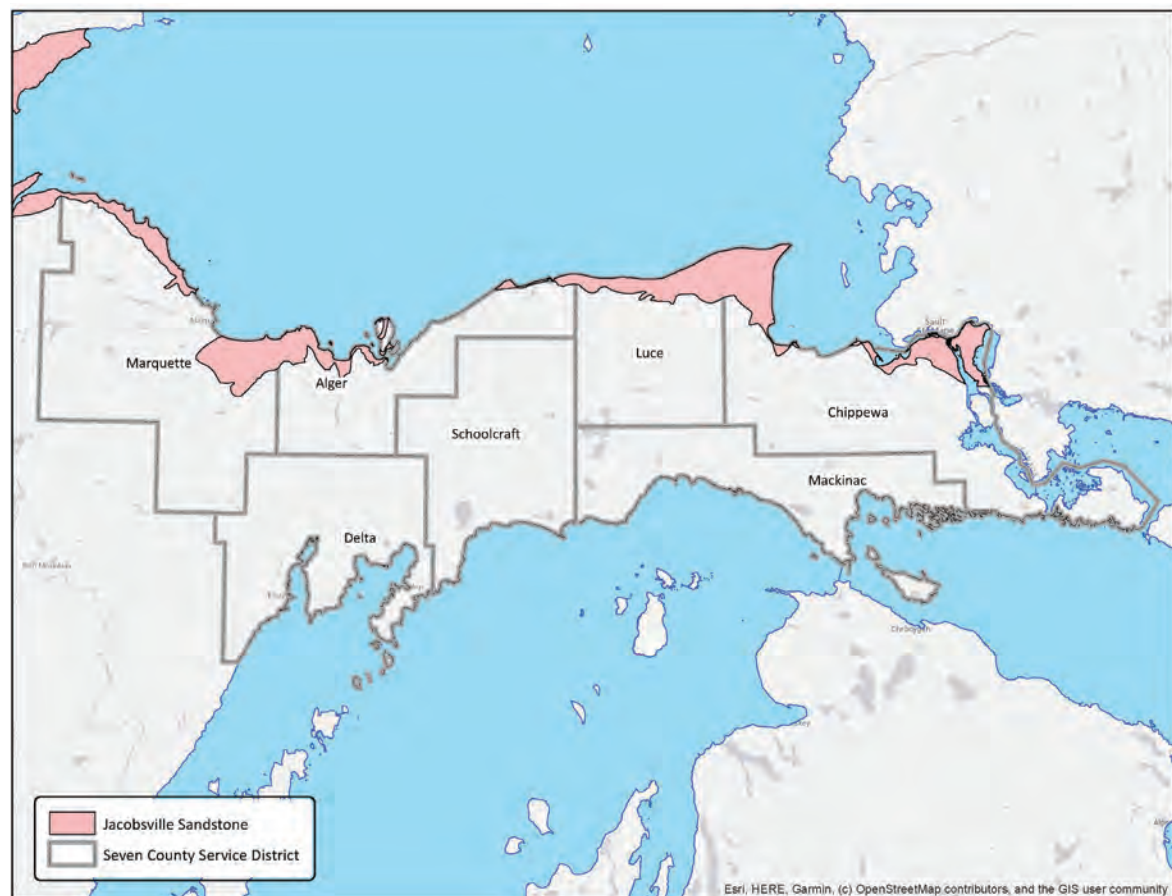
The Jacobsville Sandstone formation is known to have high levels of uranium and although uranium is naturally occurring, excessive amounts can cause medical complications such as

kidney damage or an increased risk of cancer. Uranium levels vary from location to location emphasizing the need to have your well water tested. Testing is the only way to know if your well contains uranium.

For more information about the project or to see if you are eligible for sampling, contact Stacy Thacker at the Sault Tribe Environmental Department at (906) 632-5575 or [sthacker@saulttribe.net](mailto:sthacker@saulttribe.net).

Or visit: <https://saulttribe.com/membership-services/environmental/257-membership-services/environmental/7248-uranium-study>

**The graphic at right shows the Jacobsville Sandstone areas within the tribe's seven-county service area.**



# Open letter to Premier Doug Ford: BFN loggers will commence operations

FROM BATCHEWANA FIRST NATION

This correspondence from Batchewana First Nation ("BFN") is a formal notice of the deficiencies regarding the follow up processes as per Ontario court rulings, directives, narratives and treaty promises in regards to a litany of challenges embarked on and asserted by BFN. A copy of BFN's Notice of Assertions is attached for your convenience.

BFN reminds the Crown of BFN's Notice of Assertion being served in 2011 to both the federal and provincial government leadership. That assertion was specific in outlining a process to seek our permission in regard to intrusions of our inherent sovereignty and unextinguished jurisdictions over the lands in eastern Lake Superior and the lands in direct proximity.

BFN reminds Ontario that the courts in R v. Sayers 2017, ONCJ 77 and R v. Dean Sayers and Batchewana First Nation of Ojibways, 2015, O CJ, provided strong statements by Justice Kwolek and Justice Logan that called for specific actions with Ontario's future relationship with Batchewana First Nation. The statements by the courts pertained to BFN's historic unextinguished jurisdictions and to engage in discussions in good faith.

In R v. Sayers 2017, the court stated, "Recent developments including the release of the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission have provided greater impetus for discussions between the Crown and

First Nations in resolving their disputes rather than resorting to criminal actions."

As early as 2018, BFN attempted to engage in discussions with Ontario. BFN went so far as to draft terms of reference and provide names of neutral arbiters to mediate the jurisdictional issue. Unfortunately, Ontario was not interested in such discussions.

More recently, the relationship between Ontario and BFN has further eroded on a number of fronts.

To highlight, the following are recent Ontario government decisions:

— To allow for benzene to be discharged over the lands adjacent to Sault Ste. Marie, BFN Garden River First Nation and many other municipalities and villages in direct proximity to Algoma Steel for another year. Benzene is a poisonous, toxic substance that is one of the leading causes of cancer in our area. It appears corporate interests have trumped human and environmental needs once again.

— Ontario has further implemented forest management systems that endorse and promote clear cutting and utilizing harmful aerial spraying of glyphosate to the detriment of the flora and fauna, trees, big game population, fish and many more areas. All of creation is affected by Ontario's detrimental arbitrary processes around forest management. Again, corporate interests are trumping our inherent rights and the well-being of not only the animals, the water and the

environment but human life.

— As recent as 1944, Ontario illegally developed and imposed Lake Superior Provincial Park; forcibly removing the Indigenous People of Batchewana. The Court in R v. Dean Sayers and Batchewana First Nation of Ojibways, 2015, O CJ, provided an expectation that Ontario adhere to the "honour of the Crown." Ontario has not followed up nor shown any initiative in having these legal issues resolved.

— Ontario has also removed BFN from fulfilling our inherent rights to protect and work with all of the animals that are currently being eradicated under Ontario's trapping regulations. We don't have to look very far to see the effects of these processes. Numbers are on the decline and a lot of species are now at risk. BFN along with other First Nations have the ability to pursue or receive an illegal permit from Ontario to work under their assumed regime, which is an illegal assertion.

These items are just the tip of the iceberg. BFN cannot continue in the course of action where Ontario works from a premise of "Meaningful Consultation and

Accommodation." This premise was never and is not BFN's interpretation and it does not reflect the promises identified in the treaty relationship; where BFN has unextinguished jurisdictions to the land. The Crown has an obligation to prove their assumed jurisdiction and to seek BFN's permission for any action if they do not have a receipt. This relationship will not be defined by meaningless and unendorsed declarations such as the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples ("UNDRIP"). The relationship will be defined by the implementation of the treaties including the Robinson Huron Treaty and BFN's interpretation thereof.

In closing, BFN brings attention to one final major issue. As you are aware, BFN spent many years in Ontario's litigation process regarding logging jurisdiction. In R v. Sayers 2017, ONCJ 77; at the 11th hour, Ontario withdrew the charges, which in essence proposed a confrontational remedy for Batchewana's future involvement in the logging industry. If BFN does not succumb to Ontario's assumed logging jurisdiction and once again issue BFN's inherent right-

based logging permits, BFN and its membership will be open to further legal charges and brought back to Ontario's courts.

In the meantime, with this looming threat, BFN has been on the outside of the logging industry looking in, at Ontario's endorsed loggers, which includes clear-cutting forests for corporate interests. Ontario promotes a flawed, illegal assertion of jurisdiction over logging and the remedy for Ontario is for us to enter into their illegal regime and seek a license from a settler government to manage BFN forests. BFN cannot condone this course of action any longer.

As of May 1, 2021, BFN loggers will commence operations in its original territories outlined in our historically founded documentation and accepted by the courts. BFN will be issuing logging permits based on BFN's inherent law and unextinguished sovereignty.

Given the above information, it is our expectation that BFN loggers will be logging without the fear of prosecution by Ontario. If BFN's logging operations are met with prosecution, then BFN will take further next-steps as necessary.

JULY 17-18, 2021

**NIISHTINAA-SHI NIIWIN  
ENSO BBOONGAG  
ZIISBAKWAD MINISING  
JIINGTAMOK**

24th Annual Sugar  
Island Powwow

SAVE THE DATE

**SAVE THE DATE**



**10th Annual Baawting  
Anishinaabemowin Language Conference**

Mdaaswi shi boon zhaa zhi G'do  
naagade'endaanaa Anishinaabemowin  
"10 years of Caring for the Language"

**June 11 - 12, 2021  
Niigaanagiizhik Ceremonial Building  
11 Ice Circle Drive  
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783**

# Walking on...

## CHARLES E. GOUDREAU

Charles "Carl" Eugene Goudreau, 89, of Gros Cap, Mich., passed away peacefully in his sleep on Feb. 14, 2021, at Castle Rock Retirement Center. His wife Pat was by his side. He was born on May 7, 1931, in St. Ignace, Mich., to William David Goudreau and Edith Emma (Hill) Bertelsen.



Carl grew up in St. Ignace and graduated from LaSalle High School in 1951. After graduation, Carl enlisted in the U.S. Navy. He served as Yeoman Second Class aboard the U.S.S. George K. Mackenzie from January 1952 to April 1955, and in the U.S. Naval Examining Center, Great Lakes, Ill., April 1955 - January 1957. Carl then attended Ferris Institute, earning a degree in HVAC. His service did not end after his honorable discharge from the U.S. Navy. Carl went on to serve as a member of the SeaBees, a construction battalion, as a utilities man first class, from April 1974 to May 1992.

Carl met Ruth E. Branyan and they married on Aug. 8, 1953, in Battle Creek, Mich. After Carl's Navy career and HVAC tech school, he took a position in LaCrosse, Wis., at TRANE Cooling and Heating Systems and eventually moved his family home to Michigan, where he took a position with Kelvinator of Grand Rapids in 1964. The family made one more move to St. Joseph, Mich., where Carl bought their first home and took a position with Whirlpool Corporation, until his retirement from Whirlpool in 1979. Carl moved back to St. Ignace and took a job with the Mackinac Bridge Authority. In 2007, he married Patricia Olsen and they continued to live in Gros Cap.

Being born during the depression years shaped Carl's early life and resulted in a lifetime of living off the land he loved so much and being known as the "putterer" who could fix anything. He loved spending countless hours in his workshop and garage fixing, building and refurbishing things. Later in life, he could be found drinking his coffee next to his front window while tinkering on something that needed to be fixed. He built his beautiful retirement log home in Gros Cap from logs cut and milled near St. Ignace. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, working with his hands and being outdoors.

He was very proud of his Native American heritage and a proud elder member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. He loved feeding the birds, chipmunks and other critters at his home in Gros Cap and spending time at his hunting camp with his sons and their friends. Carl liked cutting wood, playing softball and cooking. He was famous for his fried perch dinners, fried venison steak and home baked wild blueberry pies with berries he and Pat picked during walks in the woods. The last couple years, Carl could

often be found in the "puzzle room" working jigsaw puzzles with his fellow residents at Castle Rock or offering to fix things that were broken.

Carl expressed his love to his family and neighbors by helping and offering a hand when there was a need. He lovingly helped his four children with their various school projects during their early school years, including building a working steam shovel from a Quaker Oats canister, an elaborate solar system using an antique wagon wheel, and many Boy Scout Pinewood Derby cars.

Carl loved tumbling rocks in the garage from one of the many family rock hunting and camping adventures along the shores of the Great Lakes. He made several pieces of jewelry with the many beautiful agates and Petoskey stones he polished and cut. Sunday family drives, weekend camping outings and family vacations were always a highlight for the Goudreau family. Some favorites were: hunting and gathering asparagus along the country road fence lines in the spring, picking wild blueberries and blackberries near their extended family's farm in Wolverine, Mich., going smelt fishing in the spring, gathering night crawlers with his boys for fishing bait and traveling to Florida every Christmas to visit both Carl's and Ruth's extended family living there.

Carl also loved music and played alto and tenor saxophone in many bands including the Straits Area Municipal Band in his retirement years. He was a member of the St. Ignatius Loyola Catholic Church and enjoyed singing in the church choir with his wife, Patricia. Carl played piano by ear and spent countless hours playing piano and saxophone while his daughter, Denise, played along on her flute. Carl was always present at his children's school music concerts and Boy Scout events and activities.

Carl is survived by his wife, Patricia Goudreau; sons, Charles (Rebecca) Goudreau Jr. of St. Ignace, Douglas (Paula) Goudreau of St. Ignace and Jon (Barb Eckels Rennie) of Traverse City, Mich.; daughters, Denise (Carlos) Martinez of Livermore, Calif., and stepdaughter Fawn Olsen of Florida; grandchildren, Jeremy (Jenny) Goudreau, Kyle (Amanda) Goudreau, Kathleen "Kate" Gardner, Andrew Dirks, Ashley Dirks, Peter Dirks, Jack Goudreau and James Goudreau; great-grandchild, Jaxson Gardner; brother, Richard "Dick" (Melinda) Goudreau of Cheboygan; sister-in-law, Joan Goudreau of Punta Gorda, Fla.; and many nieces and nephews, who referred to him as Uncle Carl.

Carl was preceded in death by his parents; brother, William "Bill" Goudreau; sister, Alice "Sis" Hayes; stepson, Paul Olsen; nephews, Mark Goudreau, Richard Goudreau, William "Billy" Goudreau III; and niece, Cari Branyan Jones.

Carl's children would like to express their gratitude to Castle Rock Retirement Center for the loving and safe care they provided

to their father during his last years of life, especially during the Covid-19 pandemic.

A celebration of Carl's life is being planned for a future date, when travel is safe for family members living far away. Interment will be at Gros Cap Cemetery in St. Ignace.

R. Galer Funeral Home of Pickford, Mich., served the family. Condolences may be sent to the family at [www.rgalerfuneralhome.com](http://www.rgalerfuneralhome.com).

## NANCY R. ALBON

Nancy R. Albon, 64, of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., passed away on Feb. 14, 2021, at War Memorial Hospital.



Nancy was born in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., to the late Floyd John and Catherine Elizabeth (Edwards) Cook. She graduated from Sault High School with the class of 1974. Nancy married Bob Albon on March 21, 1981, in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. She was a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. Her greatest joy was taking care of her family. She also enjoyed peacocks, traveling and shopping. Nancy worked for the Long Ships Motel as manager for over 26 years.

Nancy is survived by her husband, Bob Albon; four sons, Scott (Jen) Albon and Tim (Emma Kempfert) Albon, both of Sault Ste. Marie, Bob (Lisa) Albon Jr. of California, and Darren Albon of Texas; six grandchildren, Lexi, Adam, Robert III, Chase, Jocelynn and Paisley; 13 siblings, Floyd (Patty) Cook, Sharon (Ronald) Pickett, Thomas (Brenda) Cook, Robert (Carol) Cook, Gary (Lois) Cook, Patti (Fred) Albon, Janice (Roger) Maxedon, Carol (Mike) King, Wanda Clerk, Deborah (Carmine) Bonacci, Arlene Foster, Donald (Debbie) Cook, Mike Cook and Kevin (Catherine) Cook.

Nancy was preceded in death by her parents and one brother, Donny "Biz" Cook.

A private family funeral service took place on Feb. 20, 2021, at C.S. Mulder Funeral Home. Public burial will take place May 10 at 2 p.m., Oaklawn Chapel Gardens, Sault Ste Marie. Pallbearers will be Bob Albon Jr., Scott Albon, Tim Albon, Jim Cook, Tom Cook and Bucky Cook.

Condolences may be left online at [www.csmulder.com](http://www.csmulder.com).

## VERONICA C. CASKEY

Veronica Cecelia Caskey, age 77, of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., passed away on March 4, 2021, at home in Sault Ste. Marie surrounded by her family and under the care of EUP Home Health and Hospice.



Veronica was born on Feb. 3, 1944, in Sault Ste. Marie to the late Alois and Katherine (Santigo) Pavlat. Veronica graduated from

LaSalle High School and continued her education at Lake State University in the corrections program. Veronica was employed by the Department of Corrections and retired with many years of service. She was a proud member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and a sports enthusiast, being a former member of the Women's Bowling league and women's fastpitch softball league.

Veronica is survived by her daughter, Sue Caskey of Sault Ste. Marie; three grandchildren, Michelle (Nicholas) Veit of Wyoming, Mich., Christopher (Victoria Jordan) Caskey of Sault Ste. Marie, and Kaitlin (Robert) Farmer of Newberry, Mich.; seven great-grandchildren, Brianna, Christian, Damien, Kaylen, Addison, Kamden and Jordyn, siblings, Larry (Janet) Pavlat of Holyoke, Mass., Rosaline (Lynn) Armstrong of Sault Ste. Marie, James (Cathy) Pavlat of S. Hadley, Mass., Howard (Angie) Pavlat of Stafford, Va., Gene (Marcelina) Pavlat of Silago, Southern Leyte, Philippines, Gloria (Anthony) Kangas of Sault Ste. Marie, Anton Pavlat of Sault Ste. Marie, Dale Pavlat of Sault Ste. Marie and Phillip (Debbie) Pavlat of Sault Ste. Marie and numerous nieces and nephews.

According to her wishes, cremation services have already been accorded. A gathering of family and friends took place at the Niigaanagizhik Ceremonial Center with a ceremonial fire lit on March 20, 2021 from 12-4 p.m.

C.S. Mulder Funeral Home and Cremation Services assisted the family with their arrangements. Condolences may be left online at [www.csmulder.com](http://www.csmulder.com).

## GARY F. CAIRNS

Gary F. Cairns, age 77, of Grass Valley, Calif., passed away on March 1, 2021. Gary was born in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., on May 3, 1943, to Arthur and Jean Cairn.



Gary graduated from Loretto High School in 1961. Soon after graduation he moved to California, and went to work for the Southern California Gas Company and was employed for 35 years.

He married his wife, Ella, on Nov. 20, 1965, in California. Gary also served in the Army from 1965-1967 and held the position of sergeant.

Gary is survived by his wife of 55 years, Ella; sons, Michael Cairns, Wesley Cairns (Jenn); daughter, Frances (Dolly) Potter (Michael), grandchildren, Maddie McClenahan (George), Lily Cairns, Wesley Cairns, Caleigh Cairns, Gary Potter (Jenna) and John Potter. Also survived by sister-in-law, Wilma Cairns, of Sugar Island and many nieces and nephews.

Gary was preceded in death by his parents, Arthur and Jean Cairns; sister, Eleanor Morgan; brothers, John Cairns, Arthur

(Chuck) Cairns and Francis Cairns.

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

In his spare time, Gary loved to repair cars and trucks. Gary's family would like you to remember him as an amazing father, husband and man to all his family and old friends.

## JAMES R. CONARD

James Richard Conard (born Ward James Belisle on Nov. 12, 1945, in Mount St. Clemens, Mich.) died on March 24, 2021, in Killeen, Texas, where he resided.

Jim was a transracial adoptee who learned about his Chippewa heritage later in life. He was a U.S.

Army veteran, serving first in Vietnam. He then had a tour of duty in South Korea where he met



his wife, Myong Ok, who preceded him in death. They had three daughters, Jane Marie (who passed away in 1971), Tammy Sue and Kim Lou.

His career in Army food service spanned 24 years until he retired, and then he spent nearly another 20 years with the U.S. Postal Service.

He loved his family, and he taught his daughters how to fish at Lake Belton and how to clean those fish, how to cook meals big enough to serve a battalion, and how to never give up. Jim, affectionately known as Paw Paw, was a doting grandfather who loved spoiling his grandchildren Jacob, Phoebe and Aila.

Jim grew up in Wyoming, Mich., and enjoyed playing baseball when he was a boy. He grew up in an era of cars with tailfins, and he became quite the mechanic. He liked to tell tales of driving across Michigan in a '57 Chevy with his greaser hair and leather jacket. As a teenager, he spent time "up north" working with a lumber company and picking apples.

Jim had a booming voice and looked gruff but had a soft side. He could chat up his grandkids about Daniel Tiger and Thomas the Tank Engine. He loved his dogs, Lilly and Bubbles, and would sneak them chicken nuggets while complaining about their sharp toenails. He checked in with his friends daily and was always ready to lend a helping hand. He would call in the same McDonald's order every morning and drive to pick it up. He could also put an all-you-can-eat buffet out of business. He embraced his wife's Korean culture, learning the language and devouring the food—practically an honorary Korean. He, like many during these times, figured out how to use Zoom so he could interact with his children and grandchildren until he could see them again.

Jim was a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. He gave up Catholicism years ago and was a member of St. Christopher's Episcopal

See "Walking on," page 18



**From "Walking on," page 17**  
Church and Kingdom Builders Christian Center, and he looked forward to the time he could safely return to in-person worship. Jim is now at peace and with his wife again.

The family will hold a private funeral and a memorial service will take place once it is safe to do so. In lieu of flowers, please donate to a favorite animal shelter or humane society.

#### DANIEL J. CRISP

Daniel Joseph Crisp, 48, died as a result of COVID-19 on March 8, 2021, in Munson Hospital, Traverse City, Mich., in the presence of family.

Daniel was born on April 13, 1972, in Escanaba, Mich., to parents Harvey J. Crisp and Marlene J.



(Little) Crisp. After graduation from Cedarville High School in Cedarville, Mich., and Northwestern Michigan College, Daniel settled in Thompsonville, Mich.

Daniel and his wife Claudia (Spătariu) married in her hometown of Brasov, Romania, and together raised two wonderful children, Stefan, 17, and Marius, 11.

Daniel was a passionate lover of life-long learning, exercise (especially weight lifting), heavy metal music and craft beer. Daniel was a notorious practical joker and teased those he loved mercilessly. One of his final jokes was to order a 100-pound medicine ball from his ICU bed, knowing his brother, Michael, would struggle to move it.

Daniel worked extensively in the building trades as a carpenter, and most recently as a plumber and HVAC technician.

Daniel is survived by his wife, Claudia; children, Stefan and Marius; mother, Marlene; in-laws, Viorel and Margereta Spătariu; brother, Michael (Amy); nephew, Alexander; sister-in-law, Antonella; and a host of loving family and friends.

Daniel was preceded in death by his father, Harvey; grandparents, Howard and Roseann Little, Howard Crisp, and Leona (Dutcher) Brown.

Formal services have been delayed, honoring Daniel's final wishes, until the resolution of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Bennett-Barz Funeral Home, bennett-barzfuneralhome.com, in Beulah, is in charge of arrangements.

#### SHARON W. DUNN

Sharon W. Dunn, 78, passed away on April 3, 2021. She resided in Leo, Ind., and was born in Sault Ste Marie, Mich.

She was the daughter of the late George and Monica (McCoy) Adams and was the fourth of eight children.



She was a member of Sault Ste Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indi-

ans and the Grabill Missionary Church. Everyone has fond memories of her playing card games with family and friends.

Sharon is survived by her husband of 61 years, Charles Keith; daughters, Debra (Larry) Meyers and Robin Dunn; grandchildren, Tim (Lexie) Meyers, Monica (David Pasch) Meyers, Kane (Kaitlyn) Munn; great-grandchildren, Carson, Carter and Cohen Munn; siblings, Susie (Ray) Padgett, Mary Ladach and Bob (Jeri) Adams; many nieces and nephews across the states; and her cat, Sassy.

She was preceded in death by her siblings, Teddy Adams, George Adams, Diane Pingatore and Darlene Plemmons.

There are no services. A private family gathering and burial will take place at a later date.

Preferred memorials are to Grabill Missionary Church, 13637 State St., Grabill, IN 46741.

#### DANA G. GOUDREAU

Dana Gay Goudreau, 91, passed away on March 25, 2021, at her home in Trout Lake, Mich.

She was born on March 27, 1929, in Traverse City, Mich., to Forest and Ina Mae (Haskin) Clark.

Dana grew up in Garnet, Mich., and graduated from LaSalle High School in 1947. She began working for Michigan Bell shortly after graduation. She married her high school sweetheart, Donald J. Goudreau on Sept. 30, 1947, in St. Ignace, Mich. After working and raising 11 children, she retired from Michigan Bell. During her career, she earned many recognitions, one of the most cherished was the award for her 17 years of perfect attendance.

In addition to working and being a mother, Dana was very active as a volunteer in the community. This includes serving as a hospice volunteer, Cub Scout leader, ecumenical minister, Engadine Band Booster member and working on the local election board. She also volunteered to drive folks to their hospital appointments when they were unable to drive. Her children and grandchildren continue to follow her path and build on her legacy of service to others.

Dana is survived by her husband of 73 years, Don Goudreau; sons, Donald J. (Patty) Goudreau Jr., Gary (Gwen) Goudreau, David (Cathy) Goudreau; daughters, Michele Paquin, Sandra Thornton, Susan (Marshall) Vich, Andrea (Ted) Tamlyn, Mary (Kelly) Morrarty, Aimee (David) Swanson, and Laura (Wayne, Jr.) Flatt; 12 grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren (and one on the way); brother, William (Robin) Clark; and sister, Carol (Tom) Fish; and cousin and best friend, Betty Smith.

Dana is preceded in death by her parents; son, Bernard Goudreau; brother, Michael Clark; and sisters, Doris Soeltner and Ann Glazer.

Mass of Christian Burial was held at St. Ignatius Loyola Catho-

lic Church on April 9.

#### SANDRA L. HARRINGTON

Sandra Lee (LaPlaunt) Harrington, age 73, passed away unexpectedly at home on March 25, 2021. The daughter of Leo and Grace (Colbath) LaPlaunt, she was born on March 15, 1948, in Spokane, Wash. She was a proud member and elder of the Sault St. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. Her greatest joy was her children and grandchildren. She had a huge heart and was generous to all who knew her. We will miss her dearly.



Left to cherish her memory is the love of her life and fiancé, Bill Thorson; her sister, Mary Miller of Bay City; and her children, Ronald Fish, Edward (Linnette) Fish, Dan (Denise) Fish, Holly (Allan) Jamrog and Richard (Cindy) Wozniak. Her loves and grandchildren, Lesa, Heather, Amanda, Anthony, Joe, Abby, Nick, Miranda, Dakota, Morgan, Lacy and Dom; her great-grandchildren, Conner, Emelyn, Alexis and Emma; special niece, Nancy Casper; as well as many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; brothers, Leo, Randy and David LaPlaunt; sister, Kathy Laplaunt; and grandson, Larz Wozniak.

Per her wishes, cremation has taken place and the family will announce a memorial service at a later date. Those wishing to make a memorial contribution may donate to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Sandra's name at [www.stjude.org](http://www.stjude.org) to sign online guestbook, visit [www.hyattewald.com](http://www.hyattewald.com). Arrangements made with the Hyatt Ewald Funeral Home.

#### LYLE C. HORN

Lyle C. Horn of Mackinac Island, Mich., walked on Feb. 8, 2021. Lyle was born April 28, 1951, and had made Denver, Colo., his home since the 1970s. He passed away peacefully at his home with his wife Janetta at his side.



Lyle grew up on Mackinac Island where he attended and graduated from Mackinac Island public schools. He also graduated with his college degree from Ottawa University in Ottawa, Kansas.

Eventually, he made his way to Colorado, where he purchased a home and made his living as a skilled potter.

He became interested in Interior Design and was hired by Michael Handlers, which was one of the more successful firms in Denver and where he met his wife, Janetta. He soon was promoted to store manager.

In the mid 1980s, he opened an antique store on what was known as Denver's Antique Row, appropriately named Somewhere in Time. For more than 30 years he ran a successful antique business

specializing in antique lighting and vintage designer costume jewelry. During this time he had taken up the violin and music could be heard up and down the street as he practiced in the early mornings.

He became known as the "grand old gentleman" of South Broadway. He was well thought of by customers and other vendors as well, because of his willingness to help others.

Lyle embraced life to the fullest and was accomplished in music and the arts. As a child he would go door to door selling painted pinecones and the like to pay for his piano lessons.

He is survived by his wife, Janetta of Denver; a daughter, Lisa M. Hale and a granddaughter Makayla Hale, both of Denver; a son, David M. Horn, and granddaughter Alaina Horn, both of Basehor, Kans.; also surviving are five siblings, Jimmy and Colleen Horn of Hessel, Mich., Mila and Joe Horn of St. Ignace, Mich., Cub and Kitty Horn of Mackinac Island, Patricia "Squeak" Horn of St. Ignace and Matt and Melinda Porter of Harbor Springs, Mich.; and numerous nieces and nephews and extended family.

Lyle was preceded in death by his parents, Armand "Smi" Horn and Shirley "Mickey" Horn of Mackinac Island; a brother, Armand "Army" Horn; and a nephew Shawn Horn.

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

Lyle fought a brave fight for many years. His spirit and zest for life will be forever missed.

Celebration of life will be held later this year.

#### BARRY JOHNSON

Barry Johnson, 45, of Munising, died Feb. 14, 2021, surrounded with love by his family at the Spectrum Health's Butterworth Hospital in Grand Rapids, Mich., following medical complications.



He was born on April 19, 1975, in Munising to his wonderful parents, Robert and Debbie (Kroupa) Johnson. Growing up with his siblings and friends, they were always out in the woods in the Miners/Indiantown area where they would fish, hunt and play games in the yard. His family also raised a variety of farm animals. Barry enjoyed boxing with the Munising Boxing Club and his love for music began when he was quite young. He played the trumpet in middle and high school where he also had a passion for playing football for the Mustangs. Barry met Jamie St. Amour in high school and continued to make memories with her and many of his lifelong friends. He graduated from Munising High School in 1993.

Barry married Jamie on July 8, 1995, and together they lovingly raised their four children. He was so proud of each of his children for all of the accomplishments they have achieved. He would brag to everyone about them on

a daily basis. His children were truly his pride and joy. He loved supporting his kids in everything they did. Family was the most important thing to Barry. He secretly plotted to attain the family pets, "that he didn't want."

At a young age, Barry worked in the woods cutting down trees and could find his way through any forest. He gained many work companions in his years working at Bob's IGA, Timber Products and Kimberly Clark. He began his career working with children in his own home, as both Barry and Jamie had a home daycare. Barry then found his niche with helping troubled youth when he worked for Teaching Family Homes. Barry wanted to better himself and loved reading and gaining new knowledge. He attended NMU where he earned a bachelor's degree in psychology in 2004. After earning his degree, Barry worked as a social worker at Tendercare in Munising and Ishpeming and then became a nursing home administrator for Extendicare in Sault Ste. Marie. Barry then became the director of the Student Responsibility Center (SRC) at Munising High School, where he helped provide guidance to students and always had an open door for any child who needed help or someone to talk to. Barry and his family opened their hearts and home to a few that became part of their family. He most recently joined the Alger County Courthouse team as a juvenile probation officer while continuing to work at Munising High School.

Barry was a talented musician who loved jamming with friends and played with his bands Tune Deal and Pölar (14+27). He never gave up playing his guitar and was always ready to rock. Barry enjoyed company in "The Barn" to jam and was so proud of his sauna he built. Every morning he enjoyed his coffee and added to his music collection by finding new music to hear. Barry's appreciation for concerts and the experiences that came with them were irreplaceable.

Each one of his tattoos marked a special time or meaning in his life. Some of his most memorable hunting experiences were trucking through the deep snow to track down the big bucks. Numerous fishing trips with his friends and family were truly remarkable and they were times he would not forget. Cross-country road trips were never dull. There was always an adventure to talk about. His love for Canada grew in recent years since he and his family began camping and taking trips there. Mastering new languages was something that he challenged himself with along with learning about astronomy the highlights of "Ancient Alien Fridays." Barry and his family have raised farm animals and gardened off and on. This was something he had done as a child with his family and was so proud to be able to share that same experience with his children. He was especially excited to have some baby calves be birthed this winter. Barry's love for his family superseded everything else in his life. He loved being home with his family and felt safe when

See "Walking on," page 19

From "Walking on," page 18 everyone was there.

Barry is survived by his wife of 25 years, Jamie Johnson of Munising; children, Matthew, Alex, Trevor and Valerie Johnson, all of Munising; mother, Debbie Johnson; siblings, Michael (Heather) Johnson of Munising, Daniel (Holly) Johnson of Negaunee, Rebecca Johnson of Munising and Amy Johnson of Munising; mother and father-in-law, Jim and Carol St. Amour; brother-in-law, Mike (Katie Stickles) St. Amour; nieces and nephews, Brandon (Jordan), Carissa (Tyler), Michael (Brittney), Andrew, Nick, Natalia, Remi, Winter, Nasheena and Echo; great-nieces and nephew, Allison, Emma, Brilliana, Lacey and Bennett; numerous aunts, uncles and cousins; best friend, Lee (Amber) Curtis, and many other great friends; pets, Zeeza, Willow and Axel.

He was preceded in death by his father, Robert Johnson; sister-in-law, Laura St. Amour; grandparents, Marjorie and Darwin Kroupa and Mary and Frank Johnson; grandparents-in-law, Nancy and Reino Kinnunen and Peg and Hoot St. Amour; and pets, Copper, Chip and Jewel.

Visiting time with family and friends was at the Bowerman Funeral Home on Feb. 19, 2021. In lieu of flowers, memorials are requested to be made directly to the family. Barry's obituary and online guestbook may be viewed and signed at bowermanfuneralhome.net.

#### THOMAS G. KING

Beloved husband, father and grandfather, Thomas George King, 69, of Engadine, passed away on March 17, 2021, at his home in the presence and loving care of his family.



Born Feb. 22, 1952, in Naubinway, son of the late Ernest D. Jr. "Pete" and Vides E. (Whitford) King, Tom was a 1970 graduate of Engadine High School. On April 22, 1972, Tom married his high school sweetheart, the former Debra A. Vesel, at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in Engadine.

On Aug. 16, 1972, Tom enlisted in the United States Army and served during the Vietnam War until his honorable discharge on Aug. 15, 1974, attaining the rank of specialist fourth grade.

Following his discharge, Tom and Deb returned to Naubinway where they owned and operated King's Motel. Tom also managed King's Fish Market Inc. and was a school bus driver for Engadine Consolidated Schools. Tom formerly served as a trustee for North Country Bank and Trust (now mBank) and the Garfield Township Board. Tom was a former member of Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church until its closure and present member of St. Stephens Catholic Church in Naubinway. Tom was also a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

Tom was very engaged in his community and was a member of the Garfield Township Fire Department, American Legion Post 290, Naubinway-Engadine Merchants Association, Top of the Lake Snowmobile Museum in Naubinway and the antique tractor show in Engadine. Tom was happiest doing family activities, gardening, reading, collecting vintage garden tractors and spending time at his cabin.

Survivors include his loving wife, Debra, of Engadine; children, Jamie (Melissa) King of Engadine, Sheila (Todd Brown) Richards of McMillan and Mitchell (Teri) King of Midland; grandchildren, Dylan Duflo of St. Ignace, Evan Richards of Austin, Texas, Eric Richards of McMillan, Brandon Brown and Jacob Brown both of McMillan; siblings, Sally Schultz of Naubinway, Cindy (Kathy Jerde) King of Manistique, Jay (Darcy) King of Naubinway and Bob (Bev) King all of Naubinway; and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, Tom is preceded in death by his brother-in-law, Russell Schultz.

A gathering of family and friends took place on March 24, 2021, at St. Stephens Catholic Church in Naubinway. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at the church with Fr. Marty Flynn officiating. Rite of Committal with full military rites will take place in the spring of 2021 at the Engadine Cemetery.

Memorials may be directed to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital or to the Engadine Consolidated Schools Foundation for Educational Excellence designated to the Ernest "Pete" King Jr. Scholarship Fund in care of Beaulieu Funeral Home, P.O. Box 67, Newberry, MI 49868 in his loving memory.

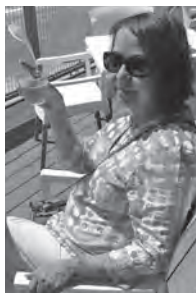
Condolences may be expressed at [www.beaulieufuneralhome.com](http://www.beaulieufuneralhome.com).

Beaulieu Funeral Home in Newberry assisted the family.

#### HAZEL M. MCCARTY

Hazel Marie (Thomas) McCarty was born on May 8, 1948, in Mt. Clemens, Mich., and passed away on March 19, 2021, in Mesa, Ariz.

Hazel grew up in southwestern Michigan and graduated from Paw Paw High School in 1966. Hazel moved to Arizona in 1976. She worked as a bookkeeper and in the mortgage business for many years. Hazel loved to be with friends and family. She had an adventurous spirit and especially loved visiting the ocean. She loved to sit on the beach, gaze at the waves and sip Chardonnay. Hazel was a very talented seamstress and spent many hours hand beading and sewing her daughters' wedding gowns and altered many formal dresses for her four granddaughters. She also sewed the most amazing, detailed and creative Halloween costumes for her granddaughters. As Grandma, she never said no



and always did whatever she could to help her granddaughters' creative costume ideas become reality. Hazel was great at DIY projects and loved unique gadgets. She had fun coming up with creative gift ideas and never missed celebrating a birthday with her treasured granddaughters. Hazel was an excellent baker and made the best dinner rolls and Kifli cookies for her friends and family on Thanksgiving every year. She loved to make cute desserts for her granddaughters by trying out fun recipes on Pinterest. Hazel was a marathon Hallmark movie watcher and crossword puzzle expert. Hazel was an extremely brave, strong and independent woman. She always had an open door and welcomed friends and family by offering nurturing support anytime they were in need.

Hazel will be deeply missed by her two daughters and sons-in-law, Angela and Steve Burm and Amy and David Snyder; her precious granddaughters, Andrea Kramer and future grandson-in-law Sean Curry, Sydney Snyder, Brianna Burm and Lexi Snyder; grandchildren, Kristen Burm and Aaron and Samantha Burm; great-granddaughters, Kinsley and Dempsey Burm (who knew her as Grandma "Weasel"); and her two brothers, Larry Thomas and Butch Thomas.

Hazel's passing was preceded by her parents, John and Mary (Belonga) Hess and grandparents Ruth and Earl Belonga.

The family will be holding a private celebration of her life on Hazel's birthday, May 8, 2021. While Hazel's loving spirit will continue to live on within her daughters and granddaughters, her ashes will be buried at a later date in the ocean where she felt to be most at peace.

Please celebrate Hazel by reflecting upon a special memory of her. Donations in Hazel's honor may be made to the National Kidney Foundation, <https://azkidney.org/node/142>.

#### DONALD PAGE

Donald Page, formerly of Trout Lake, passed away unexpectedly on March 11, 2021, at Jacobetti Home for Veterans. He was 84.

Born on Aug. 15, 1936, in St. Ignace, Mich., to Jessie and May Page. Don married Maxine "Betty" Huntley on Nov. 17, 1959, and five children followed: Pamela, Tammy, Glenda, John and Glennes.

He enlisted in the Army in 1959 and served at Ft. Benning before going on spend 20 years at H.J. Ware Construction.

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

You could find Don most days outside enjoying the weather

with a cup of coffee. With a smile on his face, he always had a joke or story to tell no matter what the situation was. He also loved to take long drives on the open road, classic cars and dogs. In his younger days, he enjoyed dancing a good polka.

Don was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Betty; daughters, Pamela and Tammy (infant twins) and Glenda LaCoy; grandson, Paul Sewell Jr.; and siblings, Francis, Bill, Jimmy, Clarence and Doris.

He is survived by his son, John (Joy) Page of Marquette; his daughter, Glennes (Paul) Page-Sewell of Gaylord; grandsons, Brian (Alyssa) Vogel of Milan and Josh (Dana) Sewell of Ionia; granddaughters, Ashley Vogel of Sault Ste. Marie, Nicole Page of Houghton and Sarah Page of Marquette; and great grandson, Julian Sewell.

He will be buried at the Lakeview Cemetery in Trout Lake in June 2021.

#### JULI A. PIONK

Juli Ann Pionk, 73, Tustin, Mich., On March 19, 2021, our dear mother, passed away. She was always there



for each of us and she touched so many others. We love you forever, our most of all.

Born in Detroit in 1948, the daughter of William McCarthy and Virginia Sly, both parents born in the Upper Peninsula. She had five siblings Nancy (Sal), William, Michael, Jane and Patrick. She had many nieces, nephews and cousins.

She was a descendant of Irish copper miners and Upper Great Lakes Natives from Mackinac Island to Minnesota and Canada. She enjoyed the outdoors, hunting, crafts, flower gardening, family history research, bingo, painting, cooking meals for her family and loving all the grandchildren. She once wrote a poem (Ben's Den) in a national contest and won, it was published. She traveled to Alaska, Toronto, London, Mexico, North Carolina, Florida and took us all to Washington, D.C., one summer vacation. She was an extremely hard worker, always willing to take on any project for any of us. She was a good friend to many. She was very opinionated, and if she did not like something, you would know it.

Juli had four children, Frank (Nichole) Pando, William Pando, Christie Pionk, and Lea Pionk. She had seven grandchildren, Joshua (Hannah), Mariah, Cameron, Jacqueline, Tyler, Avri and Xavier. Four great-grandchildren, Miles, Ezra, Tucker and Colton. We will all miss her dearly.

She will be buried at Newton Township Cemetery, Gould City, among her ancestors and beside her mother and father, in the shade of a tree she planted there.

#### WORLEY E. RITTENHOUSE

Worley Earl Rittenhouse, 84, husband to Janice Rittenhouse,

passed from this earth to Glory on March 18, 2021, from pancreatic cancer. He previously resided in Kincheloe, Mich., with his wife, prior to moving for care to Zion, Ill., with his children.

Earl proudly served a three-year term with the U.S. Navy, which he felt was a great way for a young man to learn discipline and responsibility. He retired after 33 years of service with Lake County Press in Waukegan, Ill. After retiring, he moved with his wife to Kincheloe, Mich., to be with the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. He worked at the casino in St. Ignace for a short time after his retirement and volunteered at War Memorial Hospital at the Sault.

He was devoted to his Catholic faith. Earl made it a priority to read the Bible every day and to pray for his family and friends. He relished peace and knew the importance of quieting oneself before God. Earl loved doing sweats with his dear friend Bro. John and his friends from his church, St. Isaac Jogues.

He embraced his Native American heritage as part of the Chippewa tribe. He enjoyed visiting Sugar Island and the Sault, interacting with tribal members. He went on several trips with the tribe's elders, including Washington, D.C., Branson, Mo., Nashville, Tenn., New Jersey and Niagara Falls with his wife. He went to many powwows and participated in the dancing.

He loved his sports, baseball and football, specifically, the Cubs and the Packers. He went to the games growing up in Chicago, Ill., and saw all the legends. He never went to a Packer game but was there in spirit. He focused on his own health by daily bike riding, walking and weight lifting. Once, he raised money for Alzheimer's by riding his bike 300-plus miles over two days.

Earl was handy and believed in hard work. He was also generous with hope and wisdom into the lives of those he met. In other words, he gave a lot of advice. In his last days, he was not able to read the word but would quote many scriptures he knew by memory. He will be missed by family and friends and remembered for who he was.

Survivors are his wife of 29 years, Jan Rittenhouse; daughters, Jill Harden, Bonnie Rittenhouse, Cheryl Madura and Terry Kuss; grandchildren, James Patterson, Amber Parker, Shannon Cisneros (Juan), Jenna Davis and Kristopher Kuss (Mina Ha); great-grandchildren, Trae Israel, Auraya Shephard, Destiny Laughton, Hailey Davis, Steven Davis, Tylar Davis, Adrian Aiken and Jameson Rodrigues; and many dear friends.

Earl was preceded in death by his mother and father, David and Ellen (Hardwick) Rittenhouse and his two sons, David and Mark Rittenhouse.



# The Nine Lives of John Aslin illustrates inter-generational trauma

From "Book review," page 13 their stories," Bauer states in the Eugenics era, and the Home for the Feeble-Minded, an actual boarding school that was operated in in Lapeer, Mich.

"Many of the story elements that happen at the home in my book originate from stories uncovered in my research" Bauer added. "I simply placed Fred Aslin and his siblings in the midst of the anecdotes that I discovered."

The book shows examples of how inter-generational trauma is

transmitted from one generation to the next, how failure of some



**Sault Tribe member John Aslin (left) and author, attorney Jill Creech Bauer.**

state policies intended to help the disadvantaged can take place and how deeply racial prejudice can become imbedded in governmental operations. It also gives examples of how John Aslin has made positive changes through the years. Bauer invites reader participation in the struggle for Aslin to gain his freedom. He was born on April 30, 1963 and convicted for murder in 1984. According to Bauer, Aslin is the longest serving inmate in the Michigan penal system.

Aslin didn't grow up knowing

of his Anishinaabe ancestry. He learned about his ancestry later from his father, and other Anishinaabeg guided him into the traditional ways, which contributed to and reinforced his change of heart.

While Aslin's situation might have broken other men, Bauer asserts Aslin helps others whenever he can in any way he can. He is especially helpful in guiding other Anishinaabeg to build the strength in finding peace in their lives.

Aslin himself concluded a recent letter that seems to confirm

Bauer's assertions of how much he has turned himself around. "I close now with clean dreams, clean eyes, clean tongue, clean heart and clean hands in saying I send prayers for you and yours. Stay safe and healthy. Sincerely, John Eric Aslin," he wrote.

The author said the book is available on just about all e-book platforms and as audiobooks, paperbacks are available on Amazon and can be ordered through bookstores and libraries through Ingram Spark Books.

## Resolutions approved at board meetings from February 1 to April 6

The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians convened on Feb. 16 with all present and passed the following resolutions.

**Resolution 2021-039 – Good Health and Wellness in Indian Country FY 2021 Budget Modification** – Approved to increase expenses and increase federal funding \$71,136.98 with no effect on tribal support.

**040 – FY 2021 Budget Document 003** – Approved for \$66,920,592, of which \$22,491,403 comes from tribal support.

**041 – OVC FY 2021 Tribal Victim Services Set Aside Formula Grant Program** – Authorized a grant application to the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office for Victims of Crime Affairs for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.

**043 – BIA GLRI Habitats and Species Grant-Whitefish Tributary Rearing** – Authorized work to secure agreements between the tribe and the Bureau of Indian Affairs for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.

**044 – BIA GLRI Habitats and Species Grant-Mi'inginin Boreal Forest Ecosystems** – Authorized work to secure agreements between the tribe and the Bureau of Indian Affairs for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.

**046 – Continuing Funding Authority for Fiscal Year 2021 January to December** – Approved for interest, Direct Services, governmental cares, enterprise and casino cares and BIA cares at their 2020 spending levels.

**047 – Official Tribal Website and Facebook Page** – Reaffirmed the tribe's official website is www.saulttribe.com and its official Facebook page is www.facebook.com/saulttribe.

The board reconvened on March 2 with all present and passed the following resolutions.

**048 – Natural Resources-GLRI Whitefish Recruitment Establishment FY 2021 Budget** – Approved for BIA funding of \$7,088.42 with no effect on tribal support.

**049 – Gitchi Auto, Home and RV 2021 Budget Modification** – Approved to change the personnel sheet and increase expenses \$96,426.35.

**050 – Stonegarden Acceptance of Grant and Establish 2021 Budget** – Approved for \$80,000 in Department of Homeland Security funding of \$80,000 with \$2,000 with-held by the State of Michigan for M&A; approved budget for \$78,000 with no effect on tribal support.

**051 – FY 2021 Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation** – Authorized an application for U.S. Department of Justice grant

funding.

**052 – Trust Land Lease Cancellation** – Authorized for a parcel in Kincheloe, Mich.

**053 – Trust Land Lease Cancellation** – Authorized for a second parcel in Kincheloe, Mich.

**054 – Trust Land Leases** – Authorized for two parcels in Kinross, Mich.

**055 – Establishment of Tribal Charter for Sault Tribe Business Alliance Nonprofit Corporation** – Approved to establish the alliance as a non-profit business entity, separate and the distinct from the tribe authorized to engage in business on behalf of its sole owner, Sault Tribe.

**056 – Approving 2021 Subcontractor for Administrative and Biological Services with CORA** – Approved 2021 subcontract for services between the tribe and the Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority and approved a \$117,112 expenditure to CORA pursuant to the agreement.

**057 – Amending Tribal Code Chapter 21: Hunting and Inland Fishing Section 21.522 Dogs** – Amended the code section to read, "(1) No tribal member permit holder shall hunt deer, elk, moose or wild turkey with dogs, except that it shall be legal to hunt wild turkey with dogs during the fall season. (2) It shall be legal to use leashed dogs to track wounded game. (3) All other uses are permitted. (4) Tribal member permit holders may hunt bear with dogs pursuant to Section 21.705. (5) No tribal member permit holders may run dogs on any wild animal from April 16 to July 14. (6) Licensed hunters must be present at all times during pursuit of game."

The board reconvened on March 16 with all present and passed the following resolutions.

**Resolution 2021-58 – FY 2021 Governmental Capital Purchases Budget** – Appropriated \$1,716,21, of which \$1,508,000 will come other revenue/fund balance and \$208,600 from tribal support.

**59 – Industrial Warehouse and MEDC Warehouse Establish FY 2021 and FY 2022 Budgets** – Approved a 2022 budget for an industrial warehouse with Michigan Department of Commerce revenue of \$1,166,666.66 with no effect on tribal support. Approved a 2021 budget for MEDC Warehouse with State of Michigan revenue of \$83,333.36 with no effect on tribal support. And approved a 2022 budget for MEDC Warehouse with State of Michigan revenue of \$166,666.64 with no effect on tribal support.

**60 – Sawyer Village-Soo Tribe Housing Authority FY 2021 Enterprise Capital Outlays Budget Modification** – Approved to

increase expenses \$240,000 from fund balance.

**61 – Sawyer Village-Escanaba Facility FY 2021 Enterprise Capital Outlays Budget Modification** – Approved to increase expenses \$175,000 from fund balance.

**62 – Northern Hospitality FY 2021 Budget Modification** – Approved to change the personnel sheet and increase expenses \$25,253.98 with no effect on tribal support.

**63 – Manistique Medical Nursing and Third-Party Revenue FY 2021 Budget Modifications** – Approved modification to Manistique medical nursing to change the personnel sheets and reduce third-party revenue \$5,400 with no effect on tribal support. Approved third-party revenue reducing the transfer of funds \$5,400 with no effect on tribal support.

**64 – Establish FY 2021 Budget COVID Vaccination Clinics and Third-Party Revenue FY 2021 Budget Modification** – Approved \$93,525.60 to establish vaccination clinics with third-party revenue with no effect on tribal support. Approved increase of \$93,525.60 in third-party revenue for transfer with no effect on tribal support.

**65 – IHS After Care FY 2021 Budget Modification** – Approved to change the personnel sheets and reallocate expenses with no effect on tribal support.

**66 – Buildings Chippewa Landing Establish FY 2021 and FY 2022 Budgets** – Approved transfer of \$30,200.04 of tribal operations funds to Chippewa Landing budget and may have effect on tribal support.

**67 – Buildings Internal Repairs and Maintenance FY 2021 and FY 2022 Budget Modifications** – Approved the 2021 Buildings Internal Repairs and Maintenance budget to change the personnel sheets, increase expenses, decrease other revenue \$634.92 and increase use of fund balance by \$12,380.46 and increase use of by \$2,834.39 with no effect on tribal support. Approved 2022 budget modification to the Buildings Internal Repairs and Maintenance to change the personnel sheets, increase expenses, decrease other revenue \$12,380.46 and increase use of fund balance by \$32,655.78 with no effect on tribal support.

**68 – Environmental-Invasive Species Establish FY 2022 Budget** – Approved for federal BIA funds of \$4,596.39 with no effect on tribal support.

**69 – Approving Contract Sonosky Chambers-Consulting** – Contract with law firm approved for consulting on federal legislation issues and pending administrative actions continuing through

Dec. 31, 2021.

Dec. 31, 2021.

**70 – Support for Michigan Indian Legal Services BJA TCCLA Grant Application** – Authorized submission of a grant application to the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) for a Tribal Civil and Criminal Legal Assistance (TCCLA) grant to strengthen civil and criminal legal assistance to low-income members, including but not limited to public defender services, civil legal addressing collateral consequences of conviction and arrest and supporting annual veterans' clinics. Further, authorized Michigan Indian Legal Services to implement the project of civil and criminal legal assistance in the boundaries of the reservation.

**71 – Appointing Audit Committee Members** – Reappointed Mike McKerchie to the committee until the end of his current term on the board in July 2024 and reappoints Dr. Madan Saluja for a term expiring March 2025.

**72 – FY 2021 Emergency Rental Assistance Program Budget** – Approved the FY 2021 Emergency Rental Assistance Program with a budget of \$6,494,593.28 from the U.S. Department of the Treasury.

**73 – U.S. Department of the Treasury FY Emergency Rental Assistance Program-Policy** – Approved the tribe's Emergency Rental Assistance Program policy as presented and authorized the Sault Tribe Housing Authority to revise the policy as needed to carry out the program and maintain compliance with federal requirements. The purpose of the program is to provide financial assistance and housing stability services to eligible tribal families including but not limited to rent, rental arrears, utilities and home energy costs and home energy arrears for people of low-income. Authorized the program eligibility extends to all enrolled members residing in the United States who qualify for the program. Program funding will be equally allocated 50 percent to eligible enrolled members residing in the tribe's service area and 50 percent to eligible members residing in the balance of the United States outside of the service area.

**74 – U.S. Department of the Treasury FY 2021 Emergency Rental Assistance Program-Online Submission** – Authorized the Sault Tribe Housing Authority to complete an online submission to secure U.S. Treasury Emergency Rental Assistance funding.

**75 – Naming of new ACFS/CCDF Early Childhood Center** – Approved naming the new early childhood education center in Sault Ste. Marie in honor of Anne Suggitt for her years of dedication, service and contributions to

education and enrichment of the tribe's children.

The board reconvened on April 6 with all present and passed the following resolutions.

**76 – Medicare COVID Funding Establishment of a FY 2021 Budget and Third-Party Revenue FY 2021 Budget Modification** – Approved for Medicare funding with third party revenue funds of \$60,733 with no effect on tribal support plus a budget modification to third party revenue increasing the transfer out of \$60,733 with no effect on tribal support.

**77 – Sault Ste. Marie Tribe IHS Special Diabetes FY 2021 Budget Modifications** – Approved to change the personnel sheet and reallocate expenses with no effect on tribal support.

**78 – Sault Ste. Marie Tribe Transit CARES Act Establishment of FY 2021 and 2022 Budgets** – Approved for U.S. Department of Transportation funds of \$94,500 for FY 2021 and \$256,446 for FY 2022 with no effect on tribal support.

**79 – Sault Ste. Marie Tribe Tribal Transportation Program FY 2021 Budget Modifications** – Approved for an increase in Bureau of Indian Affairs funds of \$73,000 with no effect on tribal support.

**80 – Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Tribal Transportation Program Manistique Project-MDOT Agreement** – Approved the tribe to enter into a contract with the Michigan Department of Transportation for improvements along highway U.S.-2 as requested by the tribe.

**81 – Trust Land Status McGregor Addition Block 3 and Block 4 Sault Ste. Marie Chippewa County, MI** – Requested Secretary of the Interior to accept title to two parcels of land in trust for the benefit of the tribe.

**82 – Sault Tribe Corporate Charter Appointing Charter Members** – Appointed Scott LaVictor to term expiring June 30, 2023 and reappointed Dr. Madan Saluja until June 30, 2023, and Linda Grow to a term expiring June 30, 2024.

**83 – National Indian Gaming Association 2021** – Authorized remittance of NIGA 2021 membership dues of \$7,500 and appointed board members' roles as delegate and alternates.

**84 – Authorization of Full Settlement Haynes v. Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians** – Approved pursuant to the terms described in the settlement agreement and release.

Visit the Sault Tribe website to view resolutions and voting grids in their entirety at saulttribe.com.

# Michigan officials applaud *American Rescue Plan* for making health insurance more affordable

LANSING, Mich. – Michigan leaders applaud the passage of the *American Rescue Plan*, which, among other important provisions, will make health coverage through the Health Insurance Marketplace more affordable and more accessible for Michiganders struggling with the economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

“The pandemic has highlighted a number of important challenges that we face here in Michigan, including a strong need for affordable, high-quality health coverage,” said Governor Gretchen Whitmer. “I appreciate the leadership shown by President Biden and members of Michigan’s Democratic congressional delegation who voted to make sure that this vitally important coverage is more accessible for all Michiganders, including critical policies like providing low-income moms health care for a full year postpartum to reduce health disparities and encourage healthy moms and healthy babies.”

“The *American Rescue Plan* will help more Michiganders afford the health coverage that is critical to their health and their family’s wellbeing,” said Anita Fox, director of the Michigan Department of Insurance and Financial Services (DIFS). “We saw nearly 5,000 Michiganders and more than 200,000 Americans sign up for coverage in just the first two weeks of the current Marketplace special enrollment

## The *American Rescue Plan*: Impacts on Michigan, the need for action in Michigan

The pandemic and the associated economic crisis have had a severe impact on Michigan. The need for action is clear:

- Since the pandemic began, more than 656,072 people have been infected with COVID-19 and more than 16,658 people have died.
- The unemployment rate is 8.2 percent, up from 3.7 percent before the pandemic.
- Since February 2020, more than 288,396 fewer people are employed.
- 696,000 Adults – 11 percent of all adults in the state – report not having enough food to eat. This includes 292,000 adults liv-

ing with children, or 13 percent of all adults living with children, who report that the children in their households do not have enough to eat.

- An estimated 437,000 renters or 25 percent of renters are not caught up on rent.
  - An estimated 2,222,000 adults or 31 percent of all adults statewide report having difficulty covering normal household expenses.
- The effect of the *American Rescue Plan* on Michigan – President Biden’s *American Rescue Plan* provides Michigan with:
- \$6.6 Billion in state fiscal relief.
  - \$4 billion in local fiscal relief
  - More than \$3.814 billion in relief for K-12 schools.

period, and this legislation will help more Michiganders afford the coverage they need.”

“COVID-19 has underscored the importance of addressing racial disparities in health and expanding access to health care coverage through Medicaid,” said Elizabeth Hertel, director of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. “We appreciate this strong support from President Biden and will continue working to make sure Michigan residents don’t need to worry about being able to afford health care during a pandemic.”

The *American Rescue Plan*,

signed into law by President Joe Biden last Thursday, put into place several key provisions to improve access to health coverage nationwide. They are:

- A \$35 billion investment to increase and expand subsidies that lower premiums for people who buy coverage through the Health Insurance Marketplace at HealthCare.gov. For example, a 60 year old Michigan couple earning \$75,000 a year will see their Marketplace premium go down by approximately \$943 per month as a result of the plan.
- Forgives more than \$6 billion in payments owed by consumers

whose 2020 advanced premium subsidies did not match their income.

- A 100 percent subsidy for COBRA payments for six months for individuals who lost their job or who saw reduced work hours.
- A full year of increased premium subsidies for people who receive unemployment.

Depending on income and the plan chosen, this could mean a full year of Marketplace coverage without having to pay any premium.

In addition to the above provisions for Marketplace plans, the bill also includes numerous

investments to reduce health disparities, including an option for states to extend postpartum Medicaid coverage to one year, support for state home-and-community based Medicaid services, and resources for COVID-19 response in nursing homes. The bill also provides \$8.5 billion for rural providers, and secures additional funding to safety-net hospitals.

DIFS can help consumers with health insurance questions and complaints and can provide information about the Health Insurance Marketplace Special Enrollment Period that is open through May 15. For more information, including a schedule of upcoming DIFS and MDHHS virtual health insurance town halls, consumers should visit Michigan.gov/HealthInsurance or call (877) 999-6442 Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The mission of the Michigan Department of Insurance and Financial Services is to ensure access to safe and secure insurance and financial services fundamental for the opportunity, security and success of Michigan residents, while fostering economic growth and sustainability in both industries. In addition, the department provides consumer protection, outreach and financial literacy and education services to Michigan residents. For more information, visit [www.michigan.gov/difs](http://www.michigan.gov/difs) or follow the Department on Facebook, Twitter or LinkedIn.

## *American Rescue Plan* provides critical support for Indian Affairs programs

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The *American Rescue Plan* (ARP) signed by President Biden on March 11, 2021, invests \$1.75 billion in American Indian and Alaska Native government programs administered under the oversight of the Department of the Interior’s assistant secretary – Indian Affairs.

The ARP makes emergency

supplemental appropriations and other changes to law to respond to the ongoing coronavirus outbreak.

The ARP authorizes \$900 million for the Office of the Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs (AS-IA) and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) to support a wide range of COVID-19 response activities, including:

- \$772.5 million for tribal government services, public safety and justice, social services, child welfare assistance, and other related expenses;
- \$100 million for tribal housing improvement;
- \$20 million to provide and deliver potable water; and
- \$7.5 million for related federal administrative costs and

oversight.

In addition, \$850 million is provided to the Bureau of Indian Education for bureau operated schools, tribally controlled schools, and tribal colleges and universities to support quality education delivery while protecting students, teachers and communities from COVID-19.

The Department of the

Interior and Indian Affairs will consult with the leaders of federally recognized tribal governments to discuss implementation of the *American Rescue Plan*.

Qualified expenditure guidance and other relevant tribal information will be posted on the Indian Affairs website as it becomes available.

## Whitmer, Gilchrist on expanding health care coverage under Healthy Michigan Plan

LANSING, Mich. – Governor Gretchen Whitmer and Lieutenant Governor Garlin Gilchrist II released the following statements after the Biden administration sent a letter to Michigan announcing that it has taken steps to ensure greater access to health care under the Healthy Michigan Plan by removing restrictive Medicaid work requirements that were put in place under the Trump administration.

“The Biden administration’s

decision to uphold crucial access to health care is life-changing news for the tens of thousands of Michiganders who were in danger of losing their health coverage if the requirements were implemented,” said Governor Whitmer. “No one deserves to be kicked off their health insurance when they need it most, especially in the midst of a global pandemic and historic recession. As Senate Democratic leader, I was proud to work across the aisle to pass Medicaid expansion,

and this year over one million Michiganders obtained health insurance coverage during the Health Insurance Marketplace open enrollment period or through our expanded Medicaid program. As governor, I’m grateful to have a partner in the White House with the same goal of improving health care access for Michiganders. President Biden is already making good on his promise to begin expanding access to affordable health care, and I look forward to continuing

to work with his administration to keep Michiganders healthy and ensure everyone has access to the care they deserve as we make our way out of the pandemic.”

“The Biden-Harris administration’s letter to Michigan is a step in the right direction to expand and protect access to health care for more low-income Americans and an important milestone for health and racial equity,” said Lieutenant Governor Gilchrist. “By working towards protecting

and strengthening Medicaid, President Biden is helping the vulnerable Michiganders who lost their jobs during this pandemic—who are disproportionately Black, people of color, and women—retain health insurance. Particularly in the wake of the uncertainty around COVID-19’s long-term health impact, eliminating Medicaid work requirements is a crucial measure to safeguarding the health of Michiganders of all backgrounds.”

## Iron Mountain VA expanding COVID-19 vaccinations to all veterans, caregivers and spouses

IRON MOUNTAIN, Mich. – The Oscar G. Johnson VA Medical Center recently announced it is providing COVID-19 vaccinations to anyone who served in the military, and their caregivers and spouses under the authority granted by the *SAVE LIVES Act*, signed by President Joe Biden on March 24. The expanded eligibility includes never activated National Guard and Reserve,

CHAMPVA beneficiaries, and all categories of veterans regardless of character of discharge.

The expanded authority depends on readily available COVID-19 vaccine supply and requires the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to continue to prioritize veterans enrolled in VA care.

“Since the start of the pandemic, we have been focused

on vaccinating as many veterans as possible, and we are excited to multiply our efforts thanks to the *SAVE LIVES Act*,” said Jim Rice, director of the Oscar G. Johnson VA Medical Center. “We are regularly scheduling COVID-19 vaccination clinics here in Iron Mountain and at our seven community-based outpatient clinics in the U.P. and northern Wisconsin.”

VA outpatient clinics are

located in Hancock, Ironwood, Manistique, Marquette, Menominee and Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., and Rhinelander, Wis.

Those newly eligible under the *SAVE LIVES Act* to receive a vaccine can go to [www.va.gov/covid-19-vaccine](http://www.va.gov/covid-19-vaccine) to register and stay informed on the VA’s vaccine rollout process. The Oscar G. Johnson VA Medical Center will contact

those eligible when additional vaccine is available.

For those who do not have access to a computer, please call (906) 774-3300, extension 33115, to let the VA know you are interested in the vaccine.

To maintain continued health and safety during the pandemic, please do not visit a VA facility for a COVID-19 vaccine without an appointment.

# Steelhead declines spur discussion of research and management options

DANIEL O'KEEFE, MICHIGAN SEA GRANT, MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

The steelhead is a prized gamefish that provides a unique contribution to recreational fishing in Michigan.

Although steelhead do most of their feeding and growing in the Great Lakes, many are caught in rivers. Unlike salmon, steelhead can spend many months in a river environment. The peak steelhead run occurs in early spring for most rivers, but fall runs can also be strong and overwintering fish can provide decent open water fishing through the coldest months of the year. Skamania strain steelhead even provide a summer run on some rivers like the St. Joseph and Manistee.

On many rivers, steelhead anglers have noticed a decline in their catch rate in recent years. Seasoned pros who have kept fishing journals for decades are noting more and more blank pages. The timing and strength of steelhead runs can be highly dependent on water temperature and river flow, but people are concerned that recent low catch rates might be due to something other than the normal weather-based fluctuations.

On Feb. 22, 2021, Michigan Sea Grant hosted a Steelhead Fishery Workshop featuring speakers from Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Michigan State University to review past and current research projects and management issues.

The goal was to bring river anglers together with fishery professionals to explore some potential causes and highlight needs for

future research. While definitive answers aren't available yet, several questions were addressed.

## Harvest and bag limits

Michigan DNR's Statewide Angler Survey Program conducts creel surveys to estimate angler harvest and effort. Tracy Claramunt, who leads the program, provided an overview of steelhead harvest patterns at the workshop. Great Lakes and rivers were covered. Many Great Lakes ports are surveyed on an annual basis while rivers are only sporadically covered due to the logistical challenges and extra costs. For this reason, we do not have a complete accounting of steelhead catch, harvest, or effort in Michigan rivers.

Even so, Claramunt shared creel results that suggest Great Lakes anglers catch far fewer steelhead than river anglers.

The long-term health of the steelhead population is maintained through a balance of stocking and natural reproduction.

Although steelhead will not be stocked in 2021 due to COVID-19 restrictions that prevented egg take in 2020, DNR's Lake Michigan Basin Coordinator Jay Wesley reported that the DNR plans to reinstate former stocking levels in 2022.

Natural reproduction is limited by the scarcity of suitable spawning and nursery habitat. Spawning steelhead require the right mix of hard gravel or cobble substrate, high gradient, and clean, cold water for development of eggs and young. Since prime habitat is uncommon in streams accessible to steelhead, it stands to reason that only a small number of adult

steelhead can fully saturate the available habitat in any given year.

This means that lower bag limits probably won't affect the long-term prospects for the population, Wesley explained. Bag limits might serve other functions, though. Although lowering the bag limit probably won't result in higher steelhead numbers in years to come, it could allow for more 'recycling' of steelhead if fish are released to be caught again.

Some anglers prefer to catch-and-release all steelhead and others consider keeping fish for the table an essential aspect of fishing.

Wesley welcomed feedback and mentioned that a bag limit reduction might be considered if there was broad consensus among different groups of anglers. The current bag limit for steelhead is essentially three fish per day in most waters, but check the Michigan Fishing Guide for full details on seasonal closures, harvest limits, and length restrictions for the waters you fish.

Claramunt's presentation also touched on possible impacts of changing bag limits. She noted that Great Lakes recreational salmon and trout anglers fishing from boats catch three or more steelhead in less than one percent of trips. Pier and shore anglers fare better, with roughly nine percent catching three or more.

This suggests that reductions in bag limits will do more to limit harvest in rivers than in the Great Lakes. Trends in voluntary catch-and-release can also vary.

## What can I do to help?

Biologists would like your help collecting data on steelhead

in Michigan rivers and in the Great Lakes to better understand how stocked and wild-spawned steelhead contribute to fisheries around the state. Dan O'Keefe with Michigan Sea Grant provided an overview of volunteer data collection efforts utilizing the Great Lakes Angler Diary. Details on the volunteer data collection program are available online. The program includes following the steps below:

- REGISTER at GLanglerdiary.org or download the iOS app.
- RECORD every river steelhead trip taken.
- MEASURE each and every steelhead caught.
- CHECK for fin clips and other marks.

At the end of the season you will be asked to take a short survey and verify that your information is complete. It is important to record data on every trip taken and every steelhead caught in order to avoid bias. Measuring every fish to the nearest quarter inch is best, but wading anglers who fish alone and release their catch can also estimate the size of fish as <20 inches, 20-28 inches, and >28 inches.

If you catch a steelhead with a clipped adipose fin, you can also help biologists figure out where it was stocked by submitting the heads or snouts for tag extraction.

The Great Lakes Salmon Initiative (GLSI) coordinates a rewards program that gave away 33 prizes during the 2020 season. The CWT tag reward program will be offered by GLSI again in 2021. All CWT heads turned in during 2021 from steelhead, Chinook salmon, Atlantic salmon,

coho salmon, and brown trout will be eligible for \$100 prizes via random drawing in the winter of 2022, after all returned micro-tagged heads are processed.

You can also contribute to the Huron-Michigan Predator Diet Study by collecting stomachs from steelhead, other trout and salmon, and walleye from lakes Michigan and Huron.

The 2021 season may be the final year for data collection, and it is particularly important for volunteers to collect stomachs in early spring and late fall since biologists conduct the majority of their sampling during summer. Along with heads and snouts, stomachs can be bagged, tagged, and deposited at freezers located at access sites in most ports. Be sure to label and bag each sample individually since biologists must be able to match information from the data tag with an individual stomach or snout.

Although we do not have solid answers to all of the questions regarding recent declines, volunteer efforts like these will help biologists learn more about Michigan's steelhead populations.

This report was prepared by Michigan Sea Grant under award NA180AR4170102 from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce through the Regents of the University of Michigan.

This article was published by Michigan State University Extension. For more information, visit <https://extension.msu.edu>. To contact an expert in your area, visit <https://extension.msu.edu/experts>, or call 888-MSUE4MI (888) 678-3464.

# Bear and elk application lottery deadlines are June 1



## Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians 2021 Elk Application

The 2021 elk application period will run from April 30, 2021 to June 1, 2021. **All applications must be received by Sault Tribe Law Enforcement before 5:00 pm on June 1, 2021.** Applications received after 5:00 pm on June 1, 2021 **will NOT be accepted.** A lottery will be conducted at the June Conservation Committee Meeting. Tribal members **MUST** possess an Inland Hunting Harvest license AND be at least 10 years of age to hunt bear and elk.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
First Middle Last

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City State Zip

Male Tribal File #: \_\_\_\_\_ STS #: \_\_\_\_\_

Female Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Please send all bear and elk applications to:

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

For any questions, please contact Sault Tribe Natural Resource Department at 906-632-6132.

### STLE Office Use ONLY

Elder Pymt Method: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Youth Date: \_\_\_\_\_



## Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians 2021 Bear Application

The 2021 bear application period will run from April 30, 2021 to June 1, 2021. **All applications must be received by Sault Tribe Law Enforcement before 5:00 pm on June 1, 2021.** Applications received after 5:00 pm on June 1, 2021 **will NOT be accepted.** A lottery will be held at the June Conservation Committee Meeting. Tribal members **MUST** possess an Inland Hunting Harvest license AND be at least 10 years of age to hunt bear.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
First Middle Last

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City State Zip

Male Tribal File #: \_\_\_\_\_ STS #: \_\_\_\_\_

Female Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please select only **ONE** of the following Bear Management Units (BMU). Please note that all Sault Tribe bear permits are only valid within the 1836 Ceded Territory. Please see the map below for generalized boundaries of each BMU.

- Upper Peninsula**
- Drummond
  - Baraga
  - Gwinn
  - Newberry

- Lower Peninsula**
- Baldwin
  - Gladwin
  - Red Oak

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

Please send all bear and elk applications to:

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

For any questions, please contact Sault Tribe Natural Resource Department at 906-632-6132.

### STLE Office Use ONLY

Elder Pymt Method: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Youth

# TOTAL 1 YEAR YEILD LIKELY OVER \$200 MILLION!



**With Sault Tribe Member Angeline Bouley!**

**Representing All Members Everywhere**

*Ahneen, Boozho, Negee:*

The hard work I do and our tribal success is a solid Argument for why the Chairperson of the largest Tribe East of the Mississippi needs at least a core staff. I am requesting just 5 team members to supervise so I don't need to ask permission for assistance. What kinda "mother may I" or paternalistic game should I have to play? Ask yourself, why should the ST Chair be the only Chairperson in the country who doesn't even supervise a Secretary?

In 2020, I helped shape all tribes getting \$9 Billion in the Cares Act. We sought \$20 Billion. A few key Tribal leaders and I advocated for 2% (our percentage of Native of the US Population). Our Tribe got \$47 Million plus another \$14 million for a total in 2020 of \$61 Million to our Tribe alone. This didn't just happen. In the American Rescue Act, key tribal leaders and I pushed again for 2% and got \$31 Billion (1.6%)! We are edging closer to our equitable share. Our Tribe, we will likely receive another \$100 Million or more!

Next comes the National Infrastructure Bill. If tribes finally get 2% of \$2 Trillion, it will be \$40 Billion for tribes. For our, that's another \$100 million or more for long standing bricks and motar, sanitation projects, our

tion or sick benefits as Chair when my predecessor did and also was paid over 2.4 times what I'm paid. I don't want a raise but I'd like to have staff like other ST Executives who are paid multiples of what I am. One hundred percent of our ST Executives not only a Secretary but a fleet of staff and do not have ask permission to utilize as a team.

I realize the few haters on our Board will claim our staff got these funds and I had nothing to do with it. But, I played a key and pivot role with a dozen strong tribal leaders across the Country to shape how much was enacted in the first place. In other words, rather than sit back and wait to find out the enacted amounts, I affirmatively went after it.

So far, I have chosen to forego two offers by the Biden Transition Team that would have paid double my salary with a team of staff. I pulled my consideration in order to more assertively go after the aforementioned funds and see our Great Lake Treaty fishing negotiations through. I know this means nothing to the haters on our Board. What's particularly interesting is some tell me in secret that I'm doing an excellent job but when have you ever read even one supportive word from certain board members for the millions I secure for our tribe?

I chose to give up what would be considered a major career move. It is tempting to imagine working with others that don't abjectly hate me and work to undermine my efforts. Instead I choose to serve my own people directly as I am in the best position to strongly advocate for our Tribe and all Tribal people. Besides, I love fighting for our people.

All I ask is for a Secretary (1), a Office Receptionist (1), to supervise the Member Liaisons (2) and our Legislative Director (1). No power grab here as former Board Member Jennifer McLeod has spread. This is just bad medicine she and other ST haters are claiming.

Finally, ALL other Sault Tribe Chairperson's in our history have had their own direct staff. Ask yourself why I am the only Sault Tribe Chair in our history to not be permitted the same?

*Chi McGwitch, Negee!*

**Just a Sampling of My Efforts for Our Tribe to Benefit Our Members!**

Date	White House Meeting/ Consultation Prep or Actual Session
1/5	Enbridge Line 5 Tunnel, Recurring Staff-level Tribal Consultation
1/5	Biden-Harris Inaugural Planning
1/5	HHS Transition Session
1/14	NCAI Transition Session with White House "Appointments"
1/14	HHS STAC Transition Session
1/15	Meeting with Kim Teehee, former White House Tribal Policy Director
1/15	Office of Personnel Management ~ Appointment of Native Candidates
1/15	Biden Transition Team: Secretary of Interior Nominee
1/15	IHS Transition Session
1/20	White House Briefing on Impending Executive Orders: 1 of 2
1/20	Transition Meeting with Department of Education ~ Indian Education
1/21	White House Briefing on Impending Executive Orders: 2 of 2
1/26	Tribal White House Briefing ~ States, Territories & Tribes
1/27	White House Covid Team Briefing ~ States, Territories & Tribes
1/28	NCAI Consultation Support for White House
1/28	White House Briefing Call ~ Intergovernmental Affairs
2/5	USDA Broadband Consultation
2/9	ST Consultation with USDA Native Liaison
2/10	NCAI Tribal Leader Strategy Call Regarding Deb Haaland Nomination
2/12	State Vaccine Supply to Tribes
2/16	Commerce-NOAA Consultation on Fishers' Relief Funds
2/18	US Census Consultation
2/18	Tribal White House Briefing ~ States, Territories & Tribes
2/22	State of Indian Nations ~ Moderated this Session
2/23	Co-Hosted Haaland Watch Party on behalf of NCAI
2/23	Tribal Women For Indigenous Nations (TWIN) - Virtual Event
2/25	BIE Education Stabilization Funds Listening Session
2/26	White House Tribal Covid-19 Briefing ~ States, Territories & Tribes
3/1	NCAI-NAFOA Tribal Leader Call in Rescue Act
3/5	Meeting with White House on Broadband Distribution
3/8	Morgan Rodman ~ Structuring Interior Consultation Input
3/8	DOI Consultation on Consultation ~ Did Opening & Framing
3/9	ABC News Interview on Deb Haaland, SOI Nominee
3/9	USDA Consultation on Racial Equity/Barriers
3/10	DOI: Improving Interior Consultation with Tribes in Eastern, Eastern Oklahoma & Southern Plains Regions
3/10	DOI: Improving Interior's Consultation with Tribes: Consultation in Navajo, Southwest & Western Regions
3/10	DOI Consultation on Consultation ~ Midwest: Testified
3/10	Interviewed on Native American Calling on Rescue Act Funding
3/10	DOI Consultation on Consultation ~ Navajo, SW, Western
3/11	Interview with Bloomberg News on Opiate Litigation
3/12	DOI Consultation on Consultation   Alaska, NW, Pacific
3/14	Deb Haaland Watch Party and Vote ~ Guest Speaker
3/17	I.H.S Part of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021
3/17	Meeting with Biden Multi Agency Team ~ on 30 x 30 Initiative
3/18	Department of Treasury: CARES Act Distribution
3/19	FEMA: Safe opening and Operating costs interim policy
3/19	White House Tribal Update ~ States, Territories & Tribes
3/22	HHS: Consultation Region 5 ~ I did the Welcoming & Facilitated
3/23	HUD: Strengthening Tribal Consultation
3/23	HHS STAC CALL WITH HHS SEC ~ I got to address the new HHS Sec
3/24	HUD: Tribal Consultation for Continuum of Care Program
3/25	White House ONDCP: (Office of National Drug Control Policy)
3/26	Indian Affairs consultation on Rescue Plan Funds (Enrollment Collection)
3/26	DOI Call on Enrollment Data
3/29	Met with EPA Candidate with Kathie Brosemer
3/30	Tribal Leader Caucus for OMB and Budget Consultation
3/31	MSHDA - Qualified Allocation Plan Meeting with Michigan Tribes
3/31	Treasury Tribal Consultation on Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds
4/2	OMB Consultation ~ I did blessing, framing and more
4/5	OMB Consultation
4/7,8	HHS: 2021 Annual Tribal Budget Consultation ~ Testified on IHS, SAMHSA, NIH, and Health Disparities for Natives. Addressed the new HHS Secretary.
4/8	NOAA Fisheries consultation relief funding
4/9	DOI: Consultation on Strengthening the Nation- to-Nation Relationship with Tribes & Consultation- related policy
4/12	US Department of State consultation ~ I did Welcoming & Framing
4/12	Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR): Feedback on How USTR can engage in Regular meaningful and robust Consultation on the Development of Trade policies
4/16	House Appropriations Committee Announces Public Witness Testimony Opportunities ~ Annual Appropriations
4/26	US Dept of Education Tribal Consultation
4/27	USDA: Inviting comments on Final Rule to Expand Broadband Access in rural America under the ReConnect Program
4/27	DOI (Dept of Interior) Consultation on Climate Crisis
4/29	DOI (Dept of Interior) Consultation on Climate Crisis
6/14	HHS: NARCH (Native American Research Centers for Health) program

Call: **800-793-0660** Cell: **906-203-5159** Email: **aaronpayment@yahoo.com** Facebook **'Aaron Payment'**

**FOR "AT LARGE" MEMBERS TO BE HEARD & REPRESENTED ~ REGISTER TO VOTE:**

**1-800-251-6597**

# Chase: Unit IV membership services updates



**DENISE CHASE,**  
**DIRECTOR, UNIT IV**

**Emergency Rental Assistance Program** – I am happy to report that the Housing Authority staff applied for and received just over \$6.4 million in funding from the U.S. Department of Treasury for the Emergency Rental Assistance program which opened up on April 5.

The purpose of the Emergency Rental program is to provide financial assistance and housing stability services to eligible enrolled tribal members.

The Board of Directors unanimously voted to authorize access to the Emergency Rental Fund to all tribal members residing throughout the United States who qualify for the program.

Housing recently posted this information on a flyer to share:

Income-eligible tribal members of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and households who rent homes anywhere in the United States may make application for assistance. Income eligibility is based on 80 percent of area median income.

The Emergency Rental Pro-

gram can provide funding to assist with:

- Rental arrears,
- Utility arrears,
- Current and prospective rent payments, and
- Current and prospective utilities.

Home energy costs and other housing expenses incurred related to housing due directly or indirectly to COVID-19 that qualify for assistance under federal law.

For more information, and if you are in need of Emergency Rental Assistance, please call the Sault Tribe Housing Authority at (906) 495-1450 or (800) 794-4072 or email [EmergencyRentalAssistanceProgram@saulttribe.net](mailto:EmergencyRentalAssistanceProgram@saulttribe.net).

**Manistique road improvements** – The tribal board recently approved a resolution brought forward by Wendy Hoffman, director of the tribe's Transportation Department. The resolution authorizes a contract with MDOT for the construction of a new Manistique access road entrance and left turn lane construction at the intersection of US2 Hwy and our Tribal Health and Community Center and Kewadin Casino in Manistique. MDOT is already planning improvement along the US2 section from Gulliver to the city limits of Manistique this year.

The tribe's Transportation Program has funding available to pay for the access road project. There have been many community input sessions held regarding the safety issues along this stretch of road, especially since they raised the speed limit to 65 mph. This project will help improve the safety concerns expressed at the input

sessions at this location for tribal members, elders and Manistique Township residents, as well as residents and patrons of our casino and Community Health Center and surrounding businesses. It will also be safer for the thousands of people and cars traveling the US2 Hwy route, past our facility and casino every day.

Director Morrow and I will continue to advocate for lowering the speed limit to 55 mph in front of our health and community center and casino.

**Gathering of the Clans Powwow Cancellation Notice** – I'm sorry to report that the Gathering of the Clans powwow committee has decided to cancel our Manistique Summer gathering this year, and for the second year in a row, because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Our powwow committee had to make a difficult decision on whether to proceed or not with our powwow. We decided to cancel due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic health concerns. Nothing is more important to us than the health and safety of all powwow participants, attendees, staff, members, elders, children, volunteers and community. We look forward to the day that this pandemic passes and we can safely resume our cultural teachings and activities and powwows.

**Sault Tribe Internship Program announcement** – If you are a college student and are interested in applying for one of the nine intern spots available, please apply online on the Sault Tribe website, or stop into a local tribal center to pick up an application. Following are the details:

The Sault Tribe Internship Pro-

gram is intended to be an exciting experience providing Sault Tribe member college students with an opportunity to learn more about the Sault Tribe and gain practical experience in their chosen field of study. Interns will work approximately four days per week at their assigned placement and approximately one day per week will be spent attending leadership seminars and career development workshops. In addition, interns will be divided into teams and will compete in challenges involving special projects; for example, designing and implementing a fundraising event. Interns will have the opportunity to interact with the tribal board of directors, executive administrators and program directors.

Potential internship locations include the Communications, Language and Cultural, Education, Fiscal Services, Fisheries, Health, Housing, Judicial Services, Kewadin Casinos, Law Enforcement, MIS, recreation, social services, tribal administration and tribal enterprises.

The Internship Program runs from June 28 to Aug. 20. The wage is \$12.50 per hour with a schedule of Monday-Friday with some special events occurring on weekends or after a typical workday.

Interns will wear personal protective equipment, practice social distancing, and undergo temperature checks, and so forth, to maintain safety.

Applications are available online at [saulttribe.com](http://saulttribe.com) and at the administrative building, 523 Ashmun St., Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783. The deadline to apply is

Friday, May 14, 2021 at 5 p.m. Submission requirements are the completed application, advisor recommendation, transcripts, verification of tribal membership and essay.

Point of contact is the Assistant Executive Director's Office, (906) 635-6050.

**Covid-19 vaccinations** – Rural Health Program Manager Marlene Glaesmann reported they have provided the COVID-19 vaccine to all tribal members who have asked to be immunized in Marquette, Schoolcraft, Delta, Luce and Alger counties. Scheduled are two more immunization clinics in Manistique and Munising at the end of the month to administer the second dose of the vaccination. Smaller clinics will be held as needed, as people call in and request the immunization. If you would like to register to still be vaccinated please call the Manistique Tribal Center at (906) 341-8469 or (866) 401-0043, Escanaba Tribal Center at (906) 341-1836, Or Marquette Tribal Center at (906) 225-1615.

I would like to say thank you to all our Health staff for organizing and administering the Covid-19 vaccine clinics to help protect the public and our communities, I have heard lots of good comments on how well organized and smoothly the immunization clinics are run.

I hope you all had a healthy and Happy Easter holiday! Please take care and stay safe.

If you need to reach me please call (906) 203-2471 or email me at [dchase@saulttribe.net](mailto:dchase@saulttribe.net).

Thank You,

Denise Chase, Board Representative

## Interior joins government-wide effort to advance offshore wind

**WASHINGTON D.C.** – On March 29, Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland joined the Secretaries of Energy, Commerce and Transportation in a White House forum to meet with representatives from states, the offshore wind industry and members of the labor community to identify solutions to the greatest challenges facing the development of this new industry.

Interior is working with agencies across the federal government to advance the Biden-Harris administration's goal of increasing renewable energy development on federal lands and waters.

The event included a commitment by Interior, Energy and Commerce to establish a target to deploy 30 gigawatts (30,000 megawatts) of offshore wind by 2030, creating nearly 80,000 jobs.

"For generations, we've put off the transition to clean energy and now we're facing a climate crisis. It's a crisis that doesn't

discriminate – every community is facing more extreme weather and the costs associated with that. But not every community has the resources to rebuild, or even get up and relocate when a climate event happens in their backyards. The climate crisis disproportionately impacts communities of color and low-income families. As our country faces the interlocking challenges of a global pandemic, economic downturn, racial injustice and the climate crisis – we must transition to a brighter future for everyone," said Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland.

At the event, the Department of the Interior announced the final Wind Energy Areas (WEA) in the New York Bight – an area of shallow waters between Long Island and the New Jersey coast.

The goal of the Department's Area Identification process is to identify the offshore locations that appear most suitable for

wind energy development, taking into consideration coexistence with ocean users. As part of this process, Interior removed areas of highest conflict from consideration.

The Department received input from the public and other governmental agencies through the Call for Information and Task Force meetings.

The WEAs are adjacent to the greater metropolitan Tri-State area of New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut, which is home to more than 20 million people, representing the largest metropolitan population center in the United States and a significant energy demand. For more information on this announcement, please see: BOEM Advances Offshore Wind in Major U.S. East Coast Energy Market.

Additionally, the department is initiating the environmental review of the third commercial scale offshore wind proj-

ect by announcing a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Ocean Wind, LLC's proposed project offshore New Jersey. Ocean Wind has proposed an offshore wind project with a total capacity of 1,100 MW, enough energy to power 500,000 homes across New Jersey. The Department previously announced environmental reviews for Vineyard Wind (MA) and South Fork (RI) and anticipates initiating the environmental reviews for up to ten additional projects later this year. For more information on this announcement, please see: BOEM Announces Environmental Review of Proposed Wind Energy Facility Offshore New Jersey.

"The offshore wind industry has the potential to create tens of thousands of family supporting jobs across the nation by 2030, while combating the negative effects of climate change. These

new jobs will cover a wide range of sectors, including manufacturing, installation, operations and maintenance and support services," said Bureau of Ocean Energy Management Director Amanda Lefton. "We are committed to active engagement with all stakeholders and partners to ensure the responsible development of renewable energy resources in federal waters."

At the forum, leaders discussed key opportunities and challenges to ensuring domestic economic and employment benefits of aggressively expanding offshore wind.

The event helped gather input from diverse stakeholders who will contribute to a comprehensive strategy to establish domestic offshore wind manufacturing capabilities, a robust supply chain, and a domestic service industry to support offshore wind installation and maintenance on the U.S. Outer Continental Shelf.

## Great Lakes governors call for federal investment in water infrastructure

**LANSING, Mich.** – The governors of four Great Lakes states recently urged President Joe Biden to prioritize federal investments in long-neglected water infrastructure to advance environmental sustainability and climate resilience, put Americans to work and address structural inequities that saddle at-risk communities with some of the nation's most daunting water infrastructure challenges.

In a letter sent to Biden, which Michigan was the first to sign onto, the governors lauded the *American Rescue Plan Act's* \$360 billion in direct aid to state and local governments and the inclusion of water and sewer infrastructure as acceptable uses for the federal money. "As your administration continues to develop and pursue its policy agenda, we respectfully encourage you to

continue your emphasis on modernizing America's water infrastructure," reads the letter.

Maintaining this emphasis will help states create comprehensive water infrastructure programs with local, state and federal resources that can "spur and complement progress on COVID19 response, economic recovery, racial equity, climate resilience and other top administration priorities."

The letter was signed by governors JB Pritzker of Illinois, Gretchen Whitmer of Michigan, Tim Walz of Minnesota and Tony Evers of Wisconsin.

"As gateways to and guardians of the Great Lakes, we are all dedicated to modernizing and building resilient, climate-conscious water infrastructure," said Governor Whitmer. "The health of our families, 21 percent of the world's

fresh drinking water, and 51 million jobs depend on our immediate, collective action. We ask for your partnership and prioritization of critical water infrastructure going forward. We are grateful for the *American Rescue Plan's* significant aid to our communities and await the bold infrastructure elements laid out in the Build Back Better plan and proposed in the president's budget."

# This year's powwow will have a different feel



**KIMBERLE GRAVELLE**  
DIRECTOR, UNIT I

Hello, spring is here! We've began the process of planning

for our powwows. This year's powwow will have a different feel as we try to navigate through the coronavirus restrictions. We will keep you posted with updates as we get further along in the process.

I would like to talk about why leaders should lead by example. I consider myself a level-headed person but when board members are disrespecting our staff and tribal members is when I draw the line. Although we don't always agree on everything doesn't mean we don't care for the tribal members. We should not be called names for our different point of view. We should

vote and then move on. This hasn't been the case lately and it feels like we are constantly defending ourselves just to sit at the board table. It's amazing how someone can change the whole mood of the group with their unprofessional behavior. This does not make for a good leader and is a waste of time. We all care about our members and the tribe or we wouldn't be doing what we do. United we stand, divided we fall – something we all need to remember.

We all have different opinions of what we think are priorities for the membership. These priorities are usually based on our communications with the

tribal members. The majority of the board does not advertise or make a public display about these interactions because we're respecting the privacy of the members.

But then on the other hand, I would like to thank our tribal chairman and the board of directors for their tireless efforts of advocating for our tribal members through all the numerous virtual consultations. We can actually attend more meetings virtually because we are not spending time on the road.

We have been focusing on improving the efficiency of our revenue allocations in order to

ensure that services are maintained because of the drop in our casino profits due to the coronavirus. Our existing and new businesses have helped us get over the hump with a steady revenue stream.

As always I would like to thank team members for your dedication and hard work.

Please keep the men and women in our armed forces in your prayers and thoughts for a safe return to their families.

If you have any questions or comments, you can contact me at (906) 203-6083 or at

KKGravelle@saulttribe.net.  
Thank you,  
Kim Gravelle

## Please consider getting COVID-19 vaccination



**CHARLES MATSON SR.**  
DIRECTOR, UNIT V

Aanii, let me start out by saying I hope everyone is safe and well. We know that everyone is struggling to get through this pandemic. Some of us have lost loved ones through this pandemic. Whether it was due to COVID-19 or other issues it has been extremely hard on them especially when you factor in that, due to COVID restrictions in most cases, a person could not even be there for their loved one as they went through this. There is light at the end of the tunnel in the form of vaccines. I am not here to tell people they must get a vaccine, for it is their personal choice, but I am here to ask that people really consider it. I myself

have gotten it and believe it is one of our best ways to get past this pandemic.

My attempts to establish permanent powwow grounds has been slowed due to the pandemic but I remain positive on these projects. Trying to establish our lands can be a daunting task when working with the federal government. It is not that the USFS is being unresponsive, it is that it can be a lengthy process. The lands that I am proposing the USFS gives us exclusive access to is just original 1836 Treaty reservation land. We are just proposing to get something back that was already ours. I will remain committed to this

project and will try to secure our ancestral land to give us a place that will be for our cultural activities into the future.

Our EDC Department has set up a group that can assist our members who want to start a business. You can contact them at saulttribethrive.com. This is not a lending institution but a team that can help put the components together that are needed to get a business started. This is a great opportunity for our tribal members who think they have a good business idea but don't really know all that it takes to bring their idea to fruition. I urge tribal members to contact them and seek the help of

people who can assist in bringing their business ideas to possible completion.

There is funding for tribal members who are struggling to pay their rent and utilities. Contact Sault Tribe Housing Authority at (906) 495-1450 or (800) 794-4072. This program is for tribal members no matter place of residence. Please do not hesitate to contact them if you need help making ends meet.

If you have any questions or concerns feel free to contact me at (906) 450-5094 or cmatson@saulttribe.net.

Respectfully,  
Charles J. Matson Sr.

## Lowes provides overview of member services



**AUSTIN LOWES**  
DIRECTOR, UNIT I

Aanii,  
I'd like to use this unit report to highlight services our member-

ship can benefit from. The first is a \$6.5 million grant we received for emergency housing assistance. This program can fund late rent and utilities bills, along with future payments. It can also cover security deposits to help individuals secure housing. This program requires households to be at or below their county's median income level. This program is not limited to the service area, so anyone in the country can apply. To do so, call (906) 495-1450 and request an application.

The next program is a \$500 retention incentive that all casino employees will receive in their May 17 paycheck. This program

is to reward casino team members for their hard work. I will advocate for governmental and EDC employees to receive this as well.

Another program is the tribe's Summer Internship Program, which begins on June 28 and ends on Aug. 20. This program will provide students with experience in their field of study, along with leadership skills. Interns will earn \$12.50 an hour. Applications are available at the tribe's administration building and they're due on May 14.

The last program is the Summer Youth Employment Program. This program is for Native American youth ages 14 to 21. This

program is special to me because I worked in it as a groundskeeper while I was a teenager. This experience provided me with valuable skills that I used when I entered the workforce. Applications may be picked up at the WIOA office, located on the second floor of the Big Bear, 2 Ice Circle, Sault Ste. Marie, or by contacting Brenda Cadreau at (906) 635-4767. Applications are due on May 14.

If you're interested in becoming vaccinated, the tribe is hosting vaccine clinics at the Big Bear on April 27 and May 18. You can register for one of these online at [www.saulttribehealth.com](http://www.saulttribehealth.com) or by calling (906) 632-5200

and selecting option number 9. I am proud to announce that the tribe has administered over 10,000 doses to date. Since Michigan is now leading the country in new COVID-19 cases, these clinics are an important part of protecting our tribal community.

I'll end this unit report by thanking Sergeant Michael Pins for his years of service. Sergeant Pins recently retired from working 27 years at Sault Tribe Law Enforcement. Mr. Pins will now work for the tribe in a different capacity. If you see Mr. Pins, thank him for a job well done!

Sincerely,  
Austin Lowes

## First time Housing funds used outside service area



**BETTY FREIHEIT,**  
DIRECTOR, UNIT I

Hello, tribal members, good news for tribal members needing assistance to retain their rental homes due to the pandemic, regardless of location. The Sault Tribe Housing Authority has

received \$6.4 million in Emergency Rental Assistance funds to help eligible tribal member households resolve financial issues that may threaten their housing stability.

Financial assistance may include past and future rent, overdue utilities and home energy cost incurred after March 13, 2020. Applications are being developed and will be posted on the tribal website. They will be accepted starting April 5. Approved payments will be made directly to landlords and utility companies.

This is a first step in servicing at large members as it is the first time in the history of the Housing Authority that funds are being made available for members outside the service units. Credit and thanks go to the Housing Director Joni Talentino (photo) for finding and making timely application for these funds and for ensuring all

members can benefit.

Our tribe has many talented and accomplished members. We have artists, poets, musicians, actors, doctors, lawyers, scientists, teachers, trade workers, high level governmental officials to names just a few. Each provides valuable contributions to their communities and we are proud of all of them.

Last month, one of our tribal members, Angeline Bouley, held a book signing at the Sault Kewadin to debut her first novel, "Firekeeper's Daughter." Many may recall when Angeline worked for the tribe and then went on to serve as director of Indian Education at the Department of Education in Washington, D.C. Her novel revolves around a young half Ojibwa woman who becomes involved in an FBI investigation involving murder and drugs. In addition to numerous write ups around the

country, other accolades her book received include being #1 on the New York Times bestseller list of young adult hardcover; Book of the Month in Reese Witherspoon's Book Club; and being acquired by Barack and Michelle Obama's production company, Higher Ground, for an original Netflix series. Woven into the story is important cultural and historical information about our tribe and community. Her book will educate

our young people for generations to come and will enlighten non-Natives about who we are and what we believe. Angeline has brought national awareness of our tribe, our community and our culture.

As of this writing, COVID numbers are again increasing in our area. Please practice safety precautions to protect yourselves, your family and elders, and help your neighbor anytime you can.

### **Seniors: apply for Sault kitchen aide position**

The Sault Tribe WIOA Department Senior Employment Program is accepting applications for a part-time kitchen aide, for the Elder Services Division in Sault Ste. Marie. Under direction of the cook, the aide helps prepare meals and other tasks. Applicants must be Sault Tribe members 60 or over residing in the seven-county service area.

Applicants must pass a criminal background investigation and pre-employment drug test. Experience in home meal preparation and Serve Safe Certification preferred. Wage is \$9.87 per hour. Contact Brenda Cadreau, 2 Ice Circle, Sault Ste. Marie, (906) 635-4767.



# I do not support toxic behavior destroying tribe



**BRIDGETT SORENSON,  
DIRECTOR, UNIT III**

I've been serving on this board for almost nine years and have seen and experienced some crazy and reckless narcissistic behavior. It is an absolute shame that a person cannot see how toxic their behavior is.

Let's start with the fact that the chairman called a special meeting with the only item being his organizational charts. To call a special meeting for only his own benefit should be an abuse of power.

There was no emergency to make him supervise staff; all staff currently have a chain of command. All of us board members can at any time get help from staff with any needs that we have without having to supervise them.

The day of the special meeting, the chair sent an email out that the meeting was canceled. I replied with, "I only know of two board members gone." I was on Zoom that day. He never responded and nobody mentioned until later that Austin wasn't there

either. This is still not a reason to cancel a meeting. This left nine board members in attendance.

Forward to the next regular meeting on April 6, and two organizational charts were on the agenda. The chair reads the agenda and does not include those resolutions. Are you kidding me? You call a special meeting, you cancel it, you add it to the next agenda and don't read it into the meeting. This is the game play that continues to happen.

He cries on Facebook and everywhere else about how embarrassing it is to be the biggest tribe east of the Mississippi and doesn't even have a secretary. To clarify he has staff, he just doesn't supervise them. He says, "I was elected because people expect me to have staff." He was re-elected the last two election cycles and in 2012 knowing he had no authority role of a CEO.

Reasons I have heard are because, "I have gotten so much money for our tribe during this pandemic." That money was given to the tribe based on the number of members in our service area. Staff apply for grants, write white papers and facilitate the process. The chair does get on calls and testify based on information that staff collects. If this process really works than what is the argument to need staff under his supervision? He doesn't supervise anyone now and all these great things are happening. It is mind boggling to me. He has an administrative assistant outside his office and an executive assistant/membership liaison down the hall. This staff schedules

appointments, travel, order supplies, organizes signatures, goes through mail and emails and does a binder for him every meeting. Aside from these staff, we all have an executive secretary and assistant executive that handles everything that we need to do our jobs.

Those who know me know I don't like to be fake or pretend to be something I'm not. I do not wear a mask during the workshop unless I get out of my seat or leave the room. When the cameras are rolling for our meetings, I don't put one on to put on a show. I have gotten both vaccines and wear my mask in places of businesses like required. Some people really put on a show for the membership. Same thing happens when some are on Zoom and then run into the meetings when the camera rolls. Kind of goes along with those that stated in their campaign they are for the entire tribe and all members but then protect a few family and friends instead of what is best for the entire tribe.

I can't tell you how many times I have brought up concerns from members or team members and only to be told I am on a witch hunt but friends of the chair can say anything and everything and people even lose or get jobs. Kind of makes you wonder how stuff like that happens if you don't have any authority.

Our workshops are out of control. Some board members constantly say they have the floor when the chair recognizes someone else. Many times, they comment numerous times that they

won't support something, usually personal reasons. That's fine and dandy and you have that vote but let others speak rationally and figure things out without personal feelings.

I am very sick of toxic behavior destroying our tribe. Our executives get smeared in meetings and on social media if not by the chair, by some of his supporters. Some of these people are spoon fed information to spread lies and hate that affect our team members, members and members who serve on our committees and boards.

Would you want to work or volunteer for the tribe especially as an executive if the chair bashes them on social media, or by saying he has enough support on the board to terminate them?

Our legislative budget contributes to NCAI, MAST, United Tribes, etc., and when election for these seats come up, our tribe makes contributions so we get those seats. So, when the chair says "I am president of this" or "second vice president of that," it comes with a price tag. I am not saying it is not good for our tribe to have advocacy in these capacities but be honest to how these seats are filled.

I asked for a list of our contributions but never received the information. Same thing happened when I asked for the list of each COVID grant we received and what was the reason or what information was it based on.

How about the statements that each election or change in a government that he was asked to serve in some capacity but he

has some undying love for our people? If you really loved your tribe so much you wouldn't spend every minute trying to divide everyone and destroy anyone that does not share your same opinion or not valuable to your election.

This is not what I wanted to write about but those who are affected by all these statements and toxic behavior need to know that I do not support it. The only way things will ever change is for enough people to stand together before our tribe is destroyed.

I worry every day that one of our executives is going to resign or another one of our volunteer Sault Tribe business owners will walk away. I signed on to be under scrutiny but our team members and members did not!

If you are behind on your rent there is a program through Sault Tribe Housing that may be able to help you avoid eviction and help with utilities. Please call (906) 495-1450 for assistance. There are NO restrictions to where a tribal member lives for this program.

Thank you to all of our team members who have been working short-handed, overtime, through the pandemic, working vaccine clinics, etc. You keep our services and businesses functioning.

My hat's off to our executives for all your dedication, long hours, stress and social media bashing that you deal with. I appreciate all your effort!

Anyone having questions or concerns, please call, text or email me at (906) 430-0536, bsorenson@saulttribe.net or bridgett91@yahoo.com.

## Causley gives tribal member assistance round up



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

the next round of funds, our team has been working hard to show the impact that our commercial and subsistence fisherman have endured. Many departments and the board and chair work tirelessly to seek out and advocate for additional funds. Chi miigwech to all of you.

### **Incentive program**

We will also be rolling out a new seasonal incentive program for new hires and existing team members at our casino properties. The entire state and nation are in a crisis for workers and we are feeling the same impact. We count on our casinos for revenue for our programs and services, so we have to keep competitive in the areas to hire and retain. I'm hoping this will be a first step to recruit and assist in retaining to better our business.

### **Sault Tribe Summer 2021 Internship Program**

We will also be launching our youth internship program in departments within the tribe; if you are interested in this program please call our administration office or view details on our website.

The Sault Tribe Internship Program is intended to be an exciting experience providing Sault Tribe member college students with an opportunity to learn more about the Sault Tribe and gain practical experience in their chosen field of study. Interns will work approximate-

ly four days per week at their assigned placement and approximately one day per week will be spent attending Leadership seminars and career development workshops. In addition, Interns will be divided into teams and will compete in challenges involving special projects; for example, designing and implementing a fundraising event. Interns will have the opportunity to interact with the Tribal Board of Directors, Executive Administrators and Program Directors.

Potential internship locations include the Communications, Language and Cultural, Education, Fiscal Services, Fisheries, Health, Housing, Judicial Services, Kewadin Casinos, Law Enforcement, MIS, Recreation, Social Services, Tribal Administration and Tribal Enterprises.

The Internship Program runs from June 28 to Aug. 20. The wage is \$12.50 per hour with a schedule of Monday-Friday with some special events occurring on weekends or after a typical work day.

Interns will wear personal protective equipment, practice social distancing, and undergo temperature checks, and so forth, to maintain safety.

Applications are available online at saulttribe.com and at the Administrative Building, 523 Ashmun St., Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783. The deadline to apply is Friday, May 14, 2021 at 5 p.m.

Submission requirements are the completed application, advisor recommendation, transcripts, verification of tribal membership and essay.

Point of contact is the Assistant Executive Director's Office, (906) 635-6050. Please see the announcement and application in this issue of WAN.

### **Please be patient with team members**

As we feel the second impact of the pandemic, I encourage all to be patient with all our hard working team members. It's been tiring for all of them to keep up with the changes and continue to remain safe for themselves and

their families.

### **Hessel Casino Team Member of the Year**

I would like to take a moment to recognize our team member of the year at the Hessel Casino, Amy Pollard — she and many others are so dedicated to our business and I am very grateful to all of them.

In closing, please be safe and take good care of each other. I can be reached at (906) 484-2954, (906) 322-3818 or email lcausley@saulttribe.net.

Baamaapii,  
Lana Causley-Smith  
Sault Tribe Board of Directors, Unit II

## Apply for Summer Youth Employment Program

The Sault Tribe WIOA Department is accepting applications for the Summer Youth Employment Program. This program is for Native American youth aged 14 to 21 who reside in the seven-county service area (Marquette, Alger, Chippewa, Luce, Mackinaw, Delta and Schoolcraft counties).

Applications may be picked up at the WIOA office on the second floor of the Big Bear, 2 Ice Circle, Sault Ste. Marie, or by contacting Brenda Cadreau at (906) 635-4767.

Applicants will be required to complete and pass pre-employment drug testing and a criminal background investigation, if applicable.

Deadline to apply is May 14, 2021

# Consent Decree deadline extension approaching



**MICHAEL MCKERCHIE,**  
**DIRECTOR, UNIT I**

The extension for the deadline of the Great Lakes Consent Decree is fast approaching. I,

once again, wanted to thank the negotiating team for the countless hours this endeavor has taken thus far. Our board and this team with an excellent legal adviser, biological experts and many other staff have put together many awesome and dynamic plans to help reach an agreement with the State of Michigan and our trustee, the United States government on what fishing looks like on the Great Lakes.

The pandemic has affected the ability to meet face-to-face for the negotiations and has caused additional challenges. I remain optimistic that we can come up with an agreement suitable for all. In any instance, I am proud of

this team and its ability to stand up for these treaty rights. Chi miigwech.

I am also excited that we are slowly making progress on hiring key positions for our tribe. Hopefully, this helps align our tribe's strategic goals and we get more efficient at solving the problems that face our tribe. Being short staffed in several areas during a pandemic or not takes its toll on team members and their morale. Not only have several areas had to adjust to the COVID outbreak and change service plans, how we deal with customers, etc., but they also had to deal with the many challenges of funding issues and the many strings that came with.

They have done an amazing job and our tribe has been weathering this storm because so many team members have pitched in and gone above and beyond the call of duty.

With that being said, we still have many obstacles in our way to show our appreciation to our dedicated team members. The pandemic and employee shortage has slowed the wage grid process immensely. Our Human Resource Department has open positions that also hinder the process. This combined with financial slump due to the pandemic have created barriers in implementing plans. Our tribe runs primarily off our casino revenues, although we

have several economic developments that are helping offset the loss, we still face big financial concerns. Where there is hope that relief may come, we must plan accordingly and be cautious as we move forward. I am glad to see our managers and directors coming up with options to address seasonal employment and the other many obstacles that I have stated. Keep up the good work.

As always, I encourage members to get in touch with me and help come up with solutions to the many issues our tribe still faces. Send me an email (mmckerchie@saulttribe.net) or text (906) 440-7768. Chi miigwech.

# Massaway testifies to federal Transportation Dept.



**KEITH MASSAWAY,**  
**DIRECTOR, UNIT III**

Early spring is calling us outdoors and that is a refreshing feeling after a year of being closed up and confined. We all need to take a walk and breath some fresh air. The tribe also is working on coming out of a long winter's nap and we are gearing up for a strong summer season. The biggest hurdle that we are facing is, like every other business in the country, a lack of employable workers. We need full and part-time workers in almost every department in our casinos. The governmental job listings are also getting longer by the day. I would like to thank all those who do work for our tribe and the steady and great job they do for us.

The tribe is in constant litigation with others, whether it be a large law suit or small. We just won a dismissal on the lawsuit brought on by our previous investors in our down state casino venture. They have subsequently refiled a new lawsuit. This is very typical since I have been with the tribe. Lawsuits tend to last forever until all avenues have been exhausted. We stand on very firm ground on this matter and we have to keep up the defense until the matter is completely settled.

I was asked by our chairman to be the tribal elected official on the consultation meeting for the tribes with the federal Transportation Department. The tribal staff did a fantastic job preparing me for the testimony to the federal government on behalf of our tribe. I had the floor for about 12 minutes and relayed the stats and discussion points that we need to be involved in on the upcoming infrastructure bill that is being proposed by

President Biden. After all of the leaders had their chance to speak, we had a time we could reflect on what our leaders had

said. It was a very important half hour because it allowed the many nations there to back one another and reinforce our

similar needs that have to be addressed.

Thank you for all the e-mails and the phone calls. Stay strong.

Keith Massaway, 702 Hazelton St., St. Ignace, MI 49781, kmassaway@msn.com, (906) 643-6981.

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**MOTHER'S DAY SPECIALS**

**Sunday, May 9**

