



# Win Awenen Nisitotung

January 20, 2021 • Vol. 42 No. 1  
Spirit Moon  
Manidoo Giizis



## COVID-19 vaccines for tribe mark historic turning point

By WILL SCOTT

A page of Sault Tribe history was written on Dec. 15 with the arrival of the first shipment of COVID-19 vaccine.

A U.S. Coast Guard helicopter landed about 9:35 p.m. at Sault Ste. Marie's Sanderson Field with 185 doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine for the Sault Tribe, 60 doses for Bay Mills Indian Community, and 35 doses for Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians. The flight originated in Bemidji, Minn., and included stops in Wisconsin and Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

The vaccines were delivered in special coolers to maintain the ultra-low temperatures of at least -76°F required to keep the medicine viable. The coolers were equipped with external thermometers and GPS units.

That historic delivery alone was good news in the fight against the coronavirus pandemic, but the news got better: each vial was filled with enough vaccine for five patients but was overfilled a bit to account for loss, so some vials had enough vaccine for a sixth dose. Of the Sault Tribe's 37 vials, there was enough vaccine for 220 injections. After the Health Division team members who signed up to receive the vaccine were vaccinated, 45 tribal elders then

received their first of two doses.

Then, the news got even better: after the Moderna vaccine received emergency use authorization on Dec. 18, Sault Tribe officials received 200 initial doses rather than the 100 they were told to expect.

And, on Dec. 29, an expected shipment of 185 Pfizer doses turned out to be 975. That windfall sent tribal health officials scrambling, not only to set up vaccination appointments but to obtain more syringes and needles, because too few were supplied with the vaccines.

As of Dec. 31, the tribe received roughly 1,400 initial doses of the COVID-19 vaccine. They were the first step in the fight against a virus that has caused more than 350,000 deaths in the United States alone.

The first vaccines were designated for the tribe's Health Division staff, then for tribal elders and essential non-Health Division staff. The initial recipients were to receive their second and final injection in the first full week in January.

As production of the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines increase, and if other vaccines receive emergency use authorization, more tribal members will be vaccinated throughout the winter and spring.



Photo by Brenda Austin

Sault Tribe Health Director Dr. Leo Chugunov gratefully accepted coolers with the first Covid-19 vaccinations from a member of the U.S. Coast Guard. A U.S. Coast Guard helicopter landed about 9:35 p.m. on Dec. 15, at Sault Ste. Marie's Sanderson Field with 185 doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine for the Sault Tribe, 60 doses for Bay Mills Indian Community, and 35 doses for Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians. The flight originated in Bemidji, Minn., and included stops in Wisconsin and Michigan's Upper Peninsula. See photos on pages 12-13.

## Post 3 Auxiliary delivers Christmas to shut-in veterans

Department of Michigan American Legion Post 3 Auxiliary in Sault Ste. Marie coordinated the development and delivered 43 gift baskets filled with assorted daily living needs and creature comforts to veterans in local assisted living facilities despite the restrictions the COVID-19 pandemic presented.

Auxiliary President Bonnie Taylor-Vazquez said it took the work of many individuals and several institutions to finish the annual project on Dec. 23. The baskets went to veterans at Freighter View, McKinley Manor, Hearthside and MediLodge assisted living facilities as well as War Memorial Hospital Long Term

Care and Hospice House of the EUP.

"This year was a challenge and, unfortunately, we had to organize, fill baskets and deliver differently than normal, but we were still able to complete this very important mission," said Taylor-Vazquez, which is to let our veterans know they are not forgotten – especially this year. We look forward to next year's project and everyone's continued support.

Taylor-Vazquez expressed gratitude to those involved in the project. "We would not have been able to do this without the help of many people behind the scenes. I would personally like to thank Pingatore Cleaners for donating the bags for the baskets. Employees from Soo Co-op Credit Union, Central Savings Bank and LSSU for volunteering their time helping us by making blankets on their own time. The Yarn Worker's for their donation of handmade knitted hats for our baskets and enough for us to send to the Jacobetti Home for Veterans in Marquette. The Rudyard elementary students who made Christmas cards for us last year, which the extras we included this year. Legionnaires and



From left, Joy Hill, Bonnie Taylor-Vazquez, Carolyn Mason and Abbey Hawker load gift baskets in preparation for delivery to veterans in Sault Ste. Marie assisted living facilities.

Sons of the American Legion for their monetary donations and support for this project. Our legion members and community for supporting the fundraisers which help immensely. Jim Le hockey and 9&10 news, *Sault News* and the Sault Tribe newspaper for covering this event three years and counting. The various assisted living facilities for allowing us to and assisting with the distribution of the baskets to our individual veterans. You people are amazing and we thank you for all you do.

And last but certainly not least, Joy Hill, Carolyn Mason, Abbey Hawker and the organizer of this project, Maggie Merchberger. You ladies are amazing!"

Those interested in participating in the 2021 veterans gift basket project may contact the post auxiliary by mail at Auxiliary Unit 3, 3 Legion Drive, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783, on Facebook at American Legion Auxiliary Unit #3 Sault Ste. Marie, MI or by calling 632-2881 and leaving a message.

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# Native women stalked twice as much as other women; murdered 10 times national average

BY JESS GILLOTTE-KING, SAULT TRIBE ADVOCACY RESOURCE CENTER

While January brings a new start to, hopefully, a better year, some serious issues still plague our Native people. January is designated as Stalking Awareness Month and Human Trafficking Prevention Month.

Stalking is defined as “a pattern of behavior directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to feel fear.” There are a variety of methods or tactics that stalkers use to pursue their victims. Stalking can include but is not limited to having unwanted or unsolicited phone calls, texts, emails or social media contacts; unwanted gifts; or showing up or approaching an individual or their family or friends. Also considered stalking is monitoring, surveillance, property damage and threats to the victim or their family.

The majority of stalking victims are stalked by someone they know, typically a current or former intimate partner, acquaintance or family member and, in some cases, even a stranger. Native women are stalked more than twice the rate of other women. Native women are murdered at more than 10 times the national average.

Stalking is a crime in all 50 states but requires documentation of incidents to help solidify a prosecution in the case. Maintaining a “stalking log” is best to record and document all stalking-related behaviors. These behaviors include harassing or repetitive phone calls or text messages, emails, social media contacts, acts of vandalism and threats. Keeping an accurate log with dates, times, locations, even photos of the stalker in the act, can be helpful to prosecute the stalker.

Your local advocates can assist with safety plans and maintaining your stalking log as many victims feel emotionally affected by the acts of a stalker. Contact local law enforcement at (906) 632-3344 if you feel you are being stalked. Advocates at the Sault Tribe Advocacy Resource Center are also available for assistance at (906) 632-1808.

January is also the time to focus on Human Trafficking Prevention Month. Human trafficking is defined as “the action or practice of illegally transporting people from one country or area to another, typically for the purposes of forced labor or commercial sexual exploitation.” Human trafficking is the trade in people, especially women and children, and does not necessarily involve the movement of the person from one place to another. It is also referred to as “modern day



slavery.”

Native Americans are victimized by human trafficking at rates higher than that of the general population. Native Americans are considered a vulnerable population. Native Americans suffer from high rates of poverty and involvement with child welfare and foster care; have sustained historical trauma and homelessness; exposure to domestic vio-

lence; and struggle with substance abuse issues. These factors make Native Americans enticing targets for trafficking.

Some red flags to look for are chronic runaway, truancy and homeless youth; excessive amounts of cash; having goods or services they cannot typically afford; having multiple hotel keys; scripted or restricted communication; appearing scared or nervous and lacking eye contact; signs of physical abuse; and excessive tiredness. There are many red flags to look for and are not limited to this specific list.

If you or someone you know is being trafficked, please contact local law enforcement or the National Human Trafficking Resource Center at (888) 3737-8888. Contact an advocate at the Sault Tribe Advocacy Resource Center at (906) 632-1808.

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# What to expect after getting a COVID-19 vaccine

**FROM THE CDC**

The COVID-19 vaccination will help protect you from getting COVID-19. You may have some side effects, which are normal signs that your body is building protection. These side effects may affect your ability to do daily activities, but they should go away in a few days.

On the arm where you got the shot, there may be pain and swelling. Throughout the rest of your body, you may experience fever,

chills, tiredness and headache.

If you have pain or discomfort, talk to your doctor about taking an over-the-counter medicine, such as ibuprofen or acetaminophen.

To reduce pain and discomfort where you got the shot: Apply a clean, cool, wet washcloth over the area and use or exercise your arm. To reduce discomfort from fever: Drink plenty of fluids and Dress lightly.

In most cases, discomfort from

fever or pain is normal. Contact your doctor or healthcare provider if the redness or tenderness where you got the shot increases after 24 hours or if your side effects do not seem to be going away after a few days.

If you get a COVID-19 vaccine and you think you might be having a severe allergic reaction after leaving the vaccination site, seek immediate medical care by calling 911.

Scheduling your second shot?

If you need help scheduling your vaccine appointment for your second shot, contact the location that set up your appointment for assistance. For questions or if you are having trouble using vaccine management or scheduling systems, reach out to the organization that enrolled you in the system. This may be your state or local health department, employer, or vaccine provider.

You should get your second shot as close to the recommended 3-week or 1-month interval as possible. However, there is no maximum interval between the

first and second doses for either vaccine. You should not get the second dose earlier than the recommended interval.

It takes time for your body to build protection after any vaccination. COVID-19 vaccines that require two shots may not protect you until a week or two after your second shot.

It's important to continue using all the tools available to help stop this pandemic. Cover your mouth and nose with a mask when around others, stay at least 6 feet away from others, avoid crowds, and wash your hands often.

## Tribal Committees 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 with any questions.

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

Child Welfare Committee – three vacancies (4-year term)

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

Election Committee – three vacancies (4-year term)

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

Health Board – five vacancies (4-year term)

Housing Commission – one vacancy – open to all units (4-year term)

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

## Feeding America Drive-Thru Mobile Pantry Jan. 21

Thursday, Jan. 21, 2021  
Distribution from 4 to 6 p.m.  
Chi Mukwa Big Bear Arena  
2 Ice Circle Drive, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

When coming to the distribution, turn onto Bahweting Drive (off of Shunk Road). DO NOT BLOCK DRIVEWAYS. Be patient and remain in your vehicle at all times.

Volunteers will place food items in your trunk. It MUST have room; volunteers will not be making room in your vehicle. You will remain in park while receiving food until a volunteer releases you.

Contact Kristen Corbiere with any questions, (231) 622-5286.

## Tribal members: need assistance?

Three membership liaisons work with the chairperson's office on membership issues and concerns across the service area. The liaisons respond to membership issues and follow up to ensure they are resolved. Sault Tribe members are encouraged to contact the liaisons when they need help with tribal issues by emailing membersconcerns@saulttribe.net or contacting them at:  
Unit I — Sheila Berger, Office

of the Chairperson, Sault Ste. Marie, (906) 635-6050, (800) 793-0660, sberger@saulttribe.net

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

Units IV and V — Mary Jenerou, Manistique Tribal Center, (906) 341-8469; Munising Centers, (906) 450-7011 or (906) 450-7011, mjenerou@saulttribe.net.



Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Communications Dept.  
531 Ashmun St., SSM, MI 49783; (906) 632-6398; fax: (906) 632-6556

### 2021 Win Awenen Nisitotung Production Schedule

Jennifer Dale-Burton, Editor  
jdale-burton@saulttribe.net

Deadline (Fri)	To Press (Fri)	Digital Issue Posted (Mon)	Publication Date (Wed)
January 8	January 15	January 18	January 20
February 5	February 12	February 15	February 17
March 5	March 12	March 15	March 17
April 9	April 16	April 19	April 21
May 7	May 14	May 17	May 19
June 4	June 11	June 14	June 16
July 9	July 16	July 19	July 21
August 6 (annual report issue)	August 13	August 16	August 18
September 10	September 17	September 20	September 22
October 8	October 15	October 18	October 20
November 5	November 12	November 15	November 17
December 3	December 10	December 13	December 15

### CLIP & SAVE

The Sault Tribe  
Language and Culture Department  
Presents:  
**Aadizokaanan**  
(Winter Storytelling)



From: January to March 2021  
When: Thursday Evenings @ 6:00pm  
(Starting 1/7/21)

With the snow finally here, it is time for us to gather and share our Anishinaabe Aadizokaanan (Oral history and teachings). Each Thursday we will feature an Elder or Special Guest that will be sharing stories and teachings starting at 6pm on our BlueJeans virtual meeting platform. Look for weekly flyers with more information about our featured speaker of the week!

Blue Jeans link: <https://bluejeans.com/912922537>

Room Code: 912922537

For more information please contact us  
by phone  
at 906-635-6050  
or email

jbiron@saulttribe.net or svandyke@saulttribe.net



## Win Awenen Nisitotung

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

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

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

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

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

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.

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# CCFP names Bridie Johnson as executive director and Ellis residential specialist

SAULT STE. MARIE – While providing a secure and loving home to fostered teens is the Chippewa County Family Project's (CCFP) rudimentary goal, rules and regulations suggest the means to that end can be a bit complex.

In addition to fund-raising, home construction and establishing policies, the CCFP is challenged with staffing the Arfstrom Faunt Teen Foster Home with personnel who meet stringent State of Michigan guidelines. The CCFP fortunately landed a new executive director who checks off all the necessary boxes and brings more than 20 years of experience working with youth at risk or in the foster-care system.

The CCFP named Bridie Johnson LMSW CAADC as its new executive director. Johnson, who resides in Novi, is currently the assertive community treatment program supervisor at All Well Being Services. Before that, she was the previous behavioral health clinical supervisor for the American Indian Health and Family Services of South Eastern Michigan. Johnson has a vast array of experience in residential and community based behavioral health clinic management, youth and adult licensing, crisis shelter oversight, assessment, and placement, as well as grant writing,

programming and budgeting. She was a foster and adoptive parent and the former foster care/independent living program supervisor at Holy Cross Children's Services in Saginaw. She also supervised Ennis Center for Children's juvenile delinquency programming for a few years in Detroit.

"Our board is so eager to learn from Bridie," CCFP President Tracey Holt said. "We are fortunate to have landed an executive director with her background. She looks forward to seeing more of her family in Garden River, which was part of the lure of this position. She also wants to assure all youth have safe spaces to thrive in. Bridie is well-connected statewide throughout Michigan's homeless services programs and tribal entities. She can help us get the doors open so we can welcome kids who need a warm bed and a safe space to live."

Johnson will work remotely and oversee our newly-hired residential specialist, Lindsay Ellis, along with the house parents, group home workers and volunteers.

"Good leadership is instrumental to an organization's growth, exposure to a community and in polishing staff," said Lindsay Ellis, who brings community-minded programming expertise



**Bridie Johnson, LMSW, CAADC**

to the CCFP. "I am eager to see Johnson's background and skills lead the project."

"I always sense when things are calling to me," said Johnson, who, upon first impression, personifies empathy and take-charge leadership. "I'll be making sure all the connections are made so this project gets off the ground."

The Arfstrom Faunt Home is opening at a time when the state is prioritizing prevention and community-based care. While group homes are not a statewide focus, Johnson is confident the CCFP will fill a void in northern Michigan.

"There are certain meetings with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services



**Lindsay Ellis**

(MDHHS) that the director could go to, and there we can market our open beds," Johnson said. "They would have the list of youth in need, and we can look at their packets, pick and choose from that space."

The CCFP's top priority, obviously, is serving local youth, including obtaining funding to sponsor one or more beds for run-away or homeless youth in need. Most placements will be made by the MDHHS.

Johnson's primary background is working with inner-city youth, but she is no novice to issues relating to rural Upper Peninsula youth.

"Kids will be kids, but I'm very individually focused when

working with youth and I allow for them to assist in driving their own treatment/recovery," Johnson said. "You can assume an inner-city kid likes rap music and a kid in the Sault wouldn't, but I find that tendency transposes sometimes and to look at each youth as their own individual. A kid deserves their own footprint and must be looked at that way to truly be understood."

In addition to having her own biological, foster and adoptive children, Johnson was homeless for a brief stint during graduate school. Her innate sense of empathy comes from her personal life experience as well as her years of education and professional endeavors, but she also credits a former professor with inspiring her passion for social justice in the work that she does.

"He (Dr. Craigs Beverly) said, 'Dr. Bridie,' and I don't know why he said that to me, 'there's a human floor in which no one should fall below,'" Johnson recalled. "He'd say it and pound his fist like a gavel. I digested it. It was so powerful to me. Homeless youth services became a passion of mine."

The Arfstrom-Faunt Home will open as soon as its foster-care license has been secured sometime early in 2021.

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# Biden plans promising actions for Indian Country

BY RICK SMITH

President-elect Joe Biden pledged his presidency is going to be a presidency for all Americas on his campaign web site, where he also outlined his administration's plans for Indian Country.

"The United States of America was founded on the notion of equality for all," began a page titled Biden-Harris Plan for Tribal Nations. "We've always strived to meet that ideal, but never fully lived up to it. Throughout our history, this promise has been denied to Native Americans who have lived on this land since time immemorial.

"... Joe Biden and Kamala Harris are committed to upholding the U.S.'s trust responsibility to tribal nations, strengthening the nation-to-nation relationships between the United States and Indian tribes, and working to empower tribal nations to govern their own communities and make their own decisions."

Highlights from a list of aims of the administration include providing reliable, affordable, quality health care and addressing health disparities, restoring tribal lands, addressing climate change, safeguarding natural and cultural resources; improving safety, expand economic opportunity and community development, invest in education and youth engagement, meet obligations to American Indian veterans and ensure voting rights.

In order to strengthen the government-to-government relationships with tribes, the Biden administration plans to reinstate the annual White House Tribal Nations Conference started under the Obama-Biden administration and ignored by the Trump administration. Further, the Biden White House plans to work closer with the White House Council on Native American Affairs for improved coordination between federal agencies. The council is chaired by the head of the U.S. Department of the Interior and an array of leaders of other federal agencies and

White House staff. Outreach to federally recognized tribes for the council is coordinated through the White House Office of Public Engagement and Intergovernmental Affairs.

The plans call for appointing American Indians to high-level positions in the U.S. government, building on appointments of American Indians established during the Obama-Biden administration in addition to nominating judges conversant with federal Indian law.

Another area the Biden administration plans to pursue is the chronic underfunding of federal obligations to Indian Country by launching a budget task force under the White House Council on Native American Affairs and the Office of Management and Budget working in consultation with tribes to investigate chronic shortfalls and develop recommendations to fully fund trust and treaty obligations. This falls under another objective to promote federal agencies to consult with tribes, reinstating the mandate for executive departments and agencies to do so.

Biden pledges to support, defend and fully implement the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978 to help American Indian children and families involved in the foster care system. Same goes for an expansion of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act, which supports tribal sovereignty by letting tribes provide services to members that were previously provided by the federal government. This measure reinforces tribal autonomy.

Over a dozen areas were specified for providing quality health care from funding to telehealth expansion to combating COVID-19. Plans also include increasing access to mental health services, expanding the Special Diabetes Program for Indians, suicide prevention and many other measures.

The administration plans to make placing land into trust easier. "As president," the plan states, "Biden will uphold

trust and treaty responsibilities and continue to place land into trust for Indian tribes. The U.S. Supreme Court's Carcieri decision made fulfilling that responsibility harder by restricting the federal government's ability to put land into trust. The Obama-Biden

administration developed a framework to support this, which was used by the Department of Justice to defend the process of taking land into trust. But the Trump administration has callously reversed the Obama-Biden policies and abandoned our nation's treaty obligations to

tribal nations. Biden will call on Congress to enact a clean Carcieri fix to make it easier to place land into trust."

A half-dozen other strategies are planned for protection of tribal lands along with other improvements needed for American Indians across the U.S.

## \*Downpayment Assistance Program\*

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

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

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

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## Tribe's Down Payment Assistance Program now available year-round

The Sault Tribe Housing Authority Down Payment Assistance Program (DPAP) opened year-round effective Jan. 11, 2021. This makes it easier for applicants to purchase their first home when they are ready. The program stays open until funds are exhausted and opens up immediately in January of the following year.

The DPAP is designed to assist Sault Tribe members in becoming homeowners of structurally sound homes. The funds are federal Housing and Urban Development dollars restricted to low-income tribal members. Eligible applicants could receive up to \$9,500 to be applied towards down payment and closing costs. Each participating applicant will need to contribute \$500 of their own money to receive the maximum grant of \$9,500 or 20

percent purchase price of the home.

The program is open to Sault Tribe members residing in the seven-county service area: Chippewa, Luce, Mackinac, Alger, Schoolcraft, Delta and Marquette counties.

The DPAP is open to Sault Tribe members with total income at or below 80 percent of the area median income, adjusted for family size. The minimum household income must be at least \$25,000 annually. Participants must obtain a mortgage with a local lender.

Funds will be in the form of a note applied as a lien against the property, the amount depreciates 20 percent each year and is forgiven after five years.

Contact Homeownership Specialist Dana Piippo, at (906) 495-1450 or (800) 794-4072.

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# Anishinaabemowin 2021

*When you learn your language, you find home.*

## Manidoo Giizis

### Spirit Moon

by Susan Askwith

### Aanii kina waya!

aa-nii ki-na way-a

Hi everyone.

### Nimkii Nimosh ndi zhinikaaz.

nim-kii ni-mosh n-di zhin-i-kaaz.

“Thunder” Dog is my name.



### Dete'aakigen! Dete'aakigen!

de-te-aa-ki-gen! (Knock, Knock)

### Weneshii e-yaad?

we-nesh-ii e-yaad (Who is there?)

Sarah.

Sarah weneshii?

Sarah nimosh yaa wiijiwin?

wii-jiiw-in

Sarah dog in there with you?



### Niijii maaba. Genii Gaazhikenhs zhinkaazo.

Nii-jii maa-ba. Ge-nii Gaa-zhik-enhs zhin-kaa-zo.

My friend this is. “Me-too” Cat is her name

### Aaniish e-zhinikaaziyin?

aa-nii-sh e-zhi-ni-kaa-zi-yin?

What is your name?

### Niijii-minaan maaba.

nii-jii-mi-naan maa-ba.

This is our friend

### Wenesh yaawi-yin?

we-nesh e-yaa-wi-yin?

Who are you?



### Booniid Bineshiinh zhinkaazo.

Boo-niid Bi-ne-shiinh zhin-kaazo.

“Alight” Bird is her name.

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

**aa** sounds like the a in *all*

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

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

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

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

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

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

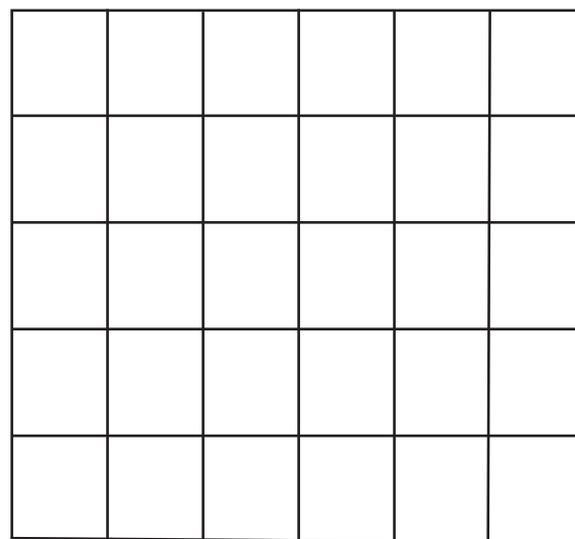
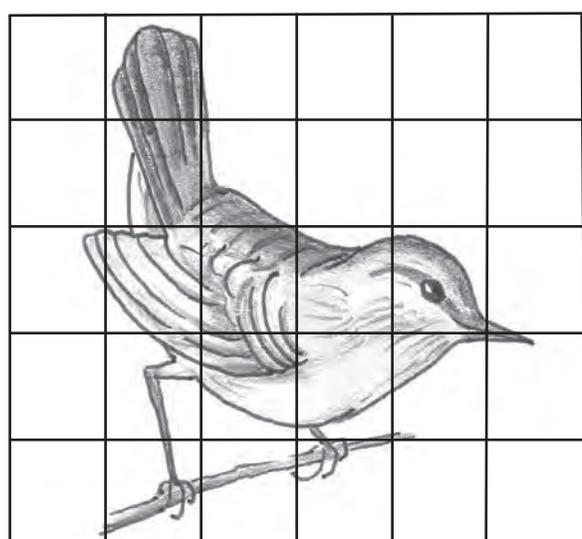
**g** sounds only like it does in *go*

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.

**Fun Fact:** There are some sounds we *don't* make, so they'll never show up: F, L, Q, R, U, V and X.

We also do not make two of the “A” sounds English uses. We don't say A as it sounds in “ask or and” and we don't say A as it sounds in “April or apron.” Our ancestors developed a language of round beautiful sounds. Ya gotta love it!

**Use the grid to draw maanda bineshiinh (this bird).**



# Act enhances Native business development

BY RICK SMITH

The Indian Community Economic Enhancement Act (S.212) became law on Dec. 30, 2020, mandating improvements in federal support of business development by American Indians.

“The Indian Community Economic Enhancement Act of 2020 promotes growth for Native businesses and increases economic opportunities in Indian Country,” said Senator John Hoeven, who sponsored the bill. “As chairman of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, one of my highest priorities this Congress has been addressing economic development and job creation. The ICEE Act of 2020 will attract investment in tribal communities while reducing red tape that limits Indian business promotion.”

The bill was sponsored in the House of Representatives by co-chairs of the Congressional Native American Caucus,

Representative Norma J. Torres and Representative Debra Haaland.

“Native communities are one step closer to economic independence and self-charted prosperity now that the Indian Community Economic Enhancement Act is law of the land,” said Torres in a prepared statement. “For tribal members whose financial opportunities have historically been limited by the geographic and economic isolation, this new law will allow capital to flow and new businesses to take root. I am grateful for Rep. Haaland’s leadership as we ushered this bill through the legislative process, and thank our partners in the Senate for working with us to make this day a reality.”

“All communities deserve access to the tools to grow businesses and build economic opportunities, but years of oppression have left Native American entrepreneurs behind,” Haaland said. “As a small

business owner while raising my daughter, there were times when easier access to capital would have benefited my business. I’m proud of the work Rep. Torres and I did to expand opportunities for Native entrepreneurs and get this bill across the finish line.”

According to a congressional summary, the law tasks the Department of Commerce Office of Native American Business Development to serve the department as advisor on the relationship between the federal government and American Indian tribes and as the contact for tribes, tribal organizations and members of tribes regarding economic development and conducting business on Indian lands.

The law mandates coordination between the Department of Commerce, Department of the Interior (DOI) and the Department of the Treasury to support economic development in American Indian communities and eliminates

requirements for matching funds from American Indian institutions for financial assistance from the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund.

The Government Accountability Office is directed to conduct a study to assess current programs and services helping American Indians with business and economic development, assistance in providing loans, bonds and tax incentives and alternative incentives for tribal governments to invest in community development investment funds or banks.

The Indian Community Economic Enhancement Act of 2020 also calls for the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to employ American labor and to buy American Indian industrial products unless either the HHS or the DOI determine it would be impracticable and unreasonable to follow those stipulations. Further, HHS and the DOI must

conduct outreach to Indian industrial concerns in the development of enterprises.

The law also authorizes the Administration for Native Americans (ANA) to provide financial assistance to American Indian community development financial institutions.

Additionally, the ANA must give priority for assistance to applicants whose programs seek to develop tribal codes and court systems relating to economic development, business structures, community development financial institutions or tribal master plans for community and economic development and infrastructure.

The National Congress of American Indians voiced support for enactment of the measure when it passed a resolution calling for its enactment back in 2017. Passage of the measure was praised by the National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development.

# Pilot project establishes the first tribal community response plans for missing indigenous persons

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. – Federal, state, local and tribal leaders jointly announced Michigan’s own Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons (MMIP) pilot project on Dec. 18.

United States Attorneys Andrew Birge and Matthew Schneider were joined by Bay Mills Indian Community President Bryan Newland, Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Board Chairperson Aaron Payment,

FBI Special Agent in Charge of the Detroit Field Division Timothy Waters, Michigan State Police Director Col. Joe Gasper, Michigan Sheriff’s Association Executive Director Matthew Saxton, Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police Executive Director Robert Stevenson, along with partnering officials with the United States Marshals Service and the Bureau of Indian Affairs in making the announcement.

Members of the pilot project began meeting in late October, taking the first steps toward establishing the first tribal

community response plans for missing indigenous persons cases. The plans will improve the handling of emergent missing person cases by outlining how tribal governments, law enforcement and other partners can best work together to respond to such cases. The plans address four core components of a proper response to a missing persons case: law enforcement, victim services, community outreach and public communications.

“Given that there are 12 tribal communities in Michigan, and many more tribal members living throughout the state, we adopted a pilot-program approach to help identify issues and establish initial response plans that can be shared with communities throughout the state,” Birge said. “I am impressed with how federal, state, local and tribal law enforcement as well as tribal leaders are embracing the effort and progressing in an open and collaborative fashion.”

Schneider said, “Everyone recognizes the sensitivity and

importance of these cases and realizes that, in Michigan in particular, multiple agencies and jurisdictions must work together.”

“Bay Mills is excited to collaborate with the United States and our fellow tribes on protecting women and vulnerable people in our communities,” Newland said. “For too long, we have allowed the problem of violence against Indian women and vulnerable people to fester. This initiative will start the healing process and ensure our people receive the protections they deserve.”

Payment said, “In 2016, according to the CDC, homicide was the third leading cause of death for Native women and girls between the ages 1 through 19 and sixth leading cause of death for ages 20 through 44. Time is of the essence as the first 72 hours after an individual goes missing are the most crucial according to National Indigenous Women’s Resource Center. The Sault Tribe and Bay Mills have

pioneered capacity building in our respective judicial systems including state certification of tribal law enforcement officers, enhancing our tribal courts and expanding jurisdiction under the *Tribal Law and Order Act* and the *Violence Against Women Act*. We have long had mutual aid law enforcement agreements to ensure there are no holes in coverage and jurisdiction. After 9/11, we worked as a unified team to ensure public safety including comprehensive tabletop exercises. I envision our collaboration around MMIP to be a similar critical incident exercise and relationship to deal with what is emerging as an epidemic of missing and murdered indigenous people.”

Waters said, “The FBI will continue to partner with state, local and tribal law enforcement agencies to combat violent crime and create safer communities for the indigenous people in Michigan. We are prepared to surge investigative capacity, provide specialized skills and

training, perform data analysis or deploy national assets in our effort to provide justice for families mourning a murder victim and assistance to communities searching for a missing friend or neighbor.”

Saxton said, “It is critically important that all law enforcement agencies work closely together. We are fully supportive of agencies assisting each other with whatever capabilities they may have – especially in the event of a reported missing child or adult under suspicious circumstances.”

Michigan is among the first of six pilot-program states developing community response plans, in accordance with the U.S. Attorney General’s Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons Initiative and the President’s Operation Lady Justice Task Force. Importantly, these plans likewise further the goals of the recent Savanna’s Act legislation. The other states are Oklahoma, Montana, Minnesota, Alaska and Oregon.

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# Tribe's Housing Authority combines home rehabilitation and weatherization programs

The Sault Tribe Housing Authority combined the Weatherization Program into the Home Rehabilitation Program beginning January 2021. The move will make the application process much easier as only one application will need to be filled out and can be updated annually. Applicants for the Home Rehabilitation Program will remain on the waiting list if not selected for service in that year. Applicants

will no longer need to resubmit applications for weatherization services yearly during an open and close period.

Sault Tribe homeowners in the seven-county service area who meet income eligibility requirements are invited to apply for the program.

The Home Rehabilitation program uses levels of service platform in determining the rehabilitation need of each home. Level

I is basic weatherization service up to \$7,500 and includes installing insulation and heat tape, window and door replacement, air sealing measures, caulking and weather stripping and proper venting of bathroom fans, dryers and exhaust fans. Level II allows for roof repairs and replacement up to \$10,000. The cost of construction has increased significantly over the years so the funding level for a roof replace-

ment also needed to increase. Level III allows for structural rehabilitation of homes not to exceed \$40,000 per lifetime. Structural rehabilitation includes electrical, plumbing, heating system repairs, roof repairs exceeding Level II assistance, exterior repairs, bathroom replacement, floor joist repair, to name a few. Some homes in this category are dilapidated to the point that only replacement of the home is

the answer. In this situation, the homeownership staff will work with applicants in securing additional funds and leveraging the Level III funding to receive other low-cost loans or grants from other resources in the community to replace the home.

For more information or an application, please contact the Sault Tribe Housing Homeownership Department at (906) 495-1450 or (800) 794-4072.

## Bill calls for Native American Languages Resource Center

BY RICK SMITH

Congresswoman Deb Haaland (D-N.M.) recently introduced a U.S. House of Representatives companion bill to the Senate's Native American Languages Resource Center Act, which would create a consortium of institutions reflecting the diversity of American Indian languages throughout the United States, support American Indian language education programs at all grade levels and serve other purposes in promoting language education.

The Senate bill, S. 4510, was introduced by Senator Brian

***“This bill will protect our Native languages and ensure the next generation has access to the traditions of our ancestors,”*** Congresswoman Deb Haaland said.

Schatz (D-Hawaii) on Aug. 6, 2020, and referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs. The House companion bill, H.R. 8729, was introduced on Nov. 5, 2020, and referred to the House

Committee on Education and Labor.

A dozen purposes are noted in the text of the act, all supporting revitalization, preservation, protection and promotion and allow “the United States to fulfill its trust responsibility to Native American communities and address the effects of past discrimination against Native American language speakers.”

The bills not only call for support for tribal language programs, it encourages and supports development and use of American Indian languages as part of the

curriculums in schools operated by states and the federal government from pre-kindergarten level to doctorate. It also fosters development of appropriate teacher preparation programs including appropriate alternative pathways to teaching certifications.

“The beauty of a Native language is something that has been passed down from generation to generation, but the federal government has fallen short on resources to teach these languages,” Haaland said in a Dec. 16 announcement. I learned some Kares from my grandparents and

my Mom, who still speaks our language fluently, but we're at risk of losing the language and the traditional knowledge that comes with it.”

She added that is why she and Senator Schatz introduced the Native American Languages Resource Center Act. “This bill will protect our Native languages and ensure the next generation has access to the traditions of our ancestors,” she said.

According to Haaland's announcement, the legislation is endorsed by tribes as well as tribal organizations and groups.

## Michigan House passes moratorium on water shutoffs during the health crisis

LANSING, Mich. —The Michigan League for Public Policy issued the following statement on the Michigan House's recent passage of Senate Bill 241, by a vote of 96-9, to establish a moratorium on water shutoffs during the COVID-19 health crisis. The statement can be attributed to Michigan League for Public Policy President and CEO Gilda Z. Jacobs.

“Despite the varied hometowns, backgrounds, personalities and platforms, all lawmakers are drawn to Lansing by a desire to serve their constituents, their communities and the state as a whole. And there is no greater need or opportunity for compassionate leadership and good governance than the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Water is so essential to our everyday

life, and no resident or family should have to worry about losing their water on top of everything else they're juggling right now. Now, with the House's passage of a water shutoff moratorium, lawmakers have risen to the occasion and met this crisis head on with compassion and dedication, acting to protect their constituents as well as their fellow Michiganders everywhere

from life-threatening water shutoffs. While this time in our state and our legislature's history is unparalleled in its difficulties, it is equally unparalleled in its opportunities for our leaders. When current lawmakers, especially those in their final days in office, talk about this time with their kids and grandkids, this bill will be a big part of their legacy.”

## Housing Authority sends 511 pandemic care packages to housing site residents

BY CATHIE ERICKSON

The Sault Tribe Housing Authority staff packed and mailed a total of 511 boxes to our Low-Income, Homebuyer and Rental Assistance Voucher Program families on all nine housing sites in the seven-county service area. Each box contained a variety of personal protection equipment, cleaners and educational information, hoping this will help families with essential supplies during this pandemic caused by the COVID-19 virus. These

boxes were funded using Indian Housing Block Grant Cares Act funds.

Social distancing was practiced and personal protective equipment were worn when packing the boxes and transporting them to the U.S. Post Office, which took four days to complete.

A big thank you to all of the Housing staff that made this such a success, it could not have been done without your dedication and help.

Photos courtesy Housing Authority

At left, Rhonna Calkins (left) and Nicole Sambrano (right) help to pack boxes to be mailed to tribal member families living on the tribe's housing sites in the seven-county service area. At right, Danyelle Clement packing boxes. Below, Boxes ready to be filled and mailed.



# Sault Tribe Law Enforcement and Conservation license review

**SUBMITTED BY ROBERT MARCH-AND, CHIEF OF POLICE**  
INLAND HUNTING, FISHING, AND GATHERING

Deer season: Please remember that late firearm season ended Jan. 3, 2021. Harvest reports are due by Feb. 1, 2021. Please also remember that if you held a 2020 inland hunting or non-hunting license, you will not be able to renew for 2021 until you submit the required annual harvest report.

Harvest cards all expire March 31, 2021. STLE will have 2021 licenses available during the month of March 2021.

Please be sure you are reviewing your rules and regulations



to ensure you are engaging in allowable activity, regardless of which license you hold. Please also remember that any licenses issued by Sault Tribe are valid only in Sault Tribe's 1836 Treaty

Area. There are maps available online to help you determine the boundaries.

**GREAT LAKES LICENSES: COMMERCIAL AND SUBSISTENCE**

Commercial fishermen are required to call and schedule an appointment. In order for Sault Tribe Law Enforcement to obtain accurate information, and be able to process licenses timely, captains and helpers must call themselves to provide licensing staff with current and accurate information.

STLE would like to remind all 2020 commercial and subsistence license holders that their licenses expire Dec. 31, 2020. If you still

hold a subsistence, subsistence/gillnet or commercial captain's license during the month of December, please do not forget to submit your December catch report no later than Jan. 10, 2021. Commercial captains required to submit bi-weekly reports, your Dec. 1-15 report was due no later than Dec. 20, 2020; Dec. 16-31 was due no later than Jan. 10, 2021.

STLE began issuing 2021 subsistence and subsistence/gillnet licenses on Monday, Dec. 21, 2020. STLE also began scheduling commercial licensing appointments that same day. Captains and helpers can call (906) 635-6065 if they'd like to schedule an appointment to obtain their 2021 captains or helper's license.

If you are a commercial captain and have not renewed your license during 2020, please make sure you send in payment for 2020. Large boat captain licenses are \$100 and small boat captain

licenses are \$50.

**GENERAL INFORMATION**  
Tribal laws that regulate treaty licenses are available online at [www.saulttribe.com](http://www.saulttribe.com), Government, Tribal Code. Chapter 21 and 23 regulate Inland Hunting, Fishing, and Gathering activity. Chapter 20 and CORA code regulate subsistence, subsistence gill net and Commercial fishing activity.

Maps, applications, and other resource materials can be found on the website by selecting Membership Services, Natural Resources, and either click the downloads link to the left, or at the bottom of the page, in red letters, "For Applications Click Here."

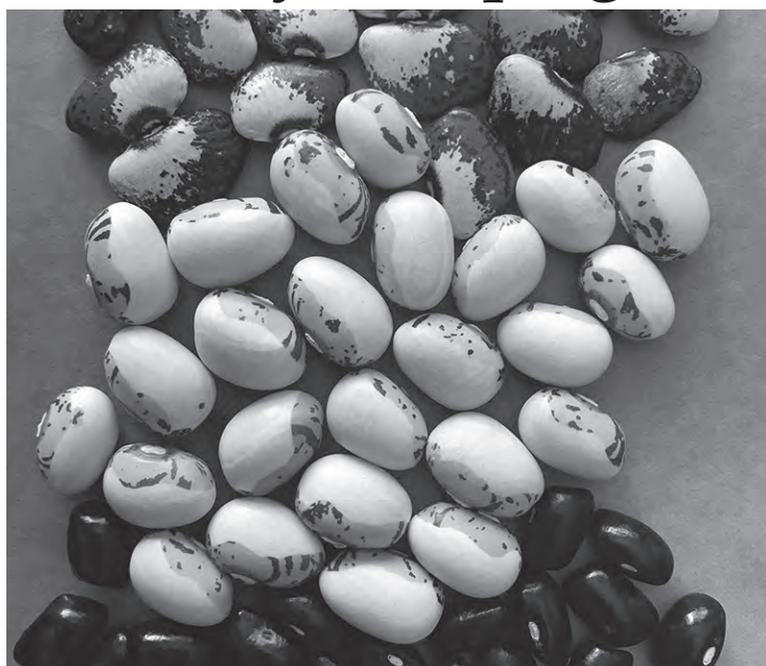
As always, if members have any questions regarding any of the treaty licensing requirements, please feel free to call Sault Tribe Law Enforcement and we will put you in touch with an Officer. We can be reached at (906) 635-6065.

## Ojibwe Learning Center and Library planning a community seed program

**BY MARIE R. RICHARDS, REPA-TRIATION AND HISTORIC PRESER-VATION SPECIALIST**

A community seed library is a public collection of seeds available for community members to "borrow" or grow out. Community seed libraries provide access to seeds for gardeners of all levels and the opportunity for community members to learn about growing plants and seed keeping.

Multiple Sault Tribe departments and community partners are currently in the process of establishing a community seed library at the Ojibwe Learning Center and Library in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. Departments involved include Sault Tribe's Language and Culture and Community Health Departments as well as community partners such as Michigan State University's Federally-Recognized Tribes Extension Program and individual community members. The group is inviting interested community



members to join in the creation of this seed library! Gardeners, growers, and seedkeepers of all levels of experience are welcome.

If you are interested in being involved in the creation of this community seed library or would

like to receive general updates, visit [Bit.ly/ShareTheSeeds](http://Bit.ly/ShareTheSeeds) to share your contact information. You can also reach out to Marie Richards at [mrichards@saulttribe.net](mailto:mrichards@saulttribe.net) with questions or for more information.

## The natural sweetness of honey and how it's made

**BY LAURA ANDERSON, MSU EXTENSION**

Did you know Michigan has over 450 species of bees and that bees are important crop pollinators for cherries, blueberries and strawberries? That you can feed bees by planting certain flowers? And the use of honey has been traced back 8,000 years on a cave painting? And who knew that a honeycomb cell has six sides?

Michigan's most abundant fruit and vegetable crops depend on the honey bee and its ability to pollinate. Honey is the sticky, sweet result of this pollination process. According to the National Institutes of Health, honey is a byproduct of nectar from a flower and the digestive tract of a honey bee, which is then dehydrated in the hive creating a concentrated substance. This concentrated sweet substance, honey, has been used since ancient times for food and medicinal purposes. Honey contains trace amounts of about 200 substances, but is mostly made up of sugar and water.

Most honey is pasteurized with high heat which delays crystallization and destroys yeast cells to enhance shelf life. If honey is col-



Photo by Phil Beard/Freemages.com

lected and filtered without heat, it is considered raw honey. A study by the National Honey Board found that heating honey does not affect the nutrient content or antioxidant activity found in honey.

Honey is a generally safe food. Honey does contain botulism spores that release a toxin that, when swallowed, affects an infant's nervous system and can be deadly. According to Poison Control, "children under the age of 12 months are at risk of infant botulism if they are fed honey or anything with honey in it. Infants' systems are too immature to prevent this toxin from developing."

Being mostly sugar, honey contains 17 grams of carbohydrates per tablespoon. Honey is said to taste slightly sweeter than granulated sugar and can be a great substitution in recipes calling for sugar.

### TRIBAL MEMBER REGISTRATION IN THE TAX AGREEMENT AREA

#### TRIBAL MEMBERS' RESPONSIBILITIES

(Including the Issuance of Certificates of Exemptions)

#### INITIAL REGISTRATION AND OR CHANGE OF ADDRESS

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

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

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

#### CERTIFICATE OF EXEMPTIONS

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

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

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

# Walking on...

## DARRYL L. FRASIER

Darryl Leon Frasier, 76, of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., passed away on Dec. 8, 2020, at his home. He was born on Jan. 5, 1944, in Newberry, Mich., to Matthew and Leona (Corp) Frasier.



Darryl played sports in his younger years and was an avid Detroit Lions fan. Darryl is survived by his wife, Patricia A. Frasier of Sault Ste. Marie; children, Steven, Mark, Derek and Stacey; grandchildren, Sierra, Sofia, Lacey, Cecily and Cody.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Matthew and Leona (Corp) Frasier; and his brother, Richard Frasier.

A Mass was said in Darryl's honor on Jan. 14, 2021, at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Sault Ste. Marie. Family will gather at Forest Home Cemetery in Newberry, Mich., when they lay Darryl to rest.

Clark Funeral Cremation Burial Services assisted the family with arrangements. Online condolences may be left at [www.rgalerfuneralhome.com](http://www.rgalerfuneralhome.com).

## JAMES A. JENSEN

James Allen Jensen, age 79, passed away peacefully on Dec. 5, 2020, at the Schoolcraft County Medical Care Facility. Jinx had been battling Lewy Body Dementia, for many years.



Jinx leaves his wife of 49 years, Helen; son, Mark; many nieces and nephews; and very special friend, Jody Sitkoski. He was an avid golfer, and a member of the Golden Gloves Boxing of Manistique.

A memorial service is being planned for next summer. Memorial contributions may be directed to the family for future designation. The family also extends thanks to all those who cared for Jinx, your love and dedication was a comfort.

### The Peace of the Wild Things By Wendell Berry

*When despair for the world grows in me, and I wake in the night at the least sound. In fear of what my life and my children's lives may be, I go and lie down where the wood drake rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.*

*I come into the peace of wild things who do not tax their lives with forethought of grief. I come into the presence of still water. And I feel above me the day-blind stars waiting with their light. For a time I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.*

## DONALD A. KRULL

Donald Allen "Wild Bill" Krull, 64, of Neebish Island, Mich., passed away on Dec. 28, 2020, at his home. He was born on Aug. 18, 1956, in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., to Bernard and

Loretta Mae (Germain) Krull.

Donald was a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, being outdoors and living on Neebish Island. He had never-ending adventures and always managed to "stay under the radar." He was a great cook and loved to have parties. Donald loved all of his family and was a legend to all his nieces and nephews.

Donald is survived by his sisters, Barbara Parr of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., Tibby Perry of Kinross, Mich., Betty Freiheit of Sault Ste. Marie, Maggie Lane of Sault Ste. Marie, Wanda (Sam) Marble of Sault Ste. Marie and Bernie (Calvin) Whiteman of Canton, Ill.; his brothers, Manny (Cindy Payment) Krull of Sault Ste. Marie, Mike (Kathleen Cook) Krull of Sault Ste. Marie and Ronald Krull of Neebish Island. He is also survived by his brother-in-law, John "Muggo" Nolan; many nieces and nephews; his special friend, Cathy Opanasenko-Rosales of Lansing, Mich., and his special Neebish Island friends, Diane and Les Laitinen, Anthony and Janet Douglas and Diona Roja.

Donald was preceded in death by his parents; and his sisters, Shirley Nolan, Diane Krull and Tina Laaksonen.

A private family memorial service was held at C.S. Mulder Funeral Home and Cremation Services. A Celebration of Life will be held later in the summer. Condolences may be left online at [www.csmulder.com](http://www.csmulder.com).

## JAMES D. LOCKHART SR.

James Daniel "Jim" Lockhart Sr., 69, of Hessel, Mich., died on Dec. 14, 2020. He was born on Feb. 19, 1951, in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., to Reginald William and Jane Beatrice (Mangene) Lockhart.

Jim grew up in Cedarville, Mich., and graduated from Cedarville High School. He met Connie McCall at a party in Hessel. They fell in love and were married on June 21, 1975. They made their home in Hessel. He worked as a truck driver for Taylor Lumber, Mike Amorase and Hessel Block. He worked at Cedar Pantry until the early 1990s before he became disabled.

Jim loved ice fishing and liked to shop at thrift stores and collect junk he didn't need.

Jim is survived by his children, James Daniel Lockhart Jr. of Cedarville, Jamie (Mark Alford) Lockhart of Hessel and Jason Francis Lockhart; grandchildren, Travis Lockhart, Avery and Tracey Mitchell, Adam and Makayla Alford, Lance Dekeyser, Dustin Lambert and Shawn Livingston; great-grandchildren, Ace, Lincoln, Paisley and Evelyn; his dog, Lexus; siblings, Lois Plank of Hessel, Penny Lockhart, Joy Lockhart, Everett Lockhart and Robert "Bobby" Lockhart, all of Warsaw, Ind.; brother-in-law, Clifford McCall of St. Ignace, Mich.; and sister-in-law, Wilma



McCall of St. Ignace.

A private service will be held at a later date. Final resting place is Maplewood Italian Cemetery in Hessel.

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

## JOYCE M. MCCOY

Joyce Marie (Leask) McCoy, 91, of Sugar Island, Mich., passed away on Dec. 27, 2020, at her home on Sugar Island surrounded by her children.



Joyce was born on May 27, 1929, in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., to Joseph and Bernice (McCoy) Leask. She graduated from Sault High School with the Class of 1947. On Sept. 2, 1950, she married the love of her life, Arthur "Nugs" McCoy in Sault Ste. Marie and made their home on Sugar Island, living on the St. Marys River where they raised their children. After her youngest child started school, she became a paraprofessional/Title IV for the Sault area schools where she enjoyed teaching her students and retired after 17 years. The library at the Sault Area High School was dedicated in her name for her outstanding work she did with the students.

Joyce loved reading, crocheting, doing word search puzzles, watching Wheel of Fortune and Jeopardy, and playing card games with family and friends. She also enjoyed her time at the casino. Joyce loved gardening, being outdoors playing kickball and cleaning the beach over the years with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Joyce had an excellent memory and could recall and tell many detailed stories of her childhood and adult years. She kept diaries as a young girl and then later in life she wrote daily in her journals. She was a good historian and many called her for information and answers to questions, she will be missed dearly for this talent.

Joyce and Art traveled in their retirement years from the East Coast to the West Coast, as far south as Florida and the Bahamas and as far north as Alaska. In their early years, they traveled with their young sons' hockey teams and they could always be found in the local hockey rinks. Joyce continued to watch hockey at the rinks and on TV.

Joyce was active with the Sault Tribe elders, a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and a member of the Sugar Island Historical Society. She attended Sacred Heart Church on Sugar Island and St. Isaac Jogues Catholic Church in Sault Ste. Marie.

She is survived by her children, sons, Douglas (Diane) McCoy of Monroe, Mich., Darwin "Joe" (Sharon) McCoy of Sault Ste. Marie, Darren (Cathy) McCoy of Caledonia, Mich., and Darby (Cathy) McCoy of Sault Ste. Marie; daughters, M. Sue (Rudy) Pavlat of Sault Ste. Marie, Cindy (John) Quigley of DeTour

Village, Mich., Luanne (Larry) Rutt of Deltona, Fla., and Sherri (DeJay) Bumstead of Sugar Island; 22 grandchildren and their spouses, Gerald (Melissa) Pavlat, Travis (Allison) Pavlat, Tanya (Matt) Dingley, Nicole (Ray) Traxler, Rebecca (Dave) Zaug, Amber (RD) Sober, Andrea (Vince) Sillas, Corey (Kevin) Oean, Dareth (Adam) Gilmore, Daraka (Matt) Hudecek, Cody McCoy, Brent Belanger, Matthew (Stephanie) Bumstead, Jenna (Levi) Eby, Rachael McCoy, Kaylee (Ryan) Olep, Theodore (Nicole) McCoy, Tyler (Amanda) McCoy, Trevor McCoy, Trent (Lexi) McCoy, Chelsea (Josh) Graham and Lindsay (Brad) McCoy; 42 great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren; siblings, Gayle (Darrell) Belleau and Wilma Cairns, in-laws, Margie Boissoneau, Marie DeMerse, Lorriane Leask, Donna "Tuff" Leask, Donna "Gordon" Leask and Elmo Smith; her childhood best friend, Ali Allen; and special family friend, Anne Schaefer of Australia. Joyce was a loved aunt by 83 nieces and nephews and over 150 great-nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Arthur, in 2007; her oldest son, Darrel McCoy; her parents; her brothers, Theodore, Leo "Tuff" and Gordon Leask; and sisters, Lorriane Rutledge, Carol Smith and Linda Leask.

Funeral services took place on Dec. 31, 2020, at St. Isaac Jogues Catholic Church on Marquette Ave. with a public flow through viewing followed by a private family Mass. The Mass was livestreamed and can be seen on Facebook page "Stshokajogues."

Burial will take place on May 27, 2021, at Oakland Chapel Gardens with a celebration of her life to follow on Sugar Island. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Sugar Island Historical Society in memory of Joyce. Mail to SIHPS P.O. Box 72, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783.

The family would like to thank Dr. Paula Rechner, Dr. Tim Teztlaff and good neighbor Jan Bailey for all their help during this difficult time.

Funeral arrangements were made by Clark Funeral Cremation Burial Services. Condolences may be sent to the family at [www.rgalerfuneralhome.com](http://www.rgalerfuneralhome.com).

## RICHARD J. ROY SR.

On Dec. 24, 2020, in Naples, Fla., Richard Joseph Roy Sr., age 79, husband of Mercedes, passed from this earthly life to heaven. He and his dear wife Mercedes made their home together in Naples.



One of Richard's favorite places to enjoy a cup of coffee was sitting in his favorite chair in their screened in porch looking at the lake. They made many trips together to Ecuador where Mercedes was born. Richard was faithful in attending the Catholic church along with his wife, Mercedes. In fact, when Richard and Mercedes would come to Michigan to visit with his mom,

Pauline, they would attend the local Catholic church.

Richard enjoyed playing a spirited game of cards, good food and he always had a big smile on his face. Richard and Mercedes enjoyed traveling world-wide, they took several cruises to far-away places. Richard enjoyed putting puzzles together, it was a very engaging hobby. Mercedes would say that there is no more room on their walls, so many family members enjoy having one of his framed puzzles in their home. Richard also completed many puzzles and gifted them to his local Veterans Administration.

Richard was born in Pontiac, Mich., on Dec. 3, 1941. He attended Clarkston, Michigan schools. Richard retired from the United States Army, where he served with distinction and honor. One special memory he has of his time overseas, was to connect with his three younger brothers, Philip, David and Raymond, each was in the military. They were all near to each other in Vietnam and were able to connect and share stories over good food.

Richard was preceded in death by his maternal grandparents, Walter and Lucy (Myotte) Sipniewski. Grandpa "Sip" enjoyed passing out a few nicknames, his choice for Richard was "Gildersleeve." Richard was also preceded in death by two brothers, John Leo Hickman and Terry James Hickman.

Richard is survived by his wife, Mercedes; his mother, Pauline A. (Sipniewski) Hickman; three brothers, Philip A. Roy (Kathy), David A. Roy (Linda) and Raymond L. Roy; two sisters, Judy A. (Hickman) Merrill (Randy) and Trude J. (Hickman) Peterson (William). Richard is also survived by the many people he loved and cared for in Mercedes extended family as well as the extended Roy/Hickman family members and his friends. He will be deeply missed.

## LINDA L. SAVOIE

Linda Lee (Mastaw) Savoie, age 63, of Roseville, Mich., passed away on Dec. 13, 2020, at Ascension Macomb Oakland Hospital in Warren, Mich.



She was born on March 11, 1957, in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., to the late William J. Mastaw and Mary D. (Bell) Mastaw.

Linda is survived by the love of her life, Ken Savoie; her three sons, Steve (Zena) Savoie, Curt Savoie and Jamie Hammel; daughter-in-law, Nicole Curtis and Eric (Sarah) Savoie; seven grandchildren, Logan, Zaylie, Kynan, Casey, McKenzie, Samantha and Morgan; siblings, Harvey (Lisa) Bell, Diane (Foster) Boutilier, Wayne (Annette) King, Bill Mastaw, Shelly Mastaw, Ronda (George) Mastaw; in-laws, Linda (Ed) Stafford, Jean (Dan) Cadotte, sister-in-law Cathy Savoie; and many nieces and nephews who

See "Walking on," page 10

# Children delighted with special 2020 Christmas

By Rick Smith

Children of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians in the tribe's service area aged 14 and under checked in with Santa Claus, received gifts and goodie bags with a touch of the holiday spirit during children's Christmas drive-through receptions across the tribe's service area from Dec. 11 to Dec. 19. Children in one of the tribe's districts received holiday gifts and greet-

ings via the U.S. mail.

The special functions took place in Newberry, Hessel, Naubinway/Engadine, St. Ignace, Sault Ste. Marie and DeTour Township. Sault Tribe Board of Directors, Kewadin Casinos as well as Sault Tribe Youth Education and Activities (YEA) sponsored all of the receptions. The Naubinway/Engadine function took place at the Top of the Lake Snowmobile Museum in Naubinway.

Children in areas of Unit IV – Manistique and Escanaba among other areas – received gifts through the U.S. mail.

The largest function likely occurred in Sault Ste. Marie, where children came to see Santa and receive gifts over two days on Dec. 15-16. Sault YEA coordinator Jill Lawson said, "We had over 800 kids signed up, but I'd say we had between 600 and 700 who came to pick up their gifts."

Santa said the volunteers had their work cut out for them in keeping up with the flow and coordinating the gift deliveries. Lawson said, "Volunteers included Diane Maleport, Jackie King, Mady Weber, Lena Walker, Elissa Griffin and George Snider. We also had our YEA staff plus student worker, Sara; and Big Bear staff plus their student worker, Dayton."

If all goes well, the children's Christmas reception formats

return to the usual party-style gatherings in 2021.

In other adaptations, Sault Tribe Language and Culture Department took to cyberspace for powwow observances as a way to safely conduct traditional aspects of powwows while observing pandemic safety precautions. The department also conducted a drive-through giveaway observance for veterans on Dec. 18 in lieu of the annual veterans powwow.



Santa greets occupants of the car and gives each child a gift at the drive-through gift giving event held at Big Bear Arena in the Sault.

*Photos by Rick Smith*



And a jolly time was had by all!



Santa with a young girl on his "nice list" at the drive-through event.



Gathering age-appropriate gifts for Santa's helpers to hand out to children waiting outside in their vehicles.



Gifts waiting to be handed out by Santa and his helpers.



It's the jolly ol' man himself — Santa Claus!



Helping Santa hand out gifts.

# Sault Tribe, Little Traverse Bay Band and Bay Mills Indian Community receive first COVID vaccines

## First doses administered to Health Center medical staff



A historic moment — A U.S. Coast Guard helicopter delivered the first vials of the COVID-19 vaccine to the Sault Tribe, Bay Mills Indian Community and the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians on Dec. 15 when it landed just after dark at the Sanderson Field airport in Sault Ste. Marie.

First vials of vaccine delivered in a temperature controlled cooler, along with vaccine supplies.



Clinic Manager Carrie Horton, RN, preparing to give Health Center Director Dr. Leo Chugunov the first dose of Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine.



Sault Tribe Health Center staff preparing to give the first doses of COVID-19 vaccine the morning after receiving the first delivery of vials by U.S. Coast Guard helicopter the night before.



Lt. John Naejeli (left), an Indian Health Service (IHS) Pharmacist stationed out of Cass Lake Minnesota, helped distribute the much anticipated vaccine throughout the Bemidji Area IHS to roughly 26 tribes throughout Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan.



U.S. Public Health Service Captain Melissa Wentz Opsahl presents Sault Tribe Health Center Director Dr. Leo Chugunov (L-R) with vaccine supplies.



Sault Tribe Health Director Dr. Leo Chugunov kicked off the start of COVID-19 vaccinations by receiving the first injection at 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 16, at the tribal health center in Sault Ste. Marie. Traditional healer Gerard Sagassige led a prayer in the tribe's traditional Anishinaabe language and in English before the injection. Clinic Manager Carrie Horton RN gave Dr. Chugunov the initial vaccination, and health center staffers broke into applause.



Sault Tribe Law Enforcement Officer Alan TenEyck fills out paperwork prior to receiving his first dose of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine on Dec. 16.



U.S. Public Health Service Capt. Melissa Wentz Opsahl (L) presents Sault Tribe Health Center Director Dr. Leo Chugunov with a temperature controlled cooler with the first vials of vaccine.



Dr. Chugunov signs for and takes possession of the vaccine.



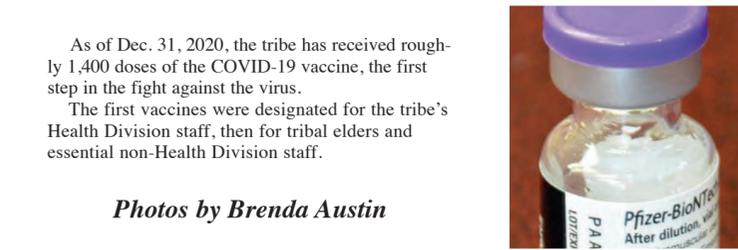
Sault Tribe Chief of Police Robert Marchand (left) provided security during the vaccine's delivery. Dr. Chugunov loads the vaccine cooler for delivery to the tribe's health center.



The end of one mission and the beginning of the next — with the vaccine delivered, shots are set for the morning.



Dr. Chugunov hands off the cooler with the vaccine to Assistant Health Director Joel Lumsden (L-R).



As of Dec. 31, 2020, the tribe has received roughly 1,400 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine, the first step in the fight against the virus. The first vaccines were designated for the tribe's Health Division staff, then for tribal elders and essential non-Health Division staff.

Photos by Brenda Austin



Traditional healer Gerard Sagassige (left) said a prayer prior to Health Director Dr. Leo Chugunov (second from left) receiving the first dose of the vaccine.

# Tribal elders receive first COVID-19 vaccine



Photo by Rick Smith

Vaccination and waiting areas inside Big Bear Arena.



Photo by Brenda Austin

Billy Sams receives his vaccine from Tammy Nolan LPN.



Photo by Rick Smith

Traditional Medicine Practitioner Joseph Syrette serves snacks to a vaccine recipient.



Photo by Brenda Austin

Tribal elder Gail Forgrave Hanson registers for a second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine prior to receiving her first dose.

# St. Isaac Jogues, Holy Family and St. Kateri Tekakwitha Catholic Churches to remain open

BY BRENDA AUSTIN

Rev. Fr. Dominic Afrifa Yamoah has been named pastor of three Chippewa County churches — St. Isaac Jogues in Sault Ste. Marie, Holy Family in Barbeau and St. Kateri Tekakwitha Catholic Church in Brimley, Mich.

In a followup to an article published in the October 2020 edition of Win Awenen Nisitotung, Fr. Yamoah said the decision was made by the Diocese of Marquette to keep all three churches open.

“It’s a milestone for me to be raised to the level of a pastor. It took me by surprise,” he said. “I thought I was going to fill in and someone else was going to do this job, but the bishop has placed a great confidence in me and I am so surprised, but I have to accept this with great humil-



St. Isaac Jogues Catholic Church in Sault Ste. Marie, and newly appointed pastor, Rev. Fr. Dominic Afrifa Yamoah.

ty.” Fr. Yamoah said, “I would like to entreat all parishioners, especially those who have

not yet come back and have not been reached, to feel free and come home. The St. Isaac Jogues family is missing them.



With my appointment as a pastor, all the three parishes have the potential to continue as parishes.”

He said, “The work of God cannot be done by only one person — it’s a collective activity. I would like to thank all parishioners who have been so generous to the churches during this period.

“We are aware of the challenges of this area and the COVID pandemic has added to the difficulties facing families. So it is with the parishes also, and I plead that the church also needs to be sustained so we can continue to provide the spiritual and some social needs of the people in the area.

He added, “I know many people were not certain about the future of the churches, but now we are certain of the future.”

Fr. Yamoah said the next big project St. Isaac Jogues will undertake is some major maintenance on the rectory.

# Sault area veterans honored by tribe with giveaway

Veterans of U.S. branches of the armed forces were given homage by staff of the Sault Tribe Language and Culture Department and the Sault Tribe Powwow Planning Group through a gift bag giveaway on Dec. 18 at the Niigaanagizhik Ceremonial Building parking lot on the Sault Ste. Marie reservation. The special function took place as a way of recognizing and expressing gratitude to military veterans even though the annual Honoring Our Anishinaabe Veterans Powwow that usually takes place in Kinross was canceled this year due to COVID-19 precautionary measures.



From left, Cultural Activities Assistant Sean Vandyke, Cultural Activities Coordinator Josh Biron and Repatriation Specialist Marie Richards.



Sault Tribe Language and Culture Department Administrative Assistant Grey Shea (left) and Department Director Colleen Medicine.

**From "Walking on," page 10**  
 respected and loved her deeply; Linda's second family, Richard and Beverly Campbell and family; and Linda's dearest and closest friend, Maureen Burke-Weller.

Linda was preceded in death by her parents; father-in-law, Chuck Savoie; mother-in-law, Kay Savoie; brother-in-law, Don Savoie; and great niece, Ella Weisenburger.

Linda lived her life as a wife, mother, grandmother, sister, auntie and daughter to the fullest. All who knew Linda were blessed with her loving, gentle, kind, giving, unselfish, compassionate personality. She always made you feel like the most important person when she was with you and would always greet you with a big smile and open arms.

Linda enjoyed watching her grandchildren grow and always made time to go see their activities. She loved every one of them to the moon and beyond. Linda was an avid animal lover and loved her fur baby Koda. She was a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. Her hobbies were bingo, casino, playing cards, festivals, volunteering and she loved to laugh.

Linda spent time and volunteered at the South Eastern Michigan Indian Center in Centerline, Mich. She always tried to be active in our indigenous culture, attending powwows, Native protests for our land and water and learning our traditional ways. She referred to the Upper Peninsula as "home" and enjoyed her time here to visit her family and friends in Sault Ste. Marie and talked about moving back home after her husband retired. If you asked Linda about her three son's her face would light up with a proud smile.

We would like to thank the following: the doctors and staff who cared for Linda at Ascension Oakland Macomb Hospital in Warren, the South Eastern Michigan Indian, Inc., of Center Line for all their support in preparing Linda for her journey and the Faulman and Walsh Funeral Home in Fraser, Mich.

Thank you/miigwech to everyone who prayed for Linda and our family during this difficult time. Cremation has taken place. Due to the COVID pandemic, services will take place in Sault Ste. Marie in 2021.

**JOHN D. SHORTRIDGE**

John D. Shortridge, 58, of Manistique, Mich., passed away peacefully at his home on Dec. 6, 2020, after a courageous battle with cancer. John was born on Dec. 15, 1961, in Munising, Mich., the son of James L. and Patricia M. (Nesberg) Shortridge. He grew up in Munising attending the Munising School system and William G. Mather High School. John was extremely proud of his Native American heritage and recently received his Native American name, which translated into English is Silver Sparkling Bear Cub.

John met Tori while they lived in Christmas, Mich., in 1975, where they became friends, eventually their friendship turned into a love affair, and on Sept. 12, 1992, they were married.

A fun-loving guy, John was into anything with fun attached to it. He enjoyed playing on the horseshoe leagues, men's pool league, darts, was an avid cribbage and euchre card player, just a quiet ride in the woods or rustic camping was fun to him; no TV, radio or other amenities. He also enjoyed going out, watching Jamie and the guys at their gigs. Most of all, John was having the most fun when he could enjoy a cold beer with his family and friends, and hang with his beloved grandchildren, Huntur and Cody.

John is survived by his loving wife, Tori of Manistique; daughter, Shannon (Jamie) Hider of Manistique; sisters, Carla (Bruce) Miller and Sandra Shortridge both of Manistique; grandchildren, Huntur and Cody Salisbury of Manistique; nephews, Dennis (Stef) Shortridge, Joseph (Jess) Williams, and Matthew (Ariana) Williams; brother-in-laws, whom he referred to as brothers, Fred Denman and Sidney William of Munising, and Trevor Wark of Manistique. He was preceded in death by his parents; brothers, Russell Dennis and Jay; and nephew, Jimmy Denman.

Private services for John will be held in the spring, with burial at the Maple Grove cemetery in Munising. Memorial contributions may be directed to the fami-



ly for future designation.

To plant memorial trees in memory of John D. Shortridge, please visit <https://www.sympathyfloralstore.com>.

**SARAH J. WEBER**

Sarah June Weber, 57, of Dafter, Mich., passed away on Dec. 23, 2020, at McLaren Northern Michigan Hospital, in Petoskey, Mich.



Sarah 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. At the time of her death, she was attending Bay Mills Community College; education was very important to her. On April 28, 2012, she married Rick Weber in Dafter. Sarah was a member of the Sault Tribe and worked as a PFC III for War Memorial Hospital.

Sarah loved her family dearly. She was always there for them — whether they needed to talk, hear motivational words or go on a good shopping spree, she was there. She never missed an opportunity to let her family know they were loved, "I love you my (insert affectionate nickname here)" was said every opportunity she had.

Sarah had immeasurable amounts of kindness (even with complete strangers), always wearing a smile and embracing a warm hug for anyone who needed it. Her kindness to all made the world a better place. She enjoyed spending time with family, reading, cooking, being outdoors, gardening and watching birds.

Sarah is survived by her husband, Rick; her children, Robert Payment, Michael (Maggie) Gardner, Brandi Aube and Jami Aube (Kyle Anderson), all of Sault Ste. Marie; and 12 grandchildren, Frank, Tom, Seth, Leah, Alivia, Micah, Chancellor, Ginni, Lucius, Wilson, Jeremy and Tim. Sarah is also survived by her siblings, Suzette Gardner of Kincheloe, Mich., Sam (Tina) Gardner of Sugar Island, Mich., Conrad Gardner of Kincheloe, Daniel Gardner of Sugar Island and Bill (Deb) Gardner of Sault Ste. Marie.

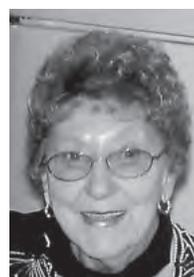
Sarah was preceded in death by her parents, Fredrick and June (Siegwart) Gardner, brother, Rick Cadreau; and grandson, Derek Lehre.

A private family memorial mass is to take place at St. Isaac Jogues Catholic Church with Fr. Dominic Afrifa Yamoah as celebrant.

Arrangements were handled by C.S. Mulder Funeral Home and Cremation Services. Condolences may be left online at [www.csmulder.com](http://www.csmulder.com).

**DAWN M. ST. JOHN**

Lifetime Manistique resident, Dawn Marie St. John, 85, passed away unexpectedly on Wednesday, Oct. 28, 2020, at UP Health Systems in Marquette. She was born on July 20, 1935, in Naubinway, the daughter of Vernon and Ida (Jenson) Johnson. She attended St. Francis de Sales Catholic School, and later Manistique High School. On June 8, 1957, the former Dawn Johnson married Donald Lee St. John Sr. in Manistique, where they raised their family.



Dawn worked as a house cleaner for area families and

motels, but really enjoyed being a homemaker for her family. In her younger years, she enjoyed hunting, fishing, and camping. She enjoyed shopping, looking around St. Vinnies, taking care of her home and yard, her beautiful flower gardens, as well as knitting and crocheting. She loved to cook, and she always fed anyone, and nobody ever left hungry. She always made the best hamburgers! She was an avid Elvis Presley fan and loved to listen to his music.

Dawn is survived by her loving husband, Donald Lee St. John Sr.; sons, Donald Lee (Susette) St. John Jr., Terry (Tammy) St. John, and Vernon (Tonjia) St. John; grandchildren, Michelle, Donald, Russell, Nathan, Terry Lee, Ryan, Sonny, and Scott; great-grandchildren, Brooke, Hunter, Darren, Leahanna, Josh, Jordan, Thanos, Amelia, Arwin, McKenna, Jacob, and Riley; and special brother, Mike Johnson Sr. She is preceded in death by her parents, son, Rick St. John; daughter, Tammy St. John; grandsons, Craig St. John and Michael Schultz; and her brother, Vernon Johnson Jr.

The family will remember Dawn privately, and per her wishes, no services are being planned. Memorial contributions in Dawn's name may be directed to the Eva Burrell Humane Society.

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**Letters to the Editor: Miigwech!**

**Chi Miigwech to all involved in COVID-19 vaccinations**

To the Tribal administration, staff and healthcare workers that were involved in offering and administering the COVID-19 vaccine, a very heartfelt chi miigwech. I was very impressed at how well organized and executed everything was! I had heard that there was a problem with the phone lines but after talking with my son who's in charge of the LMAS Health Department, there's been a problem with phones and Internet access throughout the state concerning COVID-19. I know that frustrates some folks, but I hope that they keep in mind that this is a first for everyone. There's going to be hiccups and everyone is doing their best. Overall, I'm very thankful for all you folks have done and can't thank you enough! You should be very proud!

Thanks again,  
**Bob Derusha,**  
**Newberry, Mich.**

**Kudos to the Health Division Staff**

Thank you to all the Sault Tribal Health Division staff and the volunteers for the COVID 19 vaccination clinics conducted in January. It was a very impressive display of outstanding Public Health practice in action. Second to none! I was one of the fortunate tribal elders to receive a call on New Year's Eve to see if I would like to receive the COVID vaccination. From the moment I arrived at the clinic the following week, I was greeted warmly and very professionally by all staff.

It was amazing how well planned and every detail addressed at this huge undertaking. I was reminded how fortunate the Sault Tribe is to have such dedicated, mission-driven staff working to serve the tribal members in the Health Division. My heartfelt thanks to all for an exemplary job. The tribal members are so blessed to have such a dedicated and committed staff. Chi miigwech!

**Mary Beth Skupien Ph.D.**

# Renew your motivation to quit commercial tobacco

FROM DAVID WESOLOSKI,  
COMMUNITY HEALTH EDUCATOR

Quitting commercial tobacco is a difficult journey. It takes commitment, a good support system and begins with a plan. Even though it may be challenging, the beginning of a new year is a great opportunity to take the first step to quit and is one of the most important steps you can take to improve your mind, body and spirit.

Remind yourself: *Ngo-Giizhigad eta gwa na'gishkitoon! Just for one day, I can do it!* It is important to remember to not give up and that you can do it. Seeking support from those around you will strengthen you in your quit journey and allow you to better navigate through tough times. Using FDA-approved medications can help you handle withdrawal symptoms, are proven to be safe and effective and can help you through the early stages of quitting. Patients can just about double their chances of quitting successfully by combining a medication plan with regular quit coaching support.

Commercial tobacco use has

become a serious health issue for most tribal nations, ours included. It is the leading cause of preventable disease, disability and death in the United States. According to *Health Effects of Smoking and Tobacco Use* from the CDC, com-

mercial tobacco smoke contains 7,000 chemicals, hundreds that are toxic and about 70 that can cause cancer. Prolonged exposure of these chemicals damage DNA and inflame cells, which can lead to cancer, stroke and heart dis-

ease. Exposure to tobacco smoke increases your heart rate and blood pressure and children can experience more frequent ear and respiratory infections and trigger asthma attacks. Smoke that clings to walls, ceilings, carpets,

curtains, furniture and clothing can harm other adults, children, infants and even pets. Smoking can cause problems for a woman trying to become pregnant or who is already pregnant and for her baby before and after birth.

Community Health Education offers the Nicotine Dependence Program to help tribal members in their efforts to quit commercial tobacco. When you enroll in the Nicotine Dependence Program, a trained tobacco treatment specialist will speak with you over the phone to create an individualized treatment plan. Eligible patients will also have access to evidence-based medications and receive regular follow up support to ensure they are on track to successfully quit.

If you or someone you know wants to quit, contact your local Sault Tribe health center:

Escanaba 786-2636  
Hessel 484-2727  
Manistique 341-8469  
Marquette 225-1616  
Munising 387-4614  
Newberry 293-8181  
Sault Ste. Marie 632-5210  
St. Ignace 643-8689

## Benefits of quitting smoking

### SHORT-TERM BENEFITS:

- 20 minutes after quitting, your heart rate drops to normal
- 12 hours after quitting, carbon monoxide level in your blood drops to normal
- 2 weeks - 3 months after quitting, your heart attack risk begins to drop and your lung function begins to improve
- 1 - 9 months after quitting, your coughing and shortness of breath decrease



### LONG-TERM BENEFITS:

- 1 year after quitting, your added risk of coronary heart disease is half that of a smoker's
- 2 - 5 years after quitting, your stroke risk is reduced to that of a nonsmoker's and within 5 years, your risk of cancers of the mouth, throat, esophagus, and bladder is cut in half
- 10 years after quitting, your lung cancer death rate is about half of that of a smoker's and your risk of cancers of the kidney and pancreas decreases
- 15 years after quitting, your risk of coronary heart disease is back to that of a nonsmoker

# MSU Extension has type 2 diabetes prevention and self-management programs for veteran communities

Developing type 2 diabetes can be a serious health concern for veterans and their family members. Type 2 diabetes is a health condition that affects the body's ability to use blood sugar (glucose) for energy.

After eating, food is broken down into glucose and enters the blood. A hormone (insulin) is then released, which allows the body's cells to use glucose for energy. However, with type 2 diabetes, the body does not produce enough insulin, or the body's cells ignore the insulin. This leads to increased glucose in the bloodstream. Signs of untreated type 2 diabetes include blurry vision, excessive thirst, fatigue, hunger, frequent urination and/or weight loss. Over time, a person living with type 2 diabetes can increase their risk of heart attacks, strokes, nerve damage, kidney disease and vision loss.

Type 2 diabetes affects over

a tenth (34.2 million) of all Americans. This rate is more than doubled among veterans (25 percent), who are at a higher risk due to service-related chronic pain, joint damage and exposure to herbicides such as Agent Orange. According to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), "veterans who develop type 2 diabetes mellitus and were exposed to Agent Orange or other herbicides during military service do not have to prove a connection between their diabetes and service to be eligible to receive VA health care and disability compensation." Benefits may extend to surviving family members of veterans who died due to herbicide-related type 2 diabetes. For more information, veterans and their families can contact the Agent Orange help line at (800) 749-8387, or explore the Agent Orange exposure and VA disability compensation page (<https://www.va.gov/>

disability/).

Risk factors for Michigan veterans – As of 2017, over 70 percent of all Michigan veterans were over age 55, putting many within the "at-risk" category for type 2 diabetes. In addition to older age, other non-controllable factors such as genetics or family history may increase one's risk. However, many risk factors, such as obesity, physical inactivity, smoking, and unhealthy eating habits, can be addressed through lifestyle choices. An additional risk factor is gestational diabetes, which has been shown to increasingly impact pregnant veterans with a PTSD diagnosis. Awareness of one's risk factors is important. Addressing controllable factors can reduce one's overall risk of developing type 2 diabetes.

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services recommends the following four healthy behaviors to increase

longevity, improve quality of life, and reduce the risk of developing chronic diseases such as type 2 diabetes:

- Eat fruits and vegetables (at least five servings a day) and otherwise follow a healthy diet.
- Get 150 minutes a week of moderate exercise (aerobic and muscle-strengthening activities).
- Do not smoke cigarettes or use other tobacco products.
- Get an annual medical check-up.

MSU Extension offers a variety of health and nutrition programs that can help community members looking to prevent and/or manage type 2 diabetes. These include:

**Dining with Diabetes:** A five-session self-management series where participants explore and taste foods prepared from diabetes-friendly recipes.

Topics include healthy eating, being active, monitoring, taking medications and reducing

risks. ([https://www.canr.msu.edu/dining\\_with\\_diabetes/index](https://www.canr.msu.edu/dining_with_diabetes/index))

**Diabetes Personal Action Toward Health (PATH):** A six-week self-management workshop for people living with diabetes. Participants learn how to deal with the symptoms of diabetes, increase physical activity, plan meals and eat healthily. (<https://www.canr.msu.edu/path/diabetes-path>)

**National Diabetes Prevention Program:** A year-long evidence-based program for "at-risk" individuals that provides support, encouragement and information to participants. ([https://www.canr.msu.edu/national\\_diabetes\\_prevention\\_program/index](https://www.canr.msu.edu/national_diabetes_prevention_program/index)).

For more information about type 2 diabetes prevention or management programs and resources (articles, classes and events), explore MSU Extension's Diabetes website at [www.canr.msu.edu/diabetes](http://www.canr.msu.edu/diabetes).

# Expanded Medicaid program helps low-income residents

LANSING, Mich. – The Healthy Michigan Plan is now providing health care coverage to more than 850,000 low-income residents for the first time, Governor Gretchen Whitmer announced recently.

There are now 853,211 people enrolled in the Healthy Michigan Plan, the state's expanded Medicaid program.

"Every Michigander deserves quality, affordable health care, especially during a pandemic. As Senate Democratic leader, I was proud to work across the aisle with a Republican governor and legislature to expand health coverage for Michiganders through the Healthy Michigan plan," said Whitmer. "Now, as we continue working to eradicate COVID-19 and with the Affordable Care Act under

constant attack in the courts, it's more important than ever that we protect the Healthy Michigan plan and ensure health care for Michiganders across the state. I will continue working with everyone who wants to protect and expand health care for Michiganders."

COVID-19 affected the finances and health of so many Michiganders that the number of Healthy Michigan Plan beneficiaries jumped from just under 682,000 in late March to more than 850,000 now. Michigan instituted policies to help families access affordable health care coverage such as deciding to avoid terminating Healthy Michigan Plan coverage and freeze premiums for as long as the COVID-19 public health emergency exists. The

state qualified for additional Medicaid funding from the federal government through the Families First Coronavirus Response Act.

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) has also worked to streamline the application process over the past few years to ensure people eligible to receive benefits are able to access them without unnecessary burdensome requirements.

Gov. Whitmer and the MDHHS have strongly supported the Healthy Michigan Plan. When she was State Senate Democratic leader, Whitmer helped pass the bipartisan legislation that created the Healthy Michigan Plan, which was enacted in April 2014.

In March, Whitmer and the

MDHHS preserved Healthy Michigan Plan coverage for tens of thousands of people by supporting swift action on the legal challenge of work requirements that had been adopted by the Republican legislature. Policies like work requirements that take away health insurance undermine the purpose of Medicaid which is to provide health care coverage to low income and vulnerable populations.

"MDHHS is committed to expanding access to health care coverage for Michiganders," said MDHHS Director Robert Gordon. "I'm proud that Michigan has been able to provide this coverage to hundreds of thousands of our residents. Coverage has improved their health outcomes – and when people are healthier, they are

better able to take care of their families and our state is more productive."

Healthy Michigan Plan coverage is available to Michiganders ages 19-64 years old who have an income at or below 133 percent of the federal poverty level – or \$16,971 annually for a single person – and meet other eligibility requirements, such as not qualifying for other Medicaid programs. Expanded Medicaid plans are allowed under the federal Affordable Care Act if states decide to implement them.

Apply for the Healthy Michigan Plan at [www.michigan.gov/MIBridges](http://www.michigan.gov/MIBridges) or by calling the Michigan HealthCare Helpline at (855) 789-5610. For more information, visit [www.michigan.gov/HealthyMiPlan](http://www.michigan.gov/HealthyMiPlan).

# Cords, boards and other specialized wood measurements

**BILL COOK, MSU EXTENSION FORESTER/BIOLOGIST, RETIRED** Loggers, foresters and wood mills use specialized units of measurement to describe wood in both standing trees and cut forest products. Cords, boards, MBF, bolts, and tons are a few of the more common terms. Obtaining market-suitable volumes from tapered, irregular cylinders pose geometrical and processing challenges.

Tree stems come in a variety of shapes, tapers, diameters, lengths and other size elements. Trees are not uniform in their geometry. Forest management, genetics, soil conditions and other factors influence the shape of a tree and its trunk. Sometimes it's important to estimate wood volume of an entire stand of trees. Other times, it's important to estimate a usable volume within individual standing trees or logs. Many measurements include only the wood in the trunk. Other measurements also include branches, roots or both.

A logger manufactures "roundwood" volumes from standing trees, and then sells those products to different mills. A healthy market environment allows a logger to sell more of a tree to area mills, such as those that make veneer, lumber, pulp and paper, utility poles, heating products and others. Having volume measurements are essential to the buying and selling of wood. For some products, weight is used.

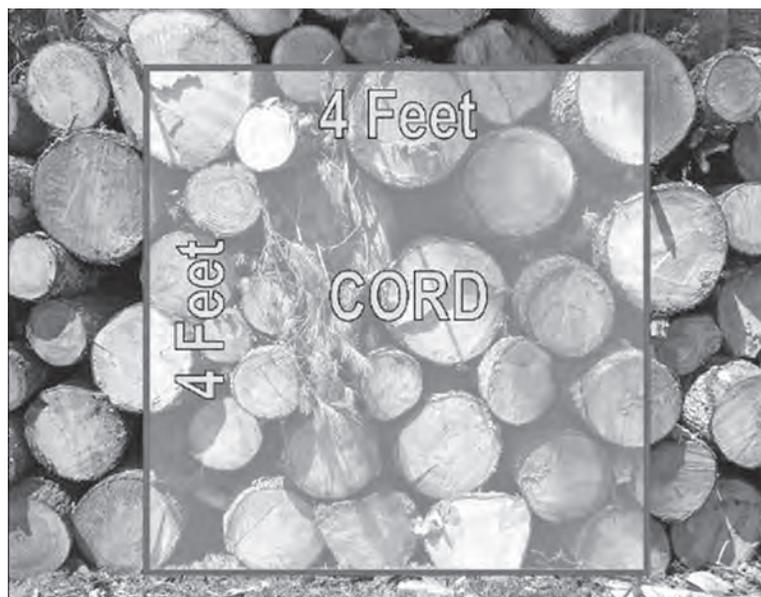
The merchantable "bole" (stem, trunk) has been the traditional focus of measurements. Minimum diameters at dbh (diameter at 4.5 feet) are typically five inches. Hardwood (broad-leaf trees) sawtimber trees typically have at least an eleven-inch dbh and a nine-inch top diameter inside-bark (dib). Softwood (conifers) sawtimber trees typically have at

least a nine-inch dbh with a dib of seven inches. Building construction has driven these specifications. Other measurements for raw wood exist with increased use of wood for non-solid wood products, such as fuelwood, composites and chemical extraction.

A cord is a stack of small logs, called "sticks" or pulpwood, that are generally unmarketable for higher value products, although in some regions, sawtimber and veneer logs are also sold in cord units. Dimensions are a 4x4 foot face of eight-foot sticks (actually, 100 inches) with a minimum small-end diameter of 4-5 inches. Of course, a cord contains a lot of air space, variable with the diameters of the sticks. Typically, the solid wood conversion is 79 or 80 cubic feet. Note that a "face cord" is a firewood measure that usually has a 4x8 foot face but the length of cut-and-split wood can be almost anything, but often 16-24 inches. Standard firewood volumes don't exist, so it's more of a buyer-beware market.

A cubic foot is the volume equivalent of a block of wood 12x12x12 inches. It does not account for reductions for sawing or other processing, so it's a measurement of all the wood inside the bark of the merchantable portion of a tree trunk. Cubic foot volume doesn't typically include branches or roots. The U.S. Forest Service, Forest Inventory and Analysis unit uses cubic feet to help describe American forests. In most other countries, cubic meters are used as a standard measure.

A board foot is the volume equivalent of a block of wood 1x12x12 inches. The estimate of board feet in a tree or log includes reductions for saw kerf (width of a saw cut that becomes sawdust), sweep (curvy logs or trees) and tree taper. So, the volume consumed to produce



twelve board feet would not fit into a cubic foot box. Stated another way, a cubic foot has about 9.8 board feet due to sawdust volume from a quarter-inch kerf. Board foot volumes are usually expressed as "thousand board feet" or "MBF." Different scales are used to estimate the MBF in logs versus trees. For logs, a scale stick is used on the small end of the log, inside the bark, knowing the log length. For example, a 12-inch dib log, 10-foot long, would contain about 55 board feet of lumber. For whole trees, dbh and the number of eight-foot (or sixteen-foot) logs are used.

There are three major scales, Scribner, International and Doyle. The most common in the Great Lakes states is the International quarter-inch rule (1/4-inch kerf). Scribner tends to be more accurate for smaller logs and Doyle more accurate for larger logs.

Sawlogs are larger, higher quality cut products used to produce lumber. Typically, there are three quality grades. Logs of particularly high quality and desired specifications can be sold as veneer logs. Veneer is a thin

ply of wood commonly used for panels and furniture exteriors.

Other logs that don't quite meet mill requirements, are undesirable species or have some other characteristic are called "bolts."

Posts, piles and utility poles are among other specialty products that can sometimes carry high monetary value. In the Great Lakes states, high value red pine is usually used for utility poles.

Length and width of boards are described in feet and inches but the thickness is sometimes described by "quarters" or quarter-inches. This is largely industry lingo. So, a "five-quarter" board would be five quarter-inches thick or an inch and a quarter. A 2x4 at the lumber yard isn't the full size due to the value-added processes of planing and drying. The rough-cut board had the full dimensions.

Another peculiar term is a "cant," which is a squared-off log, ready to be sawn into boards. Railroad ties are cants with specific dimensions and wood specifications.

Weight is sometimes used as a measurement, usually as tons or tonnes. A "ton" is

more familiar at 2,000 pounds. A "tonne" (or metric tonne) is 1,000 kilograms, or about 1.1 U.S. tons. Biomass is measured in tons or tonnes. Because wood density varies by species, the weights per unit volume will vary. A cord of wood will weigh about 2.3 tons, give or take a few decimal points. A thousand board feet will weigh from 2,500 to 5,500 pounds, green weight. Lumber or dry weight will be 15 to 50 percent lighter, depending upon the species. Wood pellets and wood chips are generally delivered in "tons." Pulp mills often buy wood in tons, rather than cords.

It's been said that the forest industry is so efficient that every part of a tree is used except the shadow. While lumber may be cut from the largest portion of a log, the slabs, bark and sawdust all have markets, at least in a region with a vibrant forest economy. Pulp mills use only the "clean" wood but the bark is used to help produce the heat and power for the paper-making process.

Research continues to offer new ways to use wood, sometimes to replace non-wood products whose manufacturing consumes far more energy and other resources. Cross-laminated timber can replace steel and concrete in building construction. Car bodies, "plastic" bottles, medical supplies, clothing fibers, vehicle tires and many other products may be made from trees in the near future through the use of innovative technologies. Wood is the most environmentally-friendly raw material, especially when considering energy and water inputs, as well as atmospheric carbon balances.

*A collection of these newspaper articles, back to July 1997, can be viewed at <http://miforestpathways.net/ForestInfo/Newspaper/0000-Index.html>.*

## Vision Maker Media calls for public media project proposals

LINCOLN, Neb. — Vision Maker Media (VMM) announced an open call for 2021 public media broadcast proposals on Jan. 4. The deadline for submissions is 5 p.m. CST on Friday, Feb. 12, 2021. Project awards will be announced in spring 2021.

VMM seeks public media film and television projects intended and appropriate for Public Media Television Broadcasting, including Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) digital and streaming platforms that represent the cultures, experiences and perspectives of Native Americans and Alaska Natives.

"At Vision Maker Media, we believe that Native people play a vital role in the story and cultural fabric of this country," says VMM Executive Director Francene Blythe-Lewis (Diné, Sisseton-Wahpeton, Eastern Cherokee). "Our affiliation with many public television distributors ensures that our content reaches more than 90 million Americans annually on public television series, such as Independent Lens, POV, America ReFramed, American Masters and others."

Proposed film and television projects should appeal to a broad audience, be intended for public

media broadcast and its digital and streaming platforms and have effective outreach/community engagement activities to reach audiences beyond a public television broadcast.

"In addition to general and broad audience appeal, we also welcome and encourage projects that foster dialogue about contemporary, critical social issues in Indian Country," says Blythe-Lewis. "Some of the themes that VMM has supported in the past include women's empowerment, activism, tribal sovereignty, environment, history, self-determination, youth topics, home, community and LGBTQ2S+."

Funding is available in two genres for public television broadcasting: Broadcast documentary and broadcast episodic programming. Project funding is available in three areas: Research and development: \$5,000–\$25,000; production: up to \$150,000; and post-production: up to \$100,000.

Who is eligible:

- Independent and public television producers, film and digital makers. Applicants must hold artistic, budgetary and editorial control and own the copyright of the proposed film or television project.



- Applicant's submitted work must be cleared for broadcast, digital and streaming rights for a minimum of four years.

- Applicants must be able to provide an effective community outreach plan with a foundation in online engagement through social media and the creation of a website.

- Applicants must be 21 years of age and a U.S. citizen.

- Applicants must be able to show significant Native American involvement on their project, whether above the line, below the line or both.

- Eligible production projects should meet Vision Maker Media's mission to empower and

engage Native people to share their stories.

Ineligible:

- Commercial projects.

- Industrial or promotional films and videos.

- Student productions of any sort, such as thesis films.

- Projects for which four-year exclusive Public Television broadcast rights are not available.

- Projects intended solely for theatrical release.

- Filmmakers or production entities that are foreign-based, owned or controlled.

- Projects funded in part by a government entity or group featured in the content of the project. For proposal guidelines and

more details, visit <https://bit.ly/38nCh68>. For more information go to [visionmaker@unl.edu](mailto:visionmaker@unl.edu) or (402) 472-3522.

VMM has a mission to empower and engage Native people to share stories. The organization — which is celebrating its 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2021 — envisions a world changed and healed by understanding Native stories and the public conversations they generate. VMM works with VMM-funded producers to develop, produce and distribute programs for all media. VMM supports training to increase the number of American Indians and Alaska Natives producing public broadcasting programs. A key strategy for this work is reciprocating partnerships with Native nations, organizations and communities. Reaching the general public and the global market is the ultimate goal for the dissemination of Native-produced media that shares Native perspectives with the world.

VMM is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) funded in part by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB). For more information, visit [visionmaker-media.org](http://visionmaker-media.org).

# Red shawl memorializes missing and murdered Native Americans

The Administration for Native Americans (ANA) at HHS' Administration for Children and Families (ACF) announced the opportunity to virtually submit names to be written on the ANA's Missing and Murdered Native Americans (MMNA) Memorial Shawl.

Since the shawl's creation, there has been more than 150 names placed on the shawl to represent those who have gone missing or who have been murdered.

Within the Native American Community, shawls traditionally represent protection and are most often worn by Native American women and girls during traditional ceremonies.

While the more than 574 Native communities are diverse, the color red is often identified as the only color seen by those that have transitioned into the spirit world, which is the reason so many communities use red in their mission to raise awareness and honor those who have passed on. This red shawl serves as a memorial for remembrance, healing, and protection for those who have had a member of their fami-

ly or community go missing or be murdered.

In November, the shawl was blessed by Chief Stephen Adkins of the Chickahominy Tribe during a private ceremony on tribal lands along the James River located in Providence Forge, Virginia. Tribal leaders on the Administration for Children and Families Tribal Advisory Committee also offered prayers virtually over the shawl in remembrance of Native American individuals and their families that have been affected by this crisis. Highlights of the event can be viewed in the Missing and Murdered Native Americans Memorial Shawl video.

"ANA's MMNA Memorial Shawl helps to further demonstrate our commitment to continue to bring attention to this national crisis, and honor those who are affected and still seeking answers, justice, and closure," said Commissioner Jeannie Hovland. "Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we will not be able to have you come into the office to write the name(s) of your loved one(s) on the shawl. However, we are pleased to provide you the

opportunity to email the name(s) of your missing and or murdered loved one(s) by email. Once we receive your submission, we will be honored to write the name(s) on the shawl for you in the most respectful way possible."

In November, the ACF Missing and Murdered Native Americans: A Public Health Call to Action Framework, was made available to the public. This framework focuses on improving the well-being of Native populations and intends to help prevent MMNA, intervene for those in crisis, and support individuals, families and communities in need of healing. The framework can be accessed at: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ana/mmna-framework>.

For those who want to submit a name to be added to the Administration for Native Americans' MMNA Shawl, please email: [anacommissioner@acf.hhs.gov](mailto:anacommissioner@acf.hhs.gov).

The shawl will be permanently displayed in the offices of the Administration for Native Americans located in the Mary E. Switzer Building at 330 C Street S.W. in Washington D.C.

## IHS Scholarship taking applications

The IHS Scholarship Program is accepting applications for scholarship support for the 2021-2022 academic year. We strive to develop our next generation of leaders, as well as help make the pursuit of a meaningful career in Indian health attainable for American Indian and Alaska Native students. Eligible students are encouraged to apply by Feb. 28, 2021.

The IHS Scholarship Program provides qualified American Indian and Alaska Native health professions students an opportunity to establish an educational foundation for each stage of your pre-professional careers. Since IHS began providing scholarship support to American Indian and Alaska Native students to pursue health profession careers in 1978, the program has grown to support, educate and place health care professionals within medically underserved Indian health programs throughout the continental United States and Alaska.

***IHS Scholarship Program is accepting applications. Students are encouraged to apply by Feb. 28, 2021.***

Today, nearly 7,000 American Indian and Alaska Native students have received scholarship awards and many have committed to serving their health profession careers at IHS; some have even returned to serve their own Tribal communities. If you envision a career with a true purpose and mission, Indian health programs are looking for people like you.

If you are willing to commit to working in Indian health communities where you can truly make a difference, we encourage you to take the next step toward realizing your future. The scholarship program provides financial support in exchange for a minimum two-year service commitment within an Indian health program in your chosen health professional discipline.

Indian health programs are seeking health care professionals who are passionate about practicing within a unique, interdisciplinary team-based environment and one that embraces our mission: To raise the physical, mental and spiritual health of American Indians and Alaska Natives throughout the continental United States and Alaska.

A career in Indian health offers clinicians an extraordinary opportunity to provide the highest level of comprehensive, patient-centered care. Serving these important, diverse and culturally rich patient populations enable our clinicians to distinguish themselves in fulfilling ways both personally and professionally. Talk to our clinicians and you'll experience the inspiring stories that demonstrate the passion they bring to their communities.

To apply for the HIS Scholarship Program, visit: <https://www.ihs.gov/scholarship/apply/>



## Bree Swan earns Master of Science degree

Bree Swan earned her Master of Science degree in forensic psychology at Arizona State University. Although virtual this year, the 2020 American Indian Convocation was held on Dec. 14.

It was a historical event as ASU celebrated their 30th anniversary of ASU's American Indian convocation and also as a

first-time virtual ceremony.

In 2018, Bree earned her bachelor's degree in psychology, also at ASU. She currently works as a high needs case manager for a non-profit organization in Phoenix, Ariz., and is planning to pursue a career with the FBI.

Bree is the daughter to Mark and Traci Swan and has a brother, Jack, all of Sault Ste. Marie.

## Michigan Model for Health curriculum is now available online

LANSING, Mich. – It just got easier for Michigan students to learn the knowledge and skills necessary to develop healthful, lifelong habits. The Michigan Model for Health, a comprehensive school health education curriculum, implemented in most Michigan schools, is now available to educators online.

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) and Michigan Department of Education (MDE) announce the new format for this nationally recognized K-12 comprehensive school health education curriculum.

Improving accessibility while also making the Michigan Model responsive to emerging health issues assures that Michigan students are receiving effective health instruction that teaches

them how to make healthful choices now and in the future. That is particularly valuable for students who are learning virtually during the pandemic.

"It is important that children practice healthful habits during this pandemic," said Dr. Joneigh Khaldun, chief medical executive and chief deputy director for health for MDHHS. "This skills-based health education curriculum will make sure educators are still able to promote optimal health and we encourage our educators to take advantage of it."

The online format makes the curriculum more accessible and user-friendly for educators. It also allows the curriculum to be more responsive to the needs of Michigan educators with new content and revisions made in a timely fashion. Embedded



streaming videos comply with the federal *Americans with Disabilities Act* and include closed captioning options in both English and Spanish. In addition, family resources help educators extend the learning at home.

"Offering a skills-based curriculum in a user-friendly online format enables educators to teach

and students to learn the skills necessary to develop the healthful habits that lead to success in the classroom and in life," said State Superintendent Dr. Michael Rice. "Improving the health, safety and wellness of all learners is one of the key goals in Michigan's Top 10 strategic education plan and the Michigan Model is a vital component in that effort."

Educators who have received curriculum training from their regional school health coordinator will now be able to access the curriculum via an online portal. The Michigan Model for Health website at [MichiganModelForHealth.org](http://MichiganModelForHealth.org) houses the robust digital platform portal for teachers and educators in Michigan and across the nation.

Platform features:

- Compatibility with mobile devices.
- User-friendly web-based lessons.
- Online teacher resources.
- Easy license management.

The new online platform is funded through a grant from the Michigan Health Endowment Fund in collaboration with the Michigan Council for Maternal and Child Health, MDHHS, MDE, the Michigan School Health Coordinators' Association and the Michigan Model for Health Clearinghouse. It was developed, tested and reviewed in collaboration with a team of health education consultants and educators across Michigan.

Parents and others who want more information can go to [MichiganModelForHealth.org](http://MichiganModelForHealth.org).

# Richard M. O’Jibway shares family photos

There are pictures of Richard M. O’Jibway’s grandfather, George William O’Jibway. Two of the pictures show him as a child when he and his family lived in Sualt Ste. Marie. The one on the top left is with his baseball team (he is left of the man in hat/coach), and also his football team in 1906, he is in the middle row on the right. He is shown as a businessman on the bottom left, and bottom right at his WWI veteran reunion in the far right in front of the second chair.



## New Year’s resolution: Support foster care children

January is known for New Year resolutions. We all know the typical go-to resolutions, such as losing weight or quitting a bad habit. The folks at Anishnaabek Community and Family Services (ACFS) are asking you to do

something extraordinary for your New Year resolution and make a difference in a child’s life by raising awareness and advocating on behalf of foster children.

We at ACFS understand not everyone is in the position to fos-

ter — did you know that you can still help by becoming a volunteer, mentor or a respite care provider for a child in foster care? Getting involved with foster care is a resolution of which everyone can be proud.

If you are in position to foster a child, we are also looking for dedicated foster parents. Fostering is a way to make a positive difference in a child’s life by providing a stable and loving home with the support and encourage-

ment a child needs to flourish and do well.

Anyone wishing to find out about becoming a foster parent, volunteer, mentor or respite care provider can contact ACFS at (906) 632-5250.

## Winter legend - Why the bear has a short, stubby tail

AS RETOLD BY MARIEA MONGENE

It was late winter in the Northwood as the animals gathered near the melting lake. They talked of the bitter cold and how wonderful their dreams had been during their winter rest. It was then noticed that the bear had not yet shown himself.

“It is not like Bear not to show up and brag about his beautiful tail,” mentioned the fox. No sooner had he said those words and there was Bear petting the soft, bushy fur of his tail.

“Good morning Bear, how was your rest?” questioned the rabbit.

“My rest was very much needed for my tail to grow more beautiful,” answered the bear. As the bear talked of his rest, he did not fail to mention his tail throughout the whole conversation. The animals did not appreciate the bear’s boastful ways and after a brief conversation decided to play a trick on the bear.

Many suggestions were given but the best one was made by sly fox.

Bear joined the group and the fox was ready. “Hey, Bear, I believe my tail is better than

yours and so do the other animals,” he said.

“Of course that’s not true, though. Everyone knows I have the most beautiful tail in all the Northwood,” answered the bear.

“Maybe you have the most beautiful tail but it is certainly not very useful. I bet you can’t fish with it,” replied the fox.

“The fish would be attracted to the beauty of my tail and I am sure to catch a few if I wanted to,” boasted the bear.

The fox continued to tease the bear, “I don’t know. They seem to enjoy my tail and I always catch quite a few fish. I still don’t think your tail could do it.”

“I’ll show you, Fox, that my tail is the best tail ever,” bragged the bear.

“If you’re so sure, then go stick your tail in the hole in the ice,” Because of the bear’s ego he did what the fox dared him to do.

The bear sat with his tail in the hole for many hours and could not catch any fish. He then decided to give up and tried to pull his tail from the hole. The water was still very cold and his tail was frozen in the ice.

“Please someone help me. My tail is frozen!” cried the bear.

The animals just laughed and walked away.

After a while the great leader, Nanaboozho, came for a visit to the Northwoods. He could hear a cry for help and immediately followed the cry to the lakeshore.

“My friend, what has happened?” questioned Nanaboozho.

“The animals tricked me into sticking my tail into this hole and now it has frozen” answered the bear.

“Could there be a reason for this Bear?” asked Nanaboozho.

“The animals have always been jealous of my beautiful tail. I often talk of my tail and they always seem to get upset.”

After the explanation, Nanaboozho helped the bear release his tail from the hole. The bear reached around to grab his tail and was surprised to find it was not there.

“Nanaboozho, my beautiful tail is gone! What has happened?” cried the bear.

“Although your tail was very beautiful, it was given to you by the Creator for other people to praise and admire, but because of your boastful ways the Creator has decided that you would be better off without it. This should be a lesson to you

never to brag of something you have that is better than others,” Nanaboozho told the bear.

To this day the bear’s tail remains short and stubby as a lesson to him.



By Brenda Austin

# AIAN HAVE A RIGHT TO HEALTH CARE & VACCINATIONS

*Most treaties include the sweeping language to provide ~ "health, education and social welfare" into perpetuity. The 1855 Treaty with the Makah specifically referenced the obligation to vaccinate in the following language, "shall furnish medicine and advice to the sick, and shall vaccinate them..."*

*~ U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, 2018 Broken Promises Report*



National Indian Health Board Act of Love Campaign Mask. Please visit nihb.org

## Representing All Members Everywhere

*Ahneen, Boozho, Negee:*

I write this to encourage all American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) people to prioritize being vaccinated as we are easily the most vulnerable population of Americans as a high-risk category. The 2018 U.S. Commission on Civil Rights Broken Promises Report documents the life expectancy for AIANs is 5.5 years less than the national average. We die at higher rates than those of other Americans from chronic liver disease and cirrhosis, heart disease, chronic lower respiratory and other diseases. As a group, we suffer from the highest rate of diabetes in the nation - a rate roughly double that of the national average.

Data on the number of AIAN cases and deaths related to the Covid19 virus is insufficient, incomplete and unacceptable as it is a subset of the universe of cases limited to the IHS and tribes' health service delivery systems which is only a fraction of the population of AIAN. Counties are the unit of measurement for public health data collection which often relegates American Indians as "other" and does not enumerate tribal specific cases. About half to two thirds of our respective tribal populations who live outside of our Purchase and Referred Services Areas go without federal funding and for which we simply do not have data on their experience through the Covid19 Pandemic. Without the benefit of health care afforded through IHS and tribes, I suspect the rate of contagion and death for our At Large Members is likely much higher due to lack of health care access. This supports expansion of the Affordable Care Act for AIAN under a

51<sup>st</sup> state concept rather than through states. Better yet, full recognition of the treaty obligation necessitates Indian Health portability no less than defense health care portability.

What we do know is that according to the Indian Health Service, some regions have experienced a 7-day rolling average positivity rate for Covid19 of 19.5% (Tucson), 18.0% (Phoenix), 17.4% (Navajo), and 17.3% (Oklahoma City). Data from 14 states shows AIAN have died at a rate of nearly 2X that of the rate for white people in a sample from these same states. What we know is that the only population of Americans with a federal right to health care and are at the greatest risk as documented by the Broken Promises Report, have suffered the most ~ proportionately ~ in terms of cases and deaths related to Covid19.

We are survivors of the manifest destiny AIAN holocaust which included removal, boarding school assimilation mills, forced concentration on reservations devoid natural resources, and yes ~ the introduction of small pox in infected blankets. Today, we have our own scientists, National Native Advisories for federal policy, and reputable National Native organizations like the National Congress of American Indians and National Indian Health Board who monitor the Covid19 pandemic closely and fight to advocate that we receive an equitable share of the various vaccines being delivered. Careful attention has been paid to ensuring we were part of testing and are assured a level of delivery of vaccine doses along with the National deployment of the vaccine.

## PLEASE GET VACCINATED

As of this writing, the vaccine created by Pfizer for Covid19 has been approved for deployment. Last month, the National Indian Health Service delivered more than 22,400 doses. Tribes have been given guidance that required us to vaccinate our front-line medical staff first as it was anticipated with the holidays, another uptick of cases is expected. Even then, tribes have to prioritize and triage vaccinations as only 66% of the need can be met in the first round. In early January, another 1,000 doses were delivered and administered and prioritized our Tribal Elders for vaccination. The deployment has been logistical

challenge with unpredictable distribution due in large part to national politics. I urge you to get vaccinated locally through counties and not wait for tribal distribution. This is especially true if you live away from our IHS Service Area. Please realize that as a US Citizen, you do not have to wait to be vaccinated through the IHS or tribal health. If you have an opportunity to be vaccinated earlier, by all means do so.

## THE MOST VULNERABLE & LEAST FUNDED

According to the National Congress of American Indians and IHS Budget Formulation Work Group Data, IHS lags behind National Health Spending per person at less than 50% and about 1/3 of that expended for National Defense health administration (respectively). Again, AIAN are the only group with a federally and Constitutionally obligated right to health care. While budget formulation through National Native organizations call for between \$20 Billion to \$48 Billion annually for IHS, the 2019 budget was just \$5.8 Billion. The NCAI, NIHB, and IHS budget formulation work group proposed budget for FY 2021 is just over \$9 Billion.

Early indications from the Biden-Harris Administration, suggest a huge increase in the Presidential budget request ~ possibly full funding. The request for full funding is important because while the Congress appropriates, tribes have never enjoyed a Presidential Administration proposing full funding for IHS. I am optimistic about support from the Biden-Harris Administration to move our IHS funding from discretionary to mandatory and to support advance appropriations in order to avoid the impacts of sequestration and government shutdowns.

During times of acute health care needs that this pandemic revealed, it is important to recall why AIANs have a federal right to health care. Treaties between the United States and tribal nations provide the original legal foundation for the federal government's obligation to provide health care for Native Americans. According to the National Indian Health Service:

*The trust relationship establishes a responsibility for a variety of services and benefits to Indian people, including health care. This relationship has been defined in*

*case law and statute as a political relationship . . . Treaties between the US government and tribes frequently call for the provision of medical services, the services of physicians, or the provision of hospitals for the care of Indian people.*

Anishinabe Biimaadziwin teachings hold the ethos, "take what you need and leave the rest" which applies to a conservationist lifestyle but also more broadly as a philosophy to use our intellect to adapt to survive. As a People, American Indians/Alaska Natives have a unique experience with infectious diseases, a resulting level of historical and intergenerational trauma and a level of skepticism. The alternative of death or lasting impacts of the Covid19 virus suggests we carefully consider and weigh the value of being vaccinated. I plan to be vaccinated as soon as our front-line health delivery staff, our Elders and others who are higher risk receive their dose. In the meantime, I remain diligent in wearing a mask, social distancing, and just not going into public except when absolutely necessary. This is inconvenient but a small price to pay for my life and that of others.

## FISHERS' RELIEF FUNDING COMING

I am proud of the role I played with federal legislation to secure over \$43 million for our Tribe in the Cares Act last summer. We also received another \$17 million in pandemic relief restricted funds for programs and services like housing, social services, but primarily health. Last spring, Congress appropriated \$200 million for relief for the fishing industry and while they included \$6 million for ocean coastal tribes, they excluded the Great Lakes. Not satisfied with that, I worked hard on both side of the political isle to secure an additional \$15 million in new relief that was enacted and specifically qualifies our Sault Tribe Fishers for assistance. Stay tuned for information of how to qualify.

## BANNER YEAR FOR FUNDRAISING FOR TRIBAL CHILDREN

As a seven year old tribal child, I got to see Santa's helper (George Nolan). When I first worked for the Tribe, I got to help Kathy Fike, my cousin Sally McKechnie, and other volunteers with the ST Children's Christmas Parties.

The work of our early volunteers inspired me. When I became Chair in 2004, I began fundraising annually for our parties reaching as high as \$20,000 in contributions. When I left office, these parties were cancelled then just small parties were held with cookies but no presents. This year, we set a record at 2X last year with \$25,525! I appreciate the generosity. The Chair's Office (Sheila, Sherry), Trish in Accounting and I are happy to be in a position to raise these funds. I am grateful to all the volunteers, and contributors including those Tribal Board Members and Executives who contributed or volunteered.

## BIDEN ~ HARRIS ADMINISTRATION APPOINTMENT?

With a new administration comes new and renewed hope for honoring our treaty and trust responsibility. There are two key positions that serve Indian Country ~ Assistant Secretary of Interior and the National Director of the Indian Health Services. With Congresswoman Debra Haaland's nomination as Secretary of Interior, this is now three key posts. There are also a number of appointments traditionally filled by Native Americans. After the Presidential election, I was recruited to consider being nominated to a key position and I agreed. After a month of deep contemplation, I recently pulled my consideration out of respect for those who just returned me to office. I believe I can honor your vote and assist and advise the new administration from my role as Sault Tribe Chair. This was a tough choice as I was advised I was likely "the nominee".

While the timing and circumstances are not right for me to accept a federal appointment, I want to encourage and facilitate qualified Sault Tribe Members to consider an appointment. If you are interested or know of a tribal candidate for appointment, please visit the Build Back Better Website at:

[buildbackbetter.gov/join-us/](https://buildbackbetter.gov/join-us/)

Finally, for the coming New Year, please put partisan politics aside and exercise safe practices to keep yourself and others alive. Too much pain has been endured. Please pray for God's Grace for those who lost loved ones this year.

*Chi McGwitch, Negee,*

Call: 800-793-0660

Cell: 906-203-5159

Email: [aaronpayment@yahoo.com](mailto:aaronpayment@yahoo.com)

Facebook 'Aaron Payment'

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

**1-800-251-6597**

# Kudos to staff helping us get through crises



**MICHAEL MCKERCHIE,**  
**DIRECTOR, UNIT I**

I try very hard to be careful with my words. I'm cautious and deliberately refrained. Some view this as an impediment, but as we witnessed this week — words matter. I believe once you become an elected leader, you are representing all your people, not just the ones that voted you in. You have to be willing to listen to other opinions, consid-

er all options. Our tribe is not unique in the challenges it faces when dealing with the growing trend of polarized viewpoints and an inability to compromise. We should all expect more from any leader: local, tribal, state and national.

We are all dealing with a pandemic right now and it weighs heavy on all of us. Our businesses are not doing great and there will be areas of shortfall that we will need to address. Many front-line essential workers have to continue to work and serve the public and my prayers go out to them. Several of our programs utilized Covid Funds or CARES Act funding to remain open and continue working. Those funds are nearly depleted and many of our programs rely on gaming revenue. As many realize, our tribe invests nearly all our revenue to support tribal programs. Often times to a detriment to the gaming establishments themselves in building repairs and

updates.

I don't say any of these things lightly or to generate disagreement, but rather to illustrate our ability to work together and "make do." We try our best with what we have. Our tribe and our people always have and we will continue to do so. I realize you have to spend money to make money and I support improving not only our gaming facilities but also our aging infrastructure of buildings. We are continuously walking a tightrope of available funds and maintaining the many services our tribe offers.

I appreciate the growth we've seen. I appreciate the continued growth we've managed to accomplish last year under an undeniably difficult year. I applaud our management team for their decision making and quick responses during these troubling times. I want to thank our countless team members who work at our many Health Centers for stepping up and han-

dling this pandemic as well as you all did. Our casinos opened and closed and re-opened with smooth transitions and welcomed our guests, and I thank those team members as well. I could go on and on about our Executive Staff, our government employees and our EDC staff as well. It will be some time before any of us see "normal" again but wanted to commend the hundreds of team members helping us get through this. That is not to say we did not have "hiccups" and what-not, but it is a pandemic and we are trying our hardest. I ask everyone to remain patient and continue caring for one another and show compassion to each other.

Our vaccine roll-out is going to be a long process, full of many challenges as we have already seen. Our initial vaccines were delivered thawed rather than frozen, causing huge changes on a moment's notice; once a vaccine is thawed, it cannot

be re-frozen and must be used within a short timeframe. Our vaccination roll-out is diverse and has had many challenges (needle shortages, cancellations, etc.) but our Health Department came up with a priority list and is making every attempt to get to members as soon as it can. They are working diligently to help protect our community and I say Chi Miigwech. Thank you to all the hard-working team members for an extraordinary job in the middle of this crisis. Again, I ask that we remain patient and know that all efforts are being made to not only distribute out as quickly as we can but also to secure more vaccinations.

As always, I ask you to do your part to help us get through these difficult times: Social distance, wear a mask, and wash your hands! If you wish to discuss these issues or have suggestions to help our tribe, please contact me at (906) 440-7768. Chi Miigwech.

# Freiheit discusses our at large tribal members



**BETTY FREIHEIT,**  
**DIRECTOR, UNIT I**

Hello Tribal Members,  
By all standards, 2020 was a difficult year. A harsh year. We encountered a pandemic that left thousands sick and jobless and many of us lost family and community members near and dear to me. These losses have left big holes in our families, communities and our hearts. We went through tribal and national elections and are seeing new government structures and representatives emerging. With new vaccines we have hope that this pandemic will end and we can rebuild our lives, our communi-

ties and our country.

I received a lot of feedback from at-large members about my last unit report. Many were glad to see some board members level support for their issues.

Others expressed concern about the continuing obstacles to being recognized as real members of our tribe. What is clear is that a rift exists. And it will take more than just one or two at-large board members to heal this rift. We have to make structural changes and deal with the inequities and internal discriminatory practices against our at-large members. The board must initiate and direct these changes. I will propose a resolution to this issue soon, please watch which directors flatly refuse to support the change with an at-large resolution.

We need to start by being honest. Instead of repeatedly stating that at-large members are not eligible for services and programs, we as a board need to admit we have chosen to exclude them. Stating at-large are not eligible implies they are less than. While it is true we cannot expand BIA dollars outside the service units we can spend casino dollars anywhere. We have chosen to keep

those dollars within the unit area as well. Same with the recent CARES ACT benefits. The board was under no obligation to keep those dollars within the unit.

Words matter. They create mindsets of exclusion that are filtered down to staff. A letter from the Health Center was recently posted by some board stating only unit member elders were eligible for the COVID vaccine. While this restriction was determined to be in error it never should have been a question.

But it follows the mindset of exclusion perpetuated by the board over the years.

The board needs to act to remove the discriminatory barriers that keep at-large members from running for office. Our Election Code requires a one-year residency in a unit to run for office. But no such requirement appears in our Constitution. Prior boards made individual efforts to remove this requirement based on it being illegal, discriminatory and contradictory to the Constitution. But the board has refused to remove it. Do board members fear the at-large competition would result in the loss of their seats?

At-large members have equat-

ed the difficulties they encounter in registering to vote as voter suppression. I can understand that. The procedures represent a double standard and are confusing and cumbersome.

Currently, unit members only have to contact Enrollment to update their address and their voter registration is automatically updated as well. Not true for at-large members. In addition to updating their address, at-large members need to print, complete and return a separate voter registration form each time they move.

At-large often state they are not advised of this additional step and do not even realize they are not registered to vote until they do not get a ballot.

The board needs to act to remove the barrier. There is no reason that at-large cannot update their voter registration in the same manner as unit members do.

If an additional form is required, it should be clearly noted and available to complete online. We should also explore restructuring our election procedures per our Election Codes, that are NOT followed and where numerous complaints over the

years haven't lawfully been addressed. At-large members failed to receive primary or general election ballots. Yet it seems nothing is ever done. Time to end this problem by changing to a user-friendly online system and should have standing in our Tribal Court.

Even though the process may be cumbersome, I encourage all at-large members to vote. If you are not registered, get registered. If you have family who are not registered, encourage them to register. We may not be able to achieve the change we need until we have new board members at the table.

Right now, at-large represent two-thirds of the tribe, but few are registered. A large registration of at-large members would certainly make the current board members to sit up and take notice. And then they might take steps to include at-large in the tribal circle.

I wish all members the best in the coming years and help out our Elders and your neighbors anytime you can.

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

# More vaccine clinics to be held in service area



**DARCY MORROW,**  
**DIRECTOR, UNIT IV**

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had safe and happy holidays! With COVID-19, the Christmas Committee decided

not to hold our annual children's parties. This year, Santa mailed each enrolled child in Unit 4 a Christmas card with a gift card inside. Director Chase and I would like to say thank you to Santa's helpers who helped with shopping or stuffing the Christmas cards to be mailed: Crystal Martin, Kelli Beaudry, Racheal Joslin, Shelli Gould and Viola Neadow. We really appreciate all of their help with the mailer — we serviced 939 children this year.

The Health Division received our first round of COVID-19 vaccines. They started holding vaccination clinics in the Sault on Jan. 5 and they will be conducting more clinics throughout the seven-county service area

based on the number of vaccines they receive. Currently, we want to ensure our elders are receiving the vaccine first. If you would like to find out how to receive your COVID-19 vaccine, please call your nearest health center: Manistique clinic, (906) 341-8469; Escanaba Health, (906) 341-1836; Munising Clinic, (906) 387-4721; and St. Ignace clinic, (906) 643-8689.

I would like to thank Health Director Dr. Leo Chugunov, Health Division staff, all other team members and volunteers who helped with the massive COVID-19 vaccination clinics. I have received many compliments from our elders who drove to the Sault on what an easy, professional and quick process it was

to get vaccinated. Thank you all once again for taking care of our elders, it is greatly appreciated!

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

1888.

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

## Virtual Community Leader Series held every Wednesday

Every Wednesday at 9 a.m., the Sault Tribe Language and Culture Department hosts an online Coffee with a Community Leader to promote conversation and sharing.

Join in at bluejeans.com/471897484, Room ID 471 897 484, phone number (408) 419-1715 or (408) 915-6290. For questions, call

the Language and Culture Department at (906) 635-6050.



# Tribe needs to re-open its casinos amenities



**BRIDGETT SORENSON,  
DIRECTOR, UNIT III**

The board continues to meet with a choice to meet in person or virtual for our workshops and meetings. Sometimes it drives me crazy when you can't hear people talking or multiple people are talking, but it can be the same in person so it is what it is. It has saved the tribe money on travel, food and beverage and staff's time spent waiting to be called

in the room. I think we have all learned a lot during this past nine months of the pandemic. It has forced us to rely more on technology and outside-the-box thinking.

The elder checks are being prepared and should be in the elder's hands by the time of this article. The amount is \$445. Last year the amount was \$503 and there were 280 new qualified elders this year. The amount has nothing to do with the board, it is strictly the total interest earned divided by the number of elders so as long as the number of elders keeps going up, the amount will continue to decrease, unfortunately.

The Health Division has done a fantastic job with the COVID-19 vaccines. There has been nothing but compliments on the process of the three-day mass vaccination held at the Big Bear. We have had some issues with the phone lines, which is to be expected with the volume of calls that are taking place. There have been over 1,300 shots

given so far. Please be patient as we are planning on setting up clinics in all areas as long as we can meet all requirements of the vaccine such as staffing and temperature control. The health director is working with other agencies to set up these clinics. Accommodations are being reviewed for home bound elders as well.

I know 2020 was a pretty rough year on many of our people. The uncertainty of when or if we open or close, the unemployment process, the need for services, etc. I hope that as the vaccinations roll out that we can move towards business as usual. I may be crazy but I do believe many of our team members and members in general want to work.

I was not in favor of closing the casinos in November and I do want to see our restaurants and table games open. I really would like to see us moving forward including shuttle service, capacity hotel rooms, etc. I feel more

comfortable in our casinos than I do going into Walmart. I know the precautions we are taking and the cleanliness of our facilities. Other businesses such as Walmart are not.

We have the space in our restaurants to accommodate social distancing. Many of the other casinos are operating with these amenities. Our team members need and want to work. We do not have the funds to pay for their insurance while on layoff. Some of these team members have worked for us for decades.

If we continue to operate our casinos this way, we may never get that market share back. We will have more uninsured people and a downward spiral on our local economies as well as our entire organization.

I want to again thank the Executive Task Force for the time and effort they continue to put in to keeping everyone safe, maintaining the funding and creating the processes and procedures to adapt to the constant changes.

I am happy to see our kids returning to school because they really need that social interaction and the in-person instruction and routine. Many parents are working and have limited time and resources to help their children. There are going to be cases regardless but kids will be exposed whether at school or in the community.

Please continue to pray for our communities that we have minimal impact from this virus in 2021. Prayers for all families who have been impacted by the virus.

Please thank the Health Division team and continue to practice patience while they continue to vaccinate as many people as possible and juggle the priorities to the best of their abilities.

As always, anyone with any questions or concerns please contact me at bsorenson@saulttribe.net, bridgett91@yahoo.com or (906) 430-0536. Text or emails may be responded to quicker depending on meetings.

# Tribe is looking forward to a return to normal



**KEITH MASSAWAY,  
DIRECTOR, UNIT III**

Happy New year everyone! We hope your year has started off on a better foot. With a very difficult year behind us, let us note,

behind us. The tribe is gathering itself and looking forward to progressing to a return to normal. The casinos are open on a status of less than completely open. Our table games and eating and drinking areas are still closed but our deli and waitresses can still bring drinks to you while you play. As the winter and spring come to pass, we hope these amenities will also be opened to the public.

Our government offices are open but some services are limited with little or no in-person contact with clients. Your board members and chairman can help direct you to the right people if you experience trouble getting the services you need. The board is still meeting but our sessions are closed to in-person viewing

but is available on virtual media. Please call the board office or go to our home page to find out how and when to view the meetings. We hope this will change soon as more and more of our members get vaccinated.

On the vaccine front, the news could not be better. We are vaccinating hundreds and hundreds of people through our tribal clinics. You may have read how the country, state and local communities are slowly rolling out the vaccines. Our tribe has not faltered on its roll out of the vaccine. We first vaccinated the medical staff and support staff of our clinics. Then we moved to prioritize our elders and gave vaccine shots at our Big Bear facility in the Soo. We are now beginning to send vaccine to our

other clinics so members who have a hard time traveling can get the vaccine easier.

After our elders are sufficiently covered, we will turn to our front line workers. This is very important to cover the people who have close contact with others on a daily basis. Please remember that if you have medical conditions that put you at a higher risk than normal, please contact the tribe and find out where you can receive a shot and what priority you are. The vaccine the tribe is receiving is for all of its members. It is not for non-members. All non-members need to contact the local Health Department to find out how to get on a vaccination list for their area.

I would like to thank and

praise our medical staff and medical professionals. By all accounts, the process they have is to walk everyone through is highly professional and efficient system. We have received hundreds of personal comments on this and I have not seen even one that had concerns or problems. Remember, all members who received their first shot must return either three or four weeks later to receive their second shot. You should have received a card with the date and time to return for the inoculation.

Thank you for all the e-mails and phone calls.

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

# New revenue sources for tribe up and coming



**KIMBERLE GRAVELLE  
DIRECTOR, UNIT I**

Hello,  
I would like to thank our Language and Cultural Department and everyone who worked so hard to make our virtual New Year's Eve Sobriety Powwow a success and so enjoyable for the participants (also the Honoring Our Veterans Powwow that was held in December). Because I sit

on this committee, I know how much planning and work goes into holding one of these events.

This last year has been a challenge with trying to hold Zoom meetings in order plan these events and reaching out to everyone so they can participate. For example, last week we had three Zoom meetings at the same time in our household; a middle school student, Sault Tribe TAP Prevention Committee and Head Start zoom!

The last couple months have been especially hard with losing so many tribal members to COVID-19. My heart goes out to those who have lost their loved ones and those still recovering from this disease. My aunt recently passed away, she was our go-to for any history questions about Sugar Island and family members who are no longer with us. I encourage you to take the time to talk with everyone and hear their stories so you can pass them on to the next generation.

On a more positive note, our cannabis operations, online gaming and sports betting should be in full swing before the end of the month. These endeavors will be a new revenue source for the tribe.

If you have any questions about closures at our tribal offices please check our website at saulttribe.com. This website is updated daily and is a good source of current events or you can call one of your board representatives for information.

Thank you to the team members as we try to navigate through all the changes over the past year and for your dedication and hard work.

Please keep the men and women in our armed forces in your prayers and thoughts for a safe return to their families.

If you have any question or comments you can contact me at (906) 203-6083 or at KKGravelle@saulttribe.net.

Thank You,  
Kim Gravelle

# Sports betting has begun



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

Ahnee, I hope this finds everyone safe and well. It has been a different and difficult holiday season for us all. No large family gathering, few holiday social events and very little contact with our elder family members.

We have started the tribe's vaccine rollout. The vaccine offers us a ray of hope against COVID-19. As we get more and

more people vaccinated in our communities hopefully we can start seeing an ease in restrictions. Even though a vaccine will help us in our fight against the pandemic we have to stay disciplined in our approach to safety until we defeat the virus. I want to say thank you to all our health-care professionals that have done a great job in our vaccination efforts.

We have started sports betting in our gaming establishments. I believe this is a great source of revenue that is outside our traditional games. There will be a learning curve for our patrons on how to place their bets but I think once they do it a few times they will find it easier each time. This form of gaming will bring us a much needed different revenue stream in our casinos.

If you have any questions or concerns feel free to contact me at (906) 450-5094 or cmatson@saulttribe.net.

Respectfully,  
Charles J. Matson Sr.

# DeTour area children's Christmas activities



YEA Assistant Kara Windsor (left) dressed as the Grinch. Below: Gifts ready to be handed out to DeTour area youth.



Santa says hi children inside the vehicle.



Santa visits with some children before giving them each a gift.



# Hessel children's Christmas events and activities



Hessel Youth Education Activities Coordinator Lisa Burnside with Santa!



Santa greets a child in a drive-through gift giving event.



YEA Youth Service Assistant Kara Windsor (left) and YEA Coordinator Lisa Burnside.



YEA Youth Volunteer Kaden Lee Backus and YEA Youth Service Assistant Kara Windsor.

# IT'S GAME TIME

KEYWADIN CASINOS  
**SPORTSBOOK**  
PROUD PARTNER OF  
*Wynn*  
BET

Watch the Big Game Here  
February 7



MANISTIQUE – ST.IGNACE – HESSEL – SAULT <sup>LE</sup>MARIE – CHRISTMAS