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TRIBAL OBSERVER

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Belding Board of Education votes to drop "Redskins" mascot

NATALIE SHATTUCK

Editor

BELDING, Mich. – On Dec. 19, the Belding Board of Education voted unanimously by 7-0 to get rid of the district's controversial "Redskins" mascot.

Last month, the Belding Area Schools Board of Education heard presentations from students and community members.

After hearing concerns that the term "Redskins" is considered racist, it was recommended for the mascot to change.

At the Monday night regular board meeting, with more than 20 people in the audience to witness, the board members voted for the change.

The verdict followed months of community hearings and educational workshops.

In early October, Erik Rodriguez and Sandy Sprague of the Tribal Public Relations Department; and Colleen Green, director of Native American Programs at Central Michigan University, collaborated on information from Melissa Montoya, tribal education director, and traveled to Belding to provide a PowerPoint presentation.

They presented to nine School Board members and about 20 others – community members and media representatives.

"We are not here to force you to change your name," Rodriguez said during his address. "We can only educate you on why carrying this name is wrong, and how it continues to create further stereotypical behavior."

The Public Relations department periodically presents to

local area schools on the history of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe.

Sprague discussed the importance of Green's continued education to CMU students on carrying the Chippewa name.

"Due to lack of education, stereotypes are portrayed," Sprague said. "That's why we have such a great working relationship with CMU, and we consistently ensure the students know the importance of what it means to be a Chippewa."

At press time, it was undetermined what the new mascot will be, but Belding reported it will maintain its school colors – orange and black.

The superintendent said he hopes the new mascot will be in place by next fall for the new school year.

"We would like to commend the Belding School Board and community for understanding the history and nature behind the 'Redskins' name. It shows their commitment to providing an excellent learning environment for all students," Rodriguez said. "It also creates awareness and enhances opportunity for diversity for an entire community. Chi-miigwetch for allowing us to come in and take part in the process."

Paw Paw High School is also facing similar concerns.

A second meeting on the school's controversial "Redskins" mascot is scheduled for Jan. 18 at the high school.

The Paw Paw School Board is expected to vote in February on whether to keep the mascot.

Event awards Mandy Wigren, features keynote speaker Matthew Sandusky

NATALIE SHATTUCK

Editor

Mandy Wigren's behind-the-scenes diligent work to protect children was publicly recognized during Isabella County Child Advocacy Center's second annual Circle of Friends event.

Wigren was presented with The Dan Denslow Advocate of the Year Award by Kim Seidel, executive director for ICCAC; and Matthew Sandusky, keynote speaker for the event.

Wigren has worked as a victim advocate for the Tribe for the past 13 years, and was promoted to victim witness coordinator, a newly-created position to expand with counseling services, this past year.

The event took place on Oct. 26 in Central Michigan University's Plachta Auditorium.

"Being recognized for protecting children was an honor," Wigren said. "My work is

typically behind the scenes. We are the 'unseen' workers assisting in criminal case investigations, advocating for the rights of children and their families who have been victimized. I don't do this work for accolades but after 14 years, I have to admit, it felt rewarding to be recognized for all of my hard work by my colleagues who I also have the deepest respect for."

Wigren's complex job duties often vary.

Some days consist of assisting victims with personal protection order, responding to emergencies at the hospital if someone has been injured due to the commission of a crime, counseling sessions, crisis calls, and even assisting in finding homes for a victim's pet while they stay in an emergency shelter.

"Day to day, the job is never the same; victims' cases are all different and clients have unique needs," Wigren said. "I have



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

Mandy Wigren (center), victims of crime advocate, was presented with The Dan Denslow Advocate of the Year Award on Oct. 26 for her diligent work to protect children.

Presenting her with the award were national speaker Matthew Sandusky (left) and last year's award recipient Isabella County Sheriff's Sgt. Kevin F. Dush.

also helped a woman move out of a home to escape her abuser one day, and taken a client to the hospital because she was strangled the next."

There are thousands of scenarios which make the job interesting and challenging, she said.

"Not everyone is cut out for this type of work – it is emotional,

high stress and, at times, it can be dangerous," she said.

As a member of the ICCAC Multidisciplinary Team, Wigren meets with ICCAC staff monthly for case review of open and current child sexual abuse cases.

Wigren's award | 3



State of the Tribe

Annual Meeting

Saturday, Jan. 21, 2017 • SECR Entertainment Hall

Doors open at 9 a.m. • Breakfast served at 10 a.m.

* Tribal ID required, must be 14 years of age or older. ** Kids Quest at SECR will open at 9 a.m.



Cora Ann Leureaux Sept. 22, 1948 – Nov. 30, 2016

Cora Ann "Cory" Leureaux, age 68, of Mount Pleasant, passed away Wednesday, Nov. 30, 2016 at Woodland Hospice in Mt. Pleasant.

Cory was born Sept. 22, 1948 in Mt. Pleasant to Melvin and Nancy (Elk) Leureaux.

She was a member of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe and the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Methodist Church. She loved to gamble and watch her grandsons play sports.

Cory is survived by her children David Flamand, Jean Flamand, and Christina Flamand all of Mt. Pleasant; grandchildren Amber Flamand, Andrew Flamand, Alden Andy, Kaine Andy, Alyssa Andy, Tommy Wemigwans Jr., Daniel Wemigwans, all of Mt. Pleasant; great grandchildren Kinsley Andy and Ivy Flamand; very special friend Eugene Flamand; cousin and best friend Gail George and Elisa Schleder; two brothers Don (Lisa) Leureaux and Oliver Leureaux both of Mt. Pleasant; three sisters Jeanette Leureaux (Dan Metalla) of Rosebush, Rose Wassegijig of Mt. Pleasant, Lillian Corbiere of Mt. Pleasant; and many nieces and nephews.

She is preceded in death by her parents Melvin and Nancy Leureaux, brother Elijah Leureaux, nephews Brian Leureaux, Oliver James Leureaux Jr., Makis Leureaux, Mikita Fox, Kevin Manitowabi, Merence Flamand, and Raymond Flamand; nephew-in-law Bernard Gardner; nieces April Leureaux, Stacy Johnson, and Pamela Trudeau.

Funeral services were held at Clark Family Funeral Chapel on Dec. 5 with Pastor Owen White-Pigeon officiating. Memorial contributions may be made to HATS, or the American Lung Association.



Alan Dale Alma June 5, 1946 – Dec. 1, 2016

On the evening of Dec. 1, 2016, Alan Dale Alma passed away after a long struggle with cancer. He courageously held onto life during this time without complaint.

Alan was born on June 5, 1946 in Grayling, Mich. to the late Maurice and Ruby (Weaver) Alma.

He was proud of his Saginaw Chippewa Indian heritage.

Alan served in the U.S. Marine Corps during 1964-1968, with two tours of duty in Vietnam.

His wife Pat was the love of his life and they enjoyed a lifetime of unity. They welcomed two children into this world, Richard Scott and Theresa (Brian) Brandt. They were later blessed with a grandson, Trent Alan.

Alan was also survived by his sister, Alma Smith of Texas; brother, Rex (Marilyn) Alma of Frederic; and many nieces and nephews.

Alan was preceded in death by his parents; brothers, Charles, Maurice and Mike; and sister, RoseMary.

Alan appreciated the kindness and goodwill of those around him, was dependable, and liked to lend a helping hand to others in need. He enriched the life of countless friends and family with his courage and his heartwarming smile. Alan especially enjoyed family, baseball and football.

He retired from Amoco in 1991, he was a production foreman. Alan lived between North Carolina to be with family, and chose to enjoy time in Michigan and its cold weather.

The funeral service was held at Sorenson-Lockwood Funeral Home on Dec. 5. Interment will be at Oakwood Cemetery in the spring of 2017.

For those who wish to remember Alan by memorial contribution, please consider Munson Home Care 323 Meadows Dr. Grayling, MI 49738.



On behalf of the family of Cora "Cory" Leureaux

On behalf of the family of Cora "Cory" Leureaux we want to thank everyone for your prayers, love and support during our family's most difficult time. We would also like to thank those who brought food, drinks, flowers, cards and donations as it was greatly appreciated.

Special thanks to Rev. Owen Whitepigeon officiating, Daisy Kendall and Ellie Van Horn for singing their beautiful songs, Jeanne Robinson for the reading of the obituary, the Saginaw Chippewa Methodist Church ladies for preparing and serving the food, Clark Funeral Home for their preparations and everyone who came to the service to send our Mom off to the spirit world.

Special recognition and thanks to the Pallbearers Blaine Kimewon, Henry Flamand, Gerry Leureaux, Steve Wassegijig, Allan Wassegijig, and Amir Leureaux. Last but not least, Shawn Sawmick, Jen Wassegijig, Gail George, Amanda Oldman, Valoria Weaselbear, Elisa Schleder, Val Raphael, Rose Wassegijig, Marlene Kimewon, and Peggy Manitowabi for continuously being there for our family the entire time. Everyone and everything was greatly appreciated and our family thanks you all so much!

Dave, Jean, Christina, and Eugene Flamand, all the grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Tribal Education Advisory Board (TEAB) Vacancy Announcement

We are looking for SCIT Members with a love for learning and a willingness to share your wisdom to guide our cultural-based youth educational programs.

Requirements:

- 1.) Must be a member of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan.
- 2.) Must be at least 18 years old.
- 3.) Must not be employed by the Saginaw Chippewa Education Department.

Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each Month at 9 a.m. in the TEAB Conference Room.

Letters/emails of interest will be accepted until:
Jan. 4, 2016 at 12 p.m.

Please send letters of interest/e-mails to:
Tribal Education Administration
7070 E. Broadway, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

Or E-mail letter to: MMontoya@sagchip.org

For further information call
Christina Sharp at 989-775-4501

Attention Tribal Members

The Ziibiwing Center is seeking individuals of all ages to answer a few questions on camera about what it means to be Anishinabe.

Final compilation of interviews may be included in a new North American Indian exhibition at the Valencian Museum of Ethnology in Valencia, Spain.

Saturday, Jan. 28 • 1 - 3 p.m.

Ziibiwing Center of Anishinabe Culture & Lifeways

For more information, please contact:
William Johnson at 989.775.4730

ATTENTION

Anishinabe Ogitchedaw
Veteran & Warrior Society Members

Now Recruiting New Members



Meetings Will be Held

The 1st Tuesday of the Month in Seniors Room
Time: 6 p.m. | For More Information: 775-4175

2017

SCIT GOLF

Membership

On sale Monday, Dec. 12

- Limited number available.
- Open to Tribal Members, employees and their families.
- Includes Green fees and discounts on apparel, range, food and drink at participating courses.

Memberships cost \$300 each

- 10% discount for early bird purchases.
- \$270 if purchased before Jan. 13, 2017.

Available for purchase at the Accounting Department in Tribal Operations.

Participating courses:
Pleasant Hills Golf Club, Pohl Cat Golf Course, Maple Creek Golf Club and Waabooz Run Golf Course

TRIBAL MEMBERS

Receive important Tribal announcements via text messaging. Text the letters **SCIT** to the number **32363** to subscribe to SCIT

Well and Septic Checks

Free to Tribal Members who reside in the IHS service areas: Isabella, Clare, Midland, Arenac and Missaukee counties.

- Wells and septic will be inspected.
- Septics will be pumped free of charge.

Call 989.775.4014 or stop in at the Planning Department office located at 2451 Nish-na-be-anong.

Leave your name, address and phone number to be put on the Private Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (POWTS) list. *You must own your home.*

Powwow Committee One Vacancy

The Saginaw Chippewa Powwow Committee currently has one vacancy. Open until Filled.

Send letters of interest to:

Attention: Powwow Committee
7070 E Broadway Rd., Mt. Pleasant MI 48858



Check out the
Tribal Observer
ONLINE

www.sagchip.org/tribalobserver



Living Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Members as of Dec. 9, 2016

District	Female	Male	Totals
District 1	834	809	1643
District 2	25	27	52
District 3	987	913	1900
Totals	1846	1749	3595

(Editor's note: Current membership numbers provided courtesy of the Tribal Clerk's Office.)

Living Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Members – Between the ages of 18 and 110

District	Female	Male	Totals
District 1	594	551	1145
District 2	21	22	43
District 3	832	755	1587
Totals	1447	1328	2775



Happy Birthday

Aubrey & Melva

Love Always,
Mommy & Peanut



Happy Anniversary!

Fred & Denise Cantu

January 23, 2003

Wigren's award

continued from front page

“The amount of time spent working with the ICCAC depends on how many referrals the forensic interview staff has from our Tribal law enforcement,” she said. “If a case is referred for an interview, our office staff attends the interview with the investigation officer to support the child and family.”

Wigren’s award is named after Isabella County Sheriff’s Detective Sgt. Dan Denslow who played a large role in bringing the Child and Family Environment Center to Isabella County.

He died in 2009.

Isabella County Sheriff’s Sgt. Kevin F. Dush received the award last year. He was also present to hand off the award to Wigren.

The keynote speaker, Matthew Sandusky, is the adopted son of Jerry Sandusky, former assistant football coach of Penn State University.

In 2012, Jerry was convicted of 45 charges of child sexual abuse and sentenced 30 to 60 years in prison.

Matthew is a child sexual abuse survivor, advocate and activist.

In 2014, Matthew broke his silence for the first time on Jerry’s conviction. He sat down with Oprah to tell his story.

“After two years, I did a sit down with Oprah,” Matthew said. “After the interview, I started seeing feedback. People were coming up to me and disclosing their own abuse.”

Matthew offered advice to other survivors.

“Please speak your truth,” he said. “It is hard, it is scary... but ultimately, it is the best thing you can do.”

Wigren said it takes courage for victims to speak out, and Matthew’s story was all too familiar.

“I commend him, as a survivor of child sexual abuse, for standing up and advocating for those that are victimized, by sharing his story with others,” Wigren said. “With the national attention that his case garnered, using his experience as a platform to raise awareness, and help other child advocacy centers across the county raise money, is honorable.”

Matthew and his wife, Kim, began the Peaceful Hearts Foundation, a nonprofit organization, which provides survivor-informed advocacy with the purpose of preventing the sexual victimization of children by educating about sexual predators.

More information on the foundation is available at peacefulheartsfoundation.org

The ICCAC is Isabella County’s only children’s advocacy center. The center aids in investigations of child sexual abuse and ensuring trauma is reduced to the child victim as much as possible.

ICCAC follows a national model and is accredited by the National Children’s Alliance. It brings community agency professionals together to work in a collaborative effort that result in effective, efficient and child-centered casework.

Matthew ended his speech with expressing how crucial it is to support child advocacy centers.

The ICCAC is located at 2480 W. Campus Dr. Suite B100 in Mount Pleasant, Mich. and may be reached at 989-774-6444. For more information, visit its website www.isbellacac.org



Happy 7th Birthday Natalia!

Love, Mom, Dad, your Grandmas, Grandpa, Aunties & Uncles



Happy Anniversary!

Susan & Joseph

32 and counting...
December 30, 1984



Happy 2nd Birthday Sequay!

January 20th

Love, Mom, Dad, your Grandmas, Grandpa, Aunties & Uncles

Goldie Mae Stanton
Happy 88th Birthday!
January 26, 1929
born in Clare, MI
With all our love from your loving family!

Congratulations, Faith Osawabine!
Liam Lee
Thomas Osawabine
born 11-26-16
9 lbs. and 1 oz.
20 1/2 inches



Mr & Mrs. Jackson

♥11-18-2016♥

I'm grateful & blessed after 7 years ★ I married my bestfriend-my soulmate ♥Michael R. Jackson♥ Gazaagiin your wife Lena R. Jackson ♥11-18-16



Happy 21st Birthday Breezer!

Love Always, Mom & Gage

NORMAN CYR
MSFA
1ST TEAM OFFENSIVE LINE
CONCORD

Happy 23rd Birthday



Tribal Council

Chief

Frank J. Cloutier, District 3

Sub-Chief

Brent D. Jackson, District 1

Treasurer

Gayle Ruhl, District 1

Secretary

Michelle R. Colwell, District 1

Sergeant At-Arms

Ronald F. Ekdahl, District 1

Tribal Chaplain

Diana Quigno-Grundahl, District 1

Council Member

Candace B. Benzinger, District 1

Council Member

Tim J. Davis, District 1

Council Member

Lindy Hunt, District 1

Council Member

Amanda Oldman, District 1

Council Member

Kenneth Sprague, District 1

Council Member

Ron Nelson, District 2

Seven Grandfather Teachings

Nbookaawin ~ Wisdom

To live with wisdom is to acquire and use experiences as guides for making equitable and mature decisions.

Zaagidowin ~ Love

To live our lives with love is to understand our capacity to realize, empathize, and nurture the needs of others.

Minaadendamoowin ~ Respect

To live with respect is to give mutual consideration for shared and differing ideas as well as for the world around us.

Zoongide'ewin ~ Bravery

To be brave and have courage is to recognize our moral and mental strength and to do what is appropriate.

Gwekwadiziwin ~ Honesty

To be honest is to recognize that we have the ability to live our lives with honor and integrity.

Dibaadendiziwin ~ Humility

To live with humility is to recognize that we are all equal, we all make mistakes, we all like to have our success rewarded and to put others before ourselves.

Debwewin ~ Truth

To live in truth is to recognize the difference between right and wrong and to be faithful to ourselves as well as the world around us even when the right way is not the easiest way.



Attention SCIT Members: Notice of public hearing

Take notice: There will be a public hearing held on Tuesday, Jan. 24, 2017 at 8:30 a.m. in the Seniors Room at the Tribal Operations Building, 7070 E. Broadway, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858.

This hearing will address the liquor license application presented to Tribal Council by Robert Juckniess, CEO of the Migizi Economic Development Company.

The application which will be reviewed and discussed at the hearing is as follows: Approval of Retail Off-Premise General Liquor License and Retail Off-Premise Beer and Wine License. Such license, if approved, would cover selling of packaged liquor, beer and wine to be consumed by buyers off premise.

The license, if approved, would cover the Isabella Sagamok, located at 2428 S. Leaton Rd, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858.

This license, if approved, would result in the cessation of all alcohol sales at the Cardinal Pharmacy located at 2410 S. Leaton Rd, Mt. Pleasant, Michigan 48858 prior to the start of alcohol sales at Isabella Sagamok.

This license, if issued, will be for the duration of one full year from Feb. 1, 2017 to Feb. 1, 2018, with hours of alcohol service consistent with section 10 of the Gaming Compact of Aug. 20, 1993, and specifically including hours of service for Sunday alcohol sales.

Thank you to all who participated in the MIIBS survey

MIIBS COMMITTEE

On behalf of the Michigan Indian Industrial Boarding School Committee, we would like to say chi-miig-wetch to all of the people who have contributed to the creation and distribution of the MIIBS "Planning for the Future" survey.

We are pleased to announce the survey from the Saginaw Chippewa community is completed.

Our MIIBS project management wishes to thank all who participated in the survey. Your views on the future of the boarding school buildings and land will provide a meaningful direction for the future use of the property.

The MIIBS Committee has been supportive throughout the process and the project could not have been undertaken without the help of Dr. William Cross, MIIBS project consultant; and the guidance of Joseph Sownick, photojournalist for the Tribal Observer.

Many Tribal offices and staff members contributed to the project's success.

Thank you to Shannon Martin, William Johnson, Robin Spencer, and Anita Heard, of the Ziibiwing Center, who were enthusiastic supporters throughout helping with the survey creation and administration.

Dan Gahagan, IT multimedia development manager, was critical to the creation of the web survey for SCIT members; and Matthew Wright, graphic designer of the Tribal Observer, used his artistic skills to build an attractive version of the questionnaire in print form.

Staff from the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College, Andahwod CCC and ES, and Central Michigan University's Native American Programs facilitated the distribution of surveys to their students, residents, and guests.

Congratulation to the winners of the survey drawing: Joseph Sprague III won a \$25 Ziibiwing gift certificate; N'Kai Quigno won the \$50 Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort gift certificate, and Lee Ann Ruffino won a Pendleton blanket.

On behalf of the MIIBS Committee, chi-miig-wetch to those who shared their views regarding the use of MIIBS land and buildings.

Editorial: Making a difference in your environment

TAYLOR HOLLIS

Watershed Outreach Coordinator

Do you have a deep passion for the environment? In a world with a lot of negative environmental news, I have some good news! There are ways to make your voice heard.

When private companies and organizations want to conduct activities that might have an impact on the environment, they are required to get a permit.

The process typically follows this order: The company/organization applies for a permit from the relevant agency/agencies; upon meeting the requirements of the permit, the application is released for public comment; after the public comment period is closed, the agency will review the comments and either approve or deny the proposed permit.

For example, Nestlé Waters North America Inc. (NWA) is requesting approval to increase groundwater withdrawal limits from a well in Osceola County in Michigan.

This request was submitted to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality for review. It is currently up for public comment until March 3, 2017.

All associated application information is posted on MDEQ's website: www.michigan.gov/deq/0,4561,7-135-397793--,00.html and anyone in the public is allowed to comment.

Additional environmental information about public notices as well as reported unauthorized events in your area can be found at miwaters.deq.state.mi.us/miwaters/#/external/home.

If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact Taylor Hollis at 989-775-4162, thollis@sagchip.org, or stop in the Planning Department.

Tribal Observer

Boozhu! The Tribal Observer, a monthly newspaper, is published on the first of each month. To contact Tribal Observer staff, please call 989-775-4010, or email: observer@sagchip.org. To change your mailing address, please contact the Tribal Clerk's office at 989-775-4055. Community advertisements will not be accepted over the phone.



Submissions from the Tribal community are encouraged and can be sent to:

Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe
c/o Tribal Observer
7070 E. Broadway Rd.
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

Subscription rates are \$30 per year.

Story ideas, articles and photographs from the community are always welcome. The Tribal Observer reserves the right to edit and/or refuse any submissions or advertisements for publication. The Tribal Observer is published by the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan and is subject to an editorial review process.

The views expressed within the Tribal Observer do not necessarily reflect the views of the Tribal Observer, the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe, the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Council, The Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort or its employees or any other enterprise of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe. The Tribal Observer works to uphold the highest integrity in news reporting and supports the Indian Civil Rights Act of 1968.

Tribal Observer Advertising

If you would like to advertise your business, please contact the Tribal Observer at 989-775-4010 for more information.

Announcements - Including birthday, wedding, engagement, congratulations, etc., costs \$10 and is open to Tribal members, community members and employees. Double-sized announcements are \$20.

Political ads - All political ads will be 1/4 page and have a red border stating as such. The cost is \$500. Political ads may include, but are not limited to: any opinion or advertisement that is political in nature, and/or any Letter to the Editor that does not conform to guidelines.

Tribal Observer Subscription Form

Please send \$30 for the annual subscription. Checks may be made out to SCIT.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip code: _____

Please mail form to:

Tribal Observer
Attn: Subscriptions
7070 E. Broadway Rd.
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

Contact Information:

Phone: 989-775-4010
Email: Observer@Sagchip.org

www.Sagchip.org/TribalObserver



Local children receive funds for holiday gifts during Shop with a Cop, Hero

NATALIE SHATTUCK

Editor

Selected students from Mount Pleasant area schools received the opportunity to shop with local law enforcement and heroes at two separate occasions in December.

The first event kicked off on Wednesday, Dec. 7 at Shop with a Hero at the Mount Pleasant Meijer.

Saginaw Chippewa Tribal police officers Dave Feger and Killian Frisch each paired up with a child who received \$100, provided by Meijer, to shop for family members and one gift for themselves if they wished.

More than 15 children were chosen to participate this year.

“The Shop with a Hero event is something we do every year,”



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

Youth Tribal Member Mya Chippeway wraps a gift for her mother Bobbie Chippeway.

said Leah Brown, store director for the Mount Pleasant Meijer. “It’s a great partnership with our local community heroes and some local kids in town. We partner with United Way and let them select some special kids who have been on ‘the nice list,’ not ‘the naughty list,’ and they get to choose which hero they want to partner with to shop.”

The children partner with many different heroes including police officers from various local organizations, marines, fire fighters and EMTs.

“It’s a fun event for the kids to come out, have some dinner and shop for either themselves or their families, whatever they choose,” Brown said.

Brown said her favorite part is watching the children excitedly pair up with a hero to help them shop and keep track of their expenses.

“It’s exciting for (the kids) to see the hero, and get to spend some quality time with them,” she said. “It’s that time of the year to be able to give back to people, and that partnership they create, I think, is huge. It’s great for the kids to have some role models.”

Volunteers from the Young Life of Mount Pleasant, a non-profit organization, helped with gift wrapping at the store.

On Tuesday, Dec. 13, 20 children were seen at the Mount Pleasant Wal-Mart



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

Officers Jeff Browne (left) and Brandon Bliss, both of the Mt. Pleasant Police Department, assisted with wrapping gifts during the Dec. 13 Shop with a Cop at Wal-Mart.



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

Saginaw Chippewa Tribal police officers Benjamin Paul (left) and Shane Waskevich teamed up with a local school student to help him shop for his family for Christmas.

participating in Shop with a Cop, organized by the Mount Pleasant Police Department’s Youth Services Unit.

Mt. Pleasant Police Officer Nathan Koutz was seen with a clipboard in hand to help organize the event.

Each summer, Koutz assists with writing a grant to Wal-Mart to receive funds for this event to help children in need during the holidays.

Koutz said this event has been going on for more than 10 years.

“I love seeing the kids smile. That’s the best part about it,” Koutz said.

Wal-Mart provided \$4,000, and Christmas meals of ham and dishes for families.

Each child was given \$200 to spend.

When the children finished shopping, police officers and



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

Shepherd Police Chief Luke Sawyer helped his shopping buddy collect gifts for her family.

volunteers were waiting in the gardening section of the store to wrap the purchases.

Tribal police officers Ben Paul and Shane Waskevich participated in the two hour event from 6 to 8 p.m.

Along with the Tribal and Mount Pleasant police,



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

Tribal Police Officer David Feger poses with his shopping partner at Mount Pleasant Meijer’s Shop with a Hero on Dec. 7.

officers from Central Michigan University Police Department, Isabella County Sheriff’s Department, Shepherd Police Department and Michigan State Police also contributed.

Ziibiwing Center hosts strategic planning between Tribe and CMU

JOSEPH V. SOWMICK

Photojournalist

On Dec. 15, representatives from Central Michigan University met with several departments of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe on a first-ever collaborative strategic planning meeting.

Ian Davison, dean of Central Michigan University’s College of Science and Engineering, served as moderator for the meeting and indicated that CMU was consulting with key external stakeholders to make sure the University’s strategic plan was not inwardly focused.

“As a public university, CMU has a responsibility to serve the needs of the state and in addition to faculty, staff and students we have solicited input from external stakeholders and partners to understand how the University can best serve their needs. Prior to meeting with the Tribe, we held similar sessions in Lansing and in the City of Mount Pleasant,” Davison said.

Carla Sineway, president of the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College, attended.

“I appreciated the opportunity to meet with CMU Native American Programs and CMU administration and share concerns and opportunities for SCTC students,” Sineway said. “We have students that graduate

from SCTC and we did speak on the importance of making sure we can assist those students who would like to continue their education at Central.”

SCTC currently offers associate degrees in Native American studies, and CMU offers a minor for students pursuing that academic track. The need for having additional Native American faculty also came up in the roundtable discussion.

Shannon Martin, director for the Ziibiwing Center of Anishinabe Culture & Lifeways, said she was honored to be involved in the strategic planning.

“Ziibiwing agreed to host CMU, its officials, and potential Native American professor candidates for ‘job talk’ luncheons to meet our Tribal community,” Martin said. “(CMU Vice President of Government Relations) Kathy Wilbur and Ian Davison were both very agreeable to the offer. Ziibiwing looks forward to more partnerships and opportunities with CMU in 2017 and beyond.”

Additional Tribal delegates included Nimkee Health Administrator Karmen Fox, Public Relations Manager Sandy Sprague and Public Relations Director Erik Rodriguez.

Colleen Green, director of CMU’s Native American

Programs and SCTC Board of Regents, also attended.

Questions within the meeting included: 1) What is your perception of CMU? 2) What does CMU do well? 3) Where can CMU improve? 4) What degree disciplines are most important for Michigan? 5) Beyond disciplinary training, what skill are most important for CMU graduates? and 6) Beyond educating students, how can CMU best support the Michigan economy?

Rodriguez said the relationship was initially strengthened through the June 25, 2002 Tribal Council Resolution signed by Chief Maynard Kahgegab Jr. and CMU President Michael Rao.

“The resolution made by our government and the university highlighted a commitment to treat our relationship with honor, dignity and respect. It was a document that asserts our tribal sovereignty and the importance of recognizing cultural diversity within our communities,” Rodriguez said. “While the resolution has remained intact over the years, there have been changes within our community and with the dynamics of what SCIT and CMU can accomplish together and the discussion mentioned that Tribal Council may want to look at that document to move our relationship into the future.”

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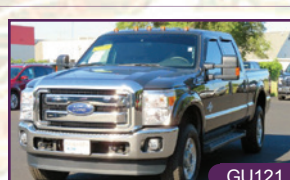
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Glenna Halliwill teaches the art of fry bread making at Seventh Generation workshop

JOSEPH V. SOWMICK

Photojournalist

Glenna Halliwill received a “Fry Bread Queen” apron from Sheila and Tonia Leureaux at Gun Lake’s Powwow, and on Dec. 12, she put it to use when she taught Seventh Generation’s Fry Bread Workshop.

“When I was asked if I would be willing to teach the class, I kind of laughed. I didn’t think many people would sign up, but the class was full within two hours, and it had twice as many people as I thought,” Halliwill said.

Halliwill started as a food vendor at the Saganing Traditional Powwow, and has had a food stand for about 10 years.

She has expanded her food stand to other powwows throughout the years.

“With my sister, the stand was named Sista’s Grub but after going our separate ways..., I changed the name to GG’s Grub,” she said.

She said her biggest fan is 10-year-old Josiah, and has been for about four years now.

“When he has fry bread, he can tell right away if it is mine or not,” Halliwill said.

Halliwill said “running a food stand is a lot of work, but the satisfaction is all the wonderful compliments I get about the food.”

“When I first started out, I couldn’t get the bread to turn out at all,” she said. “When it comes to making fry bread, it is all in the mixing. But once you get that figured out, along with the right amount of ingredients, you will have a ‘dough’ of a good time.”

She said she considers fellow Tribal Member and food vendor Alice Jo Ricketts as her mentor.

Halliwill has noticed with powwow trail, there is competition between vendors on having the best fry bread.

“Many powwows I’ve been to have contests and friendly competitions,” she



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

Fry bread queen Glenna Halliwill (far right) teaches the art of making fry bread as the Dec. 12 class looks on in the Seventh Generation kitchen.

said. “Everyone has their committed customers and it’s always good to have the powwow emcee and dancers talking about your stand. When I first started, business was slow. But today, people wait in line for my bread.”

Kim Ambs, clerk for Nimkee Medical Records, said she attended

the class to see how others make fry bread.

“I took the big bowl of dough that I made in class to my son Harry’s house and told his wife how to fry it up,” Ambs said. “My three grandsons, Harry and his wife, Beth, all loved it and were so happy to get it.”

First-ever SCIT wildlife biologist makes impact before moving on

JOSEPH V. SOWMICK

Photojournalist

The Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe has experienced many firsts in regards to environmental science and hiring the first ever wildlife biologist was a part of that.

Heather Shaw announced to her colleagues after two years of working with the Environmental Team and Conservation Committee, she has accepted a position with the Ruffed

Grouse Society where she is scheduled to begin working in January.

“Sadly, I will be moving on as the Tribal wildlife biologist,” Shaw said. I cannot thank each of you enough for welcoming me into the community; the knowledge and culture that has been shared with me will be held close to my heart for the rest of my days. The Environmental Team and Conservation Committee have specifically been phenomenal to work closely with, keep up the great work. This community is full of passionate, innovative people who have helped me grow and form long-lasting friendships.”

Shaw said she looks forward to hearing of future SCIT successes and hopes to collaborate with the Tribe on future forest restoration initiatives.

New programs developed within Shaw’s time includes: 1) Updated hunting license database, 2) Wildlife habitat restoration initiatives, 3) Forest development initiatives, 4) Invasive species management, 5) Plant and wildlife surveys, 6) Determination of climate change vulnerability to plant and wildlife species of cultural concern and 7) development of numerous partnerships and collaborations with tribal, county, state, federal, and nonprofit organizations.

Michael Fisher, environmental response program specialist, said during the past two years, he was

continually impressed with Shaw’s drive and work ethic.

“She worked diligently to advance the Tribe’s role in shaping wildlife management throughout the Great Lakes region,” Fisher said. “Her leadership will be greatly missed by our team, but we are excited for her as she pursues new endeavors.”

Carey Pauquette, environmental manager, said working with Shaw for the past two years has been a great experience.

“Her encouraging attitude, drive, enthusiasm, and knowledge have been a positive influence on the Tribe’s environmental and natural resource programs,” Pauquette said. “She has worked to restore habitat on tribal properties for the community, while developing long-lasting partnerships with local, state, and federal agencies. Her influence on the programs has put the Tribe in a great position as we move forward to further her work in restoration. Thank you, Heather!”



Courtesy of the Environmental Team

SCIT Tribal Wildlife Biologist Heather Shaw conducts a bobcat track survey as part of her research with the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe.

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Disabled Ogichedaw member surprised with all-terrain wheelchair

NATALIE SHATTUCK

Editor

Chuck Knowles, member of the Anishinabe Ogichedaw Veterans and Warrior Society, was told to postpone his Florida vacation scheduled during Dec. 6 because he was required to attend a mandatory AOVWS meeting that day.

Little did he know, it was because there was a surprise waiting for him at that Tuesday night meeting.

The Police Officers Association of Michigan honored Knowles, a disabled Vietnam veteran, with a TracFab, an all-terrain wheelchair.

AOVWS members, Knowles' wife, Carol, and local law enforcement present were in on the surprise, but it came as a shock to Knowles as he remained speechless and wiped away tears.

After having several heart attacks and other health issues, Knowles said his doctor told him he would no longer be able to partake in his favorite activity: Hunting.



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

During the Dec. 6 Anishinabe Ogichedaw Veterans and Warrior Society meeting, member Chuck Knowles was gifted with a TracFab, an all-terrain wheelchair.

"I told my doctor that I was going to hunt anyway, and now I really can," Knowles said regarding the stability and assistance the chair will bring him.

The chairs typically cost about \$12,000. They give the vets back some of their freedom lost caused by injury, amputation and/or war.

Convenient for Knowles, TracFab accessory options include rifle rests, rifle scabbard and fishing rod holders.

Manufactured in Slipper Rock, Penn., TracFabs can climb over some steps and objects, and go through snow, mud, sand and river streams.

The TracFab will safely operate in 6 to 8 inches of water, according to the website.

Defender Mobility, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization is on a mission to change the future for disabled veterans.

The foundation's roots began when POAM President Jim Tignanelli began visiting the Walter Reed Memorial Hospital in Washington, D.C. during police week each year.

Equipped with the mission to "honor the defenders," Tignanelli went room to room to hand out gift bags to wounded soldiers providing items including T-shirts, iPods, Girl Scout cookies and hundreds of dollars in gift cards.

When monetary donations were collected specifically for specialized all-terrain wheelchairs

representing the latest innovation in wheelchair mobility, Defender Mobility was initiated, according to its website.

"We want to give a level of freedom to these veterans that they may not have had in a very long time," Tignanelli said. "It's gratifying to be a part of this."

Tignanelli said the chair was not just given away to Knowles, it was merely something he earned for his years of service.

Nels Larsen, Vietnam veteran (1968-1970) and AOVWS member, helped organize Knowles' surprise.

In August 2013, Larsen was also surprised with a TracFab.

"It was a miracle for me to get back where we hunted," Larsen said, according to the Defender Mobility website. "I would never have been able to get back there without the chair. I really thank you for making it possible for me. It was fun just riding around the woods checking stuff out. Talk about freedom!"

TracFab built its first unit in 2012, according to its website.

Tignanelli said Knowles was the 15th disabled veteran to receive a donated TracFab, all within the past three years.



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

AOVWS members and Public Relations Department representatives stand with Knowles after he was awarded and surprised with the TracFab by the Police Officers Association of Michigan.

Thomas Henry, 13, breaks middle school's two-mile record time

NATALIE SHATTUCK

Editor

Thomas Henry, 8th grader at West Intermediate, said he only considered himself a runner



Courtesy of Cecilia Stevens

Tribal youth athlete Thomas Henry, 13, showcases his trophy for his two-mile (11:11) record time.

one year before breaking the school's two-mile record time.

Henry, a youth tribal member, ran two miles in 11 minutes, 11 seconds during his cross country team's Pine River Country Club invitational in Alma, Mich. on Oct. 21.

He also came in first place at the race and received the Charles A. Gray Scottie Classic medal.

Ten local schools competed in the invitational, and West Intermediate's cross country team, coached by Steve Hoyle, won first place overall.

"I felt good when I won," said 13-year-old Henry. "My stepdad (Chase Stevens) told me that he did cross country and football in school, so I thought I would start doing sports in 7th grade too."

Henry said he wakes up at 4 a.m. every day to run before school.

"I started running before school in October - after cross country got over with," Henry said.

Kevin Wiltshire, assistant principal and athletic director for West Intermediate, said Thomas' win "was very impressive."

"The (previous) record has stood for a while (Steve Green, 2011) and to run two sub-six minute miles is very impressive," Wiltshire said. "I've shared with Thomas that if he continues to enjoy this and continues to work at it, the potential is really unlimited. He's got some great opportunities ahead of him if he continues to work hard at this."

Wiltshire suggested Henry sets his next goal to break

Mount Pleasant High School's three-mile record time.

"A great goal for him would be going into the high school with the mentality he's going to break that record," Wiltshire said.

Henry said if he were to try out for the high school team now, he would make varsity because his 5K time beats what is needed to make the cut. He is currently running a 5K in about 17 minutes, 40 seconds.

Henry is also used to running long distances; he said he has also run a full marathon, which is 26.2 miles.

John Shelton, youth achievement advisor for Tribal K-12 education services, has worked with Henry throughout the past year and a half.

Shelton said Henry's grades are great. He receives all A's and B's, and was on the honor roll in the first trimester.

"He's a very good student," Shelton said. "It's all up to him when he steps in the high school. I have all the faith in the world in him."

Henry also participates in track and wrestling.

Wiltshire said he is "a great wrestler too."

"He's a great kid, great student and great athlete," Wiltshire said. "The key now is how bad does he want to improve? Running every day certainly shows the dedication to me. His potential is limitless; it's how far does he want to go and how hard does he want to work for it?"

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Courtesy of Natalie Rae Photography

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SCIT Environmental Team hosts invasive species management workshop

JOSEPH V. SOWMICK

Photojournalist

When it comes to protecting the environment, the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe has developed a reputation and willingness for collaborating with like-minded efforts.

Heather Shaw, wildlife biologist, said the Environmental and Housing departments hosted a Dec. 20 workshop free to Tribal Members and employees.

“The Saginaw Bay Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (CISMA) hosted a series of workshops focused on invasive species identification and reporting, as well as tips for decontamination of equipment and clothing to prevent additional spread,” Shaw said.

The workshop’s effort ties into the Tribe’s interest of preventing the spread of invasive species on tribal lands.

“The Saginaw Bay CISMA exists to create and support collaborative invasive species management among federal and state agencies, municipalities, tribes, nonprofits, community organizations and private landowners within 176 counties served by the Saginaw Bay Watershed,” Shaw said.

Kip Cronk, coordinator for the Saginaw Bay CISMA, said the Tribe has signed a partner Memorandum of Understanding with CISMA.

“The (Memorandum of Understanding) states that we support one another in a common goal to manage invasive species within the Saginaw Bay Watershed,” Cronk said. “This summer, the two organizations worked successfully together to remove European Frog-Bit along coastal wetlands just north of the Eagle Bay Marina.”

At that event, approximately 1,000 pounds of European

Frog-Bit was removed and roughly 25 participants attended.

“In addition, the Saginaw Bay CISMA provided free phragmites treatment around the ponds at the Saginaw Water Treatment Plant,” Cronk said.

Invasive plants extend across multiple ownerships and travel over the landscape, Cronk said.

“For this reason, collaboration and partnerships are essential for effective management,” Cronk said. “In addition, partnerships can access new sources of funding and increase implementation efficiency. This plan is intended to provide guidance to local government on methods for utilizing available resources and capital on the invasive species problem regardless of political boundaries.”

Cronk said that once the invasive species (phragmites)



Courtesy of the Environmental Team

Tribal Member Stacy Pamame (front row, center), service manager for Eagle Bay Marina, joins the Saginaw Bay CISMA environmental clean-up team this past summer in Standish.

are removed, these ponds may be used to grow manoomin wild rice.

“The goal... Invasive Species workshops is to educate the attendees about identifying and reporting invasive species while learning how to decontaminate to ensure that you are not the one that introduces an invasive species to a new area,” Cronk said. “Having partners and the public report on invasive

species helps the Saginaw Bay CISMA and other land managers like the SCIT prepare better and more effective invasive species management plans.”

The Saginaw Bay Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area covers Arenac, Bay, Clare, Genesee, Gladwin, Gratiot, Huron, Iosco, Isabella, Lapeer, Livingston, Midland, Saginaw, Sanilac, Shiawassee and Tuscola counties.

Editorial: Taking care of our river as part of the Environmental Team

CHASE STEVENS

Water Quality Assistant Trainee

In March, I decided to attend a career fair at the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College; there I met Carey Pauquette and Michael Fisher from the Tribe’s Environmental Team. They told me about a job opportunity with the team’s Water Quality Program.

After thinking it over, I decided to apply.

I had just recently started attending the Tribal College. After spending 12 years in the military, I found myself to be a typical college freshman, unsure of what direction to pursue a degree and future career in.

I had never given much thought to environmental science



Courtesy of Chase Stevens

As the water quality assistant at the time, Chase Stevens measures stream velocity for the Environmental team in the Planning Department.

passed what I would hear presented on main stream media.

Speaking with Carey and Michael piqued my interest in

exploring environmental science more. I did not know if it was for me, but I enjoy the outdoors. I figured at the very least it would get me out on the river and maybe I’d find a couple of spots to fish.

As soon as I walked in on my first day, I knew that it was going to be a great experience. Everyone was friendly and professional and it was obvious that they had a close-knit team that was supportive of one another. It was also obvious that everyone had a strong passion for protecting the environment.

As I learned the ropes about how to operate the monitoring equipment and how to collect samples, I appreciated the willingness everyone had to provide assistance and answer questions.

The people who work in the Planning Department truly make it one of the best places to work in the entire Tribe.

As we monitored the Chippewa River, the environmental problems that plague our river became apparent to me. I developed a real appreciation for the work that the team does. It is common knowledge that our river has some issues. However, those issues would never be brought to light if it weren’t for their work.

What sets our community apart from others in the state is that our Environmental Team monitors the health of our river. By doing that, we are able to raise awareness about issues and take steps to correcting those issues and restoring the river’s health.

Not all communities have programs like this. They have to rely on state and county resources that simply are not there to provide the services that our Environmental Team provides.

The people in the Planning Department are truly one-of-a-kind and they provide our community with an invaluable service.

From community outreach that helps to educate Anishinaabeg youth on environmental issues, to the monitoring of the Chippewa River and its tributaries, our community is a better place because of this team.

I am honored to have had the opportunity to be a part of that team, and work a job that truly makes a difference in making the future better for our children.

Faith Indian Church and its representatives deliver donations to South Dakota tribe

JOSEPH V. SOWMICK

Photojournalist

Faith Indian Church of the Nazarene’s Pastor Doyle Perry and his congregation aided in collecting and delivering donations to a tribe in need on

the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota.

Community elder Frank Vasquez helped Perry load his Chevy F-150 truck on Dec. 7 to take food, clothing and toys to Pastor Cecilia Spotted Bear and families from Wounded Knee and Porcupine, S.D.

With the help of Henry Bontrager of the Grove Bible Church in St. Johns, Mich., and with community support, more than 200 boxes filled with children’s toys and candy joined hats, gloves, Nike shoes, coats, batteries and assorted hygiene products.

“We’re also going to a Native nursing home in Oglala, and I’m leaving it up to Pastor Cecilia Spotted Bear and Pastor Alex Bad Bear what we do with the rest,” Perry said.

Spotted Bear and Bad Bear of Lakota Memorial Church of the Nazarene represent one of 29 different churches on the eighth largest reservation in the U.S.

“The women of our church and of Grove Bible Church gave us homemade blanket and quilts that I’m sure will be appreciated with the cold

winters they have out there,” Perry said. “We are also taking out 150 Native American bibles that were generously donated by our friends Kenny and Sonya Sault from First Nations Canada delivered for us when they heard we were making a mission trip out there.”

Vasquez said he was moved by the efforts surrounding

Native churches helping Native people.

“There is nothing wrong with helping out and doing favors for people when you can,” Vasquez said. “To take care of elders and families in the summer with your garden, to plant for them and help them out is what I was taught to do.”



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

Community elder Frank Vasquez (left) and Pastor Doyle Perry picks up the final load of donations for their Christmas mission trip to Pine Ridge.



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Annual Report (October 2015 - September 2016)

The Board of Directors for the Ziibiwing Cultural Society/Ziibiwing Center of Anishinabe Culture & Lifeways is proud to recognize the organization's many accomplishments and its staff within this Annual Report.

From guided tours for school children, Mount Pleasant Indian Industrial Boarding School archaeological Field Schools, Artist-in-Residence Programs and ancestral repatriations to fun family events like NativeFest, the Ziibiwing Cultural Society continues to be a vital and progressive organization for the Tribe.

On May 3, 2016, State of Michigan Governor Rick Snyder and State Historic Preservation Officer Brian D. Conway recognized the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of

Michigan, Central Michigan University and the City of Mt. Pleasant with a 2016 Governor's Award for Historic Preservation. This award was given for documenting the history of the Mt. Pleasant Indian Industrial Boarding School through an ongoing program of archaeological research and outreach initiatives that promotes healing and understanding of the lives of boarding school students.

We hope that you find in this Annual Report a clear demonstration of the dedication and respect exemplified by our entire organization for the mission, work and growth of the Ziibiwing Cultural Society.

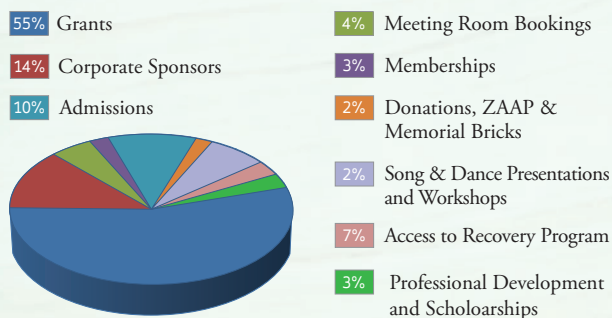
We are extremely grateful for your continued support and trust in our very important work.

Our Members

- American Indian Services, Inc.
- Avery, Adam
- Bonnema, Terri & Jim
- Brauker, Shirley
- Brodie, David
- Carpenter-Mohler, Joan
- Chamberlain, Julie
- Christy, Dennis Sr.
- Coen, Pat
- Cornejo, Viviana
- Cross, Dr. Suzanne
- Cummins, Charla
- Davis, Dustin & Jenna
- Day, Alexa
- Dolley, Diane
- Dorcey, Julie
- Douglas, Kenneth & Carol
- Douglas, Ronald & Sharon
- Ederer, Eric
- Falcon, Ronald & Audrey
- Gorecki, Liz
- Graveratte, Mary
- Grills, Gary
- Guerrero, Joaquin Sr.
- Guerrero, Joaquin Jr.
- Hadden, Marcella
- Helms, Esther
- High, Roger
- Jackson, Delmar Jr.
- Katz, Marsha
- Kellner, Ralph
- Kennedy, Lisa
- Kequom, Phyllis
- Kimewon, Elizabeth
- King, Lisa
- Kucera, Ann
- Leaureaux, Sheila
- Leaureaux, Tonia
- Lewis, Jason & Amanda
- Listerman, Angela
- Martin, George & Sydney
- Martin, Shannon
- Meskill, Deborah
- Michener, David & Wil Strickland
- Mitchell, Autumn
- Montoya, Iliana
- Montoya, Tina
- Moore, Brian
- Pamp, Judy
- Paquette, Carol & Andrew
- Peters, Alstyn
- Peters, Angela
- Pitawanakwat, Alphonse
- Porter, Deb
- Powell, Malea
- Powell, Mark & Jane
- Queen, Elizabeth
- Quigno, Jason
- Raslich, Frank & Nicole
- Raslich, Bill & Rose Marie
- Rentfro, Jenny
- Ricketts, Alice
- Russell, Mary Ellen
- Shananaquet, Dave
- Shawana, Joseph & Charmaine
- Sheperdigian, Barbara
- Shier, Quita
- Skene, Julie
- Slasinski, Mike
- Sova, Marlene
- Spencer, Bernard
- Spencer, Robin
- Sprague, Jeff
- Squanda, Clarence
- Stelmashenko, Victor
- Stevens, Paul & Evonna
- Sumbler, Jim
- Voges, Victoria
- Waiess, Elizabeth
- Waynee, Craig & Marlene
- Wickerham, Floyd & Sue
- Yates, Kathy
- Zaleski, Lanette
- Zocher, Virginia

Financials

External Revenue Total: \$290,722



Accomplishments

- 26,084 visitors experienced all the Center has to offer - an additional 7,635 were provided educational services offsite by the Ziibiwing Center staff.
- Implemented 182 special events and cultural programs for the Tribal community and general public.
- Research Center served 2,375 patrons.
- Maintained 8 Tribal cemeteries, in addition to the Ziibiwing Center's 3-acre lawn (14.41 acres per week).
- Provided 189 tours for 4,157 guests, 44 K-12 tours and 145 adult tours, including complimentary SCIT, Migizi, SECR and Retail Employees' Orientation tours.
- NativeFest, our annual 3-day celebration of American Indian culture, attracted 629 people.
- Continued to provide cultural and educational services 2-3 times per week to clients of the Tribe's Residential Treatment Center and Access to Recovery Program.
- ZC Commercial Services product shipments for 2016 totaled 43,264 - up 15,659 from 2015.
- ZC Commercial Services online sales up \$400,000 from 2015.
- \$7.8 million (estimate) in total sales for Ziibiwing Commercial Services—up \$476,211 from fiscal year 2015.
- Members of our team participated on 22 various Tribal and external boards/committees to support our strategic goal of Ensuring Organizational Sustainability.
- Awarded 3 of the 3 Federal grants submitted: NAGPRA Repatriation Grant, Historic Preservation Fund, and Institute of Museum and Library Services Grant for a total of \$110,260 in federal funding.
- Awarded the Cultural Resource Fund Phase 1 and 2 Grants for a total of \$50,000 in funding from the Tides Foundation.
- Selected as a Finalist for the National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award, chosen in the top 50 out of 301 applicants.
- ZC Commercial Services continued to operate at 100% self-sufficiency and is currently subsidizing the wages of 5 Ziibiwing Center staff positions.

Your Support

Your continued support is very important to us as it provides essential funding for:

- Free admission to Ziibiwing Center exhibits for members of all North American Indian Tribes.
- Discounted admission to military personnel, school children, college students, and educators.
- Funding for outreach programs which take our teachings and collections into schools throughout Michigan.
- Preservation of our artifacts and collections, ensuring that our culture will be preserved for future generations.
- Maintenance and promotion of our exhibits so that our heritage and culture can be enjoyed by everyone.
- Repatriated and reburied the physical remains of 29 Native American individuals and 15 associated funerary objects from Bay, Clinton, Genesee, Macomb, Saginaw, St. Clair, and Tuscola Counties from University of Michigan on November 24, 2015 and 2 Native American individuals and 3 associated funerary objects from the historic Keetchewaundaugnink Reservation near Byron, Michigan from the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology on June 29, 2016. The ancestors from the Keetchewaundaugnink Reservation are culturally affiliated to the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan.
- 71 items were accepted for the Tribal Permanent Collection in 2016 (books, photographs, baskets, beaded items, 1- Boarding School drum, AIM items, wood carvings, 1-war club, 1-painting, 1-dance stick, etc.).
- The Ziibiwing Center hosted and mentored 5 Summer Youth Workers.
- Cultural Resource Management team completed 355 cultural resource reviews – these reviews are required under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and protect the cultural resources/traditional cultural properties of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan.
- 103,979 individual contacts were logged by our team, including physical visits, phone, email, and newly logging E-Noodaagan newsletter and social media, such as Facebook.
- ZC Commercial Services E-commerce sales broke 1 million dollars this fiscal year.
- Tribal Council approved ZC Commercial Services to build a new building next to the current warehouse in an effort to continue E-commerce growth.
- ZC Commercial Services worked on various software programs and upgrades to improve Amazon selling and enter into new selling channels - examples are Ship Gear and Channel Advisor.
- ZC Commercial Services completed the Tower Project, which provides High-Speed Connectivity for greater efficiency.
- ZC Commercial Services replaced the POS System with the RMS system.
- ZC Commercial services implemented new software (GP, E-Bridge, and Panatrak) to improve various Commercial Services processes.

2017 Event Calendar

January

- 28 | Family Storytelling
- 31 | Performance Circle Sign-Up & Class
(Classes every Tuesday until May 9 except Spring Break)

February

- 4-11 | Collection Showing
- 25 | Anishinabe Authors' Gathering & Book Fair

March

- 20-24 | Baby Swing and Moss Bag Workshop
- 22 | Vendor Workshop

April

- 3-7 | Performance Circle Spring Break: No Classes
- 22 | New Changing Exhibit Opens
- 24-28 | Mother Earth Week
- 29 | Sacred Water Symposium

May

- 4&5 | Ziibiwing's 13th Birthday Sale
- 9 | Performance Circle Graduation
- 13 | Bird Day Celebration
- 13-20 | Collection Showing
- 29 | Blue Star Museum Begins

June

- 6 | MIIBS* "Honoring, Healing & Remembering"
(at the MIIBS)*
- 24 | Community Cultural Teaching
(at the Sanilac Petroglyphs)

July

- 1, 8, 15, 22 | American Indian Dances
- 24-29 | NativeFest • Collection Showing
- 25 | NativeFest • Car Bingo
- 26 | NativeFest • Music & Comedy Night
- 31 | Cradleboard Workshop Begins

August

- 4 | Cradleboard Workshop Ends
- 9 | World Indigenous People's Day
- 14-18 | **THPO Cultural Workshop

September

- 4 | Blue Star Museum Ends
- 5 | Performance Circle Sign-Up & Class
(Classes every Tuesday until Dec. 12, except Oct. 31)
- 9 | Grandparent's Day
- 16 | Monarch Butterfly Celebration
- 22 | Michigan Indian Day
- 23 | Museum Day Live!
- 30 | Changing Exhibit Closes
- September - November | Heritage Special
(Call for Details)

October

- 9 | Indigenous People's Day
- 18 | Eagle Feather Cleansing
- 19&20 | Eagle Feather Honoring
- 20 | Eagle Feather Feast
- Performance Circle No Class | Oct. 31

November

- 3 | Spirit Feast
- 11 | Veteran's Day
- 11-18 | Collection Showing
- 16 | Vendor Workshop
- 16-18 | Circle of Indigenous Arts

December

- 7 | Annual Appreciation Dinner *(By invitation)*
- 12 | Performance Circle Graduation
- 16 | Community Cultural Teaching

* Mt. Pleasant Indian Industrial Boarding School
 ** Tribal Historic Preservation Office
 • All events subject to change or cancellation.
 • Visit www.sagchip.org/ziibiwing or call 989.775.4750 for current information.

Ziibiwing Cultural Society Mission

The Ziibiwing Center is a distinctive treasure created to provide an enriched, diversified, and culturally relevant educational experience. This promotes the Society's belief that the culture, diversity, and spirit of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan and other Great Lakes Anishinabek must be recognized, perpetuated, communicated, and supported.



ANISHINAABEMOWIN WORD SEARCH

I	Z	E	G	N	I	I	W	A	X	M	A	S	H	K	A	W	A	A	
Z	J	X	C	V	B	N	M	L	K	J	H	G	F	D	S	Q	A	N	A
I	Q	O	S	H	K	A	Y	I	I	I	W	A	N	M	T	Y	A	F	M
W	S	X	O	Q	W	R	T	Y	H	N	K	L	A	Q	Y	M	B	T	O
E	X	M	W	G	S	D	F	G	H	J	K	T	P	Y	I	T	I	G	O
I	C	I	S	P	A	Y	H	N	M	P	I	C	X	A	J	G	S	B	Z
K	V	N	X	L	F	A	N	V	C	I	L	V	A	Y	A	B	H	N	I
H	B	W	D	K	G	S	H	T	H	Y	P	B	Q	S	W	N	K	H	I
S	N	A	C	N	B	X	R	Z	D	F	W	N	W	D	H	H	I	Y	N
A	M	N	F	T	R	D	I	P	H	A	G	M	S	R	S	Y	P	M	Z
G	K	J	V	M	T	N	M	L	M	A	F	K	X	F	E	J	J	K	I
P	L	I	G	A	A	D	J	A	Z	X	W	L	C	G	B	M	D	L	B
L	R	G	B	A	J	F	D	B	C	R	T	E	D	H	S	K	E	P	W
R	T	E	N	J	H	N	C	F	B	G	H	Y	N	R	T	L	B	Q	A
F	Y	G	I	I	I	G	O	S	H	I	M	O	S	I	M	P	I	W	A
H	P	J	R	I	M	N	B	V	C	X	Z	S	D	F	M	G	H	D	K
A	K	A	W	A	A	B	I	T	H	M	I	N	O	D	O	O	D	A	W
R	T	A	Q	W	D	F	G	H	R	T	Y	C	V	N	Z	K	L	Y	A
B	A	G	O	S	E	N	D	A	M	B	H	G	T	R	F	V	S	W	D
W	T	G	B	N	H	Y	J	P	A	A	D	I	Z	O	O	K	A	A	N

MNO NIM-KO-DA-DING! HAPPY NEW YEAR!

promise	waawiindamaw
hope	bagosendam
treat well	minodoodaw
white	waabishki
new	oshkay'i'iiwan
change mind	aanizhiitam
fast	gii'igoshimo
overcome	zhaagooji
eat well	minwanjige
close friends	beshwaji
skilful	wawiingezi
succeed	gashki'ewizi
strong	mashkawaa
honey	aamoo ziinzibwaakwad
legend	aadizookaan
expect	akawaabi
benefit	debi
begin	maajii
bless	zhawenim
pray	anam'iaa

Nichols, John, D. & Nyholm, Earl. A Concise Dictionary of Minnesota Ojibwe. University of Minnesota Press. Minneapolis. 1995. Title by Isabelle Osawamick.

WIGWAM WISDOM

The Wigwam has sheltered our ancestors from storms and bad weather since the dawn of time. The wigwam has witnessed the hardships our people have had to endure not only through the hands of change and war, but upon our strongest enemies, ourselves. The spirit of the wigwam does not forget and keeps with it the wisdom to guide the souls that have strayed back to a peaceful life.



Comments or feedback can be sent to: wigwam_wisdom@yahoo.com

**(WW is intended entertainment purposes only. Please make sure to seek professional counseling when necessary.)*

Dear WW: Well Christmas has come and gone and once again, I didn't get what I thought I would. I actually thought that my boyfriend was going to propose. I did get a ring but not an engagement ring. The pearl ring he gave me is beautiful but how long do I have to wait for an engagement ring? This is our second Christmas together and I'm not getting any younger. We both have done everything by the book; college degrees, no children, good jobs and we don't live together. Not sure what the problem is and not sure how long I should wait. **Ticking**

Dear Ticking: I don't see a problem. Getting to know someone could take a couple of years. You should be at a stage where you can talk about marriage and not wait for him to make the decision or get on his knees to propose. I am glad that you have not moved in together as that would have seriously decreased the odds of getting married. There should be a discussion about future plans, what you expect and what he expects. Do you want kids? Are you both the same religion? If a commitment and marriage is what you want, don't be afraid to ask for it. If the relationship is not moving forward, make plans to move on.

Dear WW: I hate winter and at the same time, I am stuck in a state where it is winter eight months out of the year. It's always gloomy and that makes me depressed. My skin gets pale and dries out. I hate paying my consumers bill and can barely afford propane. Don't tell me to move as I don't have the financial means in which to do so. The dogs hate to go outside and so do I. I have no energy and just want to sleep. How do I survive another Michigan winter? **Winter Blues**

Dear Blues: I would recommend a complete physical to see if you are suffering from SAD (Seasonal Affective Disorder). This is very common due to lack of sunlight during long, cold winter months. It could also be mild depression. Either way, try your best to fight it. Join a gym to help increase your daily activity. Take a daily vitamin supplement to help boost your energy, such as B12 to help increase your immunity. Going to a tanning salon may help with the lack of light, and a vacation to a well-lit state can also help. In the meantime, tell yourself that it's OK to slow down for the winter. Go to bed earlier, catch up on your reading. Start a new hobby so you have something to look forward to. Learn to ski or find some kids to go sledding with.

Dear WW: Why is it that when it comes to my parents I am the only one out of four children that can ever help and do anything? My widowed mother is incurring medical expenses and needs more help than what I can financially provide. I just get so sick and tired of always being the one to do everything while my siblings never pitch in. If they would pay back the money that they owe her, we wouldn't be in this bind. All I want is for them to do their fair share. **Feeling Cheated**

Dear Cheated: This is not a neighbor or co-worker that you are talking about, this is your MOTHER. You make it sound as if taking care of her is a burden. Never mind what your siblings are doing! Obviously, she is not a priority to them. They will be the ones who suffer when she is gone. Do everything you can for her and realize that it will probably always be you. Don't judge, don't hate, just do what needs to be done and do the best you can. In the end, that's all she needs.

WHERE ON THE REZ?



Do you know where this is?
Answer the puzzle correctly by Jan. 17 through e-mail or telephone. Your name will go into a drawing, and one winner will receive two free announcements in the Tribal Observer.

Submit Answers To:
DCantu@sagchip.org
or call 989-775-4010

LAST MONTH:



Nimkee Memorial Wellness Center sign

Last Month's Winner:
No Winner

Oklahoma City Native American New Play Festival has open call for scripts

JOSEPH V. SOWMICK
Photojournalist

The Oklahoma City Theatre Company's eighth annual Native American New Play Festival is currently having an open call for scripts.

All American Indian, Alaskan Native, Native Hawaiian, Canadian First Nation, and Indigenous Mexican playwrights, including those studying theater at tribal colleges are encouraged to submit full-length plays.

All themes and topics are welcomed. Plays may focus on historical or present-day issues.

The festival will be held April 6-8 and April 14-15, 2017, and will center on last year's chosen play "Blood Boundary" by Vicki Mooney.

Tribal Librarian Anne Heidemann said the library offers a wealth of resources to support those who write (or want to write).

"We have books and eBooks that offer information, instruction, and inspiration for those writing a play or any type of writing, from book reports to business writing to comics to poetry and beyond," Heidemann said. "The Tribal Libraries also offer additional resources that writers may find useful including free access to use our computers, assistance with learning how to use Microsoft Word, and a quiet space in which to write."

Nathaniel Lambertson, dean of students for the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College said, he does not believe any SCTC student has participated in the festival at this time.

"We are proud to say SCTC student and SCIT member Carla Bennett was published in the (Tribal College Journal) last year," Lambertson said. "I believe that special issues of the TCJ are student-content driven.

Otherwise, the TCJ employs staff or invited guest staff to create content normally."

Full length plays that are received by Feb. 15 will be read and evaluated by a panel comprised of Native American theatre artists, Oklahoma City Theatre Company artistic staff, and invested community members.

The panel will select two to three plays for a staged reading during the festival based on originality, theatricality, and execution.

Finalists will receive a staged reading with actors and a director during the first weekend festival on April 8, 2017.

A full production will be awarded to one of the finalists and showcased as the featured production for the following festival in 2018.

The Tribal College Journal is a one-of-a-kind literary and art magazine and website, dedicated to showcasing the creative writing and artistic expression of students at Tribal colleges. Students contribute all of their content, except for the introductions provided by celebrity authors.

For more information, please contact the Oklahoma City Theatre Company directly via email at mtorralba@okctc.org.

Attention Tribal Members

With the decrease in per capita coming, now is the time to contact Housing for financial and budgeting assistance.



For more information, please contact:
Sherrill Kennedy at 989-775-4552 or SKennedy@sagchip.org



Lee Ann Ruffino promoted to Seventh Generation cultural manager

JOSEPH V. SOWMICK

Photojournalist

On Dec. 14, Rosanna Martin, interim administrative assistant III for Tribal Administration, announced the promotion of Seventh Generation's Lee Ann Ruffino.

"Tribal Administration would like to congratulate and welcome a familiar face to her new role within Tribal Operations – Lee Ann Ruffino, who has recently

accepted the position as Seventh Generation cultural manager. Lee is a well-known face within the Seventh Generation Program and has served the department for several years as their administrative assistant II. Throughout her years, she has gained a significant amount of knowledge about Seventh Generation and the services they provide."

The Seventh Generation staff surprised Ruffino with a celebratory breakfast, flowers and a cake.

Martin said Ruffino has done a wonderful job keeping the program running during the time of having no manager in place, and has been a great asset for all Seventh Generation inquiries this past year.

Ruffino said her office is always welcome to the community and encourages people to drop by and see what different programs and services they offer. She may be reached via email at LeRuffino@sagchip.org or by calling 989-775-4780.



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

Seventh Generation staff celebrates promotion of Lee Ann Ruffino. Left to right: Ben Hinmon, Stephanie Sprague, Lacey Mandoka, Ruffino, Aleigha Reinsberg, Dan Jackson and Jose Gonzalez.

Editorial: Keeping spirits high in the brutal Standing Rock environment

GARRY DOUGLAS

Contributing Writer

(Editor's note: Saginaw Chippewa Tribal elder Garry Douglas submitted the following article to the Tribal Observer in late November to reflect on his Standing Rock Sioux Tribe visit earlier that month.)

I'm sure most people have heard of the recent events that have taken place at the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe Reservation in regards to the tribe's reasonable attempts to seek a solution.

Standing Rock members wanted to prevent the energy transfer partners from laying an oil pipeline across their territory from the 1851 Treaty of Fort Laramie, just north of their reservation, which would cross under the Missouri River, and possibly destroy historically-sacred artifacts, as well as polluting their only source of drinking water.

On a side note, we all remember the right wing group which took over the Oregon National Wildlife refuge last year that used threats of gun violence to block the federal and local authorities for several months to further their cause. Their eventual exoneration from the violence that was committed shows the double standard that the American political system has placed upon American Indians and others who are not part of the one percent or those within the mega corporation scene.

On Nov. 12, I began my journey to Standing Rock to donate a Toyota Tundra camper shell full of winter clothing, tents, sleeping bags, food and other supplies to the various people who were there in support of the Lakota people and those participating in the protest.

My Winters, Calif. friends Keith, Sally, Jeff, the Seegers, Woody, Carol and Dick, and Barbara from Sacramento, Calif. had collected an enormous amount; enough that I thought was worthwhile to carry back there.

On my second night of travel, I got off Interstate



Courtesy of Garry Douglas

Tribal elder Garry Douglas poses for a photo on the Standing Rock Reservation.

80 to find a motel room in Rock Springs, Wyo. when the Wyoming Highway Patrol pulled me over.

The officer said I had gone past the walkway before I stopped to turn. He then escalated the complaint, stating he thought that I was carrying drugs.

Two of his fellow officers brought a cute little Beagle sniffer that began sniffing my truck, whereupon he stated that the cute dog smelled drugs.

I quickly stated that there were no drugs. I told him he could check, but I would stop talking and he would have to put everything back in the truck.

About two hours later, he and the two other officers put everything back in my truck.

Two days later, I arrived at the main camp just north of Cannon Ball, N.D.

When I signed into the camp and unloaded my supplies, I noted the efficiency of the camp people and the happiness of seeing my contributions. They began sorting the materials I brought, creating a line of materials that looked as similar to a clothing store, but without any cost to those who needed the various supplies.

There were a slew of tents, yurts, motor homes and other structures as I walked around the encampment.

On the first morning after arriving, I attended an introduction to the activities that involved the protest and their strategies.

I traipsed up to "Media Hill" that was only 300 feet higher, but a place where you could obtain cell reception.

Most of the journalists were in this location as well.

Some of the people who had legal backgrounds were here. They would sign individuals up to go into the front lines, take your information for who to contact if or when you were arrested, and then pledge to you that they would pay the bail and whatever was necessary to get you out of jail.

At this point, I donated money from May Lou and Al in Winters, Calif. and from my wife, Stephanie, and I.

When I was asked if I wanted to volunteer to protest, I said I was an elder from the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe, so I would leave it up to the young people to be in the front lines.

I spent about six days before returning home.

The people who were there presented a grand sense of solidarity, many participating in the cooking and feeding of the people who were there.

There was also assistance given to others who were cutting wood for the stoves and fires. This was important since the average temperature was 20 degrees with a wind-chill of about 9 degrees; it was extremely cold.

Some of the tribes from Washington State brought their health department, with many nurses and doctors. They had warm yurts with stoves keeping their medical care areas inviting all who might need medical assistance.

Even though it was unpleasant being in such a brutal environment as North Dakota, I was always in high spirits from the comradeship. Everyone showed solidarity toward the cause of supporting the Standing Rock Reservation and their need to save their water.

After all, as they say, water is life.

Anishinabe Performance Circle Graduation



Observer photos by Matthew Wright

The Ziibiwing Center of Anishinabe Culture & Lifeways held its winter Anishinabe Performance Circle graduation on Tuesday, Dec. 12.

Dancers of all ages showcased cultural dances and songs for family and friends inside the central gathering area at Andahwod.

The mission of the Performance Circle is aimed at promoting and enhancing positive self-images of Anishinabe children through the use of traditional Anishinabe arts (storytelling, dance, music, and language), and

preparing youth as Anishinabe leaders in a multicultural society.

Graduating youth dancers: Jade Green, Jorja Green, Josilyn Green, Tahlia Alonzo, Alexis Rose Sheahan, Aiyana Sheahan, Marcus Quintero and Samantha D'Artagnan.

Graduating adult dancers: David J. Miller, David Vela, Rae Hesling, Andrew Paquette, Joseph V. Sowmick, Fred Leksche and Josh Leksche.



Editorial: Making our stand with Standing Rock Sioux Tribe

CHARMAINE SHAWANA

Contributing Writer

We went to Standing Rock Indian Reservation in North Dakota last month and what an adventure we had.

We took my small RV, and with the five people we had, it was quite the exceptional trip; one that I will never forget.

There were four drivers, so we knew we would make it in one day, but it was sure a long way. We went across Michigan's Upper Peninsula through Wisconsin and Minnesota and half of North Dakota.

We ran into very good weather and arrived at 3 a.m. We parked, climbed into our sleeping bags and called it good.

In the cloudy morning, we woke up to a horse running around the RV looking in the windows. It was so odd because we are not the horse people of the Plains, but there were a lot of people there on horseback.

The camp was set up in a valley with small hills surrounding it. Later we learned those were actually the burials of many Lakota people including Sitting Bull and Crazy Horse.

I asked where the Michigan Host Camp was and we quickly relocated to a nearby tent.

We were welcomed by a big truck of hay bales that some of the younger guys put around our RV. They said it would help to keep the heat in. It was nice and they were so welcoming.

Inside a big Army tent, we ate a breakfast that Nancy Shomin and her crew were cooking all morning. It was great, and it was a nice, hot

breakfast – eggs, potatoes, and sausage with hot tea and coffee.

The people all seemed to be really committed in spite of the frigid temperatures.

The Army tent was cold and kind of dark, but the spirit of those that were handling the cooking was sure a welcome relief.

There were shelves of food all stocked up for the winter: Canned goods, boxes of macaroni, and noodles, and lots of little stoves to use for cooking outside.

A big truck came by to deliver firewood to anyone in the camp in need of some. Sometime later, another big truck came by to deliver propane to whoever needed it.

Most of the tents were heated by propane. All the propane was free, as was the wood. I was told it was paid for by the tribe.

Trucks came by to pick up garbage. There was even a recycle man. People were committed to creating a small city; at last count, there were 14,000 people there. Amazing.

There was a sea of tents and teepees. People were riding on horseback and there were even a few stray dogs here and there.

I found out there was a medic, and when I went in to get some medicine for my heartburn, I was surprised to see a doctor and several nurses taking care of people.

There was also a massage tent and counselors to take care of those that needed mental health.

People came from all walks of life. There were hippies there with vans and trucks with decorations on them "NO DAPL," "Water is LIFE,"

there were a lot of vans with flowers on them like the good old "flower power" days.

There were all kinds of Anishinabe people from all U.S. tribes coming to lend support.

Even President Obama was there years ago when he was running for office. He must have made quite an impression on the people there. They were asking him personally to stop the pipeline dig, and I believe he did. It remains to be seen what will happen next.

Make no mistake though; it was a combat zone, a real war. There were people there with wounds and bruises, and I'm sure there will be some post-traumatic stress disorder cases. Some people were sprayed with water, tear gassed and shot with rubber bullets.

Even elders and babies were around there, children of all ages and sizes sliding down Media Hill. It was the one place where we could get some reception for our phones to report back to family and friends, a huge hill of ice and snow.

We took elder George Martin out there, an 81-year-old veteran of the Air Force.

We had special access to all the events that were happening. We got to meet a Congress woman from Hawaii, her name was Tulsi Gabbard.

There were many great speakers we got to listen to. Tulsi Gabbard and a Tribal Council member woman from Standing Rock also gave an inspiring talk.

U.S. veterans were being called to show up and support Stand Rock, and Martin answered the call.

I think everyone was amazed because they were thinking 100 veterans would show up. Well, 2,000 actually showed up; all races, creeds and colors.

They came in cars, vans, trucks and buses. They were everywhere and everyone appreciated them. They were supposed to relieve the warriors on the front line on Monday, Dec. 5, but we got word that the pipeline didn't get approved to go under the Missouri River on Sunday, Dec. 4, by the Army Corp. of Engineers.

All-in-all, it was an inspiring trip. I was amazed at all the people committed to the cause of protecting the water and really sticking it out in spite of the conditions.

Most of the time we were there, the weather was in the 30's, and when we left, we heard there was going to be a storm. We left Sunday night amid hundreds who wanted to get out before the storm hit.

There was no running water there. There were only portable toilets. Mostly everyone lived in tents or yurts. There were a few campers and RVs there. There was a sacred fire place and many speakers were there to support the cause and give encouragement and hope.

Many people were in prayer and ceremony all day and night. You could hear drums and singing from different places all over the camp at any time day or night.

I met one lady who had just gotten out of alcohol treatment and had found her calling to be there for the people. Many were taking time off of work and dedicated themselves to the commitment of protecting the water.

There were TV and radio media there also. MSNBC interviewed Martin for a TV spot.

NPR National Public Radio was there as well. A lot of local and national newspapers were there too.

It was amazing how the word spread and people felt the need to come and participate in the cause.

The trip was something I will never forget, and I am so glad that I was able to participate in it.

We delivered a lot of food, coats, gloves, jackets and other non-perishable items.

There was a store there and I was eager to see what it was about. I walked a ways to go see it. It was a huge tent with lots of shelves.

Someone would come and say, "What can I help you with?" We were low on toilet paper in the RV so I asked for some.

He said, "Help yourself." "How much?" I asked.

"No cost," he said. It was all free. There were shelves of blankets, coats, long underwear, gloves hats, everything that anyone could imagine. All free.

Now is the waiting time, and I'm sure there are people still out there in the cold, barren plains, praying and existing on the commitment of change. Hoping for the best for Mother Earth and the future of our youth and the survival of our intent to save the water we believe.

My prayers will always be with those that endured this cold time in the dead of winter for the cause, for all of planet earth and the protection of the waters. Nahaaw.

2016 TRIBAL OBSERVER BUCK POLE



Alta Sisco
6 Point



Alex Sawmick
13 years old - 8 Point



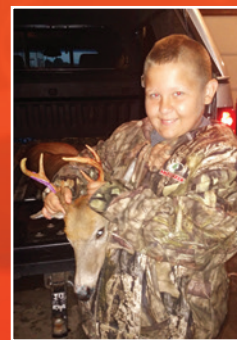
Adam Jewell
16 years old



Blake Spencer
13 years old



Brian Morley



Dakarii Graveratte
10 years old - 6 Point



Justin Graveratte
14 years old - 6 Point



Doyle Perry
9 Point



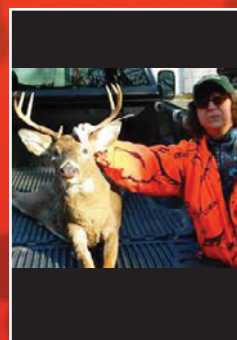
Mark Spencer
15 years old



Mason Naimo
12 years old - 6 point



Michael Naimo
15 years old - 10 point



Pam James
8 point



Tayden Davis
11 years old - 8 point



Soaring Eagle Waterpark brings Christmas cheer with tree lighting ceremony

JOSEPH V. SOWMICK

Photojournalist

The holiday season at the Soaring Eagle Waterpark and Hotel was full of Christmas cheer on Dec. 3 with the inaugural Festival of Trees fundraiser and a tree lighting ceremony.

Chief Frank Cloutier was joined by fellow Tribal Council members Kenneth Sprague, Michelle Colwell and Gayle Ruhl as he kicked off the holiday season with the ceremonial lighting of the trees.

Migizi CEO Robert Juckniess said 36 donated and decorated Christmas trees were on display.

“This special event was preceded with an array of holiday music and a special visit from our Waterpark mascot Gizi,” Juckniess said. “Many Tribal departments and local businesses helped in this charitable effort, for which we are very thankful. Chief Cloutier presided over the lighting ceremony with remarks about the importance of community and charity during this holiday season. Bonnie Sprague, general manager of SEWPH, also thanked all of the people who participated in the preparations for the event.”



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

Chief Frank Cloutier offers a holiday message to a packed lobby of patrons before lighting the Christmas tree Dec. 3.

William Johnson, tribal elder and curator for the Ziibiwing Center of Anishinabe Culture & Lifeways, offered prayer.

The ceremony was followed by food, hot cocoa and cider with holiday music provided by the Mount Pleasant High School Chamber Brass Orchestra.

“We look forward to growing this event next year as a new tradition for the Tribe,” Juckniess said. “These trees that have been decorated by Tribal departments and local businesses will be auctioned

off with all proceeds going to the Saginaw Chippewa Residential Treatment Center.”

Residential Treatment Coordinator Diane Littel and Traditional Healer Donnie Dowd were in attendance.

“The additional funds will assure that RTC clientele continue to receive the necessary healing to combat their substance abuse,” Littel said. “The funds will help support the cultural and non-cultural components to RTC programming. Again, everyone here at RTC says chi-miigwetch to the Soaring Eagle Waterpark and Hotel and the Festival of Trees.”

Matt Taton, director of band for the Mount Pleasant Public Schools for the last 15 years, had the orchestra perform for the first time at an official Tribal event.

“We were so happy we were asked and would like to do more of these events as the Tribe has been so generous to the bands through grants,” Taton said. “We have (performed at) the Downtown Dickens, and other Mount Pleasant community events in the past either with

the Chamber Brass, Chamber Woodwinds, or Jazz Band, but performing for the holidays at the waterpark was special for our students.”

“I think events like this are a great way for our band students to work together and provide an opportunity for them to give back to the Native American and Mount Pleasant communities,” Taton said. “The Tribal Council has been very generous to us for over 10 years in awarding the music department numerous grants for supplies and instruments. We are forever grateful and are happy that we can pay it back by performing on those instruments.”

Taton said the Chamber Brass group is completely student run and organized.

“The students ran the rehearsals, transported the equipment and they worked together on every aspect for the holiday concert,” Taton said. “I am very proud of their efforts and appreciate the Tribe for giving us this opportunity for the first time.”

Sprague said it was an honor to attend and have Chief Cloutier light up the property.

“It was also gratifying to see our guests and little guests sitting around the



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

SEWPH General Manager Bonnie Sprague gives thanks to Tribal departments and area businesses for their support of the Festival of Trees event.

fireplace enjoying hot chocolate and Christmas cookies while listening to the live holiday music,” Sprague said. “Everyone had a grand time and this special event worked well for our property kicking off the holiday season.”

Sprague offered a chi-miigwetch to the team leaders and members for making this event possible.

“We couldn’t have done it without their hard work and dedication,” Sprague said of the team leaders. “We look forward to hosting our annual tree lighting ceremony for many years to come.”

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- Winona LaDuke
- Carmen Lane
- Dr. Dylan Miner

2017
The Ziibiwing Center Staff
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Peace ~ Joy ~ Prosperity

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For memberships or further information contact:
Amanda Lewis, Funding & Development Specialist,
at 989.775.4734 or alewis@sagchip.org

Miigwetch (Thank you) and have a joyful & prosperous Holiday Season!

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Larry "Pun" Plamondon and Shirley Brauker

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5pm-6pm Dinner catered by Nbakade
6pm-7pm Community Storytellers

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The force was strong as SCTC students form an alliance at their first Comic-Con event

JOSEPH V. SOWMICK

Photojournalist

On Dec. 13, a disturbance in the force was strong as Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College formed a rebel alliance as it hosted its first Star Wars Comic-Con event.

Stormtroopers, jedi knights, wookies and ewoks joined other characters for the out-of-this-world event that featured games and crafts for the kids, “Star Wars” battlefield tournaments, free food, photo booth, Star Wars trivia and much more.

Vendors and booths included the SCTC Student Council, Beauty Control, Rare and First Edition Comics, Perler Kandi, Andahwod, U.S. Navy sea cadets, Royal Knight Photo Booth, The Painted Turtle, Foster Closet, Discovery Museum, Kylie Anderson from It Works! and much more.

Marco Angiolini, instructional technology specialist, developed media materials to promote the event within the college and on social media.

“We are very pleased to have had the opportunity to host the ‘Star Wars’ Comic-Con at SCTC,” Angiolini said. “This is our first event of this level and the culmination of Nina Knight’s Humanities Class HUM 230 ‘American Pop Culture – Star Wars,’ which has been a huge success this past semester.”

In the class, students performed a complete analysis of the impact of the “Star Wars” cultural phenomenon, and created large format research posters, which were printed in-house, and publicly showcased throughout the event, Angiolini said.

Angiolini and Knight, English faculty instructor,



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

(Left to right) Carla Bennett, Ashley Bennett, Leah Denhof and Amber Sheahan flash their light sabres.



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

Kylo Ren (Dawn Morrow) displays her HUM 230 “American Pop Culture – Star Wars” class project.



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

Jedi Master Yoda’s (Sam Anglin) class project explains how Obi-Wan Kenobi was a sociopath.



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

Thomas Trasky rode his Taun Taun through the cold weather to make the SCTC Comic-Con event.

were equally impressed with the students’ enthusiasm and commended their hard work on their first Comic-Con.

“The Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College students inspire us every day with their hard work, perseverance and dedication, and give us ‘a new hope’ for the prosperity of the Tribe by demonstrating critical thinking and leadership skills,” Angiolini said. “We are proud to call them our students and look forward to seeing them succeed, whether by joining the workforce or continuing their educational journey in a four-year institution.”

Food vendors for the event included Julia’s Kitchen, Manny’s Burritos and SCTC alumni Victoria Alaverez (2016) and Markieta Vertz (2013) who had a spicy homemade chili stand.

The Los Jalapenos street vending truck also had a fine selection of Mexican cuisine.

Carla Sineway, president of SCTC, said she has never experienced such an event and had no idea what to expect.

“When visiting the students’ poster displays, I was impressed with the detail of information that goes beyond the ‘Star Wars’ movies. I believe it was a great way to showcase student research,” Sineway said.

SCTC student Deanna Campbell enjoyed her time in the HUM 230 class and believes she was able to accomplish her mission.

“I registered for this class hoping to learn more about ‘Star Wars’ so I could keep my geek card,” Campbell said. “I learned a great deal working on my class project and it looked like everyone was having a lot of fun too.”

Wesley Rich, faculty math instructor, commended Knight’s efforts.

“The students in the class really had their eyes opened to the huge impact the ‘Star Wars’ series has had on American popular culture, such as ‘LARPing’ (live action role playing). They seem to have developed an appreciation for the series and got to experience many related aspects of pop culture,” Rich

said. “Comic-Con gave them a chance to demonstrate their own research, views, theories, and enthusiasm, and they did a wonderful job. My wife told me she saw vendors promoting it all over Facebook. It must have worked, because the event was packed.”

Rich said the event also made the college more visible to the public and believes there may be similar SCTC events like this in the near future.

Knight said she enjoyed the event and appreciated all who attended.

“I would like to offer a special shout out to Jessica Dion from Pristine Clean who helped coordinate all our 29 vendors and to those departments and vendors who donated door prizes,” Knight said. “I would especially like to thank Cathy Pulverente from The Barn Door Bar & Restaurant and Kimberly Johnson from Pure Romance for their generosity. And, of course, a special thanks to all of the staff at SCTC who worked tirelessly on this event.”



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

Marisa Ramirez (left) and Roger Orvis Jr. (right) show their creativity with Michelle Klingensmith at the Painted Turtle booth.

Navajo poet Sherwin Bitsui shares his work with SCTC, CMU audiences

NATALIE SHATTUCK

Editor

Poet Sherwin Bitsui, a Diné (Navajo) from the Navajo Reservation in White Cone, Ariz., served as guest speaker at the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College on Nov. 30 as part of Native American Heritage Month.

Bitsui is the author of poetry collections “Shapeshift” (2003) and “Flood Song” (2009).

His poems reveal the tensions in the intersection of Native American and contemporary urban culture. His poems are rich with details of the landscape in the Southwest.

“I was interested in a book that could flow the imagination,” Bitsui said of “Flood Song,” which he began writing “out of visions he had.”



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

Navajo poet Sherwin Bitsui speaks at the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College on Nov. 30 as part of Native American Heritage Month.

He has received a Whiting Writers’ Award, a grant from the Witter Bynner Foundation for Poetry, a Truman Capote Creative Writing Fellowship and a Lannan Literary Fellowship, according to poetryfoundation.org.

Precisely six SCTC students and six faculty members attended in the east building at noon.

For one exercise, Bitsui read a poem in his language, and he asked the SCTC students to express the poem in English to rewrite what they believed the poem was saying.

He told the audience to “listen to the sounds” and onomatopoeias, the formation of a word from a sound associated with what it is named, for example, “boom,” “crunch” and “pop.”

“Pretend you know what the language is saying,” Bitsui said. “Trust your instinct and try to understand.”

Bitsui had the audience bring themselves to center and connect with their past and into a peaceful state of mind.

Bitsui read the following excerpt from “Saad” by Mazii Dinéltsoi (Rex Lee Jim), a Navajo poet, who teaches at a tribal college.

*ge’shoo
hashne’
hahadishlééh*

*naadqá
dá’ák’eh
nineelqáagi*

*naadqá
alzhih
bitsiigha’
tádiidín bee ahózhqod*

*saad
álastsii’
diné dóo asdzáni
bizaad*

He repeated the poem numerous times so the

students could listen to the sounds and interpret what they believed it said.

Several students and faculty members shared the poems they wrote. Many did such a great job that they impressed Bitsui.

Bitsui said writing poetry is quite a process.

He said it has taken about five to six years to complete one book.

“Flood Song” took six years to write, and two years to edit, he said.

“My third manuscript is on its 200th copy,” he said, laughing. “I’ve lost count. I’m constantly editing, revising it.”

He also served as guest speaker at a Central Michigan University event in the Moore Hall Kiva that same night at 7 p.m.

He read excerpts from his new book and “Flood Song.”



SCA teacher Matthew Sprague receives "Educator of the Month"

Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe's Education Administration would like to take this opportunity to showcase the shining stars in the department! We are proud of each and every team member within our department and think the community should know about you!

Congratulations to Matthew Sprague, Anishinaabe Bimaadziwin teacher for the Saginaw Chippewa Academy, for being selected as Educator of the Month! The following is a questionnaire completed by Sprague:

How long have you worked for the Education Department? A little over three years.

What is your favorite part of working in this department? The children, of course.

Do you have any pets? No.

What is your favorite vacation spot and why? Chicago. Mostly the food and it's the place of my favorite comic book store.

What is your favorite Disney movie? "The Lion King."

What is the one thing that you love to do? Why? Read, because you get the best of both worlds: Using your imagination, and learning.

What is one of your favorite quotes? "You can, you should, and if you're brave enough to start, you will."

What is your favorite candy/snack? Reese's Cups.

Thank you so much for being such an integral part of our education team. We appreciate you!



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

Anishinaabe Bimaadziwin teacher Matthew Sprague receives his award. (Left to right: Administrative Assistant II Christina Sharp, Sprague, and Administrative Assistant II Kelly Woodworth.)

West Intermediate students decorate school for domestic violence awareness

NATALIE SHATTUCK

Editor

Throughout October, Tribal departments were not the only ones having open discussions about Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

The Mount Pleasant middle school West Intermediate and its students and staff also helped spread the word and the color purple for the occasion.

On Oct. 27, Shelby McCliggott, counselor for Behavioral Health; Cleopatra Kleppert, victim advocate; and Lacie Kelly, intake specialist; met with Gail Huber, youth empowerment aide, at the school for a tour to see the students' creative artwork.

Classroom doors and hallway showcases were uniquely decorated with purple embellishments and many featured messages of hope or consciousness.

A total of 525 students and 47 staff members participated.

Posters read "number one fact: Most domestic violence incidents are never



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

A bulletin board at West Intermediate was decorated by the students during Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October.

reported. Help change the facts. Speak up, speak out, make a difference;" "show you care, be aware;" "love shouldn't hurt;" and "stop domestic violence. Instead, choose to love, respect and honor each other."

"Painting West Purple was started three years ago when Gail Huber reached out to Brooke Bechtel (Huber) who was the SART (Sexual Assault Response Team) lead for Nami Migizi Nangwiighan at the time," McCliggott



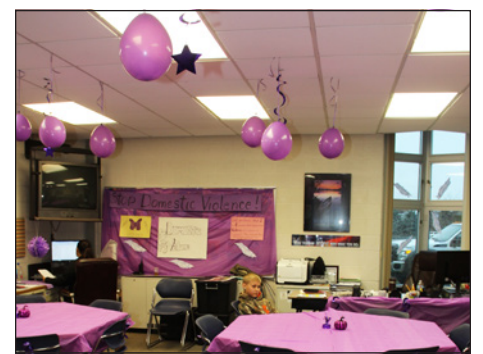
Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

There was much purple décor for Shelby McCliggott, counselor for Behavioral Health; Cleopatra Kleppert, victim advocate; and Lacie Kelly, intake specialist, to view at the school.

said. "Gail was interested in bringing the idea of 'Paint the Rez Purple' to West Intermediate; and allowed them to participate in a community activity for Domestic Violence Awareness Month."

The effort has continued each year since.

"Since they started participating, they have had an increase in students who have sought assistance of the



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

Youth Empowerment Aid Gail Huber's classroom is decorated in purple to raise awareness.

school counselors to discuss either past or present domestic violence within their homes," McCliggott said.

McCliggott said the team may join forces with other schools in the future.

"We are looking into expanding Nami Migizi Nangwiighan's outreach within both middle and high schools with the upcoming years throughout collaborations with other departments," she said.

Editorial: Cultural presentations at Ganiard and Pullen elementary

ANITA M. HALL

Youth Achievement Advisor

While celebrating Native American Heritage Month at Ganiard and Pullen elementary schools in Mount Pleasant, along with the annual K-12 educational powwow in November, our staff also puts together many presentations throughout the public schools.

Shepherd

The following students earned perfect attendance for November: Chayton Chatfield, Waaseya Lambertson, Samuel Cloud, Aubreyanna Stevens, Kyleigh Scarlott, Jayden Schout-Pelcher, Lakota Jackson, Karma Pelcher-Scarlott, Madalynn Sineway, Angelina Smith, Rumaulda Alanis, Jasmine Isham, Alize Jackson, Hunter Johnson, Jacob Williams, Foster Crampton, Olivia Lawson, Andee Raphael, Adam Saboo, Christopher Spencer-Ruiz, Sienna Chatfield, Charlie Isham, Jarrad Johnson, Camron Scarlott-Pelcher, Emma VanHorn, Aiyana Borton, Okilani Alaniz, Uriah Main, Tyler VanHorn, Cypriano Escamilla, Kira Fox, Adam Jewell, Kara Sanders, Allyssa Shawboose, Brooklyn Jackson and Guadalupe Pelcher. **The following students are being recognized for their first trimester GPA:** Rumaulda Alanis, Aiyana Bross, Lily Dean, Jasmine Isham, Alize Jackson, Hunter Johnson, Brandon Seegraves, Olivia Sineway, Miah Chatfield, Foster Crampton, Quincey Jackson, Mana Pelcher, Andee Raphael, Adam Saboo, Jacob Sineway, Christopher Spencer-Ruiz, Sienna Chatfield, Jarrad Johnson, Zachary Lezan, Matt Smith, Akima Alaniz, Hayley Cogswell, Kira Fox, Alicia Raphael, Scott Sura, Leo Bennett, Sedona Mejia, Allyssa Shawboose and Joey Sineway.

West Intermediate

The following students earned perfect attendance for November: Christopher Bartow, Elijah Fosmore, Grey Fox, Katie Green, Damion Haggard, Thomas Henry, Josie Isham, Matthew Jackson, Miingan Jackson, Caleb Kequom, Lauren Lindstrom, Aysia Mena-Isham, James Montoya-Pego, Mason Peterson, Shenanrose Pontiac, Taliyah Poolaw, Jacob Quigno, Jenna Rios, Alina Ruffino, Sara, Saunders, Destiny Shawano, Hazen Shinos, Molly Smith-Rodriguez, John Stevens, Makayla Stevens, Isaiah Teswood, Thomas Trasky and Mgizi Wemigwans. **The following students earned perfect attendance for the first trimester:** Phoebe Defeyter, Thomas Henry, Lauren Lindstrom, Aysia Mena-Isham, Hazen Shinos, Christopher Bartow, Damion Haggard, Matthew Jackson, Jada Lowe, Shenanrose Pontiac, Taliyah Poolaw, Destiny Shawano and John Stevens. **The following students were on the honor roll for the first trimester:** Gloria Altman, Christopher Bartow, Ava Belisle, Phoebe Defeyter, Anthony Green, Katie Green, Damion Haggard, Thomas Henry, Elisha Hoormann, Caleb Kequom, Skylar Leureaux, Lauren Lindstrom, Anthony Mark, Madison Pelcher, Mason Peterson, Shenanrose Pontiac, Taliyah Poolaw, Jenna Rios, Alina Ruffino, Sara Saunders, Hazen Shinos, Isaiah Teswood and Dawnseh Wilson.

Pullen

The following students earned perfect attendance for November: Tahlia Alonzo, Jaidyn Barnes, Braeden Bennett, Logan Bird, Caleb Burger, Miles Davis, Adalayah Ekdahl, Zachary Flaughter, Aaron Hendrickson, Emma Hinmon, Madison Isham, Trevor Isham, Olivia Lerma, Caitlyn Boyd, David McClain, Alonzo Mendez, Giovanni Pelcher, Arilynn Peters, Tius Peters, Tru Quigno-Vaughn, Isaiah Rodriguez, Hope Stevens, Alex Taylor, Jayden Taylor, Johnny Vertz, Kiarah Vertz, Lakiah Vertz, Micah Wagner, Remy Weldon, Amelia Whitt and Oginiihns Zerbe.

Ganiard

The following students earned perfect attendance for November: Leia Black, Hailey Cozzie, Kijate Cuellar, Jay Fleming-Foster, Annabelle Hart, Konner Hilleger, Caleb Howard, Isabella Jackson, Dehmin Kahgegab, Shilyanna Negrete-Ledesma, Natasia Noe, Kage Ortiz, Mya Osawabine, Ethan Reed, Caleb Sprague, Jordan Teller, Ethan Treichel and Ava Vogel.

Renaissance

The following students earned perfect attendance for November: Gracie Flores, Jacob Delacruz, Jadrian Jackson, Tyler Snyder, Isaiah Otto-Powers, Jayne Starkey, Nixie Snyder, Tylor Linville, Ricki Delacruz, Oscar Smith, Elijah Otto-Powers, Sabastion Davis and Tierra Ash.

Fancher

The following students earned perfect attendance for November: Dylan Bennett, Tiara Osawabine, Jardina White Eye, Hannah Fleming Foster, Allison Lindstrom, Areyu Sineway, Cailey Treichel, Caedynce Bailey and Zoey Haggard.

Saginaw Chippewa Academy

The following students earned perfect attendance for November: Eli Harris, Peyton Cleveland-Morsey, Liam Arbogast, Bela Magnell, Sienna Pego, Amelia Cyr, Gizhep Miller-Hosler, Jeydan Arbogast, Peyton Brabbs, Tawny Jackson and Caden Pego.

McGuire

The following students earned perfect attendance for November: Bailey Burger, Jonathan Martinez, Tasheenah Schwanke, Jessie Jackson, Aleigha Schwanke, Emily Stevens, Alexis Taylor, Kyrar Bennett, Arianna Bird, Mackenzie Burger, Zheesheeb Compo, Tayden Davis and Isaiah Harris.

Vowles

The following students earned perfect attendance for November: Adamina Bailey, Aolani Gibbs, Augustine Gibbs, Anthony King, Kaden Kjolhede, Zamiah Marshall, Mia McCreery, Ava Mena, Maisie Mena, Mingan Merrill, Ringo Stevens and Cannon Thomason.



Saginaw Chippewa Academy students take to the stage for “An Anishinaabe Carol”

JOSEPH V. SOWMICK

Photojournalist

Saginaw Chippewa Academy pre-K through sixth grade students took to the Soaring Eagle Entertainment Hall stage on Dec. 14 for the school’s winter program, “An Anishinaabe Carol.”

The Anishinaabe Bimaadiziwin kinomaage ininiwag (teacher men) Aaron Chivis, Nathan Isaac, Joe Syrette, Matthew J. “Cubby” Sprague and James Day, and kinomaage kwe Cecilia Stevens collaborated on the script and translations for the program.

Day served as emcee for the event and Melissa Montoya, tribal education director, welcomed parents and community members.

“We always try to combine a holiday message with an opportunity to teach the importance of our language and culture,” Montoya said. “The SCA AB team did a tremendous group effort to bring this production together and worked hard with the students on the songs and the staging for the event. We are so pleased to see all of the support given to the SCA students by the parents, grandparents and community and we here at SCA wish everyone a ‘Mino Bimaadiziwin’ for their family.”

The program offered nine separate components that spanned the classes, including the afterschool program.

Stevens had pre-K performing a water song that she composed for SCA use.

The words sang by the students were “gii zagimin nibi, nii mashka wiziimin, gii shaaw wiiziwin gagiige, miigwetchiwendam shaw wemin.” (We love you water, for the nourishment strength that you give us, we are forever thankful.)

Chivis taught the kindergarten class a song that was originally composed by Isaac.

The translated words are “aambe taga wiijiwishin, misaabe.” (Please come with me, misaabe.)

Syrette had the first graders learn a newly-created round dance song.

The Ojibwe translated words had the students singing “manidoog nibina daa’aa naa’aan, bi’daadjimooaan, gii’baabigwaananiik wii bizindamiing.” (The Spirits have many messages; they are waiting for us to listen.) Syrette gave special thanks to elder Isabelle Osawamick who helped with the story line and translations.

Sprague taught the second graders a song with background music “wegnesh wa nadaangda biish? Niinwa, kiindash? Noondemina Shkigmikwe” (Who will stand for the water? We will, will you? Love Mother Earth!)

Stevens’ third grade class was a production of the first coming of the Spirit of Shkigmikwe (Mother Earth).



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

The Saginaw Chippewa Academy third grade class performs on the SECR Entertainment Hall stage on Dec. 14.



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

Alicia Boursaw’s first grade class performs during the SCA version of “An Anishinaabe Carol.”

“This portion of the program had the students in a playground scene when Shkigmikwe arrives and lets the students know of the coming spirits, each with an important message,” Stevens said. “The main speaking part from the third grade class was done by SCA student Annalicia Palomo.”

Day had the fourth graders construct nimkii binesii, or thunderbird.

The thunderbird was spectacular and the Soaring Eagle’s Entertainment team offered special lighting effect so enhance its dramatic presentation.

“This Spirit came to show how people of present day use nibiish (water), and how we can be wasteful and sometimes disrespectful to bibiish,” Day said. “Some examples used in the program were not shutting off the water when brushing our teeth, water bottle flipping, and protecting the Great Lakes from

Enbridge Line 5 beneath the straights of Mackinaw.”

Day also worked with this fifth grade class to construct misaabe; a giant spirit that is the traditional protector of the woods.

“Misaabe tells of how Anishinaabeg long ago protected our water, how the water was clean, and how water was held in a sacred place,” Day said. “Misaabe then sings a song for the audience as the students illustrate different ways Anishinaabeg traditionally used nibiish.”

Chivis and sixth grade teacher Isabel Stanton’s students thought up and constructed mishibizhiw, or our Anishinaabeg spirit, the underwater panther.

“Students learned of traditional teachings in class as to how mishibizhiw looked, where she lived, and her importance to traditional Anishinaabeg,” Chivis said. “The onstage rendition was comprised of what the students thought mishibizhiw would look like from the stories and teachings

shared in class. The message of the this final spirit, mishibizhiw, was that of what the future could hold if we don’t start to respect our nibiish, and taking care of it as Anishinaabeg once did.”

The afterschool singing group joined the teachers onstage for a finale of a water song, originally composed by Dorene Day.

The translated words are “niibi gii-zah-gay-e-goo, gii miigwetch wayn-ne-megoo, gii-zha wayn ne-me-goo.” (Water we love you, we thank you, we respect you.)

“(The AB teachers) would like to thank Amanda Mandoka for coming to the entertainment hall and helping with props and decorations leading up the program,” Chivis said. “We would also like to give recognition to Nathan Isaac for coming in during his paternity leave to help finish up the final production slides and decorations. Finally, a chi-miigwetch to all that showed their support by attending the 2016 SCA Winter Program.”

Sasiwaans Immersion School packs Eagles Nest for Anishinaabemowin Christmas program

JOSEPH V. SOWMICK

Photojournalist

Anishinaabemowin songs gave the community a Merry Christmas message as the Anishinaabe Language Revitalization Department and its Sasiwaans Immersion School presented the annual Christmas program on Dec. 15 to a packed Eagles Nest Tribal Gym.

Isabelle Osawamick, language specialist, served as emcee and

introduced the young Ojibwe speakers at the event.

“Kina gego gii-nishin (everything went well), Osawamick said. “We saw many smiling faces. It was great to see staff working together to make this yearly event be a fun time for all.”

ALRD Interim Director Misty Pelcher coordinated the event and made sure everything from the performances, stage decorations, gym set up and food service went smoothly.

“You never know what you are going to get when you put a group of 2 year olds, 3 year olds, or 4 to 5 year olds on a stage, and we were delighted

with the performances of Sasiwaans students,” Pelcher said. “Laughter, song, and dance filled the Sasiwaans classrooms Monday through Thursday, and this month the focus has been on holiday cheer. It was a fantastic night of performances and the students and their parents, grandparents, aunties and uncles really enjoyed themselves.”

The classes that performed were Megisiisag (Little Eagles), the 2 year olds; Pichiinsag (Little Robins), the 3 year olds; and the Maangoonsag (Little Loons), the 4 and 5 year olds.

Secondary language specialists Yvette Pitawanakwat and Carrie Heron were on stage with the Maangoonsag class.

“They have been working so hard on the songs we have practiced since September,” Pitawanakwat said. “The exception to that was of course ‘Tataagaans’ (Jingle Bells) which we worked on over the last month. Our students were really excited to do this and were so proud of the

support we get from the parents and the community for our Sasiwaans program.”

Megisiisag instructor Larry Kimewan said his class had worked real hard on performing their four songs.

“We performed ‘Here Comes Santa Claus,’ ‘Rudolph,’ ‘Boozhu Boozhu’ and the ABC’s in Anishinaabemowin,” Kimewan said. “Our classroom lead singer (Erich Jr.) had a case of stage fright and cried all the way through his performance. The students also did a great job on making all of the stage decorations and the ornaments for the tree. Every student from each class made a decoration that they get to take home for their family Christmas tree.”

Osawamick also blessed the food prepared by Sasiwaans cook Doreen Albaugh.

“All the dishes were homemade including everyone’s holiday favorite, homemade frosted sugar cookies. I appreciate the help of our student volunteers,” Albaugh said. “The meal included a mixed berry salad with maple syrup, baked ziti casserole and garlic bread.”



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

Sasiwaans student Joseph Espinosa (left) sings while kinomage nini Preston Chippeway (right) encourages.



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

Mnookmi Pego (left) holds the microphone while Kaya Owl (right) smiles during their song with kinomage kwe (teacher) Danita Mandamin on stage.



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

Waaskonye Pamp (left) and Mercedes Pimentil sing and offer their Christmas cheer.



Stand-up comedian Martin Lawrence makes first Soaring Eagle appearance

JOSEPH V. SOWMICK

Photojournalist

Stand-up comedian, actor, producer and writer Martin Lawrence made his first appearance at the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort on Nov. 26.

Martin was on the road in support of his 2016 “Doin’ Time” tour.

Martin came to fame during the ‘90s, and established a Hollywood career as a leading actor, most notably in the Fox television sitcom Martin and an impressive array of films (“House Party,” “Boomerang,” “Bad Boys,” “Wild Hogs,” “Nothing to Lose,” “Life” and “Big Momma’s House.”)

Martin took the stage by storm with a “Whazzup!” after

showing an outrageous video montage of his work.

He came out like a prize fighter entering the ring as the song “Energy” by Drake whipped the crowd to their feet.

Tribal descendant Jennifer House said she attended with her son Jordan Price.

“I have seen such a variety of shows at Soaring Eagle like The Moody Blues, Al Green, B.B. King, Lonestar, Night Ranger, Alicia Keys, Rascal Flatts, and so many more,” House said. “What I liked best about his show was his capabilities to control the audience; he knows the right things to say, how to say them and when to say them. He had me and my son laughing so hard that sometimes I couldn’t control how long I laughed at his jokes. The best thing about the Martin show was

all the characters he had wrapped up in one show.”

Martin spoke fondly about his Fox television series “Martin” that had a five-year run starting in 1993.

Amidst all the laughter and comedy, Martin offered a heartfelt tribute to his co-star Thomas Mikel Ford (Tommy Strawn) who died earlier this year. Martin’s tribute offered outrageous video clips and outtakes of the show.

Courtney Griffin and Thomas Henry from Saginaw, Mich. both had their first backstage experience at Soaring Eagle.

“We were here for George Lopez last weekend and as good as he was, Martin Lawrence was outrageously hilarious,” Griffin said. “I really liked the clips they showed before Martin took the stage. My favorite movie was the

work Martin did on screen with Will Smith in the ‘Bad Boys II.’”

Don and DJ Evans from Saginaw, Mich. said they enjoyed attending their first live comedy act at Soaring Eagle.

“Martin’s show was awesome and off the hook. When he was talking about Jerome from Detroit, I about lost it,” Don said. “People who loved the (‘Martin’) TV show started shouting ‘Jerome’s in the house, watch yo’ mouth.’”

Martin mentioned on “Jimmy Kimmel Live!” that filming for the third installment of the “Bad Boys” franchise may start in March 2017. Martin said he will be back with his partner Will Smith, reprising their roles as detectives Burnett and Lowrey.

Opening act Melanie Comarcho got the sold-out



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

SCIT Youth Council member Milan Quigno (left) shares a moment backstage with comedian Martin Lawrence.

crowd revved up for an evening of laughter.

Comarcho shared her comedic observations that have made her a sought after opening act for others including Katt Williams and Chris Rock.

The Oak Ridge Boys bring 27th annual Christmas Celebration tour to town

NATALIE SHATTUCK

Editor

The four-part harmonies of The Oak Ridge Boys have produced dozens of country music hits. The group was founded in 1947, and has remained active with a few years off passim.

Members Joe Bonsall, Duane Allen, William Lee Golden and Richard Sterban performed two Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort shows – one public show on Sunday, Dec. 4, and one private bus tour show on Monday, Dec. 5 – as part of their 27th annual Christmas Celebration Tour.

Their tour began Nov. 1, and hit “18 states throughout the U.S., with 34 shows in 33 different cities,” Bonsall said.



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

The Oak Ridge Boys perform at the Monday, Dec. 5 private bus tour show at the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort as part of their 27th annual Christmas Celebration Tour.

Performances included music from their six Christmas CDs, and also their traditional tunes, which kicked off the show.

The group has received 12 gold, three platinum, one double platinum album, one double platinum single, had more than a dozen national number one

singles and more than 30 top 10 hits, according to their website.

“1977 was our first big number one country hit record released several decades ago,” Bonsall said.

The Oak Ridge Boys began with “Ya’ll Come Back Saloon” and “Leaving Louisiana in the

Broad Daylight.”

Golden took the lead vocals on “Thank God for Kids,” and ended the song by singing, “thank God for grandkids, too.”

Before shifting to Christmas classics, the Boys performed their signature song “Elvira” from 1981.

Shifting right into the holiday spirit, performances included “Jingle Bells,” “A Christmas Love Song,” “Blue Christmas,” “Christmas Cookies,” and it began “snowing” on stage during “White Christmas.”

Santa appeared on stage for “Santa Clause is Real,” “Santa Barbershop” and “Here Comes Santa Claus.”

Sterban’s impressively low bass voice caught Santa off-guard, making silly faces to prove so.

“We’re the only act in music today that has one of those,” Bonsall said of bassist Sterban.

The Christmas songs continued with “Silent Night,” “Beautiful Stars of Bethlehem,” “Mary Did You Know,” “Jesus Born on This Day” and “Joy to the World (reprise).”

Kenny Rogers brings farewell tour and Christmas concert to Soaring Eagle

JOSEPH V. SOWMICK

Photojournalist

Throughout the years, country music legend Kenny Rogers has enjoyed a successful career, and on Dec. 10, the artist known as “The Gambler,” made his ninth consecutive sold-out appearance at Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort for his farewell tour.

“Music has been so good to me and after this last tour, I have no intention of coming back,” said 77-year-old Rogers.

Rogers opened his show with “Lady Luck” and his song with his group the First Edition, “Ruby (Don’t Take Your Love to Town).”

Rogers launched into one of his first chart toppers, “(I Just Dropped in to See What) Condition My Condition Was In.”

During his show, Rogers gave the crowd some insight on how some of his songs came about.

“Mac Davis wrote the song ‘Something’s Burning’ and after he brought it over to us,

we recorded it in one afternoon,” Rogers said. “In those days, you had to take your record to the disc jockey and ask them to play it. I must have gone to 40 stations and they said, ‘No... it’s too sexual.’ I’ve never heard anything like that. So, I went to London to perform the song on the Tom Jones television show, and when I got back, every one of those 40 radio stations were playing it.”

Rogers followed his story by showing a video clip where his song was debuted to a live national audience on “The Ed Sullivan Show.”

Rogers had a six-piece band on stage for this tour “The Gambler’s Last Deal: Christmas & Hits” and he brought special guest Linda Davis with him.

Davis is best known for her 1993 duet “Does He Love You” with Reba McEntire.

Davis is the wife of fellow country performer Lang Scott and mother of Lady Antebellum singer Hillary Scott.



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

Kenny Rogers (right) and Linda Davis share some laughter during their duet of “(Baby) It’s Cold Outside.”

Rogers and Davis brought the true meaning of Christmas into focus as they performed the duets “Baby, It’s Cold Outside” and “Mary, Did You Know?”

Rogers was joined by Shepherd High School’s Concert Choir for medleys of “O Holy Night,” “Go Tell It on The Mountain,” “The Light” and the holiday anthem “We Are the World.”

Other holiday favorites included Davis performing

“The Most Wonderful Time of the Year,” with Rogers singing “Let It Snow” and “I’ll Be Home for Christmas.”

Rogers ended his show with a video clip of Dolly Parton and other performers he has known through the years as he launched into a trifecta of hits that included “Islands in The Stream,” Old Friends” and a seminal performance of “Blaze of Glory” as The Gambler made his last deal at Soaring Eagle.



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

Kenny Rogers welcomes the Shepherd High School Concert Choir for their first-ever appearance on the SECR Entertainment Hall stage.

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Maggie Jackson wears hijab for 100 days to stand in solidarity with bullied Muslims

JOSEPH V. SOWMICK

Photojournalist

A tribal elder once said that “being a warrior is not a role just for an adult man or women... a warrior is defined by someone doing the right thing for the right reason regardless of how other perceive it.”

Tribal Member Maggie Jackson, 19, is an example of a warrior.

Maggie was seen wearing a hijab, a headscarf worn by Muslim women, at the Nov. 12 Veterans Feast.

In a speech, she said she would be wearing a hijab for 100 days to stand in solidarity with Muslim women who have been bullied for wearing one.

Maggie said the looks and reactions she has experienced from others could be termed as “a micro-aggression against culture.”

“Some parts I do not even realize that I was discriminated against until I go over and think of it,” Maggie said. “Being a positive person, the words that

have been spoken to me have just proved that my cause is affecting millions of lives. The first day I wore it, I was accused of being a terrorist and a terrorist sympathizer. It made me a little upset that not many see the difference between Muslims and Muslim extremists.”

Maggie, a student at the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College, said both of her parents, Theresa and Darryl Jackson, were supportive about her wearing the hijab.

“My siblings joked that my hair has never looked better since I’ve worn it,” Maggie said. “My mom didn’t have much to say because she’s more of an ‘actions speak louder than words’ person. She hugged me and my dad said ‘I love you’. I have a very proud papa right now when he found out before our family went to the Veterans Feast.”

Tribal elder Charmaine Shawana spoke with Maggie at that Saturday night event.

“Maggie intrigued me because I knew she wasn’t

old enough to be married to a Muslim, and was thinking maybe she was changing her religion. So I hugged her and started to talk to her when we were standing in line to eat,” Shawana said. “She told me the story of what she saw on TV and vowed to do something about it after discussing it with her mother.”

Maggie was inspired by a television news report that said a man tore a hijab off a woman in Wal-Mart and told her she wasn’t welcome in America.

“Maggie and her family discussed it, and talked about being afraid to ‘wear your culture,’” Shawana said. “Being Native, Maggie and her family had some pretty amazing stories to share about ‘wearing your culture.’”

Maggie said along with wearing the hijab, she would walk in her moccasins and support anyone “wearing their culture.”

“I have noticed that people will draw connections to the recent election of Donald Trump and his message to the

Muslim community. The words that were spoken were quite upsetting,” Maggie said. “A few of my friends had told me they were told not to wear their hijabs any more by family. That upset me with how changed the world became in just one day.”

Sydney Martin, elder from the Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish (Gun Lake) Band of Pottawatomis Indians, also attended the feast and said she was “deeply moved by Maggie’s actions.”

“I wanted (SCIT) Members to know how extremely proud I am of that young lady,” Martin said of Maggie. “She had shone herself to be a real warrior, a true Ogitchedaw. She has taken up a cause that isn’t popular right now.”

Martin said “even when people are perceived as enemies, common decency and tolerance of others needs to be recognized.”

“We need to be respectful of people and she is showing us how to do that,” Martin said. “I commend the Saginaw



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

SCTC student Maggie Jackson explains her experience about wearing a hijab, for 100 days, at the Nov. 12 Veterans Feast.

Chippewa community because between her parents and grandparents, they have raised an outstanding Anishinaabe kwe warrior. As an elder from another Tribe attending the Ogitchedaw Veterans Feast, I am so glad I came to hear her story in her own words. I’m proud... about the future generations and women like Maggie who will be teachers and leaders in our community.”

Maggie is due to complete her stand for justice and intolerance sometime after February.

NativeFlix launches streaming mobile app device focusing on Indigenous films

JOSEPH V. SOWMICK

Photojournalist



On Dec. 15, the Amerind Media Group, Inc. (Hollywood, Calif.) announced that its streaming video service called NativeFlix is now available on iOS, AppleTV, Android and Roku.

Viewers can now watch content about Native Americans and other indigenous peoples from around the world directly on their mobile device or via television using Chromecast or AppleTV.

Maya Martinez, senior VP of marketing/PR, said NativeFlix was first offered in 2015.

“NativeFlix has launched its new and improved online streaming service that now offers additional programming

genres from drama, comedy, culture, animation and music,” Martinez said. “Having doubled its content library, AMG also offers new and original programming available exclusively on NativeFlix.”

The company gives a majority of its revenues to the content owners who license content for the NativeFlix service.

NativeFlix CEO Tim Harjo said much of their collection is available in full HD allowing greater in-home viewing experience.

“The response has been phenomenal, we have received so much support from viewers and filmmakers across the United States and the world,”

Harjo said. “Our mission is to support the filmmakers by sharing their amazing content and ensuring they earn the revenues they deserve all in an effort to continue making more films.”

Tribal Library Assistant Kimberly Condon said the streaming service is accessible at designated tribal library locations.

“We are always looking at ways to deliver the best services available for our students and community and I’ve seen what content NativeFlix has to offer,” Condon said. “With many cellular mobile applications, there is a lot of data usage that can occur by accessing streaming services.

The Tribal Library welcomes the community to come to our locations at Tribal Operations and Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College to enjoy the NativeFlix experience.”

One example of a streaming movie available is “Derby Kings” featuring Native actor Tatanka Means.

The film highlights the struggle of Means portrayal

of Jim Sundell as his younger brother Ace (a demolition derby driver played by Jerry Wolf) is awaiting trial. In the movie, Ace makes a bold move that forces Means character Jim to step outside of himself.

AMG is a solely Native American owned and operated media company that opened on the World Wide Web in April 2015 at www.nativeflix.com.

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ACFS provides holiday stress relief through massage and homeopathic medicine

JOSEPH V. SOWMICK

Photojournalist

Gearing up for the stressors the holidays may bring, Anishnaabeg Child & Family Services offered stress relief from Bette Shepard, RN, and board certified naturopathic doctor.

"I've been doing massage therapy since 2009 and have been offering services to the Behavioral Health staffers and workers over there," Shepard said. "During the holidays, I see a need for stress relief, and massage is a good way to provide increased oxygenation and recirculation with great health benefits."



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

Board Certified Naturopathic Doctor Bette Shepard (left), RN, consults Lisa Grace, case worker for ACFS.

Shepard also offers counseling sessions, body work and reflexology along with light healing touch and color therapy.

"I am a naturopathic doctor and have been a registered nurse over 30 years with a lot of medical and healing arts background to bring to my clients," she said. "I find that the aromatherapy benefits from the Native smudge ceremonies are very relaxing along with the sounds of nature."

She also incorporates the use of essential oils and is a big proponent of the healing it offers.

"I use aromatherapy in everything and music has been widely known for its relaxing qualities. It is in the frequencies that music provides and we all have frequencies that our body and glands respond to," Shepard said.

"Studies show that organs respond to different frequencies and music therapy is a wonderful way to address the stress of the holidays."

Lisa Grace, case worker, took advantage of the services provided.

"Massage is a great stress reliever and has helped with decreasing my frequent headaches that I used to get prior to Bette coming to our office," Grace said. "Taking time to recharge my own batteries make me more able to focus on the needs of my clients and (massage) decreases burnout."

Jason Luna, supervisor for ACFS, said the service is a benefit

to the staff of ACFS due to the high-stress nature of the job.

"This provides (the staff) a chance to engage in a little self-care and helps to decrease fatigue and burn-out. It's a great situation and everyone benefits," Luna said. "As far as the rest of the community, the holidays are always a time of increased stress, so we wanted to offer the opportunity for others to come and take a moment to reduce some stress in their lives as well and take advantage of the services Bette offers."

To schedule an appointment with Shepard, please contact her via email at stoneware@charter.net or call 989-284-7030.

More than a feeling: Dealing with seasonal affective disorder

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON

Native Health News Alliance

TULSA, Okla. — April is not the cruelest month for Jason Tuesday. December is.

A First Nations resident of Winnipeg, Manitoba, Tuesday was diagnosed with seasonal affective disorder (SAD) in 2013 after he and his doctor noticed a pattern of his emotional well-being nose diving around the same time each year.

"I was going through what seemed like another crisis at about the same time as every other year — in December," Tuesday said. "We just came to this conclusion. It just seemed like I was in a cycle that these things were happening regularly at about the same time each year

and where it was more... than what I could deal with."

An estimated three million Americans and 2.1 million Canadians struggle with seasonal depression annually.

According to a 2005 study by Kathryn Roecklein and Kelly Rohan, up to 20 percent of all recurring cases of depression are seasonal.

Although it is possible to experience SAD during the spring or summer, it is more prevalent in winter months due to less daylight. That prolonged darkness can set off a physiological chain reaction in the body, starting with impacting some of the body's basic rhythms and eventually influencing brain chemistry.

"The circadian rhythm gets messed up due to lack of

sunlight," said Terri Goodwin, a behavioral therapist for Citizen Potawatomi Nation in Shawnee, Okla. "It gets you all out of whack and messes up your internal clock. When that happens, your serotonin and melatonin levels drop, which affects your sleep cycle and impacts mood."

Among the populations more likely to develop SAD are women, people younger than 55 years old, those with a family history of SAD and those who live in northern locales, where there is not as much sunlight during the winter months.

The more common symptoms of seasonal affective disorder include:

- Irritability
- Difficulty concentrating
- Sleeping more than usual

• Increased hunger, especially for carbohydrates

• Weight gain

• More difficulty getting along with other people or withdrawing from social interactions

• A leaden, heavy feeling in the arms and legs

For Tuesday, mindful meditation and stepping back from time to time have helped him cope when December rolls around. He has also found some peace through group sessions with other men who are struggling with depression, but the challenge is still there.

Although he has opened up more to friends and family about his mental health status, he allowed his phone to be temporarily shut off earlier this winter simply because he did not want to deal with people.

"For me, January's usually a little better," he said. "It's brighter. But getting through December without acting out is an achievement."

This story was provided by Native Health News Alliance, and created with support from the Citizen Potawatomi Nation.

Editorial: Three good reasons to walk more

JUDY DAVIS

Nimkee Public Health

1. Sleep better by walking after dinner: Forget the idea that being active after dinner might ruin your sleep. People who walk or jog in the evening often sleep sounder. A 15-minute evening walk can help prevent heart disease and diabetes. It has been shown that a short bout of walking after each meal is healthier than a continuous 45

minutes. The biggest benefit was the after dinner walk resulting in a good night's sleep, stable blood sugars to keep cravings at bay, and helping with weight loss.

2. Burn more calories by going Nordic: Nordic walking uses a set of special ski-like poles. Compared to regular walking, it burns 20 percent more calories while increasing upper-body strength and lower-body flexibility. You get a two-for-one workout and

it seems easier thanks to using the poles. Purchase Nordic-walking poles that have no-slip tips.

3. Unleash your creativity by booking a walking tour: Walking increases creativity by 60 percent and doing it outdoors is best for sparking your imagination. Booking a walking vacation means your vacation is working for you. Check out www.countrywalkers.com for some great ideas.

Nimkee Memorial Wellness Center Optical Policy

Optical Policy

- Patients 18 and under are eligible for an eye exam once a year.
- Patients 50 and older are eligible for an eye exam once a year.
- Patients 19 – 49 are eligible for an eye exam every two years.
- Diabetic Patients must have their blood sugar under control as evidenced by an Hgb A1C of 7.9 or less to be eligible for an annual eye exam. If a diabetic patient has an Hgb A1C greater than 7.9 the Medical Provider may recommend an eye exam for glasses and/or contacts based upon the patient's medical history (Contacts are NOT covered). *Note: Diabetic patients will need an annual dilated eye exam regardless of their Hgb A1C.*
- PRC will pay for a pair of eye glasses costing no more than \$106 and for a pair of bifocals costing no more than \$139; anything over and above these amounts will be the patient's responsibility for the payment.

Procedure

- 1) The patient will call PRC for referral eligibility for an eye exam.
- 2) The patient will call the eye Doctor to schedule the appointment.
- 3) The patient will call PRC within three days of the scheduled appointment with the date and time of the appointment.
- 4) The patient must pick up the referral before the appointment.
- 5) If the patient receives a bill after their eye appointment; it is the patient's responsibility to bring the bill to PRC.

Patients Responsibility

- 1) Contact lenses, tints, scratch coating, anti-reflection coating, extra thin lenses, progressive lenses and digital retinal imaging will be the patients responsibility.
- 2) Anything other than a routine exam, must be pre-approved through PRC, or will be the patient's responsibility.

Eligible Optical Places

ABP Eye Site 1535 E Broomfield Mt Pleasant, MI	Pleasant Optics 500 S Mission 4164 Mt Pleasant, MI	Traverse Vision E. Bluegrass Rd. Mt. Pleasant, MI
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Purchased Referred Care Referral Policy & Guidelines

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Referrals

1. If you are referred by Nimkee Medical or Dental to an outside provider you must take a referral every time.
2. If the outside provider cannot treat you and refers you to another provider, you must take a different referral to your appointment. Call PRC three days in advance to allow the paperwork to be prepared.
3. PRC will not pay for your doctor bills without a referral.
4. Durable Medical Equipment: nebulizer, crutches, etc. must have PRC approval.

Surgery

1. If you need surgery, you must give PRC at least two week notice prior to any surgery.
2. Must notify PRC within 72 hours (three days) if you have had emergency surgery.

After Hours

1. Please call the on-call provider at 989-772-8227 before going to any outside provider, unless it is an absolute emergency.
2. An Emergency Room visit must be reported to PRC within 72 hours (three days) after your visit. **Elders 50 years and older have 30 days to call in to PRC from the date of visit.**

Labs, X-ray & Ultrasounds

1. A referral is not required but you must call and notify the PRC department within 72 hours.
2. If your scheduled appointment changes you must notify the PRC department within 72 hours of any changes made.
3. Without proper notification, PRC will not pay for your bills.

Bills with a referral

1. When you receive any bill(s) after your appointment, they must be brought into the clinic to be dropped off at the front desk window.
2. Bills cannot be older than 18 months from service date for PRC to pay.
3. Credit bureau statements will not be accepted for a bill, the patient must have an itemized bill.

Purchased Referred Care: 989.775.4633, Shelly Bailey: 989.775.4635, Marge Elliott: 989.775.4634, Jean Robinson: 989.775.4636



Weight loss success depends on sustainability beyond weight goal

(Editor's note: The following article is reprinted, with permission, from Environmental Nutrition, August 2016, and submitted by Sally Van Cise, nutritionist for Nimkee Public Health.)

Look beyond the weight goal “finish line” to a life of healthful eating and joyful movement. No one starts a diet with the intention of regaining the weight they lose. Unfortunately, that’s exactly what happens with most weight loss diets.

One reason more than 95 percent of people who lose weight end up regaining is that diets tend to involve goals that aren’t realistic and behavior changes that aren’t sustainable. Those are critical flaws, because two key elements of successful weight maintenance are adherence to new nutrition and exercise habits and reasonable expectations about results.

What Really Matters: Despite attempts to pinpoint which combination of macronutrients (carbohydrates, protein and fat) are optimal for weight loss, what research keeps pointing to is that, on average, the exact plan doesn’t matter as much as how well you stick to it.

The key is to find a way of eating that is nutritious, allows you to lose weight,

and is enjoyable and practical enough that you won’t mind eating that way long after you reach your intended weight.

Long-term adherence is difficult, if not impossible, if you embark on a rigid, restrictive food plan and an overly ambitious exercise plan.

According to a study published recently in the journal Obesity, despite the fact that contestants on the reality show “The Biggest Loser” worked obsessively at weight loss, most of them have regained the weight. This is partially due to their metabolism slowing, but it’s also because their food and activity changes were not sustainable.

Beyond the Finish Line: One barrier to successful weight maintenance is the dieting mentality itself.

Many dieters view their weight goal as a finish line—when they reach it, they’re done.

That’s a recipe for regain, because the reality is that weight maintenance requires just as much effort as weight loss. It takes persistence to maintain new food and activity habits and prevent old habits from returning, just at the time when motivation may be flagging.

Start thinking past the “magical” goal weight. Minh-Hai Alex, MS, RD, CEDRD, of Mindful Nutrition in Seattle, suggests you ask

yourself what approach you will take once you are at your desired weight. The ideas you come up with are likely to be sustainable for you.

Here are our tips for approaching weight loss with sustainability in mind:

- **Enjoy the journey.** Think of maintaining the weight at which you feel healthy as a lifelong journey by playing with new recipes and trying new activities. This also can keep things fresh and help give your motivation a boost.

- **Set effective goals.** Choose action-based goals to overcome your biggest healthy-living challenges, such as consistently exercising five times a week or eating four cups of vegetables per day; then, view weight loss and maintenance as the outcomes of those goals.

- **Practice intuitive eating.** “Numerous studies indicate that making food decisions in response to the body’s internal cues of hunger and fullness helps people reach their natural healthy weight,” Alex said.

A good place to start is to check in with your body before, during and after a meal to assess how hungry or full you are on a scale of 1-10,

with 1 being ravenous and 10 being stuffed.

- **Change your environment.** Identify your triggers for overeating—stress, fatigue, being overly hungry—and form smart strategies for dealing with them, rather than relying on willpower alone.

Sometimes, it’s easier to change your surroundings than change yourself. For example, don’t keep snack foods out on the counter top; do stock your pantry with healthful choices.

- **Address emotional and stress eating.** If you have a tendency to eat for emotional reasons, cultivate non-food ways to comfort yourself. Alex also suggests experimenting with this question: “What am I asking the food to do for me?”

After identifying what you really need, you can then make a conscious decision on what to do next. As Alex points out, “Eating is one option!”

- **Build a healthy food environment.** Many eating decisions are made on impulse. If you think, “Ice cream would taste good right now,” but there’s no ice cream in your freezer, the impulse may simply pass.

- **Find joyful ways to move.** “In our dieting culture, it’s common to approach

exercise similarly to nutrition: A short-term commitment until the weight comes off,” Alex said. “Exercise is an opportunity to incorporate play into our day—something research shows is profoundly important to our mental and emotional wellbeing.”

- **Always have a backup plan.** Life gets busy, and often throws curveballs. Keep a few so-simple-you-could-make-them-on-autopilot dinners in your repertoire, have alternate exercise activities if the weather is frightful or your yoga class is canceled.

- **Build a support network.** Friend and coworker support for healthy eating and family support for physical activity help with weight management, according to a 2014 study in the journal Obesity.

Spending time with people who also value health will make it easier for you to stick to your own healthful habits.

- **Be realistic.** Losing weight may ease stress on joints, improve your lab results for your next doctor’s visit, and help you sleep better, but there are many things it won’t do: It won’t change who you are as a person, and it won’t change your relationships. Life will still have its ups and downs.

Nimkee Memorial Wellness Center Emergency Room Policy

All bills from the Emergency Room (ER) must be deemed a true emergency. If insurance does not deem it an emergency based on diagnosis code, Purchased Referred Care (PRC) will not process the bill for payment. PRC is the payor of last resort, it’s not guaranteed. The patient will be responsible for the amount of the ER visit.

Listed below are the IHS guidelines:

Priority 1A: All Medical Emergencies, Eye (Acute, painful or visually threat conditions), Dental (control bleeding, airway compromise, severe pain, fractures), Mental Health (immediate danger to self or others, regardless of “voluntary or involuntary status”; includes physical neglect/abuse, sexual assault).

Priority 1B: Acute Illness, Pre-natal/Obstetrics, Diagnostic Testing (Contract Lab, Bone Marrow Biopsy, EEG, Endoscopy, Colonoscopy/Sigmoidoscopy (diagnostic & screening), Radiologic Testing (MRI, CT, Ultrasound), Health Promotion/Disease Prevention, Immunizations, Mammography (diagnostic), Pap Smears, Gyn Coloposcopy, Area of program specific objectives, Non-Emergency surgery for “high risk categories”, Tubal Ligation (post-partum & high risk), Vasectomy (high risk).

Procedure

1. The claim will be reviewed by PRC Clerk.
2. The PRC Clerk will verify the patient is eligible and followed policy.
3. If Insurance paid based on the Diagnosis code the bill will be submitted for payment.
4. If the Insurance didn’t pay due to the diagnosis code
 - The bill will be denied
 - The PRC Clerk will send a denial in the mail
 - The patient will be able to appeal the decision to: Managed Care team, Health Board and Tribal Council

..... Nimkee Fitness Center

Beginning Monday, Jan. 9, 2017

The purpose of this program is to encourage you to set a goal you can maintain during a four-week period. There are three categories to choose from according to your fitness level and desires:

- **Good start:** Between 60 and 179 minutes per week.
- **Fitness maniac:** Between 180 and 299 minutes per week.
- **Overachiever:** Over 300 minutes per week.

Exercise can be performed in the Nimkee Fitness Center, and two days of activity can be performed outside the fitness center.

How do you win?

You must achieve your goal three out of four weeks to be placed in a drawing to win a Fitness Resolutions prize. Prizes include:

- Three \$20 SECR gift cards
- Three Nimkee Fitness T-shirts
- Four water bottles and fitness bags

** Bonus opportunities to obtain minutes of exercise also available!*

** Be eligible to win prizes for accomplishing your goal!*

For more information, please contact:
Jaden Harman at 989.775.4694 or JHarman@sagchip.org

Nimkee Fitness Center Group Exercise Schedule January 2017

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8 a.m.	Aqua Fit Sharon		Aqua Fit Sharon		Aqua Fit Sharon
12:10 p.m.	Muscle Makin' Monday - Jaden	Suspension Training - Jayme	Warrior Wednesday - Jaden	Fat Blast Jayme	
1:10 p.m.			Turbo Kick Beth		
5:30 p.m.		Yoga Tammy	Belly Dance Deanna	Yoga Tammy	



WIN YOUR SHARE OF
\$100,000 CASH!
 SATURDAYS IN JANUARY

HOURLY DRAWINGS: 7PM-10PM
 10 WINNERS EVERY SATURDAY!

GRAND PRIZE: \$50,000 CASH
 DRAWING JANUARY 28 AT 11PM



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WIN YOUR DREAM VACATION

FRIDAYS IN JANUARY!

HOURLY DRAWINGS 5PM-8PM

Drawings every Friday at 9PM
 for our Grand Prize: A \$5,000 Trip
 Voucher and \$1,000 cash!



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 3PM SESSION

SESSION PAYS OUT OVER \$30,000!
 THE COVERALL PAYS \$5,000!

YOU COULD ALSO WIN:

- AN OVERNIGHT STAY
- \$500 CASH,
- \$100 BINGO PLAY & MORE!

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 for more session details

*Except 6/3/2017 and 10/7/2017



Applying for nursing home Michigan Medicaid care

DEJA COLLINS-ECHANDIA

Social Work Intern

(Editor's note: The following article comes from Michigan Medicare and Medicaid Assisted Programs, with sources used from Michigan.gov. The article was submitted by Deja Collins-Echandia, social work intern at Andahwod CCC and ES.)

When you or your spouse are in need of nursing home care and need assistance with paying for that care, the spouse in nursing home care may be able to qualify for Medicaid. This is a way to assist the spouse to keep a percentage of the income in that spouse's care to pay for their living expenses in the community (community spouse).

Contact MDHHS (Michigan Department of Health and Human Services) for the forms needed to apply. Call their offices at 1-800-642-3195 or go online at www.michigan.gov/mdhhs.

Andahwod Elders' Services can assist with these forms, Nursing Home Medicaid Application, (DHS4574) and the Asset Declaration form (DHS4574 B), needed to apply.

The Medicaid application is a much shorter version of the form that is used for applying for regular Medicaid.

The Assets Declaration form reflects the value of assets of the couple as of the first date for which an individual is a resident of a hospital or nursing home, and must remain there for at least 30 days.

Once this date has been achieved, that figure will be the amount that MDHHS goes by for the remainder of that person's life.

Assets are divided in to two groups: Excluded (non-countable) and Countable assets and all assets must be counted on the Asset Declaration Form.

- Excluded assets are not counted to determine eligibility for Medicaid, but still must be listed. Exclude assets include: One home, one vehicle, personal belongings and household goods, Life insurance (1,500 or less), certain prepaid funeral arrangements, certain assets that cannot be sold (show proof). Assets owned jointly may be counted, but the amount may be less than total value, because of joint ownership.

- Countable assets are counted in determining eligibility for Medicaid assistance. Countable assets include: Cash, bank, credit union, certificate of deposits, stocks and bonds, retirement accounts (IRA, 401k), items held in a revocable trust,

multiple vehicles (boats, motor cycles, trailers and other recreational vehicles), and the cash surrender value of any life insurance policies over 1,500.

You must also provide proof of current value of all assets owned on snapshot date.

- Monthly amount of each of your sources of income.

- All account closures, transfers, sales, gifts, and other activity involving your assets within the past 60 months (five years).

- Shelter expenses and the amount the nursing home spouse pays out of pocket for any health insurance coverage.

Show through receipts and/or documentation how your excess assets were used or spent down (when applicable).

- Personal records such as copies of your driver licenses, social security cards, Medicare cards and all your private health insurance cards.

Nursing home level care assessment to confirm whether or not nursing home care is appropriate for your spouse.

There are ways to properly spend down money that may cause a person to be ineligible for Medicaid. Contact Elders Services **989-775-4306** or a Medicare Medicaid Counselor

(MMAAP Counselor) for more information **800-803-7174**.

After submitting: While the application is being processed by MDHHS, the nursing home spouse may have to pay for nursing home care out of pocket. MDHHS will provide an estimate amount through a Tentative Patient Pay Amount Notice, which will be sent to you.

If DHHS needs any additional information, you will have 10 days to provide them with documentation that they need. If you cannot get the documentation into DHHS

within those 10 days, you must call and make a request for a 10 day extension.

Failure to meet the 10 day deadline results in a denial of Medicaid benefits.

Additional information will be provided after being approved for Nursing Home Medicaid.

Elders' Services has a free booklet "When Your Spouse is in a Nursing Home," you can request by calling our office.

(Source: Michigan Medicare/Medicaid Assistance program)

Candy Grams

To raise funds for elders activities and events

Sale begins: Jan. 30 • Sale ends: Feb. 9

Send a nicely packaged candy gram with assorted candies and your personal message to your child, sweetheart, friends and family or even that secret crush.

For more information, please contact:

Andahwod at: 989.775.4307 or 989.775.4300

Thank you to Commission on Aging needle crafters from Andahwod CCC and ES

JULIE PEGO

Case Manager

Andahwod CCC and ES would like to thank the Commission on Aging's gold key needle crafters for the shawls, walker bags, lap afghans, and

wheelchair bags that were donated through their program.

The items will be passed along to elders throughout the year.

The gold key needle craft program donates more than 3,500 handmade items to different organizations

throughout Isabella County during the Christmas season.

If you would like more information, contact the Isabella Commission on Aging **989-772-0748**.

Thanks again Commission on Aging's gold key needle crafters!

2017-2019 Elder Parking Permits

Beginning Jan. 1, 2017, all current elder parking permits will be expired and new ones will need to be in place on the vehicle before using elder parking.

To receive your 2017-2019 permit, please request an application from any of the elder program offices to the right.

Elders can receive their permit:

- In person at any of the three locations.
- Call to request an application by mail.
- Or visit www.sagchip.org/Member%20Services/images/pdfs/ParkingPermitApplication.pdf

At-Large/Member Services

7070 E. Broadway
Mt. Pleasant MI, 48858
800-884-6271

Saganing Tribal Center

5447 Sturman Rd.
Standish MI, 48658
989-846-1539

Andahwod CCC & ES

2910 S. Leaton Rd
Mt. Pleasant MI, 48858
989-775-4330

January 2017 | Andahwod CCC & ES Events

Euchre

Mondays | 6 p.m.

Open Crafts

Tuesdays | 5-8 p.m.

Jewelry with Kay

Jan. 3 | 1 p.m.

Language Bingo

Jan. 5 | 1 p.m.

Elvis Birthday Party

Jan. 9 | 3 p.m.

Elders Breakfast

Jan. 11 & 25 | 9 a.m.
• *Buffalo hide drawing on Jan. 11 at 10 a.m.*

White Elephant Bingo

Jan. 14 | 12 p.m.
• *Bring new gift.*

Bingo with Friends

Jan. 18 | 1 p.m.

Chicken Dinner Buffet

Jan. 20 | 5 - 7 p.m.
• *Menu: Mashed potatoes and gravy, mac & cheese, vegetable du jour, tossed salad, biscuits and dessert.*
• *13 & older: \$10*
• *12 & under: \$5*

For more information, please call: 989.775.4300 **Activities and events are subject to change.

JANUARY 2017 Tribal Elder Birthdays

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 Wendy McGregor, William Smith Jr. | 18 Richard Ritter, Iva Chimoski |
| 2 Meletta Trepanier, Robyn Henry, James Pashenee | 19 Sue Durfee, Scott Moses |
| 3 Angela Trofatter | 20 Robin Bonnau, Nicki Perez |
| 5 Lorne Jackson | 22 Barbara Arzola, Orin Fallis, Linda Schramm, Richard Nahgahgwon Jr., |
| 6 Alan Henry | 23 Michelle George, Vicki Brown, Joseph Kequom, Michael Ziehmer |
| 7 Samuel Pego, Warren Stone | 24 Eva Jackson, Norma Rapp, Tweedie Van Cise, Jacqueline Cyr, Christopher Johnson |
| 8 Alstyn Peters | 25 Scott McLellan, Tonia Town, Tonya York |
| 9 Charmaine Shawana, Ronald Defoy | 26 Darlene Highley, Jeffrey Reed, Goldie Stanton |
| 10 Susan Kequom, Barbara McMullen, Ronald Battice, Brenda Brouder, Martin Francis Mary Green, Donald Slavik, Susan Sturock | 27 Jeffrey Jackson, Renee Anderson, Paul Robinson, Ricky Shawano |
| 11 Philemon Bird, Esther Helms, Kathy Martin | 28 Gloria King, Alex Ritter Sr. |
| 12 Norman Davenport | 29 Jacquelyne Meir Jr., Vincent Gallegos, Robin High, Becky McLennon |
| 13 Paul Hawk, Sandra Barron, Lyle Collins, Pamela Slifco | 31 Nancy Funnell, Gerald Cloutier, Vicki Sandlin, Mary Walker, Delores Watson |



JANUARY 2017 EVENT PLANNER

Drop-in Lacrosse

Jan. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 | 5:30 - 7 p.m.
 • Location: Eagles Nest Tribal Gym
 • Open to boys, ages 13 and older.

2017 Rez Basketball Men's League

Jan. 8, 15, 22, 29 | 5 - 9 p.m.
 • Location: Eagles Nest Tribal Gym
 • Contact: 989.289.7576

Drums Out

Jan. 4, 11, 18, 25 | 7 - 9 p.m.
 • Location: 7th Generation Blue House
 • Share knowledge around the drum.

Free Auricular (Ear) Acupuncture

Jan. 4 | 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
 • Location: Saganing Tribal Center
 Jan. 5, 12, 19, 26 | 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
 • Location: Behavioral Health
 • Contact: 989-775-4895

Beading & Craft Class

Jan. 5, 12, 19, 26 | 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.
 • Location: Behavioral Health
 • Contact: 989-775-4818
 • All materials will be provided.

Community Emergency Planning Event

Jan. 19 | 5 - 8 p.m.
 • Location: 7th Generation
 • Contact: 989-775-4621

Rollin' In 2017: Bowling Tournament

Jan. 22 | 1 p.m., registration begins: 12 p.m.
 • Location: Riverwood
 • Contact: 989-775-4149

Feast Plate Making Class

Jan. 26 | 5 - 8 p.m.
 • Location: 7th Generation
 • Contact: 989-775-4786

Teen Dance Party

Jan. 27 | Time: 8 - 11 p.m.
 • Location: 7th Generation
 • Contact: 989-775-4880
 • Party theme: Decades of music ('70s, '80s & '90s)
 • Contests for best decade inspired outfit, best dance.

Winter Baby Celebration

Jan. 30 | 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
 • Location: 7th Generation
 • Contact: 989-775-4786

Second annual Dodgeball Tournament

Feb. 13 | Time: TBD
 • Location: SECR Entertainment Hall
 • Contact: 989-775-5309
 • Open to all SECR, SELC, Migizi and Tribal Operations Employees.
 • Rosters are due by Feb. 10 by 2 p.m.
 • Coed tournament, each roster should have three male and three female players.

Public Law 93-638 Training

Feb. 22-24 | 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
 • Location: Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort
 • Contact: 989.775.4003
 • Visit www.sagchip.org to register.
 • This course covers the intent and scope of the law, federal support and ongoing inherent federal responsibility and the standards, oversight, and administration of the model agreement.

ALRD Language Classes

MW/TH | 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. | Drop-in sessions
 T/TH | 6 - 7 p.m.
 W | 12 - 1 p.m.
 • Location: ALRD Office, 7170 Ogemaw Dr.
 • Contact: 989.775.4110

Community Education Business Workshops

• Time: 12 - 1:20 p.m.
 • Location: SCTC E. Building Classroom 6
 • Registration: 989.775.4123 ***Required***
Session 1 | Jan. 18 | Offered in January, May and September.
 • Topics covered: General company description, and products and services.
Session 2 | Feb. 15 | Offered in February, June and October.
 • Topics covered: Marketing plan, and operational plan.
Session 3 | March 15 | Offered in March, July and November.
 • Topics covered: Management and organization, and personal financial statement.
Session 4 | April 19 | Offered in April, August and December.
 • Topics covered: Startup expenses and capitalization financial history and analysis, financial plan, and the executive summary.

Adult 2017 Annual Reports are available now

They are due May 4, 2017 by 5 p.m. Sorry no post-marked mail accepted.

TRIBAL COMMUNITY CALENDAR | JANUARY 2017

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT./SUN.
<p>2</p> <p>Women's Traditions Society B. Health 5 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Ogitchedaw Meeting Seniors Room 6 p.m. Substance Abuse Meeting B. Health Lodge 7 p.m. Weight Room Workouts Tribal Gym 5:30 - 7 p.m.</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Talking Circle Andahwod 7 p.m. Traditional Teachings Saganing 11 a.m. Open Gym Tribal Gym 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. Youth Council Meeting Old Conference Room 5 p.m.</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Talking Circle 7th Generation 3 p.m. - 5 p.m.</p>	<p>6</p> <p>New Spirit Moon Andahwod Conference 1 p.m. AA/NA Spirit Bear Meeting Andahwod Maple Lodge 7 p.m. Tribal Ops Employee Banquet SECR Ballroom 7 p.m.</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Talking Circle Andahwod 10 a.m.</p> <hr/> <p>1/8</p> <p>New Spirit Support Group B. Health 4 p.m. - 5 p.m.</p>
<p>9</p> <p>Women's Traditions Society B. Health 5 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Substance Abuse Meeting B. Health Lodge 7 p.m. Weight Room Workouts Tribal Gym 5:30 - 7 p.m.</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Talking Circle Andahwod 7 p.m. Open Gym Tribal Gym 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Anishinaabemowin Sacred Fire Lunch 7th Generation 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Talking Circle 7th Generation 3 p.m. - 5 p.m.</p>	<p>13</p> <p>New Spirit Moon Andahwod Conference 1 p.m. AA/NA Spirit Bear Meeting Andahwod Maple Lodge 7 p.m.</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Talking Circle Andahwod 10 a.m.</p> <hr/> <p>15</p> <p>New Spirit Support Group B. Health 4 p.m. - 5 p.m.</p>
<p>16</p> <p>Tribal Ops Closed MLK Day Women's Traditions Society B. Health 5 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Tribal Observer Deadline 5 p.m. Substance Abuse Meeting B. Health Lodge 7 p.m. Weight Room Workouts Tribal Gym 5:30 - 7 p.m.</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Open Gym Tribal Gym 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. Talking Circle Andahwod 7 p.m. Tribal Education Advisory Meeting 9 a.m. Youth Council Meeting Old Conference Room 5 p.m.</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Talking Circle 7th Generation 3 p.m. - 5 p.m. Financial Workshop Housing 12 p.m.</p>	<p>20</p> <p>New Spirit Moon Andahwod Conference 1 p.m. AA/NA Spirit Bear Meeting Andahwod Maple Lodge 7 p.m.</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Talking Circle Andahwod 10 a.m.</p> <hr/> <p>22</p> <p>New Spirit Support Group B. Health 4 p.m. - 5 p.m.</p>
<p>23</p> <p>Women's Traditions Society B. Health 5 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Family Dinner B. Health 6 - 8 p.m.</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Substance Abuse Meeting B. Health Lodge 7 p.m. Weight Room Workouts Tribal Gym 5:30 - 7 p.m.</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Open Gym Tribal Gym 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. Talking Circle Andahwod 7 p.m.</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Anishinaabemowin Sacred Fire Lunch 7th Generation 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Talking Circle 7th Generation 3 p.m. - 5 p.m.</p>	<p>27</p> <p>New Spirit Moon Andahwod Conference 1 p.m. AA/NA Spirit Bear Meeting Andahwod Maple Lodge 7 p.m.</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Talking Circle Andahwod 10 a.m.</p> <hr/> <p>29</p> <p>New Spirit Support Group B. Health 4 p.m. - 5 p.m.</p>
<p>30</p> <p>Women's Traditions Society B. Health 5 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Substance Abuse Meeting B. Health Lodge 7 p.m. Weight Room Workouts Tribal Gym 5:30 - 7 p.m.</p>				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● SECR Payroll ● SCIT Per Capita ● SCIT Payroll ● Waste Collection* <small>*Bins must be curbside by 6:30 a.m.</small>



Tribal Observer Classifieds

To place your ad, call the Tribal Observer at 989-775-4010, Email: observer@sagchip.org, visit our office in Tribal Operations or mail to Tribal Observer, Attn.: Classified, 7070 E. Broadway, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858. Please have all submissions and payment in by deadline. Classified rates are \$10 for 15 words or less, and 75 cents per additional word. Any thumbnail image costs an additional \$15. **Apply to job postings online at www.sagchip.org. * Job postings are subject to change daily.**

- 100 Employment
- 105 Lost and Found
- 110 For Rent
- 115 For Sale
- 120 Announcements
- 125 Miigwetch
- 130 Services
- 135 Events
- 140 Giveaways
- 145 Miscellaneous

100 Employment

Tribal Operations

Family Practice Physician

Open to the public. Must be a MD or a DO licensed by the State of Michigan/or be eligible to become licensed. Must maintain Michigan Board of Pharmacy Controlled Substance License and Federal Controlled Substance Registration through the U.S. Dept. of Justice Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA).

Secondary Language Immersion Specialist

Open to the public. Must possess required specialized unique skills including demonstrated fluency and knowledge of Anishinabe language acquisition, a clear understanding of immersion philosophy and two years experience teaching Anishinabemowin.

Police Officer FT

Open to the public. Must be a U.S. citizen. Must be at least 21 years of age. Must have a high school diploma or equivalent. Associates degree preferred. Must be able to pass departmental fitness evaluation.

Senior Associate General Counsel

Open to the public. Licensed as active member in good standing by the State Bar of Michigan or must become licensed following the next available bar exam; four or more years experience as a practicing attorney.

Teacher

Open to the public. Bachelor's degree in education. Must possess a valid State of Michigan Teaching Certification. Prefer minimum of two years teaching experience and working with Native Americans.

Compensation Analyst

Open to the public. Bachelor's degree in business, human resources or related field with four years of compensation experience specifically in job evaluation, market salary analysis and salary survey participation and interpretation.

Associate General Counsel

Open to the public. Licensed as active member in good standing by the State Bar of Michigan or must become licensed following the next available bar exam; zero to five years experience as a practicing attorney, familiarity with federal Indian law preferred.

Social Services Case Worker

Open to the public. Bachelor's degree in human service related field required. Master's degree preferred. Must submit to and pass a background check.

Dietary Cook Aide PT

Open to the public. Must have high school diploma. This position also requires previous experience in a kitchen atmosphere.

SCTC Tutor - English

Open to the public. At least 60 completed credits towards a college degree with an overall GPA of 3.0 or above.

SCTC Tutor - Math

Open to the public. At least 60 completed credits towards a college degree in mathematics, or significant course work towards a degree emphasizing mathematical skills.

SCTC Tutor General Studies

Open to the public. At least 60 completed credits towards a college degree with an overall GPA of 3.0 or above.

Youth Empowerment Aide

Open to the public. High school diploma with college-level math and science and two years working directly with youth. Experience with school programming, requirements and policies. Knowledge of motivational tactics and how to actively engage youth using positive reinforcement.

Energy Broker Buyer

Open to the public. Candidate must have a bachelor's degree in electrical technology, statistics, mathematics, or business. Master's degree preferred. A minimum of five years' experience in the analysis, forecast, strategies, and/or purchasing of wholesale power through the de-regulated

BES, as well as the tariffs and transportation as related.

Residential Support Technician

Open to the public. High school diploma or equivalent. Previous experience in the substance abuse field highly desired. Knowledge of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Community and its relation to the Three-Fires strongly encouraged.

Certified Aide

Open to the public. Must possess a high school diploma or equivalent and be at least 18 years of age. Must possess and maintain a current, valid nurse aide certification required by the State of Michigan.

Water Operator

Open to the public. Must possess a high school diploma or equivalent and be at least 18 years of age. Education and experience in advance mathematics, basic chemistry, laboratory and computer skills.

Water Operator Intern

Open to the public. Must possess a high school diploma or equivalent and be at least 18 years of age. Education and experience in advance mathematics, basic chemistry, laboratory and computer skills.

Tribal Historic Preservation Officer

Open to the public. Grant position. Must possess a bachelor's degree, master's degree preferred. Knowledge, sensitivity and respect for Anishinabe culture in regard to community climate; culturally, politically, historically, and religiously. Keen interest in historical and cultural preservation.

Accreditation/Quality Assurance Specialist

Open to the public. Minimum of a bachelor's degree in administration, preferably in health administration or health and human services field. Masters degree in health administration or health and human services field preferred.

Youth Achievement Advisor

Open to the public. High school diploma with two years of college experience and two

years working directly with youth. Experience with local school programming, requirements and policies.

Leadership Apprentice

Must be a SCIT Member. Must have satisfactorily completed 12 credit hours. Must provide documentation of acceptance at an accredited college/university in Michigan. Must currently have a cumulative 2.5 GPA. Must submit an official transcript and class schedule during recruitment process. Must be a full time college student.

Fiscal Compliance Auditor

Open to the Public. Bachelor of Science degree in accounting. Must have completed and passed a governmental accounting class as part of college curriculum. Four years experience in general accounting, with governmental accounting experience preferred.

Water Quality Specialist

Open to the public. Must have a bachelor of science degree in environmental health and safety, geology, biological, chemical and/or natural science; equivalency is not allowed. Prefer experience in environmental policy, knowledge of GPS equipment, water quality sampling methods, and data analysis.

Certified Coder

Open to the public. Must have high school diploma with strong working knowledge and expertise in coding services, procedures and diagnosis for medical services in an ambulatory clinic setting. Must have passed the certification exam sponsored by the American Academy of Professional Coders (AAPC) or the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA).

Physical Education Teacher

Open to the Public. Bachelor's degree in education with a valid Michigan Elementary Teaching Certificate; educational emphasis in physical education and two years experience in teaching pre-k to 6 physical education classes. Or a bachelor's degree in a related field such as health, fitness, recreation or sports with two years experience working with school age children.

Special Education Teacher

Open to the public. Bachelor's degree in special education or education, valid Michigan Elementary Teaching Certificate with special education endorsement.

SECR

Carpet/Upholstery Cleaner FT

Open to the public. Some carpet and upholstery cleaning experience required. Knowledge of truck mount system a plus. Must pass training test on truck mount operation within 90-day probation period.

Line Server PT

Open to the public. Must be 18 years of age. Must have a high school diploma or GED. Desire to work hard.

Cosmetologist PT

Open to the public. Must be at least 18 years of age with a high school diploma or equivalent. Must possess and maintain a Michigan state license in cosmetology. A total of 1600 training hours, followed by completion of state license with two year renewal required.

Guest Room Attendant

Open to the public. Must have a high school diploma or GED.

Waitstaff PT

Open to the public. Must be at least 18 years of age. Must have a high school diploma or equivalent.

Host/Hostess PT

Open to the public. Must be at least 18 years of age. Must have a high school diploma or equivalent.

Transit Driver PT

Open to the public. Must have a high school diploma or GED. Must be at least 21 years of age. Must have a valid Michigan Driver's License.

Bingo Floorworker PT

Open to the public. Must have a high school diploma or GED. Must be at least 18 years of age.

Housekeeper PT

Open to the public. Must have a high school diploma or GED. Must be at least 18 years of age.

Building Maintenance Worker PT

Open to the public. Must have a high school diploma or GED. Must be at least 18 years of age.

F&B Custodial Worker PT

Open to the public. Must have a high school diploma or GED. Must be at least 18 years of age.

Steward PT

Open to the public. Must have a high school diploma or GED. Must be at least 18 years of age.

Cashier PT

Open to the public. Must have a high school diploma or GED. Must be at least 18 years of age.

Massage Therapist PT
Open to the public. Must have a high school diploma or GED. Must be at least 18 years of age.

Grounds Maintenance Worker PT

Open to the public. High school diploma or equivalent is required. Must have at least one year experience in landscaping, grounds maintenance or similar grounds maintenance job environment.

Inventory Control Warehouse PT

Open to the public. High school diploma or equivalent. Must be able to obtain/maintain a gaming license. Must be able to obtain and maintain a tribal driver's license and industrial truck operator permit.

Alterations Clerk PT

Open to the public. Must have a high school diploma or GED. Needs to know the operations of equipment used in construction, alteration and repair of fabric articles.

SELC

Finance Cashier PT

Open to the public. Must be at least 18 years of age and have a high school diploma or equivalent.

Waitstaff (level 1) PT

Open to the public. Must be at least 18 years of age. Must have a high school diploma or equivalent.

Aerie Line Cook PT

Open to the public. Must be at least 18 years of age with a high school diploma or equivalent. One years of restaurant cooking experience.

Transit Driver PT

Open to the public. Must be at least 21 years of age and have a high school diploma or equivalent.

Players Club Guest Service Rep PT

Open to the public. Must be at least 18 years of age and have a high school diploma or equivalent.

Inventory Control Warehouse PT

Open to the public. High school diploma or equivalent. Must be able to obtain and maintain a tribal driver's an Industrial Truck Operator Permit.

Bartender PT

Open to the public. Must be at least 21 years of age and have a high school diploma or equivalent.

Thank you for voting us

- Minor In Possession
- Retail Fraud
- Drunk Driving

#1

- Drunk & Disorderly
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Summons and Complaint Notices

SUMMONS AND COMPLAINT IN THE MATTER OF MARION R. WILLIAMS:

The Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Court 6954 East Broadway Road Mount Pleasant, MI 48858 (989)775-4800 Case No. 16-CI-0664 Plaintiff: Independent Bank c/o Attorney, Plaintiff's attorney: Daniel E. Best (P58501) 2155 Butterfield Drive, Ste. 200-S Troy Michigan 48084 (248) 362-6100 Vs. Defendant: Marion R. Williams 7198 Aagimaak Street Mount Pleasant MI 48858 Notice to defendant: 1. You are being sued in the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Court. 2. You have 21 days after receiving this summons to file an answer with the court and to serve a copy on the other party or take other lawful action. Please note that if you were served by certified mail or served outside of the reservation land you have 28 days to answer attached complaint. 3. Failure to file an answer or take other action within the time allowed may result in a default Judgment being entered against you for the relief requested in Plaintiff's complaint. **This summons expires on April 10, 2017.**



SCIT Recreation celebrates the “Reason for the Season” with Tribal community

JOSEPH V. SOWMICK

Photojournalist

Good cheer, love and laughter filled the rafters as the SCIT Recreation department shared the “Reason for the Season” with tribal families and community.

The Dec. 9 holiday event, in a packed Eagles Nest Tribal Gym, was a collaborative effort with the Nimkee Healthy Start Program.

David Merrill Jr., youth and family recreation specialist, said the occasion evolved from the previous “Home for the Holidays” event.

“In planning, we asked the community what we should name the event and the one name people liked the most was the ‘Reason for the Season.’ I thought about what the reason for the season means to me and the thoughts that came to mind were family, friends and



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

Tribal youth Annie Johansen had a few laughs while playing the “under the sea” fishing game.

laughter,” Merrill said. “That is what this event is about; the community coming together to celebrate Christmas with each other. Being with family and friends during this time of the year provides a belonging to our Tribal Members.”

Along with Merrill, Lindsey Sprague, organized sports specialist, fellow organized sports specialists; Walter Trepanier and Jonathan Updegraff; Youth & Family Recreation Specialist Kyle Shomin and Manager Lucas Sprague coordinated the event.

Lucas coordinated the competition portion of the evening that quickly turned into a crowd favorite.

“We had people twirling around in toilet paper for our ‘Who wants to build a snowman?’ contest and the balloon juggling offered some funny moments for both the youth and adults,” Lucas said. “I think the real winner of the evening was the gift wrapping contest where the contestant had to unwrap presents wearing oven mitts. It wasn’t easy and it was a lot of fun just watching everyone trying to do that.”

Helen Williams, child nurse, baked more than 200 sugar cookies that were decorated by the community families.

“The kids and adults had fun decorating and eating the yummy cookies,” Williams said. “Nimkee Public Health nurses Sue Sowmick and Anna Hon were the elves that assisted the kids in the cookie decoration. The Healthy Start Program hosted a fishing game where fathers and father figures were invited to go fishing with their kids. The game had participants catching a fish by answering a family spirit question. If they answered the question



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

SCIT Recreation Manager Lucas Sprague watches the clock for the “Who Wants to Make a Snowman?” contest.

correctly, they got to pick a real nice gift.”

Lindsey said she wished to thank Healthy Start, Central Michigan Catering, Marcella Hadden of Niibing Giizis (Summer Moon Photography), DJ Lupe Gonzalez, Santa and Mrs. Claus and all of the volunteers who helped the set-up and clean up at the end of the night.

“We had so much fun this year with the families as we introduced some new games, activities and offered a family photo booth in collaboration with the Healthy Start Program,” Lindsey said. “Every game and activity that was introduced had a large number of participants eager to join in on the fun. Although we made some changes to this event, I feel like it was a very successful evening.”



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

Christina Benz (left) and Marcella Hadden, of Niibing Giizis photography, were dazzling in matching Christmas outfits.

Niibing Giizis was on stage with Santa and Mrs. Claus to take family holiday photos.

For families wishing to view and order prints of photos, please access Niibing Giizis at www.marcellahadden.com/clients.html with the code “tribalchristmas.”



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

Tribal families enjoyed photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus, courtesy of Marcella Hadden of Niibing Gizis Photography.



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

(Left to right) Gloria Loveland, Judy Bannister and Lenea Bailey celebrate the “Reason for the Season.”



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

Tribal youth Tru Quigno joins Kylie and Karma Pelcher as they try their hands at the unwrapping Christmas gifts contest.



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

SCIT Recreation’s Jonathan Updegraff provides the supplies for the snowman building contest.



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

Deborah Porter and Daisy Kostus apply some sparkles and glue to their homemade Christmas creation.



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

Cheyanna Palacios (left) and Andre Peters find their “inner reindeer” for the holidays.



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

Fitness Coordinator Jaden Harman teaches his daughter, Jori, how to fish for prizes.



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

Healthy Start Elf Helen Williams gives a hug to a happy Aiden Raphael.



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

Anna Winters (right) tried her best to make David John a snowman but had to settle for a crossing guard instead.