



# Win Awenen Nisitotung

July 21, 2021 • Vol. 42 No. 7  
Blueberry Moon  
Miin Giizis



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

## Sault Tribe allocates over \$125 million for recovery center, tribal member relief, employee compensation

SAULT STE. MARIE, Mich. – To date, the Sault Tribe Board of Directors appropriated \$91 million of the tribe’s American Rescue Act (ARA) funding for tribal member relief at \$2,000 for each and every tribal member everywhere for all ages.

With a tribal population of over 45,000, the distribution of checks is a monumental job, which requires address updates, enrollment of minor children and the completion of a form, a simple statement of need rather than an income-based application. The tribal administration is working diligently to update addresses and prepare a direct mailing that should be mailed in the next several weeks.

A tribal member address update link is being prepared for posting on the tribal website. Please see the Sault Tribe website as best source of information at: [www.saulttribe.com](http://www.saulttribe.com). Tribal members will be able to fill out this electronically on the website. Members are also welcome to update their address by calling Tribal Enrollment toll-free at 800-251-6597.

Members are advised to be patient. Checks will be mailed out in rolling batches as forms are returned such that the bulk of checks should arrive by mid to late August.

A \$10 million appropriation made at the July 6, 2021, board meeting to address long standing issues of bringing tribal team members to market value. Before the COVID-19 pandemic, the tribal board authorized an updated market study to determine an appropriate pay scale for all team members. With tribal board approval, the effective date of

implementation backdated to July 6, 2021. Given the large volume of work remaining, adjustments to bring team members to market value is estimated to be just after Labor Day.

Executive Director Christine McPherson said, “We have been working diligently on preparing a budget recommendation for the tribal board to bring all team members to market value. The governmental, housing, casino and enterprise team members are the engine that runs the tribe, so we are excited to finally reward team members by bringing them to market value. The board’s \$10 million commitment is significant and appreciated.”

Also approved is a historical \$25 million commitment to address the drug and substance abuse challenge in our larger tribal community, including the opiate epidemic that the Centers for Disease Control report as some of the highest rates of affliction among American Indians and Alaska Natives due to historical and inter-generational trauma. The Sault Tribe was one of the first tribes in the country to approve a Tribal Action Plan as a first step. During our extensive research, the tribe identified the need for detox, in-patient recovery treatment and establishment of a new long-term Recovery Campus. A few years ago, the tribe entered a unique partnership with Hazelden Betty Ford to develop a unique treatment based on our Anishinaabe Biimaadziwin and dedicated and blessed land 4 miles west of the I-75 interchange on M-28, near Dafter, Mich.

The pandemic made the

challenges of the opiate and other substance abuse epidemic even more acute. Chairperson Payment said, “Each of us has been impacted by both the pandemic and the opiate and substance abuse health crisis. Our care and concern for our own people is demonstrated and I am personally grateful for this appropriation by the board.”

Finally, over the course of the pandemic, the tribe’s main revenue source for operations was interrupted by up to a 70 percent loss. In order to support the safety of the public and our team members, casino operations were shuttered for two fiscal quarters. Casino payroll is \$80 million annually, which expends the vast majority of our gross

revenues. One hundred percent of net revenues for gaming operations, \$17 million annually, supports tribal programs, services and operations. The estimated amount left to recover after various revenues replacement loans were applied in 2020 is \$38 million and another \$20 million estimated through 2021. In order to preserve the cash flow from the casino to tribal programs and to fully replenish lost revenues, the board earmarked \$50 million for revenue replacement. These funds will in turn, stabilize payroll and tribal programs, services and operations.

The net effect is that over \$35 million remains to be allocated, along with an additional \$50

million for the second distribution of the American Rescue Act funds, which the tribe is projected to receive by July 15. The tribal board is meeting weekly to hear tribal priorities, review the tribe’s strategic plan, and trying to merge needs and wants for the remaining \$80 to \$90 million. Additionally, the board has identified the need to hold large in-person and virtual tribal member input sessions to help identify needs. The chairperson and the tribal board office are working on scheduling sessions beginning as soon as mid-July.

For questions, please contact Chairperson Payment at (906) 635-6050. For regular updates, please visit the tribe’s website at [www.saulttribe.com](http://www.saulttribe.com).

## Tribal Elder Alice Huhtala celebrates 100th birthday

On June 30, 2021, Sault Tribe elder Alice Huhtala reached 100 years of age and earned centurion status. Until January of this year, she lived independently, the last 40 years spent at Edge of the Woods Apartments in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.

Alice and George (deceased in 1975) raised three daughters, Judy LaJoie (with whom she

now shares an apartment), Carol Mramor (deceased) and Linda (Howard) Behlmer, living near Cleveland, Ohio. Alice has grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

Through the years, Alice donated her time, money and cooking skills helping family, relatives, neighbors, friends and our Unit I elders. She served on the

Unit I Elder Subcommittee for several years.

She has not yet been able to share the dance she and Father John Haskell planned to have at Mishomis Nokomis Elder Center. Will this yet come to pass in the future? Only Gitchi Manitou can answer that.

A small family gathering in her honor was held on her birthday.



Alice Huhtala before she started kindergarten.



Judy LaJoie with her mother, Alice Huhtala, who recently celebrated her 100th birthday.

[www.saulttribe.com](http://www.saulttribe.com)

PRSR STD  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 30  
Gaylord, MI  
49735

Win Awenen Nisitotung  
531 Ashmun St.  
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

# Members of the Board of Directors address the Tribal Membership



Tribal members:

The following members of the tribal board of directors are committed to ensuring that the entire tribe benefits from the *American Recovery Act* funds. These funds were based upon the entire population of the tribe. To ensure everyone has an opportunity to benefit, we have approved \$91 million dollars for direct payments for ALL tribal members (regardless of residence) who complete verification of COVID-19 impact forms during March 2021-present time frame.

**This approval was by unanimous vote of the tribal board of directors.**

The board also identified our employment team members, health of our membership and revenue replacement as priorities to be addressed from the *American Recovery Act* funds received by the tribe and has committed \$25 million from the American for a Recovery Campus project (collaboration of Sault Tribe, Betty Ford and Hazleden), \$10 million from the *American Recovery Act* funds to address compensation issues related to the recruitment and retention team members, and earmarked \$50 million in revenue replacement for our casino operations.

**This approval was by unanimous vote of the tribal board of directors.**

The *American Recovery Act* funds are different funds than their predecessor, the *CARES Act* funds. *CARES Act* funding was allocated based upon the Indian Housing Block Grant Data (service area population); funding for individual impact payments to qualified members in the seven-county service area. These funds were for impact of COVID-19 during March 2020-Dec. 31, 2020.

**This approval was by unanimous vote of the tribal board of directors.**

It is extremely unfortunate that these funds have been politicized, generating misleading "unofficial" media reports in news publications, as well as on social media. It is unacceptable that individual leaders are attacking others to further their respective political agendas. It is also unacceptable that individual elected officials are attempting to manipulate and divide the membership regarding these different funding sources. ALL funding and programming approved by unanimous vote of the Board of Directors.

As board members, we are committed to working with everyone to ensure that these funds benefit the tribe in the most impactful manner for this and the next seven generations. To ensure this, ALL remaining *American Recovery Act* funds shall require extensive input of staff, the membership and the board of directors. This shall also include Sault Tribe facilitated public input sessions with any/all members who wish to attend in person or virtually.

Respectfully,

Kim Gravelle, Unit I Director  
DJ Hoffman, Unit I Director  
Michael McKerchie, Unit I Director  
Lana Causley, Unit II Director  
Catherine Hollowell, Unit II Director

Keith Massaway, Unit III Director  
Bridgett Sorenson, Unit III Director  
Denise Chase, Unit IV Director  
Darcy Morrow, Unit IV Director  
Charles Matson, Sr. Unit V Director

RESOLUTION NO: 2021-147

**COVID-19 RESCUE ACT MEMBERSHIP ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, the spread of COVID-19 has been declared a global pandemic by the World Health Organization, a public health emergency by the United States Secretary of the Health and Human Services, a national emergency by the President of the United States, and a Tribally declared emergency by the Sault Tribe Board of Directors; and

**Min Waban Dan**

**Administrative Office**  
523 Ashmun Street  
Sault Ste. Marie  
Michigan  
49783  
**Phone** 906.635.6050  
**Fax** 906.635.4960

**Government Services**

**Membership Services**

**Economic Development Commission**

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors has determined that the COVID-19 global pandemic and corresponding impacts to the national and local economy has and will continue to strain the financial resources of the Tribal Membership, necessitating the invocation of assistance programs to help protect their respective health and welfare; and

WHEREAS, the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians has currently received \$211,000,000 from the American Rescue Plan Act based upon the entire Tribal Population regardless of residency; and

WHEREAS, the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians seeks to provide equitable relief to each Tribal Member with regards to these specific funds in regards to assisting Tribal Members.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors does hereby approve the COVID-19 Rescue Act Membership Assistance Program to offer financial assistance to address impacts incurred as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, it is the intent of the Board of Directors that all assistance provided under these programs is done so under exigent circumstances as the sovereign act of a legislative body under the General Welfare Doctrine and thus eligible for non-taxable treatment to the fullest extent allowable.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the COVID-19 Rescue Act Membership Assistance Program shall consist of \$2,000.00 payments to all eligible Tribal members.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors reserves the right to amend the COVID-19 Rescue Act Membership Assistance Program on an ongoing and as needed basis as additional guidance, funds, and needs arise.

**CERTIFICATION**

We, the undersigned, as Chairperson and Secretary of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, hereby certify that the Board of Directors is composed of 13 members, of whom 11 members constituting a quorum were present at a meeting thereof duly called, noticed, convened, and held on the 15 day of June 2021; that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted at said meeting by an affirmative vote of 10 members for, 0 members against, 0 members abstaining, and that said resolution has not been rescinded or amended in any way.

Aaron A. Payment, Chairperson  
 Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of  
 Chippewa Indians

Bridgett Sorenson, Secretary  
 Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of  
 Chippewa Indians

RESOLUTION NO: 2020-115

**APPROVING COVID-19 DIASER RELIEF PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians (the "Tribe") organized pursuant to the Constitution of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians; and

WHEREAS, the spread of COVID-19 has been declared a global pandemic by the World Health Organization, a public health emergency by the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services, a national emergency by the President of the United States, and a Tribally declared emergency by the Sault Tribe Board of Directors; and

**Min Waban Dan**

**Administrative Office**  
523 Ashmun Street  
Sault Ste. Marie  
Michigan  
49783  
**Phone** 906.635.6050  
**Fax** 906.635.4960

**Government Services**

**Membership Services**

**Economic Development Commission**

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors has determined that the COVID-19 global pandemic and corresponding impacts to the national and local economy has and will continue to strain the financial resources of the Tribal Membership, necessitating the invocation of a disaster relief assistance program to help protect the health and welfare of the membership.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Tribe should and does hereby approve the attached COVID-19 Disaster Relief Program to offer financial assistance to meet necessary and eligible expenses incurred as a result of the COVID-19 public health emergency and resulting economic conditions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, it is the intent of the Board of Directors that all assistance provided under the Programs is done so under exigent circumstances as the sovereign act of a legislative body under the General Welfare Doctrine and thus eligible for non-taxable treatment to the fullest extent allowable.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, it is intent of the Board of Directors that assistance provided under the Disaster Relief Program shall not be calculated as "eligible income" to limit or otherwise adversely impact a recipient's eligibility to receive assistance from any other existing tribal programs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that these Programs shall be funded with the Tribe's CARES Act Relief Funds as set forth in the budget approved by the Board pursuant to the Tribe's existing budgeting and administrative processes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the CARES Act Relief Funds previously authorized for use by the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe's casinos, enterprises, and governmental departments shall each be reduced by 19% to ensure funding availability for this plan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the COVID Relief Program shall consist of \$1,000 per tribal member residing with the service area.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors reserves the right to amend the Program on an ongoing and needed basis as additional guidance, funds, and needs arise.

**CERTIFICATION**

We, the undersigned, as Chairperson and Secretary of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, hereby certify that the Board of Directors is composed of 13 members, of whom 12 members constituting a quorum were present at a meeting thereof duly called, noticed, convened, and held on the 31 day of July 2020; that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted at said meeting by an affirmative vote of 11 members for, 0 members against, 0 members abstaining, and that said resolution has not been rescinded or amended in any way.

Aaron A. Payment, Chairperson  
 Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of  
 Chippewa Indians

Bridgett Sorenson, Secretary  
 Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of  
 Chippewa Indians

RESOLUTION NO: 2021-167

**COVID AMERICAN RESCUE ACT FUNDS**

WHEREAS, the spread of COVID-19 has been declared a global pandemic by the World Health Organization, a public health emergency by the United States Secretary of the Health and Human Services, a national emergency by the President of the United States, and a Tribally declared emergency by the Sault Tribe Board of Directors; and

**Min Waban Dan**

**Administrative Office**  
523 Ashmun Street  
Sault Ste. Marie  
Michigan  
49783  
**Phone** 906.635.6050  
**Fax** 906.635.4960

**Government Services**

**Membership Services**

**Economic Development Commission**

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors has determined that the COVID-19 global pandemic and corresponding impacts to the national and local economy has and will continue to strain the financial resources of the Tribal Membership and Employees, necessitating the invocation of assistance programs to help protect their respective health and welfare; and

WHEREAS, the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians has currently received \$211,000,000 from the American Recovery Act based upon the entire Tribal Population regardless of residency; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors has already appropriated up to \$91 million from the Sault Tribe American Rescue Fund for the purpose of a \$2 thousand distribution to all members; and

WHEREAS, the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians has identified our Employment Team Members and the Health of our Membership as a Priority to be addressed from the American Recovery Act funds received by the Tribe.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Sault Tribe Board of Directors has identified the Recovery Campus project (collaboration of Sault Tribe, Betty Ford and Hazleton) as essential to the Health and Welfare of its Membership and hereby budgets \$25 million dollars from the American Recovery Act funds (currently received) to address these issues future Board Actions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Sault Tribe Board of Directors has also identified the impact of COVID-19 wage inflation has had upon its Recruitment and Retention of current and potential Team Membership that are a key contributors to the success of the Tribe and hereby budgets \$10 million dollars from the American Recovery Act funds (currently received) to address longstanding compensation issues in future Board Actions.

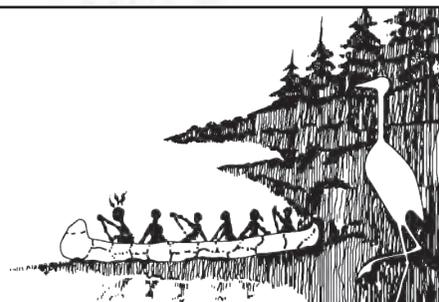
BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors directs that any additional commitments regarding the American Recovery Act Funds (excluding \$50 Million in Revenue Replacement) shall require extensive input of Staff, the Membership, and the Board of Directors. This shall include Sault Tribe Facilitated Public input sessions with any/all Membership that wish to attend in person or virtually.

**CERTIFICATION**

We, the undersigned, as Chairperson and Secretary of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, hereby certify that the Board of Directors is composed of 13 members, of whom 12 members constituting a quorum were present at a meeting thereof duly called, noticed, convened, and held on the 6 day of July 2021; that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted at said meeting by an affirmative vote of 12 members for, 0 members against, 0 members abstaining, and that said resolution has not been rescinded or amended in any way.

Aaron A. Payment, Chairperson  
 Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of  
 Chippewa Indians

Bridgett Sorenson, Secretary  
 Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of  
 Chippewa Indians



# Senior Project Fresh coupons available for 60+

Are you a low-income adult over the age of 60? You can receive fresh fruits and vegetables through participating

local farmers' markets through the Senior Project Fresh program.

If you are in a single house-

hold with an income level under \$23,828 or a household with two people with an income level under \$32,227, you may be eligible.

You can receive \$20 in coupons to be used on over 100

fresh fruits, vegetables and herbs at any participating farmers' market in Michigan.

Some items you can use your coupons on include, but are not limited to, apples, carrots, a variety of berries, peppers,

onions, potatoes and even honey.

If you are a resident of either Chippewa or Mackinac County contact us today at (906) 635-6368 or msue.chippewa@county.msu.edu.

## Attention Tribal Members! How to conduct Enrollment business

Temporary Office Hours for the Enrollment Department are Monday – Thursday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Due to the increased number of calls to the Enrollment Office, staff are unable to return phone messages and apologize for this inconvenience. There are alternative ways to conduct enrollment business.

To change your mailing address, please email the following information to jsalo@saulttribe.net (you can also send by mail or fax): Full name, Date of Birth, Current mailing address, Phone number

To renew your card via email please send the following info to jsalo@saulttribe.net: Full Name, Date of Birth, Current Mailing Address, Phone number

Credit Card Number and

Expiration Date (the fee is \$5 per tribal ID card). We accept Visa, Mastercard or Discover

If you are not able to email or are not comfortable doing so, you can send a money order to Sault Tribe Enrollment, PO Box 1628, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (sorry, no personal checks).

To enroll your minor child(ren) please download the application at: saulttribe.com/images/Application\_to\_enroll\_children.pdf. The tribal parent must fill out the application and you will need to submit it with the child's court-house birth certificate.

Please allow 3-4 weeks for processing as we are extremely busy enrolling children. You may fax or mail the application and documents or email to jsalo@saulttribe.net. (Fax Number: 906-632-1648.)

## Elder sought to help Sault Tribe YEA in Manistique

Sault Tribe Senior Employment Program seeks an elder to work part-time with and pays \$9.87 per hour.

The job calls for helping youth with craft projects and homework, assisting with general office tasks, chaperoning field trips and culture camp weekends, preparing daily snacks, helping with cleaning and other duties as may be assigned.

Applicants must be Sault Tribe

members aged 60 or over who reside in the tribe's service area.

Successful applicants must undergo and pass criminal background investigations, pre-employment drug tests and be able to travel.

Apply to WIOA/Senior Employment Program, Attn: Brenda Cadreau, 2 Ice Circle, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 or call (906) 635-4767.



Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians  
Anishnaabek Community and Family Services  
Child Care and Development Fund

ACFS has Child Care Assistance Applications for CCDF Subsidies for:

- Income Based
- Essential Employees (Income Waived)

Eligible families have the right to choose from high quality child care services that best meet their needs for child care without regard to cost. Applications can be found at <https://www.saulttribe.com/membership-services/acfs/direct-services/child-care-development-fund> or can be obtained by mail, fax, or email. Our number is 906-632-5250 or email us at [apeer@saulttribe.net](mailto:apeer@saulttribe.net) or [psterling@saulttribe.net](mailto:psterling@saulttribe.net).

Eligible families must be working, attending an educational program or in a job training program. The child in need of care must be a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians between the ages of birth through 12 years.

You can choose from the following types of providers:

1. State Licensed Child Care Center;
2. Tribal Licensed Child Care Center;
3. State Licensed Family/Group Home Providers;
4. Relative Care Provider;
5. In-Home Aide.

If you are choosing a **Relative Care Provider** they must meet the following criteria prior to providing care:

- must be a relative of the child(ren) needing care (Grandparent, Great Grandparent, Uncle, Aunt, Sibling)
- be of at least 18 years of age; -live in a separate residence; -must care only for children they are related to;
- obtain a clear MDHHS Clearance; -obtain a clear ICHAT (ACFS runs this report);
- obtain a clear Tribal Registry Clearance (ACFS runs this report); -Provide a signed Open Door Policy, Provider Registration Form, and a signed Client/Provider Agreement; -follow the CCDF Payment schedule and payment paperwork requirements; -complete initial Home Visit with CCDF Coordinator.

If you are choosing an **In-Home Aide** they must meet the following criteria prior to providing care:

- be of at least 18 years of age; -live in a separate residence; -must provide care in the child's home and only provide care for children listed on Child Care Certificate; -obtain and pass FBI fingerprint background check;
- obtain clear MDHHS Clearance; -obtain a clear ICHAT (ACFS runs this report);
- obtain a clear Tribal Registry Clearance (ACFS runs this report); -Provide a signed Open Door Policy, Provider Registration Form, and a signed Client/Provider Agreement; -follow the CCDF Payment schedule and payment paperwork requirements; on-line Health and Safety training; -CPR and 1<sup>st</sup> Aid; -complete initial Home Visit with CCDF Coordinator.



## Helping Native Families in Michigan Increase Assets via Homeownership and Entrepreneurship

- ▶ We are a Native Community Development Financial Institution certified by the U.S. Treasury
- ▶ Offering Home Loans for Purchase and Refinancing
- ▶ Offering Business Start-Up and Expansion Loans
- ▶ Offering Home Repair Grant and Business Grant Opportunities
- ▶ Offering Free Homebuyer Education and Business Technical Assistance

906.524.5445 | [www.lakesuperiorcdc.com](http://www.lakesuperiorcdc.com)

## TAX EXEMPTION CERTIFICATES MICHIGAN SECRETARY OF STATE APPOINTMENTS

Requests for Certificate of Exemptions require a 24-hour notice prior to the SOS appointment.

The Tribal Tax Office staff may not be able to assist Resident Tribal Members, who are at a scheduled appointment, and did not call the Tribal Tax Office in advance for the Certificate of Exemption.

The Tribal Tax Office is not responsible for a delay in obtaining the registration for vehicles, recreational vehicles, motor homes, etc., due to the Resident Tribal Member not requesting the Certificate of Exemption in a timely manner.

The Tribal Tax Office may be reached at (906) 635-6050 or [cblocher@saulttribe.net](mailto:cblocher@saulttribe.net).

## Win Awenen Nisitotung

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

July 21, 2021  
Miin Giizis  
Blueberry Moon  
Vol. 42, No. 7

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

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

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

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

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

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

See our full, online edition at [www.saulttribe.com](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.

**Advertising:** \$8.50/column inch.  
**Submission and Subscriptions:** Win Awenen Nisitotung  
Attn: Communications Dept.  
531 Ashmun St.,  
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783  
Telephone: (906) 632-6398  
Fax: (906) 632-6556  
E-mail: [slucas@saulttribe.net](mailto:slucas@saulttribe.net) or [jdale-burton@saulttribe.net](mailto:jdale-burton@saulttribe.net).

## "For All Your Tire Needs"



## U.P. TIRE

Complete Tire Sales & Service

**BRIDGESTONE Firestone**

(906) 632-6661

1-800-635-6661

1129 E. Easterday Ave., Sault, MI 49783

## Public comment invited on 2022-24 CSBG plan

Sault Tribe's Anishnaabek Community and Family Services (ACFS) 2022-24 Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) plan is available for your review. The CSBG program is designed to assist in alleviating the burden of an unexpected emergency for eligible Sault Tribe members' households in the tribe's service area. How we administer this program is partly determined by YOUR input.

The plan will be available from July 19 to July 28 for comment at [www.saulttribe.com](http://www.saulttribe.com) and at the

ACFS office, 2218 Shunk Road, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783.

Email comments are encouraged, send to [jbye@saulttribe.net](mailto:jbye@saulttribe.net). Public comment will be heard on Monday, July 28, 2021, 3-5 p.m. at 2218 Shunk Road in Sault Ste. Marie.

If you have questions or comments, please email [jbye@saulttribe.net](mailto:jbye@saulttribe.net) or call (800) 726-0093 to speak to a Direct Service case manager.

Ref: Notice of public hearing/2022-24 CSBG plan.

## Public comment invited on 2022 LIHEAP plan

Sault Tribe's Anishnaabek Community and Family Services (ACFS) 2022 Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) plan is available for your review. The LIHEAP program is designed to assist in alleviating the burden of high energy costs to eligible Sault Tribe households in the tribe's seven-county service area. How we administer this program is partly determined by YOUR input.

The plan will be available from

July 19-28, 2021, for comment at [www.saulttribe.com](http://www.saulttribe.com) the or at the ACFS office at 2218 Shunk Road in Sault Ste. Marie.

Email comments are encouraged to [jbye@saulttribe.net](mailto:jbye@saulttribe.net). Public comment will be heard on Monday, July 28, 2021, 3-5 p.m., at 2218 Shunk Road.

If you have questions, please contact Juanita Bye, ACFS director at (800) 726-0093.

Ref: Notice of public hearing/2022 LIHEAP plan.

### Membership Liaisons

Sault Tribe members are encouraged to contact liaisons when they need help with tribal issues by emailing [membersconcerns@saulttribe.net](mailto:membersconcerns@saulttribe.net) or individually at the contacts below. Please note that although the liaisons are located at sites across the seven-county service area, they serve all tribal members.

Unit I — Sheila Berger, Admin. Building, Sault, MI, (906) 635-6050, ext. 26359, [sberger@saulttribe.net](mailto:sberger@saulttribe.net)

Units II and III — Clarence Hudak, Lambert Center, St. Ignace, MI, (906) 643-2124 [chudak@saulttribe.net](mailto:chudak@saulttribe.net)

Units IV and V — Mary Jenerou, Manistique Tribal Center, (906) 341 8469; Munising Tribal Center, (906) 450 -011, [mjenerou@saulttribe.net](mailto:mjenerou@saulttribe.net).

### Training opportunities available

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

The program may be able to provide tuition assistance for skills training if it leads to an industry-recognized certification or under OJT, the program may reimburse an employer 50 percent of your wage for a specified training period.

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

Please apply at WIOA at Chi Mukwa Community Recreation Center in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., or call Brenda Cadreau at 635- 4767 for more information.

## Goo Goo Dolls coming

Kewadin Casino St. Ignace brings the return of music on the waterfront! Presented by Classic Rock The Bear, hot off the release of their album *Rarities*, the Goo Goo Dolls and special guest Cheap Trick appear Aug. 19 for one night of incredible music.

Goo Goo Dolls' sales exceed 12 million albums worldwide. The group has garnered four Grammy Award nominations and seized a page in the history books by achieving 14 number one and Top 10 hits at Hot AC. As a result, they hold the all-time radio record for most top 10 singles. Among a string of hits, *Iris* topped the hot 100 for 18 straight weeks.

Special guest for the evening, Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductee, Cheap Trick, will rock the stage with their timeless classics, *I Want You To Want Me*, *The Flame*, *Surrender* and so many more.

We're kicking off the return of music to the outdoor stage with two amazing bands in one night to remember. This is a show you do not want to miss!

On-site parking is available at no extra cost. GA Lawn ticket holders may bring their own folding chair.

Tickets sales start on Friday, June 25, at 10 a.m. starting at \$50! Tickets will be available at [tickets.kewadin.com](http://tickets.kewadin.com), the Box Office or by calling 1-800-KEWADIN.

## Public comment invited on 2021-22 LIHWAP plan

The Sault Tribe Anishnaabek Community and Family Services (ACFS) 2021-22 Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) plan is available for your review. LIHWAP provides assistance to restore water or prevent water shut-offs to eligible Sault Tribe members' households in the tribe's seven-county service area. How we administer this program is partly determined by YOUR input.

The plan is available July 19 to July 28 for comment at [www.saulttribe.com](http://www.saulttribe.com) and at the ACFS

Sault office, 2218 Shunk Road, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783.

Public comment hearing is on Monday, July 28, 2021, 4-6 p.m., at 2218 Shunk Road in Sault Ste. Marie.

If you have questions or comments, please email [jbye@saulttribe.net](mailto:jbye@saulttribe.net) or call (800) 726-0093 to speak to a Direct Service case manager.

Ref: Notice of public hearing/2021-22 LIHWAP plan.

### 2021 Rendezvous at the Straits Powwow canceled

It is with deep regret and with respect for the health and safety of family and friends that the annual traditional powwow in St. Ignace will not happen this year. We will continue again in 2022. We appreciate your support and understanding.

Saturdays in August

# MAKIN' BACON

All Sites  
Hot Seat Draws  
Start at 6 p.m.

Roll yer piggy and Win yer share of  
**\$33,000 CASH and Credits**  
Win up to \$150 in CASH each roll  
guaranteed \$75!

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

MANISTIQUE · ST. IGNACE · CHRISTMAS · SAULT STE. MARIE · HESSEL



SAULT STE. MARIE + ST. IGNACE  
HESSEL + CHRISTMAS + MANISTIQUE  
1-800-KEWADIN | KEWADIN.COM

### HESSEL'S 27th ANNIVERSARY

Wednesday, July 16  
Balloon Pop Draws Start at 5 p.m.

### WHALES OF WINNING

Saturdays in July  
Up to \$41,000 CASH/CREDITS

### HEALTH CARE HEROES

August 5  
Show your Health Care ID and receive \$10 Kewadin Credits

### \$3000 MINI BINGO

August 24 & September 21 - 6 p.m.  
Register online at [tickets.kewadin.com](http://tickets.kewadin.com) or at the Box Office  
Call 906-635-4958 for more details.

## TOURNAMENTS

### VIDEO POKER

St Ignace | August 27 & 28  
Up To \$15,000 CASH/BONUS POINTS

### QUICK HIT MANIA

April - June 4 p.m. - 7 p.m.  
Christmas - Mondays & Tuesdays  
Manistique - Wednesdays & Thursdays  
Hessel - Mondays & Tuesdays  
Daily Prize Pool 25,000 Bonus Points

### PINKTASTIC

Sault Ste. Marie | October 15 & 17  
Up To \$15,000 CASH/BONUS POINTS

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

# Sault Kids' Fishing Day returns

SAULT STE. MARIE, Mich. – After a year hiatus due to the pandemic, the Connor Gorsuch Kids Fishing Day is back at the Sault Ste. Marie Kids Fishing Pond at Rotary Park. This year's event will be held 8-11 a.m. on July 31.

Kids Fishing Day is an opportunity for kids to catch trout and win prizes, all through the generosity of a variety of local businesses, organizations and volunteers. Bait, food, drinks and fish-cleaning services are all provided free of charge. Some fishing rods and tackle are available for those who need it.

The outing takes place at the Kids Fishing Pond at Rotary Park, which opened for the season earlier this month. Maintained by Cloverland Electrical Cooperative, the City of Sault Ste. Marie and Lake Superior State University, the pond is in a unique setting along the St. Mary's River shipping channel. It is open to fishing for kids 16-under.

"All of the fish going into the pond this year are coming from the Jordan River National Fish Hatchery," said Roger Greil, who has been leading the efforts at the pond since it was established in 2004. "The hatchery provided fish last year, too, when the pond was open but our annual Kids Fishing Day was canceled. Without them, we would not have fish for the kids to catch."

Greil said the Jordan River Hatchery is providing 3,000 trout this year, with 1,000 rainbow trout stocked the night before Kids Fishing Day. The pond will be closed that evening to increase the chances of kids catching fish the next day.

"The fish we're stocking are part of the Jordan River National Fish Hatchery fishing initiative, where we provide fish to groups that promote free and accessible youth fishing opportunities across the state of Michigan," said Roger Gordon, manager of

the federal hatchery. "With the success of the pond last year, in spite of the pandemic, we are very pleased to be able to help out again this year."

Pendills Creek National Fish Hatchery has donated fish for the pond in the past, too, as has the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, and many people have donated toward the cause.

Registration for Kids Fishing Day runs from 8-9 a.m. on the day of the event. Kids 8-under can fish from 9-9:30 a.m., kids 9-16 can fish from 9:30-10 a.m., and all age groups can fish at 10 a.m. Look for more information on the Sault CVB web page and Facebook account.

The Sault Kids Fishing Pond is funded through the Sault Convention and Visitors Bureau's Sault Area Foundation for Education (SAFE), a 501©3 foundation (tax I.D. # 46-0739920).

To help keep the pond successful, write Sault Area Foundation for Education, PO Box 1000 or 225 E. Portage Ave., Sault Ste. Marie MI 49783.

**Inter-Tribal Council, [nextdistro.org](http://nextdistro.org) bringing free Narcan to tribal communities**

Opioid overdose reversal drug available free by mail

**The Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan Inc. has partnered with NEXT Distro and Grand Rapids Red Project to ensure all tribal communities have access to free naloxone through the mail. NEXT Distro is an online mail-based naloxone program designed for people who can't access naloxone through pharmacies. Community members who need naloxone can access it at no cost through [nextdistro.org/itcmi](http://nextdistro.org/itcmi).**

**If you are a person who uses drugs or if you have a loved one who uses drugs, use this brief online training to learn how to respond in the case of an opioid overdose emergency. Enroll to have Narcan nasal spray or intramuscular naloxone mailed to you at no cost.**

**This online training system does not interact with health systems, insurance carriers or law enforcement. Naloxone is sent to your address in a plain, discrete package.**

**Please direct questions about our program to [info@nextdistro.org](mailto:info@nextdistro.org).**

**To learn more about remote trainings, please reach out to Lisa Moran at [lmoran@itcmi.org](mailto:lmoran@itcmi.org).**

## Committee vacancies —

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 for any questions.

Anishinaabe Cultural Committee - nine vacancies - four males (4-year term), five female (4-year term)

Child Welfare Committee - two vacancies (4-year term), 1 vacancy (expires May 2023)

Election Committee - four vacancies (4-year term)

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

Health Board - five vacancies (4-year term)

Special Needs/Enrollment Committee - seven 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 term), 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

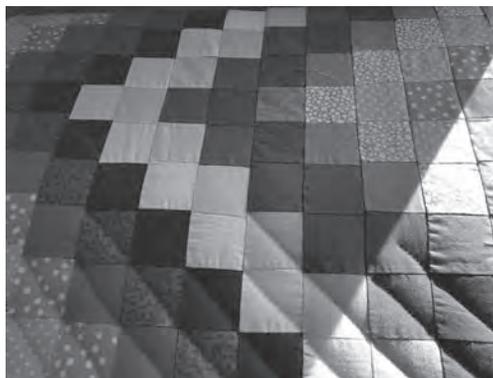
# Handmade Furniture & Goods



Stop In To See Us!

Made by Hand ~ Heirloom Quality

Outdoor Chairs, Gliders, Footstools, Swings • Beautiful Quilts • Wheels • Toys Canned Goods • Candy • Much More



6830 S. Taylor Rd. in Sault Ste. Marie (Off 6 Mile Rd., 1 Mile West of Mackinac Trail)

## 6 Mile Farmers Market

Located on 6 Mile Rd. just after I-75 Overpass. Watch for signs.

## Crafts, Gifts & More

*Fresh & Local from the U.P.*

Summer Hours Beginning in June: Tuesday and Thursday 12-5 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Community Shared Agriculture — Shares available for \$20-32 per week, depending on size. Stop by the market for more information.



Crafts • Gifts • Herbs • Baked Goods • Canned fruits & vegetables • Produce • Honey • Maple Syrup • Furniture • Fresh Donuts • Soap

**The True Pet Professionals!**

**CONTAIN-A-PET**

Of Eastern Upper Peninsula LLC.

Electronic Pet Fence Installation & Dog Training

---

**Money Back Guarantee**      **Lifetime Warranty**

**Made in the USA**              **Free Estimates**

---

Owner:  
Melinda Menard  
906-290-0478

[CapofEUP@yahoo.com](mailto:CapofEUP@yahoo.com)  
[www.contain-a-pet.com](http://www.contain-a-pet.com)

# Anishinaabemowin 2021



## Miin Giizis Blueberry Moon

by Susan Askwith

“Although no one can go back and make a brand-new start, anyone can start from now and make a brand-new ending.” — Carl Bard

**Gzhaate** *g-zhaa-te* It's hot.

**Gzhaatemagad** *g-zhaa-te-ma-gad* It's *really* hot.

**80 piitaate!**  
*80 pii-taa-te*  
It's 80 degrees!

**Gzhinaamde.** It is hot and humid  
*g-zhi-naam-de* (muggy, sticky weather)

**Aambe maadigaa biishing jiiigiig.**  
*aam-be maa-di-gaa biish-ing jii-giig*  
Let's wade in the water at the shore.

**Nwii mdaabii**  
*n-wii m-daa-bii*  
I'll go to the beach.

**Aabiish bid tikaasijigan?**  
*aa-bii-sh bid ti-kaa-si-ji-gan*  
Where is the fan?!

**Aambe bagizo-daa!**  
*aam-be ba-gi-za-daa*  
Come on, let's go swimming!

**Minendaagozin!**  
*min-en-daa-go-zin*  
Have a good time!  
(have fun, enjoy yourself)



**Aashiishmaajii**  
*aa-shii-sh-maa-jii*  
Good grief!

**Mkomiiwaagmi wi nibiish!**  
*m-ko-mii-waa-gi mi wi ni-biish*  
That water is ice cold!

**N'wii nmadib gawaateshing miinwaa n'wii bgizkaa.** I'll sit in the shade and I'll relax.  
*n-wii n-mad-ib ga-waa-te-shing miin-waa n-wii b-giz-kaa.*

**Puzzle it out!** Count the number of triangles in each design. Use the letter associated with that number to figure out the words below. Tell the English meaning for each, too. Minendagozin!

4 9 8 6 8 11 5 5 3 1 10 9 8 \_\_\_\_\_

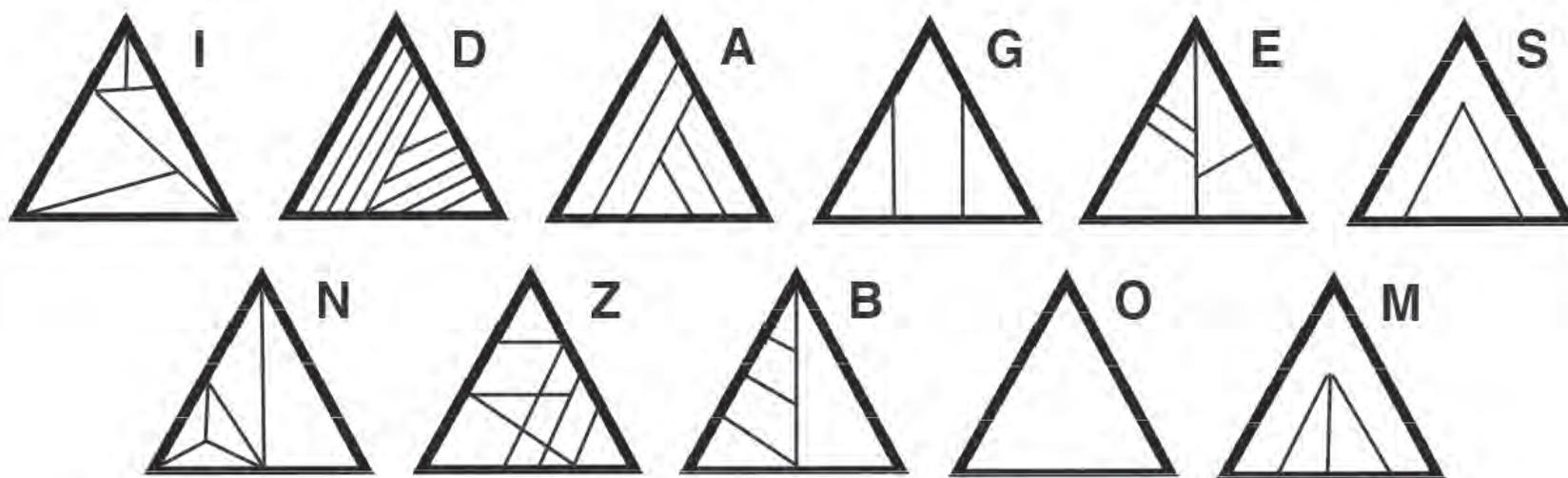
5 5 4 7 6 \_\_\_\_\_

8 4 5 11 9 7 \_\_\_\_\_

7 5 3 9 10 1 \_\_\_\_\_

3 9 9 10 9 2 \_\_\_\_\_

4 11 5 5 7 9 9 \_\_\_\_\_



Do you remember how to count to eleven? Here's a refresher: **Bezhik** (*be-zhik*)= 1, **Niizh** (*nii-zh*)= 2, **Nswe** (*n-swe*)= 3, **Niiwin** (*nii-win*)= 4, **Naanan** (*naa-nan*)= 5, **Ngodwaaswi** (*n-god-waa-swi*)= 6, **Niizhwaaswi** (*nii-zh-waa-swi*)= 7, **Nshwaaswi** (*n-sh-waa-swi*)= 8, **Zhaangswi** (*zh-aang-swi*)= 9, **Mdaaswi** (*m-daa-swi*)= 10, **Mdaaswi shi bezhik** (*m-daa-swi shi be-zhik*)= 11. A bit of a heads-up: *Make good use of "Making our Sounds" below. It's a useful tool. Vital, really.*

What do you call the wife of a hippie?  
*Mississippi*

What did the pig say on a hot summer day?  
*I'm bacon.*

What did the ocean say to the sailboat?  
*Nothing. It just waved.*

What did the air conditioning unit say to its owner?  
*I'm your biggest fan.*

I stayed up all night wondering where the sun went.  
*Then it dawned on me.*

A friend tried for a job at a sun cream factory but didn't get it. *He's going to reapply.*

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

**aa** sounds like the a in *awsome*      **a** sounds like the a in *tuba*

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

**oo** sounds like the o in *go*              **o** sounds like the oo's in *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".*

# DOI opens investigation into U.S. boarding schools

**BY RICK SMITH**  
 On the heels of mounting body counts found at former Indian boarding school sites in Canada, U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) Secretary Debra Haaland announced the launch of the Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative, described as “a comprehensive review of the troubled legacy of federal boarding school policies.”  
 Haaland made the announcement to the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) at their annual Mid-Year Conference. According to a memo from Haaland dated June 22, 2021, the initiative was prompted by the recent discovery of 215 unmarked graves at the site of the former Kamloops Indian Residential School in British Columbia,

Canada. Many more bodies have been found in other Canadian boarding school sites and the body count continues to climb. Kamloops now appears to be merely the proverbial tip of the iceberg.  
 “The Interior Department will address the inter-generational impact of Indian boarding schools to shed light on the unspoken traumas of the past, no matter how hard it will be,” said Haaland. “I know that this process will be long and difficult. I know that this process will be painful. It won’t undo the heartbreak and loss we feel. But, only by acknowledging the past can we work toward a future that we’re all proud to embrace.”  
 Fawn Sharp, president of the NCAI, praised the measure, “The National Congress of American Indians commends the Department

of the Interior for taking the essential first step of providing an official account of the atrocities that Native children experienced during the boarding school era,” she said.  
 “By documenting who, what, when and where these egregious abuses occurred, Native families may not only be able to fully heal, but they may be able to begin to reconcile with the past. Many mothers, fathers, siblings and children of boarding school victims and survivors have walked on without ever knowing the full extent of what happened to their loved ones. But, knowledge is power. By learning the truth, we

can fully begin reconciling the past and healing for the future.  
 Michigan American Indian tribes also endorsed the initiative along with other tribes across the nation.  
 In the United States, the Indian boarding schools started after the passage of the Indian Civilization Act of 1819. About 357 such boarding schools developed across the country and operated into the 1960s. The schools were largely funded by the federal government and operated by religious organizations. The students were often forcibly taken from their homes to attend the

schools. The main ideas behind the schools were to replace students’ Indigenous mores with characteristics of the Euro-American society and equip them with skills to do a variety of tasks such as farming and housework along with other more common school subjects. Students were prohibited from observing their own cultural norms or speaking their own languages under harsh penalties. Many of them were victims of physical, sexual, emotional and psychological abuses. Indian boarding schools in Canada operated from the 1880s to the 1990s.

## DOI shifts National Bison Range lands into trust for tribes

WASHINGTON, D.C. — In an important move to restore tribal homelands, the Department of the Interior recently announced the transfer of all lands comprising the National Bison Range (NBR), approximately 18,800.22 acres, to the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) to be held in trust for the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT) of the Flathead Reservation in Montana.  
 The lands, which are completely within the boundaries of the reservation, were transferred to the bureau from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).  
 “The establishment of the National Bison Range was an historic use of lands to preserve wildlife, but we must also acknowledge that this act reduced the Salish and Kootenai peoples’ homeland by thousands of acres,” said Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs Bryan Newland. “The return of these lands back to the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes is truly a significant milestone in their relationship with the Interior Department and the United States.”  
 “Today’s announcement marks

the official return of the bison range lands and resources to the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes,” said Martha Williams, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Principal Deputy Director. “The CSKT is a leader in conservation of natural resources throughout Montana, and the service looks forward to continuing to work together to conserve wildlife and wild places throughout the state.”  
 The National Bison Range was established on May 23, 1908, when President Theodore Roosevelt signed legislation authorizing funds to purchase land for bison conservation. It was the first time Congress appropriated tax dollars to buy land specifically to preserve wildlife.  
 The *Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021* (Public Law 116-260), approved the transfer by repealing the statute that created the NBR. It also includes a two-year period for transitioning the range’s management from the USFWS to the tribes.  
 The National Bison Range is in western Montana and is home to a herd of bison estimated to number between 300 to 500.

# WE'RE HIRING!

## Join Our Team

*The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and Kewadin Casinos offer a diverse work environment and competitive benefit package!*



- Paid Vacation & Sick Time
- Paid Holidays
- Health Benefits
- Competitive Wages
- 401k
- Professional Development & Career Advancement
- Paid Education & Cultural Leave
- Community & Family Oriented Employer

**VIEW ALL OF OUR EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AND APPLY ONLINE TODAY: [WWW.SAULTTRIBE.COM](http://WWW.SAULTTRIBE.COM)**

## Community Comes First

This is a great place to live. Community people make it that way. Around here people know their neighbors. It’s a way of life that we all enjoy. Support your community. Shop locally. Invest locally and get involved in community service.




**Community People You Know™**  
 Celebrating **133** years of service to the area.  
 906-643-6800 • 132 N. State St. • P.O. Box 187 • St. Ignace, MI 49781  
[www.fnbsi.com](http://www.fnbsi.com)

**Stop in to find out more at one of our 7 local banking offices.**  
 St. Ignace • North Bay • Moran Township • Cedarville • Mackinac Island • Naubinway • Newberry



# Mankiller among first honorees on new coins of the American Women Quarters Program

BY RICK SMITH

The United States Mint recently announced a new four-year coin series that honors prominent women who have made significant achievements and historical contributions to the nation and its citizenry. The American Women Quarters Program begins in 2022 and concludes in 2025. The first honorees are Maya Angelou, a renowned author; Dr. Sally Ride, first female astronaut to launch into space; Wilma Mankiller, first female principal chief of the Cherokee Nation; Adelina Ostero-Warren, a leader in New Mexico's suffrage movement; and Anna May Wong, the first Chinese-American Hollywood movie star.

The obverse (heads) side of the program's quarters will keep the traditional likeness of George Washington, but the reverse (tails) side will feature the images of the female honorees. The coins are authorized by Congress in the *Circulating Collectible Coin Redesign Act of 2020*, which stipulates up to five women per year may be so honored for their endeavors "in a wide spectrum of accomplishments and fields, including but not limited to suffrage, civil rights, abolition, government, humanities, science, space and arts, and should honor women from ethnically, racially and geographically diverse backgrounds."

The Secretary of the Treasury will select honorees with help from the American Women's History Initiative of the Smithsonian Institution, National Women's History Museum and



Photo courtesy of Smithsonian Inst.  
**Wilma Mankiller**

the Congressional Bipartisan Women's Caucus.

According to the National Women's History Museum, Wilma Pearl Mankiller was born on Nov. 18, 1945, in Tahlequah, Okla., a town with a population of about 15,000 in the northeastern region of the state the museum calls the capital of the Cherokee Nation. Her unusual surname stems from the Cherokee language and reflects the traditional Cherokee rank, similar to a military ranking, of one of her ancestors. Her family was poor and lived in a rural ancestral home that lacked electricity, indoor plumbing or telephones.

Her family was moved to San Francisco, Calif., by the Bureau of Indian Affairs as part of a federal relocation policy intended to move Indians from federally subsidized lands. Mankiller began developing her sense of defending and promoting Indian rights in 1969 after a group of American Indians seized the

federal penitentiary on Alcatraz Island in San Francisco Bay. She was inspired by the women's movement as well.

Mankiller became director of the Native American Youth Center in nearby Oakland, Calif., and developed strategic finesse in defending rights while helping the Pit River Tribe in a legal dispute against Pacific Gas and Electric over a vast swath of tribal land. She returned to Oklahoma after ending a 14-year marriage with two daughters in tow. She founded the Community Development Department for the Cherokee Nation, which primarily worked on improving access to water and housing. One of her more notable successes became the subject of a full-length feature film titled *The Cherokee Word for Water*.

Elected to serve as the principal chief of the Cherokee Nation in 1985, Mankiller held the post for 10 years, during which time the nation's population expanded from 68,000 to 170,000. During her tenure as principal chief, she infused the nation's tribal government with new life, advocated tirelessly for improvements in health care, housing and education, infant mortality declined and educational achievements increased. She is described as a consensus builder and worked with the federal government to initiate a self-governance agreement for her nation. Tribal revenues came from several factories, gaming, hospitality, natural resources and the federal government.

She was recognized as the *Ms. Magazine* Woman of the Year in

1987, inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame in 1993 and received the Presidential Medal of Freedom from then President Bill Clinton in 1998 for her vision and commitment to a better future for all. She also published her autobiography, *Mankiller: A Chief and Her People*, in 1993.

Mankiller died at age 64 on April 6, 2010, from pancreatic cancer. Journalist, magazine founder and leader of the femi-

nist movement, Gloria Steinem, was a close friend of Mankiller. Steinem was at Mankiller's side when she died and was one of the notable people who attended her funeral. Steinem is cited as having said, "Ancient traditions call for setting signal fires to light the way home for a great one; fires were lit in 23 countries after Wilma's death. The millions she touched will continue her work, but I will miss her every day of my life."

## Roy Electric Co. Inc.

INDUSTRIAL - COMMERCIAL - RESIDENTIAL

Don't get caught without power again!  
Generators: Sales, Installation, Maintenance  
by a Trained Licensed Electrician  
Visit our website for a list of services!

(906) 632-8878

www.royelectriccompany.com

Home • Auto • Life • Boat  
Motorcycle • RV • Motor Homes  
Business • Snowmobile

**NuStar**  
INSURANCE AGENCY, INC.  
"We Cover Your Assets"  
**INSURANCE**

906-253-1904  
Bouschor & Sherman  
Agents

Email: bbouschor@nustarinsurance.net  
www.NuStarInsurance.net

2081 Ashmun St  
Sault Ste. Marie, MI

**CSB CENTRAL SAVINGS BANK**  
ASK WHAT THE CSB FAMILY CAN DO FOR YOU

YOUR HOMETOWN FULL SERVICE BANK SINCE 1902

Ask about our eBanking services!

Sault Ste. Marie-Main • Sault Ste. Marie-Spur  
Cedarville • DeTour • Kinross •  
Mackinac Island • Pickford • Rudyard • St. Ignace

906-635-6250 | www.centralsavingsbank.com **FDIC**

IN BUSINESS FOR 45 YEARS

**FLOWERS' AUTO SERVICE**

LICENSED MASTER MECHANIC

(906) 632-8074  
3750 East 5 Mile

# Ettawageshik, Rubin on EPA Great Lakes Adsviory Board

CHICAGO, Ill. – The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced on June 8 that Frank Ettawageshik, executive director of the United Tribes of Michigan, and Laura Rubin, director of the Healing Our Waters-Great Lakes Coalition, will join the agency's Great Lakes Advisory Board (GLAB).

Frank Ettawageshik is the executive director of the United Tribes of Michigan and will serve as a tribal representative. He also serves on the International Joint Commission's Great Lakes Water Quality Board and non-profit boards including the Association on American Indian Affairs, Anishinaabemowin Teg and the Michigan Indian Education Council. Ettawageshik was a 2010 fellow at the Native Nations Institute Indigenous Leaders Fellowship Program at

the University of Arizona, and has 40 years of public service with tribal, environmental and historical groups.

Laura Rubin will serve as a representative for environmental non-governmental organizations. Currently the director of the Healing Our Waters/Great Lakes Coalition, which harnesses the collective power of more than 160 groups, Rubin has more than 30 years of experience in environmental protection, policy and conservation issues. She received the River Network's 2013 River Hero Award for her national leadership in river protection.

In accordance with the *Federal Advisory Committee Act*, the GLAB provides EPA with recommendations on specific Great Lakes issues including implementation of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and domestic implementation of the Great Lakes Water Quality

Agreement between the United States and Canada.

The new appointees join current board members who are working to address a set of charge questions developed by the agency. More information is online at <https://www.glab.us/lab>.

## Now Hiring!

Project Coordinator  
IT Coordinator  
Administrative Assistant

These are all full-time, on-site positions located in Sault Ste. Marie, MI.

For more information, visit [strongheartshelpline.org/about/jobs](http://strongheartshelpline.org/about/jobs) for full job descriptions, salary information and how to apply.

StrongHearts Native Helpline offers: competitive pay, generous vacation package, 100% employer-paid health insurance for full-time employees (after 60 days) and retirement plan (after 1 year)



**STRONGHEARTS**  
Native Helpline

Do you have something you would like to submit for publication in our newspaper? Inquiries can be made by calling (906) 632-6398 and submissions can be sent online via email to [jdale-burton@saulttribe.net](mailto:jdale-burton@saulttribe.net).

# Resolutions passed in June 15, July 6 board meetings

The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians convened on June 15, 2021, with all present except directors Hollowell and Morrow and passed the following resolutions.

**136 – Enrollment FY 2021 Budget Modification** – Approved for a decrease in tribal support funds of \$624.23 for changes in the personnel sheet and reallocation of expenses.

**137 – Youth Education and Activities FY 2021 Budget Modification** – Approved to change the personnel sheet, increase expenses and increase BIA funds \$63,415.98.

**138 – St. Ignace Medical Nursing FY 2021 Budget Modification** – Approved to change the personnel sheet and reallocate expenses with no effect on tribal support.

**139 – Healthy Start Grant Establish FY 2022 Budget** – Approved for Inter-Tribal Council funding of \$68,000 with no effect on tribal support.

**140 – Mental Health and ThirdParty Revenue FY 2021 Budget Modifications** – Approved to change the personnel sheet and reduce expense, resulting in savings to third party revenue funds of \$49,285.37 with no effect on tribal support; and for a decrease to third party revenue of \$49,285.37.

**141 – Naming of New Facilities Garage** – Designated the new Facilities Management storage garage as the Chip MacArthur Facilities Garage.

**142 – Family Violence Prevention and Services Program** Authorized submission of an application for grant funding for 2021-24.

**143 – Approving Contract Amendment Sonosky Chambers** – Approved an increase in monthly fees of \$25,000 for providing consulting services to the tribe.

**144 – Indian Health Services Project Summary Sanitation Facilities Memorandum of Agreement Project BE-21-M18** – Approved an agreement on sanitary water supply and waste disposal for 20 “other category” homes in the area of Sault Ste. Marie.

**145 – Authorization to Apply for Funding from the Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA)** – Authorized the Sault Tribe EDC director to apply for a grant of up to \$600,000 to continue the Sault Tribe Thrive program from September 2021 to August 2023.

**146 – Authorization to Purchase – Cedarville, MI and Property Acquisition** – Authorized purchase of Hillcrest Property in Clark Township, Mackinac County.

**147 – COVID-19 Rescue Act Membership Assistance Program** – Approved \$2,000 distributions to all eligible Sault Tribe members.

**148 – Approving Loan from Sault Tribe to Kewadin Casinos** – Approved a promissory note to finance the supply of security equipment for the tribe’s casinos.

**149 – Partial Waiver of Conviction** – Approved for a member convicted of disturbing the peace.

**150 – Purchase of Property Sault Ste. Marie** – Authorized

the negotiation and purchase of a property.

**151 – Land Transfer Sault Ste. Marie** – Authorized a land transfer with Bay Mills Indian Community.

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

**152 – Tribal Court – Judicial Services FY 2021 Budget Modification** – Approved for a decrease in tribal support funds of \$44,187.11 and BIA revenue of \$41,475 and a transfer out of \$3,579.96 reflecting actual expenditures and changes to the personnel sheet.

**153 – Sault Health Medical Nursing FY 2021 Budget Modification** – Approved for changes in the personnel sheet and reallocate expenses.

**154 – Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Establishment of FY 2022 Budget** – Approved for federal HHS funds of \$1,740,510.

**155 – 105 (1) Leasing Program** – Authorized application for HIS funding to enhance Health Division services, facilities, operations and maintenance.

**156 – ACFS - Subpart Funds – Supporting Foster Youth and Families Establishment of 2021 and 2022 Budgets** – Approved for HHS funds of \$15,000 for 2021 and \$33,924 for 2022 with no effect on tribal support.

**157 – ACFS – Low Income Household Water Assistance Programs Establishment of FY 2022 Budget** – Approved for HHS American Rescue Plan funds of \$56,094 and HHS revenue of \$71,796 with no effect on tribal support.

**158 – ACFS – Child Care Development Fund ARPA Establishment of 2021 and 2022 Budgets** – Approved for HHS American Rescue Plan Act of \$337,009.01 for 2021 and HHS revenue of \$1,835,046.98 for

2022 with no effect on tribal support.

**159 – ACFS Division – USDA FY 2021 and FY 2022 Budget modifications** – Approved for an increase in USDA funds of \$3,398 and an increase in tribal support of \$15,555.14 for 2021 and a decrease of USDA funds of \$24,323.24 and an increase of tribal support funds of \$23,324.16 for 2022.

**160 – Buildings – Child Care Building Establishment of FY 2021 and FY 2022 Budgets** – Approved for other revenue funds of \$136,355.24 for 2021 and \$226,759.99 for 2022.

**161 – Sawyer Village FY 2021 Budget Modification** – Approved for changes in the personnel sheet and increase in net income of \$248.96.

**162 – Authorization to Enter into Listing Agreement for Lease** – Authorized DeMawating Development to enter an agreement with a local commercial real estate brokerage to market the former Malcolm school for leasing and designates the tribe’s EDC executive director as signatory authority.

**163 – Authorization to Purchase Billboard Permits** – Authorized the EDC executive director to buy such permits.

**164 – Adopting Addendum to the Municipal Employees’ Retirement System Defined Benefit Plan** – Adopted subject addendum effective Jan. 1, 2021.

**165 – Allowing for Improved Execution of COVID-19 Rescue Act Membership Assistance Program Distributions** – Authorized access and use of the tribe’s membership list in preparation and execution of the program, authorizes the expenditure of \$91,000,000 in program funds and other measures to facilitate distribution. Also set a deadline date of Sept. 30, 2021, for all applications from adult members

aged 18 and over and Dec. 31 for all members who minors under age 18.

**166 – Approving Purdue Bankruptcy Restructuring Plan** – Approved a vote in favor of the plan as proposed in June 2020.

**167 – COVID-19 American Rescue Act Funds** – Appropriated funding through the American Rescue Act for the recovery campus project along with employee recruitment and retention. Also calls for input from members, staff and the board for any additional commitments.

**168 – Authorization to Purchase Real Estate** – Authorized the purchase of

two properties, one in Clark Township and one in Sault Ste. Marie.

**169 – Authorization to Sign Letter of Commitment and Dedicate Funds** – Approved up to \$585,000 in a commitment to match a EDA grant to build a 20,000-square-foot industrial warehouse complex.

**170 – Authorization to Commit to Crane Industrial Suites Contractor** – Approved up to \$175,000 for penalty in order to exit contract if all funding doesn’t come to fruition.

Resolutions and voting grids can be viewed at [www.saulttribe.com](http://www.saulttribe.com).

## Manistique gets sweat lodge, offers Wellbriety

BY KELLI BEAUDRY

It’s said to be the most powerful structure in the world. It’s a representation of the womb of Mother Earth and it’s the sweat lodge. A sweat is an excellent place to start a healing journey. A sweat lodge was recently built on the grounds of the Manistique Tribal Health Center as a part of the Sault Tribe Opiate Response grant from SAMSHA. The STOPR grant staff is very thankful to have been able to work with Traditional Medicine to build this lodge over on the western service end to expand healing services and help incorporate traditional healing practices to help guide one’s journey back to wellness.

The STOPR grant has funded three recovery homes along with an elementary school prevention program, among many other activities throughout the seven-county service area that hopefully will start returning now that the pandemic is easing. What hasn’t stopped during this pandemic has been Behavioral Health

services and Wellbriety groups that are also a part of our healing journey.

Four health centers offer Behavioral Health services, and Wellbriety is offered in four locations as well. There are therapists located in Munising, Manistique, St. Ignace and the Sault. Wellbriety is offered in the Sault, Kinross, St. Ignace and now Manistique.

In Manistique, Wellbriety is offered Wednesdays, 5-7 p.m. at the Manistique Tribal Health Center, 5698W HWY US-2.

If you have questions about sweat lodge, please contact Traditional Medicine staff at (906) 632-5268 or (906) 632-0236. Our Wellbriety groups are open to everyone, every meeting. If you have questions about Wellbriety, please contact Justin Mandosking at (906) 203-4700 or Kelli Beaudry at (906) 379-7866. If you have questions about our Behavioral Health services, please call our main office at (906) 635-6075.

# STORAGE BARN

Plus Sheds • Cabins • Outbuildings • Portable Garages



ECONOMY SHED



SHE SHED



CABIN



STORAGE SHED



GARAGE

**Our Lowest Price Shed**

3/4-inch plywood floor  
2x4 frame 24” OC  
LP Smart Siding  
Shingled roof  
Double door

**Sizes 8x8 to 12x24, from \$1,488 to \$5,094.**



**Tool Shed • Workshop Man Cave • She Shed**

Treated runners, Joist 12” OC  
5/8-inch treated plywood floor  
2 x 4 frame 16” OC  
7-ft. wall, T1-11 siding  
Shingled or metal roof  
Double doors  
12” overhang  
2 windows

**Sizes 8x8 to 12x30, \$2,502 to \$9,810.**

**Wide Range of Sizes and Prices**

Treated Runners, Joist 12” OC  
5/8-inch treated plywood floor  
Gambrel or gabel sided Roof  
2 windows  
2 coats stain  
4-ft. loft

**Sizes 8x10 to 14x48, \$3,660 to \$14,645.**

**Pro-Built Storage Shed**

Treated Runners, Treated Joists, 12” OC  
5/8” treated plywood floor  
2x4 frame 16” OC  
Painted or Vinyl Siding  
Metal or Shigled Roof  
Double Doors

**Sizes 8x8 to 12 x 30, \$2,049 to \$9,315**

**Portable Garage**

Treated Runners, Joist 12” OC  
5/8-inch Treated plywood floor  
2 x 6 rafters 12” OC  
Shingled roof  
7-ft. wall  
One roll-up door

**Sizes 12x16 to 16x48 from \$4730 to \$17,331**

DELIVERY FEES, BUILDING SET UP CHARGE, PERMITS AND ESCORT FEES ALL APPLY

William M. Miller, 845 W 6 Mile Rd., Sault Ste. Marie MI 49783

Open Monday-Saturday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. CLOSED SUNDAYS

# Indian Health Care Improvement Act is now permanent through Supreme Court decision

WASHINGTON, D.C. – In a 5-4 decision the Supreme Court has upheld the constitutionality of the *Affordable Care Act* (ACA), affirming the permanent reauthorization of the *Indian Health Care Improvement Act* (IHCA) which passed along with the ACA.

“This is an important step for health care in Indian Country; the permanence of the *Indian Health Care Improvement Act* has been affirmed and NCAI will stay focused on working with all members of Congress to uphold the trust responsibility to tribes,” said Jefferson Keel, president of

NCAI, the nation’s oldest and most representative American Indian and Alaska Native advocacy organization. “Moving forward, we are focused on improving health care for Indian Country while ensuring the *Indian Health Care Improvement Act* remains protected and implemented as enacted.”

The IHCA permanently authorizes daily health care delivery to nearly 2 million American Indians and Alaska Natives served by the Indian Health Service (IHS), who are in critical need of improved health care services. A snapshot

of health conditions highlights the critical need for improving health care in Indian Country; Native people suffer from higher rates of diabetes and related illness, heart disease and substance abuse than any other group.

The IHCA authorizes new programs in the IHS to ensure the service is more equipped to meet its mission to raise the health status of American Indians and Alaska Natives to the highest level. For example, it includes:

- Authorities for new and expanded programs for mental and behavioral health treatment

and prevention;

- Expanded authorities for long-term care services, including home health care, assisted living and community-based care;

- New authorities for development of health professional shortage demonstration programs;

- Expanded authorities for funding of patient travel costs;

- New authorities for demonstration projects for innovative health care facility construction;

- New authorities for the provision of dialysis services;

- Improvements in the Contract Health Services program, which

pays for referrals;

- New authorities for facilitation of care for Indian veterans; and

- New authorities for urban Indian health programs.

The passage of the IHCA on March 23, 2010, represented a fourteen year-long effort by NCAI, tribal leaders, and advocates to make permanent the legislative commitment by the federal government to deliver health care for American Indian and Alaska Natives. The IHCA was originally passed in 1976 and last reauthorized in 2000.

# Whitmer urges parents to take steps to receive Child Tax Credit payments that began July 15

LANSING, Mich. – Governor Gretchen Whitmer recently urged parents to file a federal income tax return if they haven’t yet done so or use the non-filer sign-up tool in order to be eligible for federal Child Tax Credit payments.

The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 increased the federal Child Tax Credit to \$3,600 per year for children under 6 years old and \$3,000 per year for children 6–17 years old. The tax credit will be issued as a monthly payment and will not count as additional income that could affect a family’s eligibility for public assistance.

“The federal Child Tax Credit is a powerful tool to help us fight childhood poverty,” said Whitmer. “This is a game-changing investment that will uplift kids and families in Michigan and across the United States and is another example of how we are making a real difference in people’s lives right now. The first step to receive the credit is to file a federal tax return for 2020 or sign up using the non-filer sign up tool. Unlike the earlier Child Tax Credit, parents may be eligible to receive the advance payments even if they have not previously filed taxes and have low or no earnings.”

“We are asking community

- **Payments will not affect public assistance.**
- **Parents of children under 18 may be eligible to receive this money even if they have not previously filed taxes and have low or no earnings.**
- **Expanded child tax credit is expected to reduce child poverty by 62 percent among Native American children.**

groups, non-profits, religious associations and education organizations to share this critical information about the federal Child Tax Credit with parents,” Whitmer added. “We have a real opportunity to make a difference in children’s welfare here in Michigan.”

“Thanks to the American Rescue Plan, help is on the way for Michigan families with children through the expansion of the Child Tax Credit,” said Congressman Dan Kildee (MI-05), a member of the U.S House Ways and Means Committee. “If you work full time, you should not have to struggle with paying bills or putting food on the table for your kids. The expansion of the Child Tax Credit will bring much-needed economic relief to Michiganders and help cut child poverty in half.”

Families meeting the guidelines will receive an Internal Revenue Service-issued check

or direct deposit on July 15, Aug. 13, Sept. 15, Oct. 15, Nov. 15 and Dec. 15.

The new maximum credit is available to taxpayers with a modified adjusted gross income of:

- \$75,000 or less for singles.
- \$112,500 or less for a single parent, also called (head of household).
- \$150,000 or less for married couples filing a joint return and qualified widows and widowers.

For most people, the fastest and easiest way to file a federal tax return is by using the Free File system, available only on IRS.gov.

Taxpayers who file both a federal and a state return may be eligible for state tax credits, including the Home Heating Credit, the Homestead Property Tax Credit and the Earned Income Tax Credit.

Low-income families with children are eligible for this cru-

cial tax relief – including those who have not made enough money to be required to file taxes. If a couple makes under \$24,800, a head of household makes under \$18,650, or a single filer makes under \$12,400, and they have not filed their taxes, the non-filer sign-up tool can be used to sign up for the federal Child Tax Credit.

“The non-filer sign-up tool is designed for those individuals who don’t normally file a tax return, such as families experiencing homelessness, the rural poor and other underserved groups,” said State Treasurer Rachael Eubanks. “It provides an opportunity for all eligible families to obtain the federal Child Tax Credit.”

The IRS has started sending letters to more than 36 million American families who may be eligible based on information they included in either their 2019 or 2020 federal income tax return,

or who used the non-filers tool on IRS.gov last year to register for an economic impact payment. Families who are eligible for advance Child Tax Credit payments will receive a second, personalized letter listing an estimate of their monthly payment.

“The American Rescue Plan is the boldest vision for fighting child poverty in the U.S. in at least 50 years,” said Poverty Solutions Faculty Director H. Luke Shaefer, who is the Hermann and Amalie Kohn Professor of Social Justice and Social Policy and associate dean for research and policy engagement at U-M’s Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy. “Research shows if we can intervene while kids are young, it’s going to pay dividends in terms of higher academic performance, lower engagement with the criminal justice system and higher earnings over a lifetime.”

Recent estimates from Columbia University’s poverty center find that this expanded Child Tax Credit will reduce child poverty by 45 percent overall, by 52 percent among Black children, by 62 percent among Native American children and effectively eliminate the most extreme forms of child poverty in America.

Find more information at [www.childtaxcredit.gov](http://www.childtaxcredit.gov).

# Michigan providing food and rental assistance

LANSING, Mich. — Governor Gretchen Whitmer recently signed a bipartisan bill to invest \$2.2 billion in federal COVID relief funding to support the recovery of individuals, families, and businesses struggling with the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The new funding helps families put food on the table through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and keep a roof over their heads through the Emergency Rental Assistance program.

“As we look ahead, we have an unprecedented opportunity to use federal stimulus funds to help Michigan’s families, small businesses and communities emerge from the pandemic stronger than ever before,” said Whitmer. “The

bipartisan bill that I signed today is the result of good-faith efforts by members of the legislature and it is a testament to what we can do together: make a real difference in people’s lives right now. With life getting back to normal, we are turning full attention to our state’s economic jumpstart by creating jobs with higher wages, giving small businesses the needed capital to ramp up hiring and boost investment, and making sure every family has access to affordable, quality childcare.”

In addition to the money for food and housing, funding is provided to help local governments continue providing essential services and sends disaster relief dollars directly to counties, cities and hospitals for their COVID vaccination efforts as well as

communities impacted by the historic flooding last year in Midland.

Funding in the bill is specifically provided as follows:

- Department of Health and Human Services: \$1.5 billion in federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program funding to support a 15 percent increase in monthly food assistance benefits through Sept. 30, 2021, providing temporary assistance to families needing emergency food.

- Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity: \$378.3 million in federal funding for grant awards to be distributed and used to assist renter households at or below 80 percent of area median income, supporting the Emergency Rental Assistance Program which includes rental

and utility assistance payments, housing stability services and case management to eligible renter households impacted by COVID-19.

- Department of State Police: \$65.2 million in federal funding for payment to vendors for emergency and disaster response and mitigation services provided in areas throughout the state.

- Department of Technology, Management, and Budget: \$21.0 million in state funding for a one-time purchase of tax vouchers issued by the state to the Venture Michigan Fund (VMF) which is used to generate investment capital from lenders. This results in projected savings through the avoidance of interest that would accrue on vouchers.

- Department of Treasury:

\$322.1 million in federal funding to distribute to local units of government to be used for the following: to provide assistance to households, small businesses and nonprofits; to aid industries such as tourism, travel and hospitality; to provide premium pay for essential workers; to provide government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue relative to revenues collected in the most recent full fiscal year; and to make necessary investments in water, sewer or broadband.

“I am proud to serve with a governor who has worked with both sides of the aisle to assure Michigan roars out of this pandemic,” said State Senator Curtis Hertel Jr. (D-East Lansing). Other members of the state Congress expressed similar sentiments.

# Sexual violence among boys, men

*We can't solve the problem of violence against girls and women without also addressing violence against men and boys. — Emma Brown, Washington Post*

What do you think you know about boys, men and sexual violence?

With so few people realizing that large numbers of males are sexually abused and assaulted, male survivors are an almost forgotten category of victims. Most men who experience sexual assault choose never to reveal it, even to people they know and trust. They fear disbelief, ridicule, shame, accusations of weakness or ignoring. For all of these reasons, many men who survive sexual abuse or sexual assault endure their traumatic experience silently and alone.

Some shocking statistics: according to RAINN as of 1998, 2.78 million men in the United States have been victims of attempted or completed rape. About three percent of American men, or one in 33, have experienced an attempted or completed rape in their lifetime. One out of every 10 rape victims are male. More than half of all reported sexual assaults take place in the survivor's own home or within one mile of it. Another 20 percent happen in the home of a friend, neighbor or relative. A population-based study of 705 adult men in Virginia found a lifetime prevalence of 12.9 percent among men, with 94 percent assaulted for the first time before the age of 18. Regression analysis showed that male victims of sexual violence were 3.4 times more likely to be depressed and 2.4 times more likely to contemplate suicide and yet did not seek health services.

There are many myths that surround male sexual assault. Some of them are: men cannot be sexually assaulted, only gay men are sexually assaulted, only gay men sexually assault other men, boys who experience child sexual abuse will grow up to become abusers themselves and men cannot be sexually assaulted by women.

Anyone who has been sexually abused or assaulted, regardless of gender identification or sexual orientation, experiences lasting effects and suffers emotional pain. Sexual abuse and sexual assault affect men in many of the same ways it affects women. However, men also display some unique reactions in the aftermath of sexual assault, such as questioning their own sexual identity or orientation and downplaying the impact of their experience. Like women, men who experience sexual assault may suffer from depression, PTSD and other emotional problems, but because men generally have different life experiences than women, their emotional symptoms can appear different from women.

Men need our support, too. If a male relative or friend tells you that he has been sexually assaulted, you should respond the same way you would to a female, believe him. It is not your role to question whether a sexual assault has occurred. Never blame him for being assaulted. No one ever deserves to experience sexual assault. It doesn't matter whether he was drunk or high or how he was behaving. **SEXUAL ASSAULT IS NEVER, EVER THE SURVIVOR'S FAULT.**

Listen to him. It is important to let him know he can talk to you whenever he is ready. Traditional Ojibwa teachings and traditions, therapy or both, can help boys and men cope with the powerful physical and emotional reactions to their experience. We at the Advocacy Resource Center are here to help those affected by sexual violence regardless of when the assault took place. If you would like to know what services are available to you, please contact the Advocacy Resource Center at (906) 632-1808.

## Porky Quill Earrings

### Culture - The Key to Healing

The Advocacy Resource Center will be hosting Facebook workshops for interested participants. We will post a video to Facebook for you to follow along with on August 6th, 2021. The first 30 people to call with your address by July 20th, 2021 will receive a FREE kit in the mail.

**WHEN:** August 6th, 2021 12:00P.M.

**WHERE:** Advocacy Resource Center Facebook page.

**SUPPLIES ARE LIMITED**  
To register, please call Ashley Gravelle  
Advocacy Resource Center Cultural Healing Educator  
at 906-632-1808  
Between 8:00 A.M. and 5:00P.M. Mon-Fri



This event was produced by the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, Anishnaabek Community and Family Services, Advocacy Resource Center under 2018-VO-GX-0004 awarded by the Office of Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed are those of the contributors and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.



Made with PosterMyWall.com



**ACFS EDUCATES AT FAMILY FUN FAIR** — From left, Ashley Morrow, Cheryl Stec and Heather Pavlat offer Anishnaabek Community and Family Services information at the Arts, Crafts and Family Fun Fair 2021 in Sault Ste. Marie on June 25. Information on services and how to become a foster parent were provided to attendees and various promotional items were available for giveaway. Make a difference in a child's life! If you are interested in becoming a foster parent, please call Anishnaabek Community and Family Services at (906) 632-5250 or (800) 726-0093.

## Safety during a violent encounter

From StrongHearts Native Helpline

Be aware that in an abusive relationship, violence is used as a tactic for the abuser to maintain power and control over the victim-survivor. The violence will continue and may escalate in intensity and frequency.

Safety planning is an individualized process where a practical plan is created that includes ways to remain safe while in an abusive relationship. An advocate can help you produce a plan and discuss your options with you.

If a violent encounter seems imminent and unavoidable, there are a few options to consider to keep you safe. These tips cannot guarantee your safety, but by using your experience and intuition, along with these tips, you may be safer. You are the best person to judge your safety.

— Try to control your breathing in through your nose and out through your mouth so you can continue to think clearly.

— Say or do whatever you can to de-escalate the situation.

— Avoid rooms or areas without an easy escape. Stay on the ground floor if possible. For example, a basement with stairs and one point of entry will be difficult to escape from during a violent attack.

— Mentally plan how you might escape from each room in advance.

— Be aware of your surroundings. Think about what you could use to shield yourself when your partner becomes abusive.

— Avoid getting into a vehicle.

— Avoid areas where weapons are easily accessible. Kitchens are dangerous because of the access to knives. Bathrooms are dangerous because of slipping and the many hard surfaces in a small area. Garages or sheds can also be dangerous because of access to tools and other heavy equipment. Avoid any areas where firearms are stored or kept, even if they are locked securely.

— Remove necklaces and scarves if possible as these could be used to strangle you. Remove earrings.

— Move away from any children in the area.

— Consider safe places to go after escaping.

— Choose a code word or signal that would let children, relatives or neighbors know they should call for help.

— Hide spare keys and money in a safe place or ask a safe person to hold onto them for you in case you need to flee unexpectedly.

— If you are unable to get away from the abuser and are being assaulted, try to make yourself as small as possible to minimize any injuries. Get into a corner or put your back to a wall, bring your knees to your chest and use your arms to cover your neck.

— You have the right to protect yourself and that includes calling the police.

After a violent encounter, it can be difficult to process what has happened, take time for

yourself to recover and reconnect with yourself. Seek medical attention if needed and is safe to do so. Consider documenting the violence and abuse. Take pictures and write descriptions of the abuse in a journal or open an email account and email them to yourself. If there are any medical or police reports documenting the abuse, keep the records. Make sure your information is kept in a safe place. Keeping documentation will allow you to have an option to pursue legal action in the future.

Participating in self-care activities like exercise, eating healthfully, counseling, journaling, knowing when and how to emotionally check out during times of duress could be helpful. Be gentle with yourself mentally and physically. Practice your spirituality by smudging, praying or sitting with your traditional medicines if this helps heal your spirit.

“Immediate safety is important and long-term safety planning should be considered when you are in or exiting an abusive relationship,” said StrongHearts Services Manager Joy Samuelson (Standing Rock Sioux Tribe). “Our advocates can help you plan for your safety, no matter what your current situation is.”

*StrongHearts Native Helpline is a 24/7 culturally-appropriate, anonymous, confidential and free service dedicated to serving Native survivors, concerned family members and friends affected by domestic, dating and sexual violence.*

# July spotlights Internet safety for everyone

In light of recent events here in our own county, it seems necessary to highlight the importance of Internet safety not only for children but for adults, too.

When we hear alarming stories of children being kidnapped by someone they've met online, we have a tendency to believe that such events can't happen in our town or to our children; but the harsh truth is that it can, it does and it HAS.

As recently as May 2021, a Sault Ste. Marie child was kidnapped and taken to another state by online predators. The child's captors lured the child via social media and travelled by car to the U.P. to pick the child up. Thankfully, after many local tips and a thorough investigation the child was returned safely to home. The suspects who had taken the child had already been investigated for sex crimes in the past,

So, what can we do? It begins with communication with our children. Not just a one-time reminder in passing to "be careful" on the Internet, but regular reminders of the dangers that lurk behind their screens. Having in-depth conversations about the specific reasons why we need our children to be careful.

There are numerous concerns that parents have about their children being connected online daily whether its social media or online gaming, cyber-bullying, Internet predators, sexting, texting and driving, identity theft, too much screen time — the list goes on.

Life is no longer as simple as we remember it to be. "Generation Z" and "Millennials" are defined as the first social generation to have grown up with access to the Internet and portable digital technology from a young age.

Members of Generation Z have been dubbed "digital natives." Therefore, rules and boundaries are necessary for this new generation in which many "Generation X" and even "Baby Boomer" parents or grandparents are learning to navigate with some difficulty and lots of kickback.

Here are some helpful guidelines to follow for practicing online safety:

— Setting and following family rules that indicate length of time and behavior on social media and online gaming sites.

— Explaining the caveats of sharing personal photos. Remind-

ing children and teens that their pictures can fall into the wrong hands and retrieving or deleting the photo is impossible.

— Teach children and teens to never reveal personal information such as address, phone number or sharing their location online.

— Don't chat with strangers and avoid "friending" anyone they do not know.

— Never respond to a threatening email, message, post or text. Use only a screen name and do not share passwords with anyone (except parents, guardians, caregivers).

— Never agree to meet up or get together in person with anyone they have met online without having parental approval or supervision.

— Encourage your child to show you or come to you when they encounter any communication or conversation that is scary, threatening or hurtful. By having conversations about this subject

often, children and teens may feel more comfortable to come to you when they have an issue.

— It is also important to teach our children to be kind when online with others. The same rule applies online as it should in person. Treat others how you would like to be treated.

Children should ask permission before downloading an app or using a new device. Using devices close to bedtime should be avoided so the child's brain can rest and get a healthy amount of sleep.

S.M.A.R.T. is a helpful acronym for children and teens staying safe online.

S – Safe: Keep safe by vigilance in not giving out personal information.

M – Meet: Meeting someone you have only met online can be dangerous. Only do so with parents' permission.

A – Accepting: Accepting emails, instant messages or open-

ing files, pictures or text from people you don't know or trust can lead to problems, they may contain viruses or nasty messages.

R – Reliable: Information you find on the Internet may not be true, or someone online may be lying about who their identity. Make sure you check information before you believe it.

T – Tell: Tell your parent, guardian, caregiver or a trusted adult if someone or something makes you feel uncomfortable or worried, or if you or someone you know is being bullied online.

Fortunately, there are several apps for parents to use to help monitor children's and teen's device usage. Most cost just a few dollars per month and some are free but with limited access. Look for such apps in your device's app store to help monitor your child's emails, texts, social media sites and what content is searched or shared. The apps also

help limit screen time and filters websites to eliminate risky content.

Some of the highly rated apps parents are using are Bark, Pocket Guardian, WebWatcher and Family Time. Limity is a free app for Android users only.

However, we cannot solely rely on these apps to do the work for us. We must stay involved, stay in communication, monitor the devices and stay connected with our children. Children need real in-person communication.

Be mindful of your own screen time and be sure to make time for your family away from the Internet. Make special memories together and enjoy each other's company.

Check [www.facebook.com/saulttribeARC](http://www.facebook.com/saulttribeARC) for potentially dangerous apps for children and teens. The Advocacy Resource Center can provide help for those in need of support services and can be reached at (906) 632-1808.

## Cars! SUVs! Trucks!



Get Them

# ALL at GITCHI AUTO

✓ **TRADE INS WELCOME!**

✓ **GENERAL PUBLIC WELCOME!**

✓ **TAX EXEMPTION SPECIALISTS!**



**WE BUY CARS**



GitchiAuto.com



**906-203-4491**

**2270 Shunk Rd.**

**Cars • Trucks • RVs • ATVs • Scooters • Homes • And More!**

**Open 6 Days A Week: Mon - Fri 9-6 • Sat 9-2**

Bank2  
and HUD  
184 Home  
Loan  
Program



Contact SHINY WHEELS DETAILING for all of your detailing needs. If it has a steering wheel or wheels, we got you covered! Mobile Service Provided! We come to you so you can relax in the comfort of your home and let us do the work!

**231-340-0864**  
Text or Call

**Servicing  
Sault Ste. Marie &  
Surrounding Areas**



# Sault Tribe Housing Authority

## 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?**

**For more information, call: 800-794-4072 or 906-495-1454 or email [EmergencyRentalAssistance@saulttribe.net](mailto:EmergencyRentalAssistance@saulttribe.net)**

The ERA program provides assistance to Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa members and households who rent homes anywhere in the United States.

Applicant households must have incomes at or below 80% of the Area Median Income and meet other eligibility requirements.

**For full details, visit:**

**[Housing offers Emergency Rental Assistance - The Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians Official Web Site](#)**

### **What costs can the program cover?**

The ERA program can help renters with the following costs starting as far back as March 13, 2020:

- ◇ **Past due, current and up to 3 months of prospective rent costs**
- ◇ **Past due, current and up to 3 months of prospective utility costs**
- ◇ **Security deposit, relocation & rental fees**
- ◇ **Emergency motel stay**
- ◇ **Application or screening fees**
- ◇ **Internet service**
- ◇ **Other Housing expenses incurred related to housing due, directly or indirectly, to COVID-19 that qualify for assistance under federal law**

**CALL TODAY!**

**Download an application today at:**

**[Housing offers Emergency Rental Assistance - The Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians Official Web Site](#)**

**"This project is being supported, in whole or in part, by federal award number 21.023 awarded to Sault Tribe Housing Authority by the U.S. Department of the Treasury."**

# Tribe's Cultural Department shares teachings



10th Annual Baaweting Anishinaabemowin Language Conference June 11-12 at the Niigaanagiiizhik Building. Attendees Robin Clark, Bea Jackson, and Melissa Killips (front) work on quilling on birchbark.



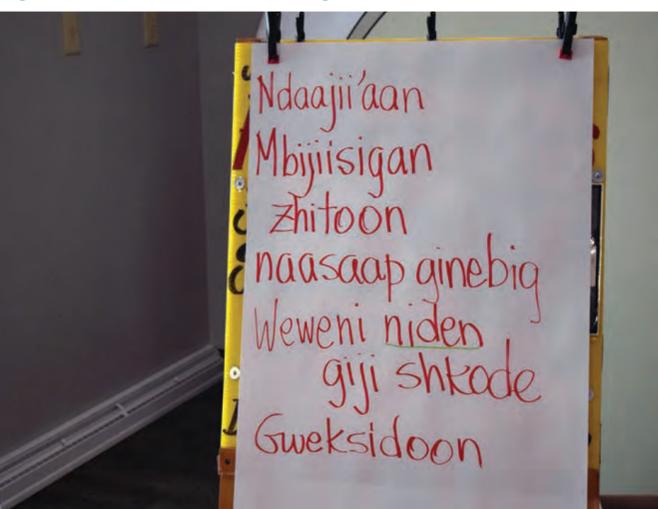
Director of Language and Culture, Cathy DeVoy, peeling birch bark for departmental activities from trees on Sugar Island.



Dance and drum photos by Rick Smith  
A hit feature of the annual Sault Ste. Marie Music in the Park series returned for the 2021 summer season. A Night of Native Music organized by the Sault Tribe Language and Culture Department moved from the usual venue at the Soo Locks Park to the Niigaanighizik Ceremonial Building due to rain. The performance featured master of ceremonies Josh Homminga who explained the many facets of drums, drummers, singers, dancers and regalia. Officials with the City of Sault Ste. Marie are so impressed with the display that they asked for a second performance this year and asked about a series for next year. A crowd of about 160 people attended the event.



Language instructor Susan Askwith, at right, gets bread dough — Bkwezighan — ready for twisting and baking on a stick. Below are the Anishinaabemowin words Askwith taught would be used to make the Bkwezighan over the outdoor fire.



# Kids enjoyed a day of fishing at annual event



Folks enjoying themselves as the M/V Edgar B. Speer passes downbound on the nearby St. Marys River shping lane. Youngsters had the experience of trying to catch and land one of the fish recently stocked in the pond at Rotary Park in Sault Ste. Marie. Most didn't have any luck, but now they all have a fond memory for life.

Families of students in the Head Start program at the tribe's Child Care Center in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., were invited to a fishing excursion on June 18 at the children's fishing pond at Rotary Park. The folks enjoyed a nice, sunny evening while either teaching or learning how to fish. Michaela McLeod, lead teacher for the program, said Aaron Payment and Susan Soltys split the cost for kiddie fishing gear. Other kiddie fishing gear for prize drawings was donated by Daniel Bowerman. Sault Tribe Law Enforcement provided bait. McLeod was aided by Kelly Hewitt and Joe Nolan, Sault Tribe Law Enforcement and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.



Jamey Michaels helps his son get his pole baited and in the water.



This young lady enjoys some hot pizza and warm sunshine.



Emily McKerchie helps Andrew Aikens bag one of the two trout he caught.



Above, Amber Whitman and DNR officer Sumbera coach a lad on casting. Below, Caroline Neal, Andrew Kagarise and lad enjoying the function.



# John "Jay" King retires from tribe after 27 years

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

John "Jay" King celebrated his retirement from the Sault Tribe after 27 years with a party held in his honor on June 8 in St. Ignace. He started his employment with the tribe in 1993 when he accepted a position with North Star Neon.

Then, in August 1996, he became a safety officer in the Sault until that fall, when he transferred to St. Ignace where he has remained for over 24 years.

King said that as a tribal safety officer, he was responsible for understanding workmen's comp code mandates, complying with OSHA and NFPA codes, performing training events, and audits of tribal buildings. "Safety officers are on call 24/7," he said. "Years ago, there was one time I left St. Ignace for home five different times and got called back each time. I finally made it home about

1 a.m."

He said he has watched the tribe expand and develop the administration complex and Big Bear Ice Arena, and the expansion of the Sault casino. He also saw the construction of the casinos in St. Ignace, Manistique, and Christmas. He was also around to witness the purchase of the McCann building in St. Ignace, the building of the cultural building there and new homes for tribal members on the St. Ignace reservation.

"When I pulled into the casino parking lot in 1996, I wondered how some of the employees parked there were going to make it home from work because their vehicles were so atrocious. Now you pull into the same lot and there are nice newer vehicles. The tribe has come a long way," he said. "My time as a safety officer was an enjoyable experience."



Jay King at home enjoying his retirement.



Photos by Doug Goudreau

Above, Jay King with James McKerchie, and St. Ignace Kewadin Casino General Manager Steve Sprecker. Below, Safety Officers Dale Joseph, Ashlee Mielke, and Jay King.



**Sault Tribe**  
**Traditional Medicine Program**  
*Gerard Sagassige*

**August: 2, 4, 9, 23, 25, 30, 31st**  
**Sault Ste. Marie Health Center**  
**(906)632-0236 Lori Gambardella**  
**(906)632-0220 Annie Thibert**

<b>August: 3rd</b> <b>St. Ignace Health Center</b> <b>(906)643-8689</b> <b>(877)256-0135</b>	<b>August: 10th</b> <b>Manistique Health Center</b> <b>(906)341-8469</b> <b>(866)401-0043</b>
<b>August: 11th</b> <b>Munising Health Center</b> <b>(906)387-4721</b> <b>(800)236-4705</b>	<b>August: 24th</b> <b>Escanaba Community Center</b> <b>(906)632-0236 Lori Gambardella</b> <b>(906)632-0220 Annie Thibert</b>

## 2021 AUGUST CLINIC HOURS

Please call for questions or to set up an appointment

**Sault Tribe Traditional Medicine Program**  
**2021 AUGUST CLINIC HOURS**

**August: 5, 13, 27th**  
**Sault Ste Marie Health Center**  
**(906)632-0236 Lori Gambardella**  
**(906) 632-0220 Annie Thibert**

<b>August: 4th</b> <b>Manistique Health Center</b> <b>(906)341-8469</b> <b>(866)401-0043</b>	<b>August: 13th</b> <b>Hessel Community Center</b> <b>(906)484-2727</b>
<b>August: 27th</b> <b>Newberry Community Center</b> <b>(906)293-8181</b>	<b>August: 26th</b> <b>St Ignace Health Center</b> <b>(906)643-8689</b> <b>(877)256-0135</b>
<b>August: 25th</b> <b>Munising Health Center</b> <b>(906) 387-4721</b> <b>(800)236-4705</b>	

PLEASE CALL FOR QUESTIONS OR TO SET UP AN APPOINTMENT

# JOE SYRETTE

# Walking on...

## TERRY E. BLANCHARD

Terry Elroy Blanchard, 79 of Harbor Beach, passed away at his home on April 11, 2021. He was born on March 19, 1942, in Manistique, Mich., to Eirnel and Marie (Breathour) Blanchard.



He graduated from Our Lady of Lake Huron Catholic High School in 1960. After graduation, he proudly served his country in the United States Coast Guard. He was honorably discharged in 1964.

Terry wore many hats in life including harbor attendant, sailor, custodian and construction worker. To those who knew and loved him, he will always be remembered as a loving son, brother, grandfather, uncle, cousin and a great friend. He was an elder member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, Holy Name of Mary Parish (OLLH), lifetime member of the American Legion Post 197 where he served as sergeant at arms, Newton Township Historical Society and the Coast Guard Auxiliary. Terry had a passion for classic cars, old movies and music. He was a licensed HAM radio operator.

Terry is survived by his children, Bradley Blanchard of Auburn, Christopher Blanchard of Harbor Beach and Terra (Gary) Booms of Harbor Beach; grandchildren, Brooke (Nick) Hessling, Danielle Booms (Jason Hanson), Camryn Booms (Brady Kirsch), Garrison, Mason and Kendal; siblings, Joe Blanchard (Flora McEvers) of Gould City, Mari Blanchard (Brian McArthur) and Jay (Jody) Blanchard all of Harbor Beach as well as many nieces and nephews and special friend Dorothy Wilbur. His faithful dog, Bubby, was always by his side.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brothers, David, Kimm and Kelly; a sister, Juli Mausolf and brother-in-law, John Mausolf.

Cremation has taken place. His final resting place will be Rock Falls Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, the family requests considerations for donations to the Lighthouse Preservation Society of Harbor Beach or the Muscular Dystrophy Association in Terry's honor. Ramsey Funeral Home of Harbor Beach is handling all arrangements.

## PEARL E. CARR

Pearl E. (Squires) Carr, age 87, passed away in her home on May 16, 2021. She was born on Dec. 4, 1933, in Thompson, Mich., to Hiram and Elaine (Boyd) Squires.

The home she was born in did not have electricity until 1935 and never had an indoor bathroom, but they were "very fancy" as she stated several times. They could walk out the backdoor, right into the garage and there the bathroom was built into the corner. With no running water, they had to carry the water from a flowing well near her



uncle's home. In the winter, their dog, Teddy, would pull the sled to carry the water cans to their house. Pearl was truly her dad's "boy," as her job every night was to fill the wood box, along with other outdoor chores. School and church for her was in a one room school-house. She said her young life was unique, as most of her friends were her cousins. They lived with-in walking distance to each other.

As a service to his country, her dad went to Greenland to help build airbases. In the early '40s, her family moved to Dearborn for her dad's job. They had to live in a motel as most apartment buildings would accept dogs but not accept children. They ended up buying a trailer that became their home.

During hunting season, she had spoken of waiting eight hours in line to take the car ferry across the straits. The Mackinac Bridge had not been built yet. Her grandfather said the bridge would never be built.

In 1946, her family moved to Warren and lived in Eckert's Trailer Park. At the age of 15, she met the love of her life, Bill, in school, at the Victory Building. Her high school activities were choir, student council and cheer-leading. In 1951, Warren High School opened and they had to carry their school desks and anything else they could carry, from the Victory Building to the new Warren High. Before graduation in 1952, she applied to work at the Michigan Bell Telephone Company and was accepted. But she was elected to represent the treasurer of the Township of Warren. She was then asked to continue to work for the township, which became the City of Warren.

On Nov. 7, 1953, she married Bill, on his first leave from the Navy. They were married at St. Paul United Church of Christ in Warren.

When he came home from the service in 1955, they bought their first home in Centerline, Mich. They stayed in that home for a short time while their forever home was built in Warren.

She was a housewife and a stay-at-home Mom until her children graduated. She went to work for the City of Warren as a personal property assistant. She retired from the city in 1991.

Pearl and Bill traveled many miles with their U.S. passports as they visited all 50 states and 75 countries. Germany was her favorite country to visit.

Pearl lived a very full life as she was active in the Eastern Stars, Warren Goodfellows, President of UCC Women of Metro Detroit, president of Women's Fellowship at St. Paul Church, Women's Fellowship rummage sale chairperson, part of the maintenance crew who cut grass and cleaned the church, worked in the church nursery and was a Sunday-school teacher, Girl Scout leader, fish dipper and lent her voice in the church choir. She planned and kept Warren High School Class of 1951 and 1952 records and reunions up to date. In her spare time, she enjoyed her bible studies, cooking, trying new recipes, walking, ceramics, loved reading, crocheting and doing the family genealogy. She was an elder of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe

of Chippewa Indians and very proud of her heritage. Her Indian name was "Hiya" taken from her father's name, Hiram, and she came from the Land of Hiawatha. Pearl was a very large part of planning and organizing her family reunions.

By far, the most important part of her life was the time she spent with her family and friends.

Her life has been blessed by wonderful parents, husband, children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, family and friends.

Pearl is survived by her loving husband, Bill, of 67 years; two children, Kimberly (James) Hoover and William II (Robin) Carr; five grandchildren, Billy Carr, Brett Carr, James (Cynthia) Hoover, Jennifer (Scott) Dulchavsky and Jeremy (Nicole) Hoover; five great-grandchildren, Andrew and Emma Hoover, Alexis and Kendall Kufta and Addison Hoover; sister, Kathleen (Squires) Jones; and many nieces and nephews.

She is preceded in death by her father, Hiram G. Squires, and her mother, Elaine (Boyd) Squires.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a private service was held. Burial was at Cadillac Memorial Gardens East in Clinton Township, Mich. Contributions have been made to St. Paul United Church of Christ towards a "butterfly garden" in memory of Pearl!

## JOSEPH A. FRALICK

Joseph Andrew Fralick, 87, of Coldwater, Mich., passed away on June 8, 2021, at the Laurels of Coldwater.

Visitation and a memorial service celebrating the life of Joseph took place on June 19, 2021, at the Free Methodist Church in Coldwater.

Joseph was born on July 31, 1933, to Henry and Elsie (Erskine) Fralick in Marquette, Mich. He graduated from Coldwater with the Class of 1951 and went on to receive a Master of Divinity degree from Asbury Theological Seminary. On October 4, 1957, he married Nova Jean Curtiss in Indianapolis, Ind.



Over the years, Joseph served as a pastor with the Free Methodist Church, Church of Nazarene, Wesleyan Church and The Missionary Church throughout the South and Midwest. Joseph frequently worked bi-vocationally while pastoring. His jobs included realtor, schoolteacher and pressman for various printing companies. He was a voracious reader and lover of good music. He also enjoyed the outdoors, gardening and fishing, as well as tinkering with clocks and woodworking.

Surviving are his wife, Nova (Curtiss) Fralick of Coldwater; children, Andrew (Virginia) Fralick of Lansing, Rebecca (Rick) Nesbitt of Goshen, Jonathan (Patricia) Fralick of Petoskey, Judith (Brian) Farrell of Grayling and Joanna (Robert) Gould of Whitehall; grandchildren, Bethany (Kurt) Lovegrove, Hannah (Cameron) Macmillan, Rachel (Martin) Shilton, Joelle

Green, Luke (Sadie) Fralick, Joshua Nesbitt, Adrienne Nesbitt, Matthew (Shawna - deceased) Nesbitt, Aaron (Kelsey) Nesbitt, Jared (Esmerelda) Nesbitt, Nick (Kelly) Heikkinen, Erica (Nate) Golding, Emory (Grace - fiancé) Fralick, Alyssa (Brian) Spalding, Brianna (Scott) Myers, Easton Farrell, Gabriella (Justin) Bean, Sarah (Christian) Subdon and Robin (Ethan) Kafila; and a quiver full of great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a sister, Crystal Joyce; and a daughter-in-law, Patricia Heikkinen-Fralick.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Myasthenia Gravis Foundation of Michigan, Cascade Office Park 5, 2660 Horizon Dr. SE, STE 235, Grand Rapids, MI 49546.

Please visit [www.lighthousefuneral.com](http://www.lighthousefuneral.com) to share memories, pictures and videos with the family.

## CAROL A. GARCIA

Carol Ann Garcia, age 80, of Mundy Township and life-long resident of Flint, died May 21, 2021. She was born Dec. 22, 1940, in Flint, the daughter of Raymond and Helen (Remender) Hudson.



Carol was a 1959 graduate of Flint Northern High School. She retired in 2005 from GMSP0 after 25 years of service; then sold real estate for Tremaine Real Living Real Estate, volunteered and then worked for the Old Newsboys of Flint, to provide winter coats to any child in need, and Dr. Alajaj of Flint making her final retirement of many in March, 2021. Carol was a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of the Chippewa Indians. She also was a member of the Flushing Book Club.

Her world revolved around her family. Her unbelievable strength to independently raise a large family is an inspiration to all. She believed that no child should go without love, support and guidance and her passion for seeing each child, grandchild and great-grandchild made up the entirety in her world. Going to grandma's was a cherished event with the fun of large gatherings or spending time in her little house. Chaotic to others, she thrived on the energy. Always a provider of sage advice, in saying "it was meant to be" or "it will work out" will carry on in everyone. We will miss her quick laugh and smile even in the most difficult of times and will always cherish the love and devotion of her family and friends.

Surviving are her children, Joe Garcia (Marcia) of Grand Blanc, Laurie Garcia (Todd Hanson) of Gig Harbor, Wash., Jude Garcia (Jeff Vadasz) of Swartz Creek and Michael Garcia (Diane) of Mt. Morris; grandchildren, Katie Hayes (Stephen), Andrew Garcia (Alexis), Devin Keener, Helena Keener, Ryan Keener, Dalton Keener, Maverick Garcia, Michael Garcia II, Brayden Garcia, and Dylan Garcia; great-grandchildren, Fenix and River, and two expected

great-grandchildren; sisters, Jean Cronin of Flushing and Joan Flanagan of California; and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents. A special thank you to the McLaren Hospice Staff and attending nurse for their support, kindness and care given to Carol.

## JOSEPH E. GREEN JR.

Joseph Elmer Green Jr., 74, of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., passed away on July 1, 2021, at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit. He was born in Sault Ste. Marie on Nov. 4, 1946.

Joseph graduated from Sault High with the Class of 1966 and later attended Lake Superior State University. In June 1967, Joseph joined the U.S. Navy and retired 20 years later as a hull technician chief. He served in the Vietnam War and some of the ships he served on were the USS Vulcan, USS Kennedy and the USS Boxer. It was through his military service that he was able to travel the world.



After the military, he worked and lived for a while in Elko, Nev., then returned home to Sault Ste. Marie. Some of his many interests included playing in a pool league, playing softball as a pitcher and, while he was stationed in Hawaii, he enjoyed racing stock cars. He was an avid sports fan who enjoyed watching the Soo Eagles, the Detroit Red Wings, the Detroit Tigers and the Washington Redskins. He was a member of the Sault Tribe, VFW Post 3676, and the American Legion Post 3.

Joseph is survived by his wife, Dianne (Chillman) Green, whom he married on July 11, 1998, in Sault Ste. Marie; two daughters, Sara Pavoni and Melissa Chillman, both of Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., Canada; daughter-in-law, Debbie Schwartz Green of Sault Ste. Marie; three grandchildren, Emily Green, Jonah Pavoni and Eli Pavoni; a brother, Brian (Christina) Green of Toledo, Ohio; a sister, Judith Wilson; and many nieces and nephews.

Joseph was preceded in death by his mother, Margaret (Barras) Fitzsimmons; and a sister, Rosemarie (George) Reed.

A celebration of Joseph's life will be held at a later date. Arrangements are in the care of C.S. Mulder Funeral Home and Cremation Services. Condolences may be left online at [www.csmulder.com](http://www.csmulder.com).

## ELIZABETH M. HUDECK

Elizabeth "Pinky" Marie (Omans) Hudeck, 63, of Hemlock, passed away on June 8,



*Continued from page 17*

2021, at her home. Liz was born on Dec. 24, 1957, in Alma to Jean Ann and the late Jack Omans. Liz was married to John Hudeck also of Hemlock. Liz was a member of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

Liz received her practical nursing license in 1994 and worked as a nurse for the next ten years. She worked, first in a hospital setting, then became actively involved in an orthopedic surgeon's private practice. She also spent time working as a nurse for the Red Cross blood bank and in a hospice setting.

Liz's favorite things in the world were cooking, crafts and her family. Liz had a very artistic side and loved making things and creating art. She was able to knit, crochet, cook and paint. She also would continually work on her home; making it into a beautiful living space and then moving on to the next. Her favorite task was taking on something new to experiment with it until she mastered it. Liz's mind was always looking to the next task. She also loved attending the Renaissance Festival and Mystery Dinner Theatre.

Liz is survived by her children, John (Amanda) Hudeck Jr., Aaron (Amanda) Hudeck and Trisha (Caleb) Schaefer; two sisters, Roberta (Rick) Taylor and Wendy (Brad) Gill; two brothers, Jay (Kathy) Omans and William Omans; and many nieces and nephews, whom she loved dearly. Liz was preceded in death by her youngest brother, Raymond Omans.

According to Liz's wishes, no public services will be held at this time. Arrangements were in the care of Cremation Society of Mid-Michigan.

#### KEVIN P. POND

Kevin Paul Pond was born Feb. 5, 1952, in Munising Mich., and passed (walked on) on May 13, 2020, in Phoenix, Ariz., at the age of 68. He was proud to grow up in the "west end" of Munising where a bond with friends remained forever. He loved the annual Class of '71 golf outing, which he organized with Darlene Steinhoff, and the Class of '71 reunions, including the 2020 reunion in Florida. Kevin was also a proud member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

Kevin graduated from Mather High School in 1971 then attended Bay Community College from 1972-74, playing for the basketball team. He graduated from San Diego State University in the Spring of 1986. Kevin remained active in continuing his education both in his military and civilian career as an echocardiogram professional. Kevin became an adjunct instructor sharing his decades of cardiovascular echocardiogram experience with his pupils in the Maricopa Community College system later in his life, providing instruction to many people who continue in the field to this day.

Kevin entered the United States Navy in 1974, stationed at Balboa Naval Hospital until 1978, then joined the California Army

National Guard in 1979. He served four years as a Navy corpsman spending much of this time stationed at the Navy hospital in San Diego, Calif. There, Kevin was introduced to the emerging field of echocardiogram. This would develop into a lifelong civilian career which he continued to work in well into his late 60s. Years after joining the National Guard, he earned the rank of major and later was deployed to Afghanistan as part of Operation Enduring Freedom in August 2008. After his combined active and reserve service totaling more than 36 years, he retired from the Army Reserves in January 2013. Kevin's combined active and reserve service totaled more than 36 years including several foreign deployments, including Germany and Korea. He was a member of the American Legion (Munising).

Kevin was a sports enthusiast. In high school, he played football, basketball and wrestling. He was also a member of the Munising Silver Echoes Drum and Bugle Corps. He coached little league for several years with "Dunks" for the Munising Moose Lodge team and played fast pitch softball for several years before enlisting in the U.S. Navy. He was a great teammate in every team he was on and was very entertaining, especially when impersonating the humorist Jerry Lewis.

In Arizona, he coached youth sports for more than 10 years, often times head coaching multiple teams in the same season, while also refereeing soccer matches. Following his sons Nick's and David's active involvement as soccer players, Kevin continued to be actively involved in the sport, continuing as a referee. His refereeing career saw him travel to tournaments throughout the southwest United States and Hawaii. He refereed all ages and skill levels, rising to the level of refereeing Division 1 NCAA games, community college, AIA High School, and he continued refereeing youth soccer throughout his career. Since his retirement and spending summers in Michigan, he was a NMU Wildcats hockey season ticket holder, loved attending Northern Michigan University sporting events and Munising Mustang football games (watching his nephew Ryan play). He was also an avid Michigan State Spartan football fan attending at least one game a year with his three brothers. Kevin was a Detroit Pistons, Red Wings, Tigers and Lions fan, then recently tired of the Lions way started following the Green Bay Packers as his favorite NFL team. He also attended Phoenix Coyotes and Suns games with his great friends.

He loved his boys, his Munising family and lived life!

Kevin is survived by his sons, Nicholas K. Pond (Maria R. Ross and her son Derek Ross-Wons) of Marquette, Mich. and David P. Pond of Phoenix, Ariz.; his stepdaughter, Naomi Chavez of Phoenix (her children Tyler Staicer and Sasha Jimenez); his former wife, Olga Zepada of Glendale, Ariz.; his brothers, Michael J. "Bull" Pond (Patti Spengler) of Marquette, Patrick J. "Fish" Pond (Connie Black-Pond) of Portage, Mich., Jami Tredeau Pond, widow of Ken "Otis" Pond, (Deanna) of Gladstone and Gregory A. "Ponzie" Pond (Mary

Ellen) of Munising; his nieces, Rachel Johnson (Gabriel), Trisha Reynolds (Johnny), Laural Lee Pond (Jeff Zinski), Karrin Sporer (Tyler), Samantha Pond Bailey (Andy), Ashley Motley and Rachel Fostun (Derek Ellis); his nephews, Nathan Pond (Kimberly), Ryan Pond, Zachery Pond (Nicolette) and Bryce Pond; great-nephews/nieces, including Carson, Levi and Harlow Pond of Marquette, Sigurd and Ingrid Johnson of Marquette, Rita Ruth and John "JT" Reynolds of Chicago, Jackson and Evelyn Bailey of Lansing, Savannah Motley of Virginia, Leila Rose Ellis and Leo Fitzgerald Fostun of Reno, Nev.; Jaxson, Kylie, Karsyn and Sawyer Pond of Gladstone; his paternal cousins, George (Kathy) Pond of Iron Mountain, Bryan (Joy) of Plainwell, Sue Welke (Mark) of Marquette, and maternal cousin, Bruce (Celeste) Passinault of Dade City, Fla.; numerous second cousins and great-nieces and nephews; and close friends, Larry Dunklee of Venice, Fla. (Munising), Dennis "Spike" VanLandschoot (Munising), Mark Passiatore and Steve Stettler (both of Phoenix).

He is preceded in death by his maternal grandparents, Alfred and Catherine (Allen) Carefelle; his paternal grandparents, David and Pearl (Cooper) Pond; Nick and David's grandparents, Alfredo Chacon Zepeda and Olga Marina Zepeda; his father, Francis N. Pond; his mother, Rita B. Pond Hedglin; his step-father, Winn Hedglin; his aunt and uncles, Al and Pat Pond, and Julia and Earl Passinault; his brother, Kenneth J. Pond; his sister-in-law, Ruth K. Pond; and close friend, Brad Benam of California (previously of Munising).

Visitation was on July 6, 2021, at the Pond family home, affectionately known as "the west end." Military honors were rendered by the American Legion and Vietnam Veteran Honor Guard and committal prayers led by Father Michael Ocran at the Maple Grove Cemetery in Munising.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be sent to the Munising American Legion Post 131, 610 W. Munising Avenue, Munising, MI 49862.

Kevin's obituary and online guestbook may be found at [bowermanfuneralhome.net](http://bowermanfuneralhome.net).

#### EDNA L. SCOTTA

Edna L. (nee Sebastian) Scotta, 96, of Allen Park died on June 28, 2021. Mrs. Scotta was born on Feb. 20, 1925, and was a proud member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. She is reunited with the love of her life, John Scotta; her dearest son, Kenneth; her parents, David and Inez (Sylvester); her brothers and sisters; her beloved son-in-law, Charles Cutting; and many who were dear to her.

Mrs. Scotta moved to Allen Park in 1950 where she was instrumental in establishing Girl Scouting, having developed Girl Scout day camps and serving as camp director for several years. Mrs. Scotta was honored by the Ford Motor Company with six community service awards for her dedication to children.

From 1969 until her retirement, she worked as a special education paraprofessional at Lindemann and Riley schools. A gifted leader and speaker, Edna served on many local boards and committees.

She was a member of St. Francis Cabrini Church and was active in Christian service, religious activities and the funeral lunch program. In 1973, she established a Downriver chapter of NAIM in support of widows and widowers.

She is survived by her daughters, Karen (Cutting), Katherine Scotta, Karol Scotta and Karla (Johnson); her granddaughter and best buddy, Kimberly Scotta-Willetts; daughter-in-law, Anna Marie (Dickson) Scotta; son-in-law, John Johnson; grandchildren, Michelle, Anthony, John, Megan and C.J.; eight great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to the American Diabetes Association.

#### JAMES T. SORENSON

James Thomas "Big Swede"

Sorenson, 66, of St. Ignace, Mich., passed away peacefully with his family by his side on June 5, 2021, at his home.

He was born in St. Ignace, on Dec. 9, 1954, to Sterling (Bud) and Eudene (Paquin) Sorenson.

Jimmy grew up and lived in St. Ignace his whole life, outside a small stint in Detroit, Mich. He graduated from LaSalle High School in 1973. On Oct. 27, 1973, he married Loncie (Adams) and together they raised their two children.

He worked for Arnold Line Transit Company and rose through the ranks from deck hand to engineer and finally, to captain. He began on the passenger ferry boats, but his love was the Corsair hauling freight to Mackinac Island. He worked for them for 39 years until his health forced him to retire about eight years ago.

He had several personal boats over the years that he would captain around Mackinac Island, Bois Blanc and Les Cheneaux with his family and friends. His last and most treasured was his "Lone Sea," which is now captained by his grandson.

Swede loved going to camp in Black River and purchased his own cabin in the late '80s in Rexton (Swede's Hideout). He loved to go hunting and fishing with the boys. He quickly became the camp cook and the camp was always cleaner than most people's houses. Wherever he was, music had to be playing. As a true Paquin, he loved to play the spoons and found himself to be the life of the party.

He loved to take pictures and had recently bought a video camera. He had several picture boards hanging in the cabin of all the people he loved with their prized catch or game.

When the grandkids came along, he decided to buy a camper. He loved to entertain people at his site and cook lots of food. When he retired, he would spend weeks at a time at Big Brevoort with the grandkids fishing in one of the boats.

He loved to watch his grandkids play sports and cherished the weekends and families during the hockey tournaments and state competitions.

During his many sleepless nights, he became a VIP for QVC.



Always proud to show off what he ordered and often gave items to his hospice nurses. He loved lights and ordered plenty of Christmas items.

Jimmy was a member of the Seafarer's Union as well as the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

Jimmy is survived by his mother, Eudene McDowell; wife, Loncie; children, Bridgett Sorenson of St. Ignace and Jimmy (Sara) Sorenson of St. Ignace; grandchildren, Cooper Johnston, Kody Rickley, Saylor Sorenson and Konnor Rickley; many adopted children and grandchildren; siblings, Dennis Sorenson of St. Ignace, Karen (Wayne) Steiner of Brevort Lake and Lisa (Jeff) Gamble of Brevort Lake; many nieces and nephews; and beloved friends.

Jim was preceded in death by his father, Bud Sorenson; grandparents, (Electa and Tom Paquin, Lillian and Jim Sorenson); brother, Stephen Sorenson, and sister, Sharon Sorenson; and in-laws Gordon and June Adams.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

Memorial contributions may be left to the family or Mackinac Straits Oncology Department.

Galer Funeral Homes and Cremation in Pickford, Mich., served the family. Condolences may be sent to the family at [www.rgalerfuneralhome.com](http://www.rgalerfuneralhome.com).

TO MY WONDERFUL SON IN HEAVEN, JAMES "JIM" AILING 11/22/54 - 7/16/13

If roses grow in Heaven, Lord, please pick a bunch for me.

Place them in my son's arms and tell him they're from me.

Tell him that I love and miss him so, and when he turns to smile,

Place a kiss upon his cheek and hold him for a while.

Because remembering him is easy, I do that every day, but there is an ache within my heart that will never go away. Memories of you will never fade.

I love and miss you, my son,

Your mother,  
Vida Captain

LOVING MEMORIES OF YOU, MY BROTHER, JAMES "JIM" AILING

My heart has been left broken since the day you had to go. And the memories I treasure dearly are in the tears that still flow.

You're in my thoughts everyday, and that's how it will always be. For you may be up in Heaven now, but you'll always be with me.

If only I could have the chance to see your smiling face once more, or to hear your voice one final time just like it was before.

The day that Heaven calls for me will be a relief from all this pain. I'll run to you with open arms and we will meet again. I miss you ever so much, my brother,

Love you,  
Robert Captain

See "Walking On," page 19

# Tribe's Dental Department undergoes renovations

There is a great demand for dental services. In effort to provide high quality and complete care, the dental program will be scheduling up to 3 months in advance. Elders (age 60 and older) and kids will be given scheduling priority.

Please be advised the dental department in Sault Ste. Marie is undergoing renovation. For the next few months, we are working

out of a smaller clinic located on the first floor of the Sault Tribal Health Center.

## HOW DO I MAKE DENTAL APPOINTMENT?

Please call the dental department between 9 a.m. to noon or 1-5 p.m. to speak with a dental team member about scheduling. Each week we will be giving out a limited number of both exam and treatment appointments on a

first call basis. Patients will need to have a dental exam before they can be scheduled for a treatment appointment (filling, denture, crown, etc.). If the dental schedule is full, you will be advised to call the following week when new appointments become available.

## WHAT TO DO IN THE EVENT OF A DENTAL EMERGENCY?

• Sault Ste. Marie: During the Sault dental renovation emergency appointments can be made by calling at 8 a.m. to schedule for the following morning. Please remain on hold until a dental team member answers your call. Calls will be answered in the order they are received. Occasionally, appointments may be available the same day. If appointment slots are full, you

may be asked to call the following day.

• Manistique: Patients can be scheduled by calling between 7-9 a.m. for emergency appointments, generally the same day.

• St. Ignace: Call between 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. to schedule emergency appointments for the following day. Occasionally emergency appointments may be available the same day.

# American Rescue Plan lowers health insurance costs

As part of the American Rescue Plan (ARP) signed by President Biden, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) is again lowering the cost of health insurance and opening more pathways for Americans to obtain affordable and comprehensive health coverage. Started on July 1, 2021, people who received or are approved to receive unemployment compensation for any week beginning in 2021 may be able to find even lower cost plans and save extra money on out-of-pocket expenses through HealthCare.gov.

To take advantage of these additional savings, people who received or have been approved for unemployment compensation in 2021 need to visit HealthCare.gov to submit a new application or update their existing application to maximize the savings they can get for the rest

of 2021. An average of three out of five eligible uninsured Americans can access \$0 plans after advance payments of tax credits and an average of four out of five current HealthCare.gov consumers will be able to find a plan for \$10 or less per month after advance payments of tax credits. CMS encourages current consumers who have received unemployment income for any week beginning in 2021 to update their application and enrollment between July 1 and Aug. 15 to maximize the savings on their Marketplace coverage for the rest of the year.

“The Biden-Harris administration is focused on providing relief to millions of families who need to access health insurance coverage because they have been impacted by job losses or underemployment during the pandemic,” said HHS Secretary

Xavier Becerra. “The administration has made it easier than ever for Americans to enroll in an affordable, comprehensive health insurance plans through HealthCare.gov thanks to the increased financial assistance provided through the American Rescue Plan. We encourage consumers who have received unemployment compensation in 2021 to visit the Marketplace to see if they qualify to save money on their health insurance premiums and out-of-pocket costs.”

“We are doing everything we can to remove financial barriers to comprehensive health care,” said CMS Administrator Chiquita Brooks-LaSure. “The American Rescue Plan provides consumers with additional savings and will make coverage even more attainable for those most in need. We welcome people who received unemployment

benefits in 2021 to check out their health coverage options on HealthCare.gov after July 1.”

Additionally, as a result of the Biden-Harris administration’s special enrollment period for the COVID-19 public health emergency, consumers can continue to apply for coverage, compare plan offerings or learn if they qualify for more affordable premiums by visiting HealthCare.gov or CuidadoDeSalud.gov through Aug. 15. People can view 2021 plans and prices and submit an application to see if they are eligible for enrollment and financial assistance. If eligible, they can enroll in a plan that best meets their needs. Current enrollees should review their applications, make any updates needed to their current information, submit their applications and then select a new plan or reselect their current plans to

receive the increased savings under the ARP.

People can also call the Marketplace Call Center at (800) 318-2596, which provides assistance in over 150 languages. TTY users should call (855) 889-4325. Consumers can also find a local assister or agent/broker in their area at <https://www.healthcare.gov/find-assistance/>. People who live in a state with a Marketplace that operates its own platform should visit their state Marketplace website or call center for information on accessing these additional savings through their state-based Marketplace.

For more information about the Health Insurance Marketplace®, visit <https://www.healthcare.gov/quick-guide/getting-marketplace-health-insurance/>.

# HHS announces rule to protect patients from surprise medical bills

The Biden-Harris administration, through the U.S. departments of Health and Human Services (HHS), Labor, Treasury and the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) recently issued *Requirements Related to Surprise Billing; Part I*, an interim final rule that will restrict excessive out of pocket costs to consumers from surprise billing and balance billing. Surprise billing happens when people unknowingly get care from providers that are outside of their health plan’s network and can happen for both emergency and non-emergency care. Balance billing, when a provider charges a patient the remainder of what their insurance does not pay, is currently prohibited in both Medicare and Medicaid. This rule will extend similar protections to Americans insured through employer-sponsored and commer-

cial health plans.

“No patient should forgo care for fear of surprise billing,” said HHS Secretary Becerra. “Health insurance should offer patients peace of mind that they won’t be saddled with unexpected costs. The Biden-Harris administration remains committed to ensuring transparency and affordable care, and with this rule, Americans will get the assurance of no surprises.”

Among other provisions, today’s interim final rule:

• Bans surprise billing for emergency services. Emergency services, regardless of where they are provided, must be treated on an in-network basis without requirements for prior authorization.

• Bans high out-of-network cost-sharing for emergency and non-emergency services. Patient cost-sharing, such as co-insurance

or a deductible, cannot be higher than if such services were provided by an in-network doctor, and any coinsurance or deductible must be based on in-network provider rates.

• Bans out-of-network charges for ancillary care (like an anesthesiologist or assistant surgeon) at an in-network facility in all circumstances.

• Bans other out-of-network charges without advance notice. Health care providers and facilities must provide patients with a plain-language consumer notice explaining that patient consent is required to receive care on an out-of-network basis before that provider can bill at the higher out-of-network rate.

These provisions will provide patients with financial peace of mind while seeking emergency care as well as safeguard them from unknowingly accepting

out-of-network care and subsequently incurring surprise billing expenses.

Tackling surprise billing is critically important, as it often has devastating financial consequences for individuals and their families. Two-thirds of all bankruptcies filed in the United States are tied to medical expenses. Researchers estimate that one of every six emergency room visits and inpatient hospital stays involve care from at least one out-of-network provider, resulting in surprise medical bills. And a 2019 study by the Government Accountability Office found that the median price charged by air ambulance providers ranged from \$36,400 to more than \$40,000, and over 70% of these transports were furnished out-of-network, meaning most or all costs fell to the insured individual alone. Thanks to the

Biden-Harris administration and bipartisan congressional support, HHS, Labor, Treasury and OPM are promulgating rules that will protect consumers from financial ruin simply because they could not ask for an in-network provider during their treatment.

“No one should ever be threatened with financial ruin simply for seeking needed medical care,” said U.S. Secretary of Labor Marty Walsh. “Today’s Interim Final Rule is a major step in implementing the bipartisan *No Surprises Act* that will protect Americans from exorbitant health costs for unknowingly receiving care from out-of-network providers.”

“Facing a difficult medical situation is challenging enough – no one should then face a surprise medical bill when they get home,” said OPM Director Kiran Ahuja. “

# Walking on continued...

*Continued from page 18*  
**DANIELLE MARIE AIKENS**  
 Danielle Marie (Willis) Aikens, 36, started her spirit journey on June 27, 2021 after her yearlong battle with liver disease. Danielle is survived by her husband Jeffery Aikens and her two children, Da’Jon Willis (16) and Jade Aikens (7). She is also survived by her father Brian (Lori) Willis and her mother Dawn Wilson, her brothers and sisters: Krystal Willis, Kevin (Ashley Bennon) Willis, Steph (Justin Nootchtai) Willis and Taylor Commanda (Vicky Caron) and many aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, and cousins. Danielle was preceded in

death by E.J Willis (grandpa), Beatrice Lee (grandma), Michelle Merchberger (aunt), Renee Lee (aunt), Randy Lee (uncle), Debbie Willis (aunt), Sarah Wesaw-Mandoka (aunt), and many more loved ones. Danielle was born Jan. 8, 1985 in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. In her youth she was a part of Bahweting Drum Group and also played basketball. She was a very avid Michigan Wolverines Fan and was very outgoing-friendly and would always brighten up the room everywhere she went. The times she enjoyed most was watching her children play sports, football, basketball, and hockey with Da’Jon to soccer and

baseball with Jade. She enjoyed golfing with friends, camping at NASCAR, and going to her in-laws, Judy’s and Lou’s Cabin. As a long term employee with Kewadin Casino, she developed many lasting friendships that impacted her day to day life. Danielle loved and lived life to the fullest and had a positive outlook on any situation. Her laugh was very infectious and always put a smile on everyone’s face. Services were held at the Niigaanagiizhik Building on June 30. Clark Hovie Galer Funeral Home assisted the family with arrangements.

# LaPlaunt selected April Health Employee of the Month



**Congratulations go out to St. Ignace Clinic Manager Cheryl LaPlaunt for being chosen as the April Employee of the Month. Cheryl has done an amazing job during the COVID-19 pandemic, most recently organizing vaccination clinics. Health Director Leo Chugunov congratulates her.**

# Scholarship established in honor of beloved Sault Ste. Marie woman, Sarah Gardner Weber

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

Bay Mills Community College (BMCC) has established the Sarah Gardner Weber Memorial Scholarship in honor of one of their own.

Student Sarah Gardner Weber lost her battle with COVID-19 on Dec. 23, 2020, and her family established a scholarship to keep her memory and legacy alive.

Weber grew up on Sugar Island and was well-known in the area, having worked at War Memorial Hospital for over 25 years in admissions and patient financial counseling. She also volunteered as a domestic violence counselor and at hospice.

Weber began taking classes at BMCC in her 50s. "She took a few classes and fell in love with it," said her sister, Suzette Gardner. "She wanted to be a role model for young Native women."

Weber was a member of Sault



**Sarah Gardner Weber (right) and her daughter, Jami Aube.**

Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, and was on track to graduate with degrees in Native studies and social science. Gardner said the scholarship is something her sister would have approved of as a way for her to keep helping

Sarah Gardner Weber was born on Sept. 10, 1963, in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., to Fredrick and June (Siegwart) Gardner. Sarah was a graduate of Sault High School, and on April 28, 2012, she married her love, Rick Weber. A resident of Dafter, Mich., she was 57 when she passed away.

Weber's children are Robert Payment; Michael (Maggie) Gardner, Brandi Aube, and Jami Aube (Kyle Anderson), all of Sault Ste. Marie. She also has

12 grandchildren.

Sarah is survived by her husband, Rick Weber, and siblings: Suzette Gardner of Kincheloe, Mich., Sam (Tina) Gardner of Sugar Island, Mich., Conrad Gardner of Kincheloe, Mich., Daniel Gardner of Sugar Island, Mich., and Bill (Deb) Gardner of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.

She was preceded in death by her parents Fredrick and June (Siegwart) Gardner; a brother, Rick Cadreau; and grandson, Derek Lehre.

tion. "Many times in her life she tried to go back to college, but she was raising four kids on her own and it just wasn't possible. It wasn't until a few years ago that she was able to go back," she said. "Going back was not without struggles. She realized that the older you get the harder it is to go back to school. That's why it is so important that this scholarship is for those who are going back and not giving up on furthering their education."

The Sarah Gardner Weber Memorial Golf Scramble is on Aug. 26 at Wild Bluff Golf Course in Brimley. Proceeds from the golf scramble will go to the Sarah Gardner Weber scholarship fund.

Weber's family is proud and honored that she was given the first ever honorary degree at Bay Mills Community College on May 14, 2021.

people.

The scholarship is for nontraditional students who have been out of high school for a minimum of 10 years.

To qualify, students must also be members of a federally recognized tribe and have a minimum GPA of 2.0. The first

Sarah Gardner Weber Memorial Scholarship will be awarded for the fall 2021 semester. Anyone interested in contributing to the fund can contact Laura Postma at BMCC.

Weber's sister, Suzette Gardner, said that Weber always stressed the importance of educa-

## Higher Education changes application process

BY DIANE MCLEOD-MALEPORT

The Sault Tribe Higher Education Department changed the application process for the

2021-22 school year. Three applications need to be sent in at various dates throughout the year. Below are details for each

application. These applications can be found at [www.saulttribe.com/membership-services/education/higher-education-program](http://www.saulttribe.com/membership-services/education/higher-education-program).

The first application is for scholarship applications. This application is from May 15 through June 15, 2021, at 11:59 p.m. Students who are Sault Tribe members interested in receiving a scholarship for the school year are required to submit a complete scholarship application, which is posted on Sault Tribe website at [saulttribe.com](http://saulttribe.com) under Higher Education. The program offers a variety of scholarships, most of which are \$1,000 with various eligibility requirements each academic year.

The second application is for grants. This application will be posted Aug. 23, 2021, to Sept. 21, 2021. The application closes on Sept. 21 at 11:59 p.m. Grant funding is available for full-time (12 credit hours or more) under-

graduate students who attend a Michigan state-supported public college. The student must be a resident of Michigan. Students are required to complete free application for federal student aid (FAFSA). Student must have their FAFSA information on file with their college by the end of August if they are going to enroll for fall semester. The application form needs to be given to the university or college financial aid office. Students, make sure you sign the bottom of the grant form. Grants are based on unmet financial need.

The third application is for the Self-Sufficiency Incentive Award (fall grades). This application is only for the fall grades. All required paperwork and grade report must be submitted. This application will be posted Dec. 1, 2021, to Jan. 31, 2022. Application closes at 11:59 p.m. The grades are for the fall semester just completed. The

available funds are divided up by the number of credits hours taken by students who submitted their fall grades. This is not a need-based program. The program only pays for C or better grades and will not pay for repeated courses.

ALL required paperwork must be mailed, emailed or faxed for each application. The Higher Education Department will no longer pull from an old file for tribal cards, W-9s or applications.

In 2020, 143 essays were submitted for scholarships and 4,405.65 credit hours were submitted by 359 students for the Self-Sufficiency Incentive Award. The BIA grants award students who have an unmet need as determined by their financial aid office. Fall 2020, the grant awarded \$ 87,747.70. Winter 2020, the grant awarded \$69,889.06.

## 2021 BMCC graduates



Photo submitted by Diane McLeod-Maleport

A few of the Sault Tribe students who graduated BMCC this past May 2021. Congratulations to all Sault Tribe 2021 graduates. From left, Miranda Menard, Troy Horka, Oona Burton and Higher Education specialist Diane McLeod-Maleport, Suzette Gardner holding a photo of her sister the late Sarah Weber, Victoria Merchburger and Lena Walker.

## Whitmer signs bill to put Michigan students and educators first

MACOMB, Mich. — Governor Gretchen Whitmer recently joined students, educators and support staff at Ojibwa Elementary School in Macomb County to sign House Bill 4421, which appropriates \$4.4 billion in federal COVID relief funding to support schools across the state and help students, teachers and schools recover from the pandemic. The historic education funding represents the bipartisan work completed in late June to ensure that Michigan's K-12 education system takes advantage of federal funding to make unprecedented investments in our schools.

"We have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to make the type of investment in our schools that will put Michigan students and educators first as they head into the next school year," said Whitmer. "Our actions today prove that Republicans and

Democrats in Lansing can work together to enact budgets that are laser-focused on helping Michigan take full advantage of the unprecedented opportunity we have right now to make transformative investments in our schools that will have positive impacts for generations."

The bipartisan supplemental bill distributes over \$4 billion from the federal Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief, or ESSER, to power schools' efforts to get our kids back on track. A total of \$841 million comes from ESSER II funding from December 2020, while \$3.3 billion comes from ESSER III funding from President Biden's American Rescue Plan.

The ESSER funds will be distributed to districts based on their Title I, Part A allocation - which means more money will get to districts that serve students

with the highest need. The funds help meet a wide range of needs arising from the coronavirus pandemic, including reopening schools safely, sustaining their safe operation, and addressing students' social, emotional, mental health and academic needs resulting from the pandemic.

"Earlier this year, I appointed the Student Recovery Advisory Council to better understand our schools' needs and identify evidence-based strategies to help every student thrive after the pandemic," added Whitmer. "We know this recovery isn't just about brushing up on fractions or remembering when to use the quadratic formula. Our students need a comprehensive recovery."

The funding represents supplemental funding for the current year budget. Legislation for the school aid budget for next fiscal year beginning Oct. 1 is currently under review.

"This is a significant budget supporting those who invest in the lives of our young people," said Rep. Brad Paquette (R-Niles). "The bipartisan work done here is just the first step towards even more future transformational positive change within our education system."

"Throughout the pandemic, teachers and support staff have stepped up and done everything in their power to teach their students and take care of their mental health amidst unprecedented obstacles," said Rep. Regina Weiss (D-Oak Park). "My colleagues and I are proud to have partnered with the governor on HB 4421. This bill will send billions of federal covid relief dollars directly into our schools and classrooms for PPE, support staff, academic intervention, mental health services, air quality improvements, and more. This critical support will help students

across Michigan return to learn, and sets a strong foundation for what meaningful investments in education should look like."

"This federal funding is a game-changing opportunity to invest in our students and schools, from aiding learning recovery, to addressing the educator shortage, to fixing aging school infrastructure," said MEA President Paula Herbart.

"As school leaders work with parents and stakeholders to create plans for a return to school, they will need additional resources to ensure each child can experience success. With these vital funds, recovery plans have the resources to provide the academic, physical, mental, emotional and community support students need to thrive," said Kevin Polston, superintendent of Kentwood Public Schools and chair of the Student Recovery Advisory Council.

# American Rescue Act Spent So Far = \$176,000,000 Which Leaves:

# \$96,605,859!



With President Joe Biden who is fighting for Indian Country . [The picture was clipped to move us closer]

## Representing All Members Everywhere

Ahneen, Boozho, Negee:

I have to great news and some unfortunate news. First, Unit 1 Board Members Betty Freiheit, Austin Lowes and my proposal to ensure all Members get an equal distribution of \$3,000 over the duration of the pandemic failed with 10 Board Members voting it down. Recall that last summer, the Board voted to grant \$1,000 per Member in the Tribe's 7 county service area for a total of about \$15 million. While the Tribe's General Legal Counsel advised the Board to be cautious with compliance with federal regulations on who was eligible, the Board has **NEVER** received a written legal opinion to advise the Board that we could not provide an equal distribution.

I share this as some Board Members are playing a shell game and smoke and mirrors to manipulate the truth. I am sure this edition of the Sault Tribe News will be peppered with accusations that I have called Board Members liars or that Betty, Austin and I are playing politics. Contrary to the claims we could not treat all Sault Tribe Members equally across distributions, I can attest that instead of supporting what some Board Members are still claiming, in fact we received a written legal opinion in October and again in June that says just the opposite. In other words, our Legal Counsel has provided a written legal opinion that there exists NOTHING in federal law or regulation to prohibit a truly equal distribution at \$3,000.

Let me also point out that the most recent legal opinion in June explains that

the Board should exercise caution and seek guidance from the US Treasury. Since I have worked closely with the Biden Administration and the US Treasury to legislate and secure these funds, I followed up and asked if there exists anything language in the Cares Act or Rescue Act that would have prohibited our Tribe for providing a \$1,000 last fall for At Large Members to be equal to the amount the 7 County Service members received. I also, posed the question of whether or not we were barred from providing a catch up \$1,000 to ensure the At Large Members receive an equal total of \$3,000. The response was to provide me with links to the regulations and that how tribes distribute these funds is a matter of Tribal Sovereignty [see Treasury message left].

It is critical to note that I fully advised the Board throughout the deliberations of whether or not to benefit At Large Members equally. I even supplied them with the US Treasury response [see left]. The bottom line is that several Board members decided long ago that At Large Members are not deserving of an equal distribution. Dozens of Tribal Members sent me copies of emails, social media posts, and private messages where Board Members used arguments that contradict the October Legal Opinion or any other communications from the US Government regarding this matter. It was grotesque to watch some Board Members contort themselves in knots making up reasons they could not treat all Sault Tribe Members EQUALLY.

So the good news is that each Sault Tribe Member is eligible to receive \$2,000.

Unfortunately, the Board chose to reject Betty, Austin and my proposal to catch up the At Large Members so while you will get \$2,000, it falls short by 1/3 or \$1,000. I am truly sorry for a vote of the Board that treats you like a 2nd class citizen. A form (not an application) will be mailed to each household. Additionally, I am advised that a web link will be provided to allow for filling out the form electronically. But again, it is a form and not an income based application. Simply check the boxes of how the Pandemic has impacted you. Also look in this paper and on the Tribe's website ([www.saulttribe.com](http://www.saulttribe.com)) for a link to update your address.

## BY THE NUMBERS

The numbers surrounding the federal governments pandemic relief are astounding. While some sour Members of our Board continue to claim I had nothing to do with securing federal legislation that ensures that Indian Country was included, I think Our Members know the work I have done on your behalf. Here is how our federal relief funds for the 2021 Rescue Act break down, how the Board has spent it so far, and what is left to spend. It is important to note that while we know how much we received in the first distribution, we are awaiting a wire transfer for the 2nd distribution likely to come after July 16th which is the deadline for tribes to submit their number of Employment Team Members to qualify.

In the 1st distribution, we received \$211,605,859! Our estimated 2nd distribution is \$60 million for a total of \$271,605,859. This amounts to 15 years of net Casino and Enterprise Revenues and shows that the work I do with federal appropriations eclipses the sum total of casino and enterprise revenues. So far, the Board has spent \$91 million for pandemic relief checks \$3,000 for Service Area Members and \$2,000 for At Large Members. There is and has NEVER been any legal prohibition from treating all members equally. This was a choice made by the Board for which I am sorry.

But you are not without recourse as an election is just a year away with six open seats. I estimate that over 90% of Members in the 7 Counties care about Our At Large Members as they are our brothers, sisters, uncles, aunts, grandparents, children or cousins. Had Members had the opportunity to vote via referendum, they would have included you. My Uncle who lives At Large, is a full blood. He was raised on Sugar Island with our traditional ways and language in tact. He also served our country in the US Navy and is one of our main firekeepers during our fasting camps. He is no less deserving than the Board who voted to give themselves \$3,000 but my Uncle will get 1/3 less than them.

## UPCOMING TRIBAL LEGISLATION

- Election Code Compliance with ST Constitution ~ currently the Code Conflicts with our Constitution regarding eligibility to run for office making it easier for incumbents to win and violating the 14th Amendment of the US Constitution. My resolution will fix this.
- Members residing in our election units are automatically registered to vote while At Large Members have to register. We need to either automatically register all At Large Members to vote, or do a free direct mailing including a voter registration form when the Rescue Act forms are mailed. A voter registration mailing has not been done in nearly 20 years.
- Expand the Tribe's Health Service Area to include Emmet and Cheboygan Counties as a first step to expanding Tribal Health Care to All Members.
- Ethics Code: It is confirmed that a Board Member worked for and was compensated by the Developers who are suing our Tribe for over \$100 million. I am advised that the Tribal Credit Card was used for personal reasons by this Board Member who was forced to pay it back. Any expenditures or signature approvals by this Board Member merits investigation.

Stay tuned.

## "Hello Chairman Dr. Payment,

*My apologies for the delay in my response as I was committed to two days of Treasury Tribal Advisory Committee meetings.*

*Regarding COVID-19 individual cash assistance payments under ARP, here is the most recent guidance. My understanding is that the Tribal government determines the criteria for receiving assistance, including serving off-reservation [At Large] Tribal members.*

*I will also be connecting with our ARP policy team members to see if there is anything more we can add to the answer I am providing today.*

*I hope that this information is helpful in addressing your questions."*

Cash transfers are covered in the FAQs, which can be found here: <https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/SLFRPFAQ.pdf> and the Interim

Call: 800-793-0660 Cell: 906-203-5159 Email: [aaronpayment@yahoo.com](mailto:aaronpayment@yahoo.com) Facebook 'Aaron Payment'

AT LARGE MEMBERS CAN REGISTER TO VOTE BY CALLING :

# 1-800-251-6597

# Addressing the barrage of attacks on the board



**DJ HOFFMAN**  
DIRECTOR, UNIT I

The past year, COVID-19 has run rampant throughout our tribal, local and national communities. As a tribal government, we have been forced to make decisions to ensure the stability of tribal operations, tribal services and ensure our team members continued to have incomes and employment. The entire tribal board did make difficult decisions, which made all this possible. Every decision was not flawless. However, our doors are once again open, our services are ramping back up and we are on the cusp of increasing the overall wage grids for the recruitment and retention of our team members. The tribe was blessed to have reserves to make these difficult decisions and even more fortunate to receive CARES Act funding from the federal government, PPP loans and, currently, Rescue Act funds that have provided financial relief for tribal operations, programming, revenue replacement and direct member impact payments. As I reported last month, the tribe received \$211 million dollars from the American Rescue Act. These funds are different than the CARES Act funds (based upon service area) and are based upon the

entire tribal population. To ensure that all members receive an equal opportunity to qualify for these new funds, the board of directors approved \$91 million for direct impact payments of \$2,000 for all eligible tribal members (regardless of residence). The board approved total earmarks for the following:

- \$25 million dollars for a new recovery hospital.
- \$10 million for employee retention and recruitment (COVID inflation/compression).
- \$50 million for revenue replacement from our operations.
- \$91 million in direct payment assistance

This totals \$176 million in commitments from the \$211 million received, leaving \$35 million dollars from the current funding for tribal projects, improvements and services. All of which will require staff, board and membership input.

I understand that these funds have been politicized greatly, often pitting tribal members against one another so that an individual can attempt to further their respective agenda.

The board of directors, including myself, have family and friends throughout the service area, as well as throughout the nation. Their collective actions have been to ensure the stability of the tribe and ensure relief for the membership and to ensure that all members, regardless of residence are eligible for the same amount in impact payments.

These barrage of attacks upon several members of the board regarding personal, professional and political topic areas continue at the prodding of an elected official who is on Facebook, the majority of board meetings and workshops.

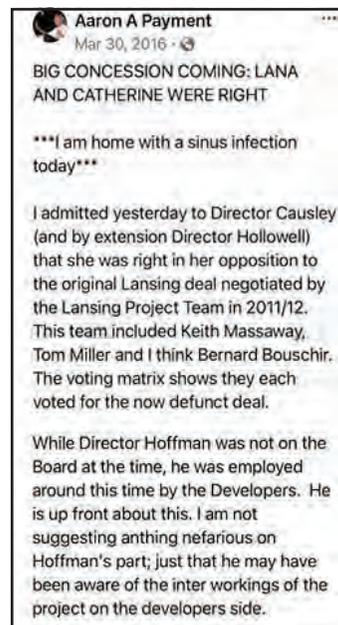
I would like to take a moment to address a few of these social

media-based rumors:

- I don't have a tribal credit card, nor have I as a member of the board of directors (it is important to note that there was an individual under resolution 2009-28 that such funds were recovered from.)

- I will once again reiterate I have worked in the past for many entities that have worked both with and for the tribe. I have fully disclosed any and all of these to the tribe.

In addition, in previous Facebook posts (2016), the following has been stated by the individual currently contradicting himself. I have attached that post in this report:



## WORKSHOPS

I will be asking other board members to amend the open meetings ordinance to require that ALL portions of the tribal workshops be opened to the membership and recorded for posterity.

Everyone should be able to witness the true hypocrisy of some that say things in closed sessions that they would never repeat in open, or often accuse others of

actions in which they themselves have partaken.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Our tribe's Economic Development director continues to push forward, exploring new and innovative opportunities for the tribe.

In the next few days, the tribe will receive its first dividend payment from Sault Tribe Inc.(STI), our tribe's Section 17 corporate charter, in the amount of over \$3.2 million in new funds. STI has many projects upon the horizon, as well as 8(a) certification of one our newest entities (CGS).

All of this information will be provided in detail in next month's annual report edition, which will be inclusive of returns on investments.

## MEETING CANCELLATION

The following is a detailed statement from members of the board regarding a recently canceled meeting:

*Tribal members:*

*The following members of the board of directors are committed to ensuring that any additional obligated funds regarding the American Recovery Act funds (excluding revenue replacement) shall require extensive input of staff, the membership and the board of directors. This shall also include Sault Tribe facilitated public input sessions with any or all members who wish to attend in person or virtually.*

*We understand that these funds have been unfortunately politicized, generating misleading media reports in news publications as well as on social media.*

*Recently, a special meeting was called for the continued politicization of these tribal funds. It is for this reason that we have elected to exercise our authority pursuant to Tribal Code, Chapter 14:*

*"14.106 Agenda  
(7) Cancellations and*

*Rescheduling. The Board of Directors by taking consent by positive majority vote of the Directors may cancel a meeting or workshop or may reschedule it to a later date and time. If a meeting is rescheduled to another date it shall be deemed called as a special meeting and shall comply with Section 2 of the Bylaws of the Constitution of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians."*

*A request for consent by positive majority of the board of directors to cancel the special meeting called for June 29, 2021, was authorized by 10 members of the board of directors.*

*As board members, we are committed to working with everyone to ensure that these funds benefit the tribe in the most impactful manner for this and the next seven generations.*

*Respectfully,*

*Kim Gravelle, Unit I Director,  
DJ Hoffman, Unit I Director,  
Michael McKerchie, Unit I Director,  
Lana Causley, Unit II Director,  
Catherine Hollowell, Unit II Director,  
Keith Massaway, Unit III Director,  
Bridgett Sorenson, Unit III Director,  
Denise Chase, Unit IV Director,  
Darcy Morrow, Unit IV Director,  
Charles Matson Sr., Unit V Director*

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

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

Sincerely,

DJ Hoffman  
Cell: (906) 203-0510  
djhoffman@saulttribe.net  
djwhoffman@hotmail.com

# Updates on tribal news and issues in Unit IV



**DENISE CHASE,**  
DIRECTOR, UNIT IV

We were recently informed by Elder Services Division Director Holly Kibble that she will continue to hold off on reinstating the indoor dining meals for seniors that was scheduled to resume early August. The staff will continue to provide meals by curbside service and drive-thru where available, until further notice. The reason the reopening has been suspended is because of an increase in the COVID positivity rates. There will be no in-person elder meetings held until further notice.

If you are looking for a senior employment opportunity, and are 60-plus years of age, there is a youth elder worker position posted at the Manistique YEA program.

This position assists the YEA staff with chaperoning activities, field trips and outings and help assure that youth are in a safe environment. The senior worker will also assist the tutor with homework labs, prepare snacks, assist with cleaning and basic office tasks, like copying, fax, file and answer telephone.

If you are interested in applying, contact Brenda Cadreau, Senior Employment Program, (906) 635-4767, or stop into the Manistique Community Center and pick up a senior employment application.

In the last issue of the tribal newspaper, I mentioned some fitness, health and wellness exercise facility opportunities. Unfortunately, we were just informed that the Yooper Fitness in Manistique did not return the signed contract to the tribe for tribal members' fitness center access. Director Morrow and I are waiting for an update on the status, and, unfortunately, we were not updated with any new info prior to this report deadline. At this time and until further notice tribal members will not be able to access the facility with their tribal card. As soon as we get an update, we will inform you — sorry for the inconvenience this has caused.

We are starting to receive many calls from parents and grandparents on if we are distributing free ride

wrist bands at the U.P. State Fair in Escanaba on Native American Day, which is Aug. 19 this year. Wrist bands will be distributed to Unit IV children, aged 2 to 17, as long as the fair is not cancelled this year because of COVID. Please call or text in your children's name, age, and your phone number, to Denise Chase (906) 203-2471 or Darcy Morrow at (906) 298-1888. Children must be present to receive the wrist band. Proof of tribal enrollment is required.

REMINDER: Due to COVID-19 concerns, the following two community gatherings/events have been cancelled for this summer:

GATHERING OF THE CLANS POWWOW has been cancelled this year by the Powwow Committee.

FARMERS MARKET: The Farmers Market will not be held this summer at the Manistique Tribal Center grounds. We hope to be able to get back next year to our community gatherings, powwow, etc.

WOMEN'S SWEAT LODGE: The Sault Tribe Traditional Medicine program is hosting a women's sweat lodge at the Manistique Community Center grounds on Wednesday, July 21, 2021. There are eight spaces available; please call Lori or Annie at (906) 632-0236 to register.

CARES ACT FUNDING: The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa

Indians received CARES Act funding back in 2020. Funding received was based on the Indian Housing Block Grant numbers of tribal members residing in the seven-county service area. Some of those funds were distributed to tribal members whose head count was used to get the funding and who resided in the tribe's service area. The board unanimously approved the COVID-19 Disaster Relief Program resolution that included a \$1,000 check to all tribal members residing in the service area. The balance of the funds was used to ensure the ongoing stability of the tribe's governmental, EDC, enterprises, five casinos and our workforce. At no time did directors Freiheit, Lowes or the chairman object to that plan, or even try amending it to include ALL members. Call or email the three of them and ask them why.

In fact, here is a direct quote from the chairman in a press release: "On behalf of the Sault Tribe Board of Directors, Tribal Chairman Aaron Payment reinforced that 'the U.S. Treasury guidelines do not allow for a direct per capita distribution of Cares Act funds. The tribe has been expressly warned and the Legal Department has advised that any funds spent on a direct distribution not justified based on impact of COVID-19 is disallowed."

This release can be found at [www.uppermichigansource.com/2020/07/13/sault-tribe-clarifies-covid-19-assistance-program/](http://www.uppermichigansource.com/2020/07/13/sault-tribe-clarifies-covid-19-assistance-program/).

AMERICAN RECOVERY ACT FUNDS: The tribe received this funding based on our total population, regardless of where you live. The board of directors recently voted unanimously to appropriate \$91 million from the American Recovery Act funds for a \$2,000 distribution check to ALL tribal members regardless of where you live.

- An additional \$25 million for a recovery hospital to be built in Sault Ste. Marie.

- An additional \$10 million to address recruitment and retention of team members.

- And an additional \$50 million in revenue replacement.

- The remaining funds we have left shall require extensive input of staff, the membership and the board of directors. This will also include public input sessions with all members who wish to attend in person or virtually. It's unfortunate that these three people could take something good for the tribe and turn it into a political spectacle pitting members against each other and the board.

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

Denise Chase

# We need to focus on issues and look at future



**KIMBERLE GRAVELLE**  
DIRECTOR, UNIT I

Hello, I have attached a copy of a notice regarding the American Recovery Act funds nine of my fellow board members posted publicly several weeks ago. We are a tribe first and should be a board that works together. The continued Facebook posts and verbal

attacks on the membership and board of directors is filled with misinformation. I believe these attacks are meant to separate and divide us. We as board members are constantly on the defensive trying to clear up all the negative misinformation instead of focusing on the issues and looking to the future. You have to ask yourself, why? Wouldn't it benefit everyone to have a board that can truly work toward a better future for our tribe?

*Tribal members:*

*The following members of the board of directors are committed to ensuring that any additional obligated funds regarding the American Recovery Act funds (excluding revenue replacement) shall require extensive input of staff, the membership and the board of directors. This shall also include Sault Tribe facilitated public input sessions with any*

*or all members who wish to attend in person or virtually.*

*We understand that these funds have been unfortunately politicized, generating misleading media reports in news publications, as well as on social media.*

*Recently, a special meeting was called for the continued politicization of these tribal funds. It is for this reason that we have elected to exercise our authority pursuant to Tribal Code, Chapter 14:*

*"14.106 Agenda (7) Cancellations and Rescheduling. The Board of Directors, by taking consent by positive majority vote of the Directors, may cancel a meeting or workshop or may reschedule it to a later date and time. If a meeting is rescheduled to another date, it shall be deemed called as a special meeting and shall comply with Section 2 of the Bylaws of the Constitution*

*of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians."*

*A request for consent by positive majority of the board of directors to cancel the special meeting called for June 29, 2021, was authorized by 10 members of the board of directors.*

*As board members, we are committed to working with everyone to ensure that these funds benefit the tribe in the most impactful manner for this and the next seven generations. Respectfully,*

*Kim Gravelle, Unit I Director, DJ Hoffman, Unit I Director, Michael McKerchie, Unit I Director, Lana Causley, Unit II Director, Catherine Hollowell, Unit II Director, Keith Massaway, Unit III Director, Bridgett Sorenson, Unit III Director, Denise Chase, Unit IV Director, Darcy Morrow, Unit IV Director, Charles Matson Sr., Unit V Director*

On a positive note, I am working toward gathering a group of members to promote our special need members who do artwork. This group of individuals are exceptionally talented. We would like to display their gifts in the gallery at the Vegas Kewadin Casino during March 2022, Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month. I will keep the public informed as our planning sessions move forward.

As always, I would like to thank team members for their dedication and continued 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

# Update on Manistique Yooper Fitness facility



**DARCY MORROW,**  
DIRECTOR, UNIT IV

## Update on the Yooper Fitness facility in Manistique

The recent fitness contract our Health Division had with Yooper Fitness expired on May 31, 2021. Unfortunately, Yooper Fitness decided not to sign the contract that was sent to them by the tribe's Legal Department to continue this service. Yooper Fitness said they will relook at signing a contract in January 2022. It is very upsetting this abruptly happened to our members and we apologize. Director Chase and I are attempting to work on a solution and will keep you updated.

## Escanaba State Fair free wrist band information

FREE wrist bands for Unit IV children aged 2 to 17 during Native American Day on Aug. 19 at the Upper Peninsula Escanaba State Fair. Pick up time is Aug. 19 from 11:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. We will be in the picnic area to the left of the main entrance gate. Parents must call or text to preregister by Aug. 11 at 5 p.m. Proof of tribal enrollment is required. Each child **MUST BE PRESENT** to receive their wrist band. Please call or text children's information to Denise Chase (906) 203-2471 or Darcy Morrow (906) 298-1888.

The Health Division still has COVID vaccines available. If you would like to find out how to receive your vaccine, please call your nearest health center. Manistique clinic (906) 341-

8469, Escanaba health (906) 341-1836, Munising clinic (906) 387-4721 and Marquette health (906) 225-1616.

## CARES Act funding

In 2020, the tribe received the CARES Act funding; we obtained this funding based on our Indian Housing Block Grant data (seven-county service area population). The tribal board UNANIMOUSLY voted "yes" on July 21, 2020, for Resolution 2020-168, approving the COVID-19 Disaster Relief program. The resolution stated, "BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the COVID Relief Program shall consist of \$1,000 per tribal member residing within the service area." Almost a year later, this has now been turned into a political game by the chairman, directors Freiheit and Lowes, to pit our membership inside the service area against the membership outside the service area. This funding was received for the service area members and was distributed to the service area members again by a UNANIMOUS vote of the board.

## COVID American Rescue Act funds

The tribe received the COVID American Rescue Act funds based on our total tribal population and the tribal board UNANIMOUSLY voted to appropriate \$91 million for the purpose of a \$2,000 distribution to all members. The board identified our employment team members, the health of our membership and revenue replacement as priorities to be addressed from these funds. The board voted unanimously to commit \$25 million for a Recovery Campus (a collaboration of Sault Tribe, Hazelton and Betty Ford) to be built in Sault Ste. Marie; to use \$10 million to address compensation issues related to the recruitment and retention of team members and set aside \$50 million in revenue replacement for casino operations.

As a board member, I am

responsible to ensure that these funds benefit the tribe in the most impactful manner now and for the next seven generations! To ensure this happens all remaining funds shall require extensive input of staff, the membership and the board of directors. This will also include public input sessions with all membership who wish to attend in person or virtually. These funds should not be played as a political game pitting members against each other or against some board members.

The board has been meeting weekly with executive staff; it was requested we provide a list of items we feel are priority for the tribe.

Below are some of the items Director Chase and I provided on our list:

1. Build a new tribal health/community/elder center on the reservation in Escanaba.
2. Build apartment complexes in Escanaba, Gwinn and Manistique areas.
3. Pay for dental implants and braces.
4. Increase elder meal program — utilize local senior meal home delivery programs in areas that do not have a current Sault Tribe elder meal program.
5. Purchase property in each unit for traditional medicine gathering.
6. Cultural Division funding to do online teachings and recordings to be used at any time online by all members.
7. Increase funding for the YEA programs.
8. Purchase traveling dental RV for well child and dental wellness clinics.
9. Build a new recovery center.
10. Increase funding for Elder Services.
11. Increase funding in the Education Division.
12. Funding for occupational and handicapped services, supplies and equipment.
13. Build an addition onto the current Manistique Tribal Health Center for recreation and

exercise facility (plus new exercise equipment).

14. Add additional funding to the home improvement and weatherization current programs to service more members.

15. Team member compensation.

Our tribe receiving the CARES Act and COVID-19 American Recovery Act funding should have been positive for our tribe. Unfortunately, the chairman, Freiheit and Lowes have manipulated the situation; they have thrown items on the meeting agenda without discussing them with the whole board to play politics.

I could do a resolution to give every tribal member \$5,000 each and when the board does not vote for it, I could cry about how the board does not care about the members and how terrible they are. This is exactly what they are doing!

They know the board had discussion about the funds then they hurried up and threw resolutions on making them look like they are the saviors. What these three have been pulling is not productive for the tribe or our members!

Please do your homework, below is a news release when Betty Freiheit and another challenged whether tribal members who are descendants of the Mackinac Band had the right to voting in our tribal elections. She tried to stop the Mackinac Band descendants from voting in tribal elections.

NEWS RELEASE May 17, 2007

SAULT STE. MARIE TRIBE OF CHIPPEWA INDIANS

\*\*\*\*\* Handful of members challenge secretarial election

SAULT STE. MARIE, Mich. — According to the local Bureau of Indian Affairs office in Sault Ste. Marie, three challenges to the recent secretarial election were officially submitted.

All three challenges were unique and submitted by Sault

Tribe members.

One protest was submitted by tribe member Mary Locke and challenged whether the 30 percent voter turnout requirement was met, which makes the election valid under federal regulations.

The other two submissions focused on the definition of eligible voters.

A challenge focusing on whether tribe members who are descendants of the Mackinac Band were allowed to vote was jointly entered by William Bouschor and Betty Freiheit.

The Mackinac Band debate, which was previously a topic of discussion prior to the election, still remains an issue for some members despite a publicly announced legal opinion justifying their voter eligibility.

It should also be noted; the Secretarial Election Board and the BIA were not in opposition with the ruling and did not issue any official statements refuting the legal opinion relating to voter eligibility.

A legal opinion issued in February concluded: "Because the members of the Mackinac Band are entitled to enrollment as members of the Sault Tribe, all enrolled members of the Mackinac Band who are 18 years of age or older are eligible to vote in the tribe's elections, and, therefore, they are eligible to register for and vote in the secretarial election."

Please see the whole news release in its entirety at <https://www.sootoday.com/amp/local-news/statement-from-sault-tribe-of-chippewa-indians-109756#>.

I apologize about reporting the negative news going on right now, but you the members need to know the truth.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (906) 298-1888.

Thank you,  
Darcy Morrow  
Unit IV Representative  
dmorrow@saulttribe.net

# Board unanimously followed Treasury guidelines



**MICHAEL MCKERCHIE,**  
DIRECTOR, UNIT I

Our tribal politics have never been pretty, but the name-calling, personal attacks and divisiveness needs to stop. It's difficult to look at it while in the midst when leaders themselves are telling you that things aren't fair with the distribution and nothing prohibited us; when in fact we had several

things telling us otherwise and if you critically look at it — the distribution is fair.

I've discussed funds and the strings attached, I've discussed the several legal memos that strongly urge us to do what we did — treat funds differently and keep membership distribution equal. It's easy to blame others, but the board (unanimously both times) went by U.S. Treasury guidelines and a law firm that we've hired to give us legal advice.

No one made those decisions with malice or hate. Any decision to allocate funds directly affects our ability to improve membership services, infrastructure or economic development — so when we agree to do a distribution of this magnitude the decision wasn't taken lightly. Noting that the entire board received the same advice, we unanimously voted for an equal distribution (both times). The first distribu-

tion (last year) didn't generate the division we're seeing now. Re-read the unit reports last summer that showed a united front from all board members and the chair. Most members understood why the distribution was the way it was. It was made to be political (this year) and is a good campaign tactic to cause division and chaos.

Take this year's distribution (*Rescue Act*) by itself and ask if it was fair? The funds we received were based on a formula that took into consideration our entire membership. The board voted to take a large portion of those funds (over \$90 million) to do an equal direct assistance distribution to the membership of \$2,000 each. This is how we were advised and this is what we did. This should have been hailed as a major win for our entire tribe. Sadly, it wasn't.

The entire board was advised not to mix the funds (*CARES Act*

vs. *Rescue Act*). To tell the membership that they've been treated unfairly was a strategic move. Using the distribution for political gain only hurts our communities. Again, first funds based on a portion of our membership in the service area and the second funds based on our entire membership.

Our membership is going to hear many sides to this for some time, as it's been a great tactic to divide people, blame people, promote people and oppose people. But the bottom line is that the board did the right thing. We treated the funds differently as they were different legislative acts and we treated them equally in the distributions. There is no us vs. them — we are one tribe. I would ask anyone getting caught up in the divisiveness to ask themselves why any of the board members would subject themselves to something like this (personal attacks on social media, name-calling, etc.) knowing that

it was made to be political? The answer is they wouldn't unless it was the fair and just thing to do, and it's unfortunate that it got painted any other way.

There is a time and place to campaign; it's not now. It's actually against tribal law to promote or oppose people seeking tribal office until next year. Personally, attacking people isn't helping our tribe and we must do better. Take a break from Facebook, take a pause to look at it from someone else's eyes, but most importantly be kind. You should be able to express your opinion without tearing someone else down. And we should be able to disagree without mud-slinging, name-calling, etc.

Miigwech for taking a moment to read this. I will continue to be optimistic for our tribe and look forward to helping our tribe's continued success.

# Message to at-large members; *Rescue Act* update



**AUSTIN LOWES**  
DIRECTOR, UNIT I

Aniin, this is a special unit report for me. It's been one year since I was elected. When I decided to run for office, I had no idea I'd be governing through a global pandemic. Doing so caused my expectations to go out the window. It's therefore been a year of hard work and learning.

I don't consider my elected seat to be my own. It's your seat, and I'm allowed to occupy it

based on how I advocate for you. When making decisions, I always put questions through the following test: how will this benefit tribal members? I apply this standard to every vote I make. Although much needs to be accomplished, I'm proud of my contributions this year. This includes helping expunge marijuana convictions in tribal court, passing hazard and appreciation pay, supporting employee raises every time they've been proposed in budget modifications and approving roughly \$105 million in direct payments to tribal members from the CARES and Rescue acts.

Regarding the *Rescue Act*, we have earmarked several programs thus far. This includes providing every tribal member, no matter where they live, with \$2,000 each. This will cost \$90 million dollars and will assist roughly 45,000 tribal members. Due to the size of this program, it will take time for checks to be received. In

the coming weeks, a form will be mailed to members to fill out and return to receive payments. Make sure your address is updated with enrollment. Checks will be mailed later this summer.

We have also earmarked \$25 million dollars to build an inpatient substance abuse center. This will treat individuals addicted to opioids. As a therapist, I have worked extensively with this population. I have a great deal of experience helping individuals enter rehab, which can be a life-or-death situation. This is a daunting process, as there are long wait lists to receive treatment. When individuals are eventually accepted, they frequently have to travel several hundreds of miles to centers that admit them. Building our center will alleviate this for our members, who have been disproportionately impacted by the opioid epidemic. I have no doubt this will save lives.

We have also earmarked \$10

million dollars to address wage compression. It is my hope that this will provide every team member with a raise. More details regarding this will be provided in the coming weeks.

Finally, a message to the at-large members: YOU MATTER. You make up two-thirds of our membership, and your numbers are what caused us to receive roughly 270 million dollars from the *Rescue Act*. Director Freiheit, Chairperson Payment and I proposed a resolution that would have provided every one of you with an additional \$1,000. We proposed this because you didn't receive a cent from the *CARES Act*, which provided service area members with \$1,000 each. If our resolution passed, you would receive \$3,000 instead of \$2,000. This would have erased the disparity in payments between at-large and service area members. Since we received several hundred million dollars in aid, we

could have easily afforded this. It also would have been the right thing to do. Nothing from the Treasury Department or our legal firm prohibits us from doing this. If anyone tells you otherwise, they're lying.

With the coming election around the corner, I encourage everyone to register to vote. Voting is a sacred act in our democracy, and we should do everything in our power to turn out the vote. I am co-sponsoring a resolution to include a voter registration form in every \$2,000 check that's sent to our members. There is no reason to oppose this. I believe doing so would constitute voter suppression.

When deciding who to vote for, pick someone who will fight like hell for you, no matter where you live. That's something I'll always do for you. I give you my word.

Miigwetch!  
Austin Lowes

# Businesses doing great during summer season



**CHARLES MATSON SR.**  
DIRECTOR, UNIT V

Ahnee, I hope everyone enjoyed the Fourth of July and enjoyed time with family and friends. It always amazes me the time and effort that the volunteers in our communities put in to make sure events like the fourth go off without a hitch. The summer tourism season is in full swing and our businesses are positioned to maximize profit through this time. The White Pine Hotel is starting to fill to capacity

and the c-store has been buzzing with activity. Our marijuana dispensary in Christmas is on track for completion and opening soon. The storage units we purchased in Harvey remained filled through the pandemic and remained above industry standards for its delinquency rate. Our non-gaming businesses managed to profit through the pandemic, which has proven to be challenging but proved they have been sound and reliable investments. As a tribe, we need to keep diversifying our businesses portfolio to make sure we are just not totally reliant on our gaming enterprises.

I want to clarify some things about the CARES and Rescue acts monies. The first monies we received from the *CARES Act* were based on our population residing in the seven-county service area, and that is why I voted to distribute monies to our in-service area members. The *Rescue Act* monies were based on the tribe's overall population and that is why I voted to distribute monies to every tribal member, no

matter place of residency. With passing of this resolution, it was the first time in the history of our tribe that monies were distributed to every man, woman and child. It is not my intention to join in

the rhetoric about this issue but to clarify where and how this monies was distributed to our tribe. The board of directors passed a resolution allocating \$3 million to provide emergency needs ser-

vices to members living outside the service area. The monies can be used for rental assistance, past due utilities and water/sewer, to give a few examples. Members  
See "*Matson*," page 26

# Tribe to build recovery center



**KEITH MASSAWAY,**  
DIRECTOR, UNIT III

The tribe is slowly working its way out of the COVID-19

pandemic. We are attempting to reopen the tribe to its pre-pandemic normal but we all know that that will definitely look different for us and for everyone. The world has changed and we must adapt. Our programs that have contact with others have new protocols to follow and limits to understand. Please know we are working on any problem you may encounter and are resolving them in the best way possible.

The tribal board is approving an expenditure of COVID-19 relief dollars to build an approximately 100-bed recovery center for our people who are in desperate need of fighting addiction. The board has long planned and waited for an opportunity to make

this dream a reality. There are so many in need of this and they sometimes have to wait months to even get into the recovery center in the area. We are planning on the center, that we are going to build, to have an extended stay portion that will allow the patients to fully recover before being sent back out into their communities.

Our casinos are holding their own but the Canadian border is still not open. We hope that soon will change.

Thank you again for all the emails and the phone calls.

Keith Massaway, 702 Hazelton St., St. Ignace, MI 49781, kmassaway@msn.com, (906) 643-6981.

# Tribal relief checks should be a proud moment



**BRIDGETT SORENSON,  
DIRECTOR, UNIT III**

Since writing my last report, the Rendezvous at the Straits Powwow in St. Ignace was canceled by the organizers with concerns over large gatherings and safety. Hopefully, in 2022 all the powwows will take place again.

I also forgot to thank the Wequayoc Cemetery Committee for coordinating the cleanup on May 22. I would mention names but I would be afraid to forget someone. It was a beautiful day and there wasn't a lot of garbage so much of the time was spent scrubbing head stones. We shared a potluck lunch and had a chance to visit. If you have never been there, it may be one of the most peaceful cemeteries and often an eagle sighting.

For the first time in probably the tribe's history we are going to be able to give every enrolled member \$2,000 no matter where you live or how much money you make as long as you submit a form to enrollment. Forms will be mailed out in the coming weeks and will also be available online at saulttribe.com The tribe has received about \$211 million from the *American Rescue* funds based

on our entire membership population as well as on our workforce.

On June 15, the board unanimously voted to give all members \$2,000. This will account for about \$91 million. Aaron, Austin and Betty had placed a resolution to give \$1,000 to the members living in the seven-county service area and \$2000 to those that do not live in the service area.

At the June 22 workshop, many ideas, projects, suggestions of needs etc., were discussed in our time spent on the *American Rescue* funds. The executives had requested that their department heads submit a list of needs for their programs or services. We have dedicated the first hour of every Tuesday to discuss plans for the spending of these funds. We know we will probably never get this type of funding again, so we want to try to make the biggest impacts we can. I believe the list is closer to \$400 million in requests.

Aaron had then called a special meeting for June 29 for three of his resolutions with support of Betty and Austin. There were no comments at the previous workshop about the need to call a special meeting nor had we made any specific decisions. There was a poll conducted by the board's executive to cancel the special meeting and 10 board members agreed to cancel the meeting. We did have a regular workshop that day and continued our discussions on the *American Rescue* funds as well as other issues.

At the July 6 meeting, the board voted to outsource the printing and mailing of letters and forms for the \$2,000 distribution to about 45,000 members. This includes a deadline for submission of the forms by Sept. 30 from all members 18 years

and older. Forms for minors will be allowed until Dec. 31. This money will not be taxable.

The board also unanimously voted to set aside \$25 million to build a recovery campus, \$10 million to address compensation issues in our workforce and \$50 million in revenue replacement with the loss in revenue for the casinos from the last year and near future from the rescue funds.

It surely is true that money is the root of all evil. The chair has spearheaded an attempt to divide the membership by saying they are not equal to the members living in the service area. As far as I know, since recognition much of the funding is based on the service area members so that is the reason for qualifications of programs and services. I am not saying I agree or disagree with how things have been setup but merely stating the facts. Members not living in the seven-county service area are eligible for scholarships, funeral assistance, elder payments and health care (at our facilities or being seen at another tribe's clinics). Just recently we were able to secure funding to help with housing needs and that is available to members living everywhere.

The *American Rescue* funds were based on the entire membership population but the *CARES* funds that the tribe received last year was only based on the number of members living in the seven-county service area and that is why those members received \$1,000 last fall. They are two different grants based on two different populations.

There has been some reference to how Bay Mills and other tribes are spending their funds. Bay Mills has about 2,200 members versus our 45,000. We have many

more team members with casinos in five places, many more businesses and infrastructure to take into consideration when planning to spend the funding. Our way has always been to prepare for the next seven generations. I believe that should be a priority so the tribe can continue to be there for its members for years to come.

These decisions are not always easy and some people will be mad and some are sending all kinds of hate messages which is really unfortunate. We are trying to weigh all the options and make the best decisions for the tribe. The unfortunate part is someone always sends out messages without all the facts or information which creates hostility and lack of trust. A leader doesn't try to manipulate, mis-inform, divide, create hostility, use fake profiles or wage wars. This type of behavior is destroying the tribe.

This should be a very proud moment in our tribe when we have secured millions of dollars to help all our members with \$2,000 checks. We can finally try to help our members receive treatment for their drug and alcohol addictions and proceed in a direction to rectify our workforce's compensation issues. We still have so much more work that needs to be done and we should be able to discuss like adults, get a list together and have member input on that compiled list.

Some of the members are referring to us as the "oppositional board." Some are saying we are being manipulated by one of our own. I have a mind of my own and that is why the chair and I do not see eye to eye. In his eyes it is ok to be manipulated by him or his followers but you can't

have a different opinion than theirs. The majority of the board (10) have stood in unity on many issues lately. It is also okay to disagree on things because we all have issues in our areas and our own values, education, ethics and beliefs so we will not always agree on everything and that is why there are multiple people to make decisions and not just one or a few.

In the past several weeks on social media, I feel like I am reliving Waco, Texas, behavior. People are in a trance and only considering one side of the story and if that is questioned – you are attacked and may even be blocked. Members are being called out on their personal pages for having an opinion of their own. Please take the time to do your research – read old issues of the newspaper, visit saulttribe.com, read tribal code and the Constitution. Ask your family, friends or co-workers how things are in their communities. Don't just listen to people that have an axe to grind with the tribe. Lastly, don't let someone's lies ruin your reputation, your character, your common sense. Sometimes leaders like this want people to carry out their actions which could constitute criminal acts.

We (the board) are not perfect. We are also human and tribal members as well. We felt a need to run to help our tribe and we accept that we will be scrutinized for our actions. To question, ask or disagree with our votes, beliefs or opinions are normal and okay, but to inspire hate and threats is unacceptable.

If you have any questions, concerns or issues please email me at bsorenson@saulttribe.net, bridgett91@yahoo.com, call or text (906) 430-0536.

## I work for the tribal membership, not the board



**BETTY FREIHEIT,  
DIRECTOR, UNIT I**

Hello tribal members, first off, I would like to start my unit report off by thanking our tribal chairman for securing the \$270 million that our tribe received from the federal government.

Out of those millions, we are building a \$25 million recovery hospital to benefit all members in need of substance abuse help. And, \$91 million of the funds will go directly to our tribal members, \$10 million will be directed to bringing team members to market value and \$50 million will replenish the tribe's revenue source.

Our ancestors envisioned a tribe that brought all members everywhere under one umbrella. That gave them a tribal home, and services to help mitigate the impoverished conditions in which they lived. And, they worked hard as a group above and below the bridge, to make this dream happen. In some ways we were more united as a tribe before federal recognition, because there was no service units or members who are considered "at large." We were one people, working towards a goal that would bring us a better life.

And now we have a much better life, but not for all members. No one disputes that the federal dollars we get are based on those living on or near the reservation and therefore are limited to this population. But when we got an unexpected award of money due to COVID we had an opportunity to reach out to everyone.

What we did or did not do last year is not important as what we did or did not do this year. Or more specific, this week. We could have gone back and made the at-large members whole. Made their awards equal. We could have, but didn't!

Does it really matter how

some board interpret an opinion from the tribal Legal Department? We know that these opinions are just opinions meant to guide us, not direct us. It was still up to us to decide. The point is we had an opportunity to make it right for the at-large.

Let me be clear. I work for the members. I do not work for the board. My duty to the board is to work cooperatively to develop and vote on resolutions to conduct the daily affairs of the tribe and balance the budget. Yes, I will admit they've seen me lose all my charm behind closed doors. But, so what?

I do not need to agree with all board members all the time to perform this task. But a segment of the board is promoting the idea that to be effective we must be unified in our decisions, actions and votes. And that all board communication be relayed in the form of vague news releases, that individual board members must not disclose discussions and that, in general, a veil of secrecy be maintained over board deliberations.

And, they have transmitted this faulty notion to the members who appear to believe that any dissension and disagreement

at the board table is "bad" or "untraditional;" or that board members who act outside the guidelines and promote their own ideas are politicizing issues, early campaigning and causing division and that work at the board is not taking place if disagreement occurs. Not true. As long as we meet, work and vote, the business of the tribe continues.

We are all elected as diverse individuals based on our own platforms, ideas and goals. We are supposed to advocate for the various needs of our members. Once elected we should not give these up to a form "pack" with the board who seems to equate unity with "safety in numbers." That if all board members are unified and speak with one voice, no one is exposed. No one has to give an individual opinion. If all votes are unanimous, then the decision must be right. Everyone is safe from public scrutiny.

I work for the members and will not compromise their needs to participate in what the board considers "unity" to protect themselves from exposure. We are not carbon copies of each other. Our diversity of opinion

makes us stronger representatives.

I recently read a statement from a board member who referred to the chairman's member townhall sessions as "unofficial." How can an effort by an elected official to reach out to the members ever be considered unofficial?

We should all be seeking public input into our decisions and into our performance. We should all be communicating with members regularly about our ideas, how we voted and why; that is what we were elected to do and that is transparency in government. We were not elected to hide our voices and opinions, our votes behind vague news releases published days after the fact.

Our powwow is back this summer! Our 40th annual powwow runs Sept. 3-5 in the Sault and Sugar Island's powwow runs July 17-18, and I hope you will be able to attend and visit with family and friends.

Please keep yourself and family safe, help your neighbors and also look out for our elders any time you can.

Betty F. Freiheit  
bfreiheit@saulttribe.net  
(906) 379-8745

# Expendig \$211M in Rescue Act relief funds



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

As I reported last month, we had begun to work toward how we would expend the new relief funds we received. Our first act I supported was sending all members within our tribe a relief check for \$2,000. This will be to all members who have up to date addresses and will require them to fill out a short form. This form will ensure you get the funds and assure we are complying with how we release them. We have an internal timeline of events that is being followed; our executives, MIS, Enrollment and Accounting departments are working very hard to make this as easy on the members as possible. This is an undertaking that we have not done in the past and all members will want to have correct addresses with the Enrollment Department. We will have many links on our official website (saulttribe.com) to help you through this process, as well as being able to call Enrollment directly (800) 251-6597. Our team has brainstormed many things to accommodate any needs to make this smooth and quick. Please be patient with our staff as they are all working extremely hard to keep up with the calls, emails and updates for all the members.

This amount to be released to all members will be estimated at \$93 million, slated to being processing by August 2021.

During the July 6, 2021, board of directors meeting, after workshops to discuss, we earmarked \$25 million for the full recovery facility we have been planning for the last 11 years, another \$10 million for the pay scale needs for recruitment and retention of new and current team members and \$50 million for revenue replacement. All these items came easily to me as all four were my top priority. (Please disregard what you have maybe read on social media, some of that is just plain toxic and simply not true.) My priority from the start was relief money in all members households, the recovery facility I had helped initiate all that time ago and the glaring deficiency in our pay scale for team members. Now, we can move forward with the rest and vet projects and encourage input from all the members in sessions hosted by our government.

You also need to know we have been presented with over \$300 million in "wish list" items and project needs from our tribal departments. These suggestions and needs are for anything from new needed equipment to additional services for members from

their respective departments. Director Hollowell and I have also completed needs and priorities for our unit and tribe as a whole — our personal assessment completed was in the range of \$50 million. We know our communities we represent and know the needs of the tribe — as a whole. We have requested and included additional housing in Unit II, a full recreation and cultural center facility and a component to increase medical services as well as offer preventative measures to make lives better for elders, youth and community. We are realistic and know that all cannot be done but a full assessment and professional input from both of us representing has been completed.

With all this said, I want to inform you of the amounts once again. We have already obligated and approved \$93 + \$25 + \$10 + \$50 = \$178 million! The relief direct benefit check being mailed to all members is \$93 million; \$25 million for the recovery facility; \$10 million for retention and recruitment (pay scale and wage grid); and finally, \$50 million for revenue replacement that we endured during COVID. The amount that we received to date is \$211 million. I say all this as it is very important that you are aware of the actual amounts we have when we make these decisions. We have been told we will receive more but, call me "old school," I don't believe it until I see it. I will continue to vet and discuss with an open and responsible mind to support the projects and needs that will help members and our tribe — as a whole. I have and will continue to request and schedule open sessions with members for input; I also encourage input from you any way you choose.

I would like to comment on one of the recent calls I received from a member, who asked why the board gave themselves a "big fat raise" with the money. I explained that this was simply not true, there has NOT been a raise to the board whatsoever and has not been since I became

a board member. I felt I had to point this out as the member was quite upset and was relieved to hear that the money was NOT being abused in this way. Please, call me if you hear or read any nonsense or items that may disturb you concerning these relief funds. I assure you they must be legally used to advance, relieve and promote our services and people. The legal guidelines will be adhered to by me.

I would also like to remind all tribal members we still have funds available for renters who live anywhere. You can complete the application with our Housing Authority or call a direct service worker. Please take that opportunity if you have been impacted or struggling. I would encourage you to complete the application; this has been open to members anywhere they reside. (Inside the service area or outside the service area, as the guidelines qualify that).

Our Housing Department is also working on funds for mortgage application relief funds and this will be noticed on our official website if and when the funds become available.

Each and every day, the tribe has updates. We have always struggled with communication and I cannot state enough that our website is getting better and information is updated often to alert members of resources. Please go there often and always call me if you are in need and I will assist in any way possible. I will continue to advocate and advance communication to you.

The next item I would like to speak about is our unit's powwows and monthly elders meetings. Our committees in Unit II have focused and elected to not host powwows this year to assure safety as well as the schedules of our own drum groups, committee members and volunteers. Some families' situations are still up in the air and hopefully you feel comfortable and can attend the Sault powwow to come together with our tribe — these dates can be found on our website (saulttribe.com). As for the monthly

elders meetings, I'm in support of direction from our Heath director and Elder Care Services. This will also come from advice from individual elders' groups. I await the recommendation from our Heath director and COVID team. Our Elder Care Division will surely reach out to all groups for comment and dates to re-open. I look forward to seeing all of you.

In closing, I could write so much about the inside politics that continue to go on with the funding and division within our people. I have spoken directly with so many of you about that but I will stay above that here and assure you that I will not "buy" or pander for votes with unrealistic promises. I have given you straightforward what we have done, what my priorities are and insight on what the asks and expectations and needs are from our entire departments that work directly with members and our workforce every day. In moving forward, I will support all areas for the people and team members to make things BETTER.

This funding is a good thing for our people and could help our tribe for years to come and will only happen this time — and this is a huge factor that we must

consider — we only get this one chance to get it right. That's why the politics to grandstand and throw out untrue statements is unfortunate — we have so many needs and rules to follow. I will adhere to the legal advice and advancement methods and hope you respect that from me. It's very unfortunate when board and members are pitted against one another; many staff and families get hurt and I don't like it. I refuse to take part in any of that here or on social media. My heated discussions and debate go right to the board table and will stay clear of the grandstanding on social media or behind a screen that simply is unprofessional and inaccurate most of the time. If you pay close attention, you can see it for what it is.

I look forward to hearing from you and if you would like to meet with me, please contact me at (906) 322-3818, (906) 484-2954 or lcausley@saulttribe.net.

Baamapii and hope you have a good month and please do all you can to take care of each other.

Lana Causley-Smith  
Sault Ste Marie Tribe of Chipewewa Indians  
Board of Directors  
Unit II Representative

## Matson report continued

*From "Matson," Page 24*

need to contact Sault Tribe Housing Authority to apply. We will be advocating vigorously to expand housing in Unit V, which we all know is in short supply. Most available rentals in our area are being purchased and developed for daily/weekly rentals to accommodate the tourist trade. This has really made it hard for families to find affordable housing.

Negotiations for the exercising of our treaty fishing has become frustrating, to say the least. It is no easy task to try and get the other four 1836 treaty tribes involved to stand and approach negotiations in solidarity. It is my feeling that the State of Michigan is currently asking the tribes to

give too much in our abilities to harvest the resources of our treaty ceded waters. It is at least my belief that we are going to have to draw our line in the sand and let the state know that we will not cave to their demands to diminish our people's treaty rights. These rights were not given to us by the State of Michigan but secured to our people by the treaty we signed with the federal government in 1836.

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me at (906) 450-5094 or cmatson@saulttribe.net.

Respectfully,  
Charles Matson Sr.  
Unit V Sault Tribe Board of Directors

## MILLER FAMILY FARM Community Shared Agriculture

Box of Produce  
Each Week  
starting  
June 28



Sign up by  
June 1 for  
Discount and  
Bonus items!

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.

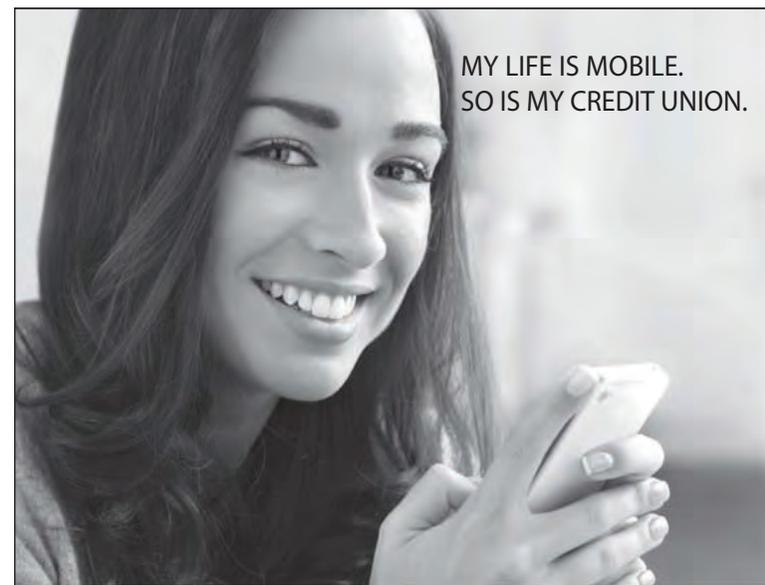
Spots secured and paid for by June 1 will receive a priority status.

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 jdebuler@att.net, or call (616) 558-9958.



MY LIFE IS MOBILE.  
SO IS MY CREDIT UNION.

With our web enabled mobile app, you have access anywhere in the world, anytime, wherever you are. View accounts, transfer money, make deposits and more all from the palm of your hand using your smart phone or tablet.



Sault Ste. Marie • Brimley • Bay Mills  
Kinross • Cedarville

www.soocoop.com

NCUA Insured

SAULT TRIBE MEMBER-OWNED  
BUSINESS CONFERENCE

# STBA 2021

BUILDING A VIBRANT AND PROSPEROUS TRIBAL  
COMMUNITY VIA MEMBER-OWNED BUSINESSES

**AUGUST 06**  
**9A-4P**

KEWADIN CONVENTION CENTER  
SAULT STE. MARIE, MI

SAULT TRIBE BUSINESS ALLIANCE



STBA's annual conference highlights valuable resources to help grow your business, brings together businesses and professionals to network and strengthen relationships and celebrates the accomplishments of Sault Tribe member-owned businesses. For more information, find the STBA page on Facebook and LinkedIn or email [stbamarketing@gmail.com](mailto:stbamarketing@gmail.com)

REGISTER HERE: [bit.ly/STBA20201](https://bit.ly/STBA20201)

## Agenda

- 9:00 Coffee & Networking
- 9:30 Welcome
- 9:45 STBA Overview & Update
- 10:00 PMBC/MEDC: Overview of PMBC Matching Event and State of Michigan Small Business Resources
- 10:45 Break
- 11:00 How Digital Marketing Can Grow Your Business
- 11:45 Sault Tribe Thrive: EDC Resource Overview
- 12:00 Lunch (provided free of charge, courtesy of PMBC)
- 1:00 How Your Sault Tribe Membership Can Help Grow Your Business
- 2:00 Interactive Panel of STBA Member-Owned Business Leaders: Business Lessons Learned
- 3:30 STBA Business Awards
- 4:00 Closing

## PURE MICHIGAN BUSINESS CONNECT

The Pure Michigan Business Connect team will be working with procurement teams from tribal-owned companies from around the nation. STBA and PMBC will work to uncover current, and future opportunities for tribal-owned in-state suppliers.

# OUR BEST HOPE IS THE COVID-19 VACCINE.

## Why should I get mine?

The COVID-19 vaccine is safe and effective. It will save lives and help Michigan move forward. Protect us all, by getting your dose of hope.

To find your vaccine or to learn more visit [Michigan.gov/COVIDvaccine](https://Michigan.gov/COVIDvaccine).

Text your zip code to 438829 or call the COVID-19 Hotline at 888-535-6136 and press 1.



Spread Hope  
**NOT COVID**



# KEWADIN CASINOS ENTERTAINMENT



## AUGUST

Night of Destruction Demo Derby

Saturday | 7th | 8 p.m. | \$12.50

St. Ignace Outdoor

Goo Goo Dolls with special guest  
Cheap Trick

Thursday | 19th | 7 p.m. | Start at \$50

St. Ignace Outdoor

## SEPTEMBER

Big & Rich with special guest  
Walker Hayes

Saturday | 4th | 8 p.m. | Start at \$40

St. Ignace Outdoor

## OCTOBER

Little Texas

Saturday | 9th | 8 p.m. | Starts at \$15

St. Ignace Event Center

Bone Thugs-N-Harmony

Friday | 15th | 8 p.m. | Start at \$25

Sault Ste. Marie DreamMakers Theater

## NOVEMBER

Black Label Society: Doom Trooping  
Over North America  
with special guests Obituary and Prong

Saturday | 13th | 7:30 p.m. | \$27.50

Sault Ste. Marie DreamMakers Theater



# CUE THE MUSIC

JULY 23 AND 24 - DOORS AND BAND AT 8 P.M.



## BOBBY MCELENDON

WITH SPECIAL GUEST  
PERRY/HATCH

### FREE SHOWS & PRIZES

AUGUST 13 AND 14 - DOORS AND BAND AT 8 P.M.



## REMNOSE

WITH SPECIAL GUEST  
TYLER DETTLOFF

### DREAMMAKERS THEATER

[tickets.kewadin.com](https://tickets.kewadin.com) 1-800-KEWADIN