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# TRIBAL OBSERVER

THE SAGINAW CHIPPEWA INDIAN TRIBE... "Working Together for Our Future"

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## BAYANET officials share information to coalition on current drug trends in Isabella County

**JOSEPH V. SOWMICK**

Photojournalist

On Jan. 13, the Isabella County Substance Abuse Coalition held a presentation by The Bay Area Narcotics Enforcement Team (BAYANET) entitled "Current Drug Trends in Isabella County."

The Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Police is a participating agency of BAYANET, which consists of three street-level multijurisdictional drug enforcement teams, one mid-to-upper level conspiracy team, and houses the Third District Fugitive Team.

The jurisdictions serviced by BAYANET include Bay, Clare, Gladwin, Isabella, Midland, and Saginaw counties.

Several Behavioral Health and Healing to Wellness

personnel attended the event in the Isabella County Administration Building.

"We had many of the professionals who work throughout the county and that education approach of prevention and awareness is a vital component to inform the community," said Jennifer Crawford, prevention specialist. "It was interesting to hear that drug-related deaths are slightly down or at least holding steady in Isabella County."

BAYANET Lt. Det. Matt Rice said last year in Isabella County, seven men and four women were reported to have died of drug overdoses, not including those that are waiting for toxicology reports.

In 2015, there were 14 deaths directly connected to drugs.

Isabella County Sheriff Michael Main said "unfortunately the law enforcement communities are still seeing a steady stream of both meth and heroin in the field."

"The danger is very high with both types of narcotics from a hazard and potentially explosive mixture of chemicals from meth to the increasing exposure risk to law enforcement, when dealing with heroin and other powders," Main said. "The mere handling of these products incorrectly by our staff can be lethal. The Sheriff's Office is now working on implementing the Naloxone (Narcan) for the road patrol and for the jail settings."

Narcan is the first FDA-approved nasal spray that blocks the effects of opioids and reverses an overdose.

Main also highlighted medical treatment resource options for those who come into a jail setting.

"This would include having the in-house medical team work with opiate users and offer medication that would act as a blocker to the nervous system. This essentially is the same concept that nicotine users use patches to help control the urges to have these drugs in their system," Main said. "It is our goal at the Sheriff's Office to provide enforcement, education and any appropriate levels of treatment that we can, to help those inflicted by such a powerful substance."

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**Winter Baby Celebration**  
Seventh Generation welcomes the newest community members.

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## FAN Board of Directors choose chapter name, encourage community involvement

**JOSEPH V. SOWMICK**

Photojournalist

Things are starting to look up as the war on drugs will be finding a formidable ally as the Families Against Narcotics (FAN) Board of Directors chose a chapter name on Feb. 1.

Board President Guadalupe Gonzalez said the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe/Isabella County FAN chapter is consisted of community members and professionals working together as an active support system in an effort to protect and heal the community.

The eight-person Board selected to serve in addition to Gonzalez are Marcella Hadden (vice president),

Shawn Sawmick (treasurer) and Rosanna Martin (secretary). Board members include Joyce Luther, Janis Ash, Natasha House and Cecilia Stevens.

The five alternates are Candace Benzinger, Michael McCreery, Marion Mena, Gary Bennett and Mary Bentley.

Advisory Board members include K.T. Bouchard, Louanna Bruner, Lorna Call, Kristen Cantu, Kim Douglas-Waugh, Ethan Hunt, Montana Hunt, Sheligh Jackson, Marie Kequom, Jasmine McFall, Morgan Mena, Barb Sprague, Carol Talley, Brian Wagner, Carrie Wemigwans, Courtney Wemigwans, Laura Yoder and Joseph Sowmick.

"Though I'm not an addict, knowing and loving someone

who has passed on, is in recovery or is still battling an addiction still hurts and affects you," Martin, secretary said. "These last few years has been such a tragic epidemic for families in the Isabella County community that we must work together to end the stigma that came along with the war on drugs. I have seen first-hand what an addiction does to someone's lifestyle and it's heartbreaking. People lose their jobs, their homes, assets, friends, families and for some, it cost them their life."

Tribal Court Judge Patrick Shannon said FAN's central purpose is to educate the families and communities as



**Families Against Narcotics**  
Your connection for information, resources, and support.

to the dangers of opioid and prescription drug abuse, and to provide support to those families affected.

"FAN provides the forum wherein families can access education that many times is limited to the professionals working with clients," Shannon said. "FAN is the true meaning of grass roots and first responders play a significant role in opioid and prescription drug abuse

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# Town Hall Meeting

- Hosted by At-Large / Member Services -

**Saturday, March 11, 2017** • Saginaw Tribal Center

Doors open at 11 a.m. • Meeting starts at 12 p.m.

\* Tribal ID required. \*Must be 18 years of age or older. \*Open to Tribal Members from all districts.



## David Leonard Sowmick

Feb. 26, 1969 – Feb. 9, 2017

David Leonard Sowmick, age 47, of Mount Pleasant, passed away unexpectedly Thursday, Feb. 9, 2017, at his home.

David was born on Feb. 26, 1969, in Mt. Pleasant, the son of Arnold and Margaret (Chamberlain) Sowmick.

David was a proud member of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe.

He married Navene Clare in 1997.

David worked in the IT department at the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe.

David served on the Tribal Council and the Education Board. He loved playing video games, Magic the Gathering, comic books, watching TV, and the latest and greatest in technology.

David is survived by his wife, Navene; children, Callista "Calli" Sowmick and Jarrod Sowmick; siblings, Sonja (Scott Krause) Sowmick, Joseph (Sue) Sowmick, Steven (Kelly) Sowmick, and Eric (Malissa Kerby) Sowmick; and several aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, and cousins.

David was preceded in death by his parents; grandparents, Tom and Leona Chamberlain and David and Iris Sowmick; and brother, Arnold "Jack" Sowmick II.

Funeral services were held in the Tribal Gym on Monday, Feb. 13 with Rev. Owen White-Pigeon officiating. Interment will take place in the Denver Township Cemetery at a later date. Memorial contributions may be made to the family.



## Harlan L. Downwind

Aug. 19, 1953 – Feb. 4, 2017

Harlan Louis Downwind 'Neegaboo' of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. passed away Saturday, Feb. 4, 2017 at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit, Mich.

Harlan was born Aug. 19, 1953 in Red Lake, Minn. the son of Rupert and Alberta Downwind.

Harlan loved music, playing the guitar, art, his culture and traditions, he served Anishinaabean nation throughout his entire lifetime.

He is survived by his wife Laura Collins-Downwind whom he married July 17, 2014 in Sault Ste. Marie; daughters Jessica Monroe, Rene Downwind, Candy Lynn Downwind, Mycal Hadley, Skye Downwind, Eva Collins, Anna Collins, Juanita Pacheco, Jocelyn Payment and Mika Pacheco; sisters Beverly (Terry) Thomas and Jeanine (Chris) Jubera; brothers Bradley Downwind, Byron Downwind, David (Jessie) Downwind and Ross (Shelly) Downwind; grandchildren Samaria (Preston), Wendell, Isaiah, Arien, Elena, Rianna and Anissa; great grandchildren Jaden, Larayna, Preston Jr., Leila, Auriella and Yur'Donni; Harlan had no sons but many special boys that were like his sons including Dino, Randy, Mikey and Donavan (deceased.)

Also surviving are his aunts Phyllis Gurno, Marcia Gurno and all of his nephews and nieces his clan family and family built throughout the years.

He is preceded in death by his parents Rupert and Alberta Downwind; a daughter Dawn Monroe; sister Delora Downwind; brothers Rupert Downwind Jr., Kevin (Julie) Downwind and Mitchell Downwind.

Visitation occurred Tuesday, Feb. 7 at Niigaanaagizhik Ceremonial Building, Sugar Island, Mich. Traditional services were led by Skip Churchill and Amik Smallwood on Feb. 8 at Niigaanaagizhik Ceremonial Building.



## In Loving Memory



March 1, 1976

**Eric Lee Hunt**

*Happy birthday. We miss and love you. You will always be in our hearts.*

Love,  
The Hunt family

## Duane Edward Snyder

July 21, 1966 – Feb. 6, 2017

Duane Edward Snyder, age 50, of Mount Pleasant, Mich. passed away on Monday, Feb. 6, 2017 at Mid Michigan Medical Center-Midland.

Duane was born July 21, 1966 in Coldwater, Mich. to Edward Snyder and Julie Ann Pamp.

He graduated from Butler High School in Butler, Ind.

Duane was a member of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe.

Duane is survived by his daughter Lisa (Kyle) Sommers of Sault St. Marie, Mich.; two stepsons Arturo and Ruben; two grandchildren Luke and Jase; mother Julie Pamp of Mt. Pleasant; father Edward Snyder of St. Joe, Ind.; grandmother Stella Pamp of Mt. Pleasant; one brother; and three sisters.

Duane was preceded in death by his paternal grandparents, and maternal grandfather.

Funeral services took place at Clark Family Funeral Chapel on Feb. 13 with Dale Anderson officiating. Memorial contributions may be made to the family.



# Coffee

..... with the .....

# Community

Tribal community, please join the Water Quality Program staff for a free cup of Starbucks coffee, and take advantage of this opportunity to share your stories, perspectives, concerns and priorities about water resources.

Let us know what we are doing right, how we can improve and what you would like to see from the Environmental Team in the future.

**To schedule your session: Simply give us a call, e-mail or stop into the Planning Department.**

<b>Taylor Hollis</b> • Phone: 989.775.4162 • E-mail: thollis@sagchip.org	<b>David Syckle II</b> • Phone: 989.775.4147 • E-mail: dasyckle@sagchip.org
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**Planning Department**  
2451 Nish Na Be Anong, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

**Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Police**  
6954 E BROADWAY, MT PLEASANT, MI  
TEL: 989-775-4700

**OWN IT? RESPECT IT. SECURE IT.**

Project ChildSafe is a nationwide program promoting safe firearm handling and storage practices through the distribution of free, cable-style locks. We are doing our part to promote safe storage, but we need your help! Call for details!

LOCKS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE TRIBAL POLICE DEPARTMENT WHILE SUPPLIES LAST.

# TRIBAL MEMBERS

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

**You can Quit! We can help!**

Free! Michigan TOBACCO QuitLine

1-800-QUIT-NOW  
1-800-784-8669  
[www.michigan.gov/tobacco](http://www.michigan.gov/tobacco)

Funded by the Michigan Department of Community Health

## Report Suspicious or Criminal Activity!

**Do Your Part In Stopping Crime!**

Assist Your Local Law Enforcement and Narcotics Enforcement Teams in Protecting the Future of Your Community!

Protecting your children, family, community and future should be a priority!

**Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Police**  
Dispatch: 989-775-4700  
Tip Line: 989-775-4775

**Bayanet (Narcotics Enforcement)**  
Tip Line: 989-779-9697  
Anonymous and Confidential

## ATTENTION

Anishinabe Ogitchedaw  
Veteran & Warrior Society Members

Now Recruiting New Members

**Meetings Will be Held**  
The 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the Month in Seniors Room  
Time: 6 p.m. | For More Information: 775-4175

## Rez Pets

"It's Raining Cats and Dogs!"

Attention Tribal Members or employees, please submit a photo of your pet to show them off in the April Tribal Observer. Households with two or more pets, please submit a group photo!

Email your photos to [observer@sagchip.org](mailto:observer@sagchip.org) or turn them in to the Tribal Observer office located inside the Tribal Operations building.

**Please include:**  
Owner's name, pet's name, age and breed

**Deadline: Friday, March 17**

## 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.\*

Check out the **Tribal Observer ONLINE**

[www.sagchip.org/tribalobserver](http://www.sagchip.org/tribalobserver)



## Saginaw Chippewa/Isabella County

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### Monthly Forums

Every third Thursday of the month  
**Starting April 20**  
7 - 8:30 p.m. | Ziibiwing Cultural Center

*Monthly Forums are more of an educational awareness opportunity for our local community that will be hosted by our F.A.N. chapter.*

### Support Groups

Every first Thursday of the month  
**Starting March 3**  
7 - 8:30 p.m. | Tribal Operations Senior's Room

*Support Groups are open to anyone in recovery, grieving with a loss or have a loved one battling an addiction.*


**For questions, please contact:** Guadalupe Gonzalez at 989.775.4880, or Rosanna Martin at 989.775.4003



**Happy Birthday**  
Marcella  
*Love,  
Your Family*



**MINO DIBISHKAAN NGWIS GEGEK**



**Happy Birthday**  
NuNu  
*Love you*

## FAN

*Continued from front page*

cases. Nationally, approximately 10 percent of all EMS calls involve overdoses. We must remember that EMS workers and police are human and their work in this arena is very stressful and we should thank them for their efforts.”

At the initial Feb. 1 meeting, Gonzalez said the FAN chapter webpage may include a memorial section for those who have passed on, a list of local resources for the community, Board of Director biographies, a list of Advisory Board members, the meeting schedule, forum schedule and other information.

House said she will compile local resources to add to the website to present at their next board meeting.

The website is expected to be available sometime in March.

Sawmick said some of the fundraising ideas discussed during the meeting were 50/50 raffles, joker card raffle, dinner with silent auction and blanket dances during cultural events.

The Board meetings will be held every third Thursday of the month from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the Ziibiwing Center. If the facility isn't available, the alternate location is in the Tribal Operations Seniors Room.

Support Groups will be held the first Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. in the Seniors Room.

Monthly forums will be held every third Thursday of the month from 7 to 9 p.m. at Ziibiwing.

## BAYANET

*Continued from front page*

Rice said according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services:

- Nearly 48 million people said they used an illicit drug or misused prescription drugs in the past year.
- One in seven people (14.6 percent of the population) are expected to develop a substance use disorder at some point in their lives.
- Nearly 30,000 people died from overdosing on prescription drugs in 2014.
- Substance misuse and substance use disorders are estimated to cost society \$442 billion each year in health care costs, lost productivity, and criminal justice costs.
- Prevention works. Treatment is effective. Recovery is possible for everyone.

Steven Covieo, coordinator for the Isabella Substance Abuse Coalition and Ten16 Substance Abuse Prevention, served as a moderator.

“The coalition’s goal is to protect the health and well being of all Isabella County residents,” Covieo said. “Coalition members commit to taking an active role in educating business owners, parents, young adults, and teens in our community.”

The coalition is currently made up of community members from all professions, and is open for any community member to join who wants to help move the mission forward, Covieo said.

In a November 2016 report from the Office of the Surgeon General, the DHHS states, “substance misuse and addiction are solvable problems, and community members have reason for hope and optimism.”

“Through research, we have new knowledge and clear conclusions that addiction is a chronic brain disease that requires medical intervention, not moral judgment,” the report states. “Scientificallly-tested prevention programs and policies are

available to reduce people’s risk of misusing alcohol and drugs. Treatment is effective and more than 25 million people are in remission from drug or alcohol use disorder.”

The report also states “long-term recovery is possible. Ongoing recovery support services, like mutual aid, recovery coaches, and recovery housing assist people in building a healthy, productive life.”

“Learning an individual purchasing and using heroin may not actually be heroin, but the very dangerous drug Fentanyl was alarming,” said Kelly Martin, adult education counselor. “The lethality of this in such a minute quantity (like a grain of sand) is horrendous. It remains disconcerting that individuals who are using these drugs have no way to determine just what it is they are using and are continuing to use so with or without this knowledge.”

Participating BAYANET agencies are: Bay County, Gladwin County, Isabella County, Midland County Sheriff Offices, Midland City, Mt. Pleasant Police Departments, Saginaw Township, Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Police, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, FBI, DEA and the Michigan State Police.

## PLEASE REPORT ALL WILDLIFE VIOLATIONS

To the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Police Department



Dispatch: 989.775.4700  
Tip Line: 989.775.4775

## Happy B-Day

### Deets

*Love you*



**ANDAHWOD**

# LENT

## FRIDAY DINNERS

SELECT FRIDAYS IN MARCH & APRIL  
MARCH 3, 17 & 31 | APRIL 14

AT ANDAHWOD FROM  
**4:30PM-6:30PM**

**FRESHLY PREPARED MENU INCLUDES:**  
Fried and baked fish, hushpuppies, french fries, tater tots, tossed salad, coleslaw, bread and butter and dessert.

**\$12.00 ADULTS | \$6.00 KIDS 12 & UNDER**  
(\$14 FOR TO-GO ORDERS)

For more information please call 775-4300

**Contact Information**

Stephanie Chau  
Assistant Director of Undergraduate Diversity

(517) 355-0177  
(517) 355-0234  
chaus@msu.edu

## Michigan Indian Leadership Program

**Michigan State University**  
JULY 9 - 14, 2017

- FREE Summer Program to Help Students Prepare for College
- Explore Academic Programs at Michigan State University
- Cultural Workshops and Social Activities
- Network with Native Staff and Faculty
- Extracurricular Development
- Study for the SAT
- APPLICATION DEADLINE: APRIL 28th, 2017

**For More Information and Application. Please visit our website:**  
[http://www.cannr.msu.edu/pre\\_college/pre-college\\_leadership\\_program](http://www.cannr.msu.edu/pre_college/pre-college_leadership_program)

Sponsored By: The College of Agriculture and Natural Resources and the Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education at MSU



## 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

## Mt. Pleasant Indian Industrial Boarding School

# Committee Vacancies

*Would you like to be a voice for those who can no longer speak for themselves? Now is your chance!*

### Committee Meetings

10 a.m. - 12 p.m. | Ziiibiwing

Meetings are held every other Wednesday.

**Mail, email, or drop off letters by Friday, March 10 to:**

MIIBS Committee  
c/o Sandy Sprague  
7070 E. Broadway  
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

Email:  
slsprague@sagchip.org

The MIIBS Committee is dedicated to SCIT's efforts to transform, preserve, and finance the development of the Mt. Pleasant Indian Industrial Boarding School to become a place for healing, education, wellness, and empowerment at a local, national, and global level.

#### Interested committee members need to:

- Meet every other week on Wednesdays at 10 a.m.
- Implement strategic plan and vision of Tribal Council.
- Ensure properties are managed safely and effectively.
- Work collaboratively with Project Manager to accomplish goals.
- Share information with community and partners on project.

**For more information, please contact: Sandy Sprague at 989.775.4096 or slsprague@sagchip.org**

## 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.



## Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Championship competition

### SALLY KNIFFEN

Environmental Specialist

Are you ready for spring? Do you want to be a champion for Mother Earth? Enter the 3R (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) Championship competition!

The Environmental Team and Recycling Department have teamed up to present the first annual 3R competition. We are recruiting departments to step up to Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle within their office.

Employees are encouraged to find creative solutions to reduce waste in their department. For example, could you eliminate your polystyrene cups by using glass cups? Can you reuse your scrap paper? Could you bring reusable dishes to feast events instead of using disposables? (These examples above cannot be used, as we want your creativity.)

To compete, employees should form teams consisting of two to four employees. There may be more than one team per department.

The Environmental Team and Recycling Department will judge the teams on: Cost savings, amount of material diverted from the waste stream, and creativity.

Teams will be responsible for tracking materials and progress.

Extra bonus points will be awarded for the best team names.



The competition will begin on April 10 and go through April 28.

Data, projects, and information must be returned to the judges by May 5 with first, second and third place awards and prizes to the top three finishing teams on May 15.

Spring is a great time to clean out offices and recycle old papers, and it is always a great time to work on reducing and reusing your waste.

Come join the competition to help us protect Mother Earth!

For more information, please contact Sally Kniffen at 989-775-4015 or Rick Myers at 989-775-5233.

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:Observer@Sagchip.org)

[www.Sagchip.org/TribalObserver](http://www.Sagchip.org/TribalObserver)



## William Johnson receives John Cumming Isabella County Historical Preservation Award

**NATALIE SHATTUCK**

Editor

William Johnson, curator for the Zibiwing Center, was recognized for his contributions in preserving history of Isabella County and awarded the John Cumming Isabella County Historical Preservation Award.

Johnson was presented with this award during a Feb. 11 Founder's Day event held at the First United Methodist Church of Mt. Pleasant.

The award is presented annually by several historical organizations in the county to honor individuals who have made an exemplary contribution to preserving, recording or disseminating the history of Isabella County.

"It is very difficult for me to receive an individual award. We don't do our work for recognition; we do it for the love of our people and community," Johnson said. "I have so many in my corner to be thankful for. The Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Council, Tribal Administration and the Zibiwing Center supports our work, and I have

an encouraging family. That, truly, is a blessing."

Johnson is a Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe descendent, and has worked with the Zibiwing Center since 1998.

He has 19 years of experience dealing with Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) issues; including the coordination of ancestral reburials for the Tribe as a NAGPRA designee.

He is also the chairman for the Michigan Anishinabek Cultural Preservation & Repatriation Alliance (MACPRA), and helps coordinate NAGPRA efforts for all the federally-recognized tribes of state historic tribes of Michigan. He serves as the interim tribal historic preservation officer.

"Willie Johnson is a well-known and widely respected professional in the Michigan museums and the cultural resource management communities," said Jay Martin, director of Central Michigan University's Museum of Cultural and Natural History and past president of the Mt. Pleasant Area Historical Society. "I want to congratulate



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

**William Johnson (left), curator for the Zibiwing Center, receives the John Cumming Isabella County Historical Preservation Award from Frank Boles (right), director of Central Michigan University's Clarke Historical Library. Johnson received the award during a Feb. 11 Founder's Day event at the First United Methodist Church of Mt. Pleasant.**

him on this prestigious award and thank him for all that he has done, and continues to do, for our community."

Through Johnson's efforts, the Zibiwing Center's excellence in exhibits and events has earned numerous awards, including the 2006 Museum Award from the Michigan Cultural Alliance, the 2008 Harvard University's "Honoring Nations" Award, and a Gold Muse Award from

the American Association of Museum's Media and Technology Committee.

In 2011 he became MACPRA chairman. He worked as a coordinator of Flint's Stone Street Ancestral Recovery and Reburial Project helping oversee the proper burial of more than 108 ancestral remains and their associated funerary objects that were inadvertently discovered during a construction project.

He has also been involved with many repatriation ceremonies, bringing ancestors' remains back from museums and colleges.

"To be able to present our culture and history in the most meaningful way and to represent the SCIT with integrity is a lifelong dream," Johnson said of receiving the award. "It makes me happy knowing that the Mt. Pleasant Area Historical Society, Shepherd Area Historical Society and Clarke Historical Library are appreciative of our efforts. It means more than they may realize."

The John Cumming Award was first presented in 2009.

"Named in honor of John Cumming, the Central Michigan University's Clarke Library director from 1961 until his retirement in 1982, the Cumming Award was created as part of the 2009 Isabella County Sesquicentennial Celebration," said Shannon Martin, director of the Zibiwing Center, in an email to Tribal employees congratulating Johnson.

Judy Pamp, assistant director for the Zibiwing Center, was honored with the award last year.

## Elementary school students design anti-drug posters for early prevention and awareness

**NATALIE SHATTUCK**

Editor

In an effort to educate children about drug prevention, the Behavioral Health Prevention Team and Nijikewehn Mentoring Program had an open discussion with local area elementary school children in the program.

The Mentoring Program visits five schools each week, bringing in a different activity each week.

Shepherd, West Intermediate, Renaissance, Mary McGuire, and the Saginaw Chippewa Academy were challenged by the Mentoring Program staff to make anti-drug posters during Jan. 30 to Feb. 2.

"We challenged the kids to make these posters because we wanted to bring awareness, and this also created an opportunity for us to have a candid conversation with the kids at each school about drugs and how they felt about

it," said Guadalupe Gonzalez, prevention specialist for Behavioral Health. "We have wanted to create some anti-drug or prevention campaign and thought this would be a good way to start; using the creativity from the kids."

Gonzalez said the young students had strong feelings against drugs and alcohol and spoke out against it.

"(The kids) were all aware of the substance abuse problem in our community and fully understood the impact (substance abuse) has," Gonzalez

said. "I thought it was enlightening to listen to what they had to say. We listen to our elders and our leaders but not too often do we listen to our children when it comes to something like this."

Gonzalez visited the schools with Mentoring Program Coordinator Nichole McLachlan, BSW.

Nijikewehn is an Ojibwe phrase meaning "the one that I walk on my path with."



Observer photos by Natalie Shattuck

**Nijikewehn Mentoring Program students from various local schools designed anti-drug posters for early prevention and awareness during the week of Jan. 30.**

## New Tribal Police Officer Pete DeKryger sworn in



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

On Feb. 7, Chief Frank Cloutier administered the oath of office and presided over the swearing in of new Tribal Police Officer Pete DeKryger.

DeKryger was accompanied by fellow Officer Quinn Yurack for the ceremony in Tribal Council chambers with Tribal Sub-Chief Brent Jackson, Sergeant-at-Arms Ronald Ekdahl, Chaplain Diana Quigno-Grundahl and Council members Kenneth Sprague, Candace Benzinger, Lindy Hunt and Amanda Oldman in attendance.

DeKryger graduated with a Bachelor of Science in criminal justice with a minor in forensics from Ferris State University.

He recently graduated from the Kirtland Regional Police Academy in December 2016 and is eager to begin serving the Tribal Community.

## Zibiwing Vendor Training

March 22<sup>nd</sup> 2017, 6-8pm at Zibiwing Center

During the training a ZCS team member will discuss:

- The required paperwork and tax forms needed to become a vendor.
- The types of items we are currently looking for.
- Product packaging and descriptions.

This training is designed for anyone making handmade & handcrafted items that they would like to sell in the Zibiwing Commercial Services' gift shops which include:

- Meshtoongewinoong** - located at the Zibiwing Center
- Dawe-Wi-Gamigoonse** - located just inside the main entrance of the SECR
- Jeemon-Aince** - located just inside the main entrance to the Slot Palace
- Naanooshke Gallery** - located by Isabella's & online at NativeDirect.com.

Please call (989)775-4745 to register. Registration will conclude March 20<sup>th</sup> at 5pm.



**ZIIBIWING CENTER**  
of Anishinabe Culture & Lifeways



## MIIBS approved for National Register of Historic Places nomination

**ERIK RODRIGUEZ**

Public Relations Director

The State Historic Preservation Review Board approved a nomination of the former Mount Pleasant Indian Industrial Boarding School to the National Register of Historic Places at its meeting in Lansing on Jan. 13.

The nominated property encompassed extant former school buildings, the grounds associated with them, and the Mission Creek Cemetery including agricultural and woodland areas that historically formed parts of the school campus.

Robert O. Christensen, national register coordinator at the State Historic Preservation Office, presented the nomination to the State Historic Preservation Review Board.

“The speakers from the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe showcased the importance and meaning of the school to all the Michigan tribes and made a strong impression on the SHPO staff that I spoke to,” Christensen said. “It is one thing to know about the history as a historian, and understand that our history is not all positive, but



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

**The former Mt. Pleasant Indian Industrial Boarding School served as the location for the annual Honoring, Healing and Remembering ceremony on June 6, 2016.**

quite another – and far more valuable and instructive – but to be presented with living history, spoken in a language that would have been forbidden at the school, by exhibiting clothes that would have been forbidden, and hearing from descendants of those who lived the history and what it meant to them was truly impactful.”

The 1855-56 Treaty with the Chippewa of Saginaw set aside six adjoining townships of land within Isabella County that would be used towards “the benefit of said Indians,” and the “benefits” would include “the purchase and sale of land for schoolhouses, churches, and educational purposes.”

A subsequent 1864 Treaty with the Saginaw, Swan Creek and Black River Bands provided for the establishment

and support for 10 years of a “manual-labor school” for the Indians to be run by the Methodist Missionary Society.

In 1891, an Act of Congress appropriated funds for the purchase of land and construction of buildings for MIIBS.

MIIBS is a property that is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of collective history. It represents the U.S. federal government’s policy of cultural assimilation and genocide of Native American people. It was the only federal boarding school in Michigan and the principle boarding school for many tribes.

Traditional boys and girls regalia was present during the presentation to represent the unfulfilled lives of the 225 students that

perished while attending the school as documented by the Ziibiwing Center of Anishinabe Culture & Lifeway’s Research Center.

During a public comment period, William Johnson, interim tribal historic preservation officer, defended the nomination along with Sarah Surface Evans of Central Michigan University’s Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Social Science; Michael Fisher of the Planning Department; and Shannon Martin, director of the Ziibiwing Center.

“It was an honor to present information to the State Historic Preservation Review Board,” Johnson said. “We were able to impart why the designation was being sought, what the site and the designation means for the Tribe and how the site will be used in the future. It made me very proud when the 12 federally-recognized Indian tribes in the State of Michigan were called by name because their ancestors were former students of the Mount Pleasant Indian Industrial Boarding School as well.”

On April 9, 2013, the National Park Service approved the proposal of the Tribe to assume certain State

Historic Preservation Office duties within the Reservation and on tribal lands in Michigan.

A primary responsibility of the Tribal Historic Preservation Office is to nominate eligible properties to the National Register of Historic Places. MIIBS is within the boundaries of the Isabella Indian Reservation.

Christensen has been with the State Historic Preservation Office for more than 38 years and has seen more than 1,700 nominations come through the office.

“This was an unforgettable part of my long experience with SHPO and with the review board,” Christensen said. “The national register designation will help to mark the history and help in identifying this as one of the places across the country where similar history took place.”

The nomination will be forwarded to the National Register, part of the U.S. Department of the Interior’s National Park Service for formal listing in the register. The listing will provide recognition as part of a federal list of properties across the country evaluated against a standard criteria as important to the nation’s heritage.

# Tax Time Deals

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 <b>GU210</b> <b>2013 Ford Fusion</b> Titanium Sedan, 2L 14, 54k Miles, Auto. <b>72 mos/\$256</b> /16,150	 <b>GU176A</b> <b>2015 Jeep Wrangler</b> Unlimited Sport, 4x4, 26k Miles, 4WD. <b>72 mos/\$494</b> /30,995	 <b>HT247A</b> <b>2011 Ford Escape XLT</b> FWD, Auto, 6-Speed 2.5L, 86k Miles. <b>66 mos/\$186</b> /10,975	 <b>GP063A</b> <b>2011 GMC Terrain SEL</b> Auto, Cruise, FWD, 86k Miles, 2.4L. <b>66 mos/\$214</b> /12,495	 <b>GU216</b> <b>2011 Ford F-150 XL</b> Reg. Cab, 3.7L V6, 44k Miles, RWD. <b>66 mos/\$271</b> /15,895	 <b>HT023A</b> <b>2014 Mazda CX-5 AWD</b> Touring SUV, Auto, 2.5L, 79k Miles. <b>72 mos/\$266</b> /18,785
 <b>GP043</b> <b>2013 Ford Edge SEL</b> Auto, FWD, 3.5L, 32k Miles, V6. <b>72 mos/\$291</b> /24,800	 <b>HC020A</b> <b>2014 Ford Mustang V6</b> Coupe, 6-Speed Manual, 30k Miles. <b>72 mos/\$314</b> /19,800	 <b>GU180A</b> <b>2009 Ford F-150 V8</b> Crew Cab, Short Bed, Auto, 90 Miles. <b>60 mos/\$316</b> /16,995	 <b>GT415A</b> <b>2013 Ford Flex SEL V6</b> Auto, FWD, 54k Miles, Heated Seats. <b>72 mos/\$327</b> /20,595	 <b>GU146</b> <b>2010 Ford Ranger 4WD</b> Sport, Ext. Cab, 4L V6, 42k Miles. <b>60 mos/\$344</b> /18,495	 <b>GU232</b> <b>2015 GMC Savana V8</b> 3/4 Ton Cargo Van, 8k Miles, RWD. <b>72 mos/\$379</b> /23,850
 <b>HT059A</b> <b>2013 Ford Explorer XLT</b> 3.5L V6, Auto, FWD, 45k Miles. <b>72 mos/\$396</b> /24,895	 <b>HT107A</b> <b>2014 Ford F-150 Crew</b> 4x4, STX, 4WD, 5L V8, 71k Miles. <b>72 mos/\$406</b> /25,495	 <b>HT089A</b> <b>2012 Ford Expedition</b> Limited, V8, Auto, 4WD, 92k Miles. <b>72 mos/\$444</b> /27,800	 <b>GU100</b> <b>2014 Ford F-150 XLT</b> Crew 4x4, 70k Miles, Trailer Tow Pkg. <b>72 mos/\$456</b> /27,995	<div style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">Just Arrived</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>2015 Dodge Ram</b> 72 mos/<b>\$519</b>/32,600 <i>Quad Cab, 4x4, 4 Door, 5.7L V8, Auto, Trailer Tow. #HU023</i></li> <li><b>2014 Jeep Patriot 4x4</b> 72 mos/<b>\$279</b>/17,695 <i>Latitude, 4 Door, Auto, 26k Miles, 1-Owner, Full Power. #HU025</i></li> <li><b>2008 Porsche Cayenne</b> 54 mos/<b>\$364</b>/17,800 <i>SUV, AWD, 4 Door, Fully Loaded, Leather, 78k Miles. #HU022</i></li> <li><b>2009 Ford Escape XLT</b> 60 mos/<b>\$231</b>/12,495 <i>4x4, 6 Cyl., 4 Door, Auto, 78k Miles, Full Power. #HU013</i></li> <li><b>2012 Scion XB 4 Door</b> 66 mos/<b>\$214</b>/12,598 <i>2.4L, Auto, Cruise, 29k Miles, Local Trade. #HP006A</i></li> <li><b>2008 Chevy Silverado</b> 54 mos/<b>\$324</b>/15,880 <i>Ext. Cab, 4x4 Z71, 5.3L, Auto, Trailer Tow Pkg. #HT146B</i></li> </ul>	
 <b>GU127</b> <b>2015 Ford F-150 XLT</b> 4WD, 19k Miles, V6 EcoBoost, 2.7L. <b>72 mos/\$499</b> /31,480	 <b>GU217</b> <b>2015 Ford F-150 XLT</b> Crew, 4x4, V8, 8k Miles, Auto. <b>72 mos/\$558</b> /34,960	 <b>FU201</b> <b>2013 Ford F-250SD V8</b> Ext. Cab, Auto, 4WD, 35k Miles, XLT. <b>72 mos/\$638</b> /39,900	 <b>HT178A</b> <b>2015 Lincoln Navigator</b> 4x4, 4WD, Turbo 3.5L, 69k Miles. <b>\$40,850</b>		

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## Seventh Generation shares cultural teachings with CMU's College of Medicine students

**JOSEPH V. SOWMICK**

Photojournalist

The Seventh Generation Program continued its cultural outreach tradition by offering teachings to Central Michigan University's College of Medicine students on Feb. 9.

The course, Traditional Healing Methods and Medicine, took place at the Elijah Elk Cultural Ceremonial Building as 89 students learned indigenous knowledge from Cultural Representative Ben Hinmon and Steve Pego, helping healer for Behavioral Health.

"For Anishinaabe people, we have been practicing the traditional healing methods of sacred medicines for over 12,000 years," Hinmon said to the audience. "The Creator and our traditional beliefs are spiritual in nature, and like many cultures, all spiritual beliefs depend on faith. On my way into this session, I prepared myself with the medicine and said prayers to ask the Creator for help to say the healing words you need to hear today."

Hinmon also shared the importance of having a spirit name and to be aware of rite of passage ceremonies.



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

**Steve Pego, helping healer for Behavioral Health, shares his insights on traditional medicine teachings with the CMU College of Medicine on Feb. 9.**

"Every day is a spiritual journey, and for me, these teachings happen continuously. To walk the way of Anishinaabe, we look to spirit naming ceremonies from our medicine teachers and the women who walk our young ones through the berry fasts and water ceremonies," Hinmon said. "Finding our spirit name and clan is the beginning of those good teachings."

Pego, who is also a Tribal elder in the Midewiwin Lodge, said becoming a pipe carrier, participating in ceremonies and fasting is a part of the levels of teaching.

"We all have the same Creator and I look at Nanaboozhu and Jesus is brothers from the same Creator," Pego said. "The teachings where part of the balance of men and women are represented in the sacred colors where men are represented by blue and black and the women's colors are green and red. Teachings of the meigas and cowrie shell where the first breath of man comes from and it explains why medicine people keep these sacred items in their bundles. There are other ways to look at healing and if you keep an open mind and embrace our spiritual way of teaching, you will be able to see the value in it."

Terace Thomas, candidate for the College of Medicine Class of 2019, said he appreciated the opportunity to learn about Native American culture.

"The presentation that Ben Hinmon gave at the Elijah Elk Cultural Center enlightened me a lot on the Seven Grandfather Teachings," Thomas said. "These seven principles are fundamental to a good life and that I can incorporate these teachings into my own life. I feel that everyone should try to learn about the true history of the



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

**The students made a field trip to Seventh Generation for the "Traditional Healing Methods and Medicine" class.**

Native Americans instead of ignoring the painful past that impacted Native Americans."

Sally Askar, a second year student from Troy, said the information should be taught to anyone residing near the Reservation.

"As physicians, it is essential that we understand our community, and without understanding the plight and consistently forgotten wounded history of the Native American community; we cannot fully appreciate the beauty, struggle, and needs of its community members," Askar said. "Listening to Mr. Hinmon's stories on the Mount Pleasant Boarding School showed me the importance

of healing in a mental and spiritual way, and especially showed me how much effort needs to be extended by non-Native members to form solidarity with the Native community and increase recognition of the past, in order to promote future healing."

Lee Ann Ruffino, cultural manager for Seventh Generation, wished to thank Hinmon and Pego for providing the presentation.

"It is important that (the students) understand that our whole body, mind and spirit is connected to our health," Ruffino said. "I am hopeful that a few students gained some insight to Anishinaabe traditional healing and its benefits."

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## Prevention Specialist Kevin Ricketts featured in “Fatherless to Fatherhood” podcast

**JOSEPH V. SOWMICK**

Photojournalist

With the help of author and podcast entrepreneur Jason Pockrandt, Kevin Ricketts, prevention specialist for Behavioral Health, is featured in a “Fatherless to Fatherhood” podcast.

In the podcast, Ricketts shares his experience of being in the lives of many Saginaw Chippewa Tribal youth.

“Working at the Tribal Gym for many years, I picked up many nicknames. One of those names was ‘Rez Dad.’ I was honored to take on that name, and walk the walk of being there for anyone that wanted a fatherly relationship,” Ricketts said. “Fatherless homes are a national epidemic, and it will take a national commitment to change it.”

Ricketts said he is “honored to be one of many Rez



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

**Kevin Ricketts (left), prevention specialist for Behavioral Health, poses with his son Warren (right), who received a drug-free teen award last year.**

dads in the Saginaw Chippewa community.”

Ricketts said he hopes that someone who has grown up fatherless can find hope and strength from his story.

“I share why my father was never there for my varsity sports

games in high school and how I promised myself that I would always be there for my children’s games, no matter what,” Ricketts said. “The one thing I try to remember is to never leave the house without getting into the spirit of prayer. It has been something I do before going to work and it helps me to strengthen and grow my marriage and relationship to my beautiful wife and my children.”

Pockrandt also reflected on becoming fatherless.

Seven years after Pockrandt lost his father to a battle with prescription pills, he found himself “sitting on the couch of a lonely dark room, addicted to the misery of a job he thought he couldn’t lose.”

In one of his books, Pockrandt poses five questions he believes every man must ask himself: 1) Do I really need to struggle the

way my parents did or still do? 2) Am I worthy of anything more than what I have been given? 3) Can I really make the changes in my life I desire? 4) How can I ever move past the negative voices in my life, in my own head? 5) Am I forever doomed to this life of misery as another cog in the machine?”

“I believe answering these questions is a journey of personal transformation that will lead you to live the life you deserve, and a life you desire most as a husband and father,” Pockrandt said. “There are only two days that matter most in the life of a man: One is the day he loses his father and the other is the day he becomes a father.

Brian Pruitt, founder of Power of Dad, said “what Ricketts is doing is at the root of changing young people’s lives.”

“It was a coach just like Kevin that changed my life,”

Pruitt said. “Growing up as a fatherless kid looking towards the stands and never seeing my father in the crowd is, to this day, a point of heartbreak. It was another reminder that he did not value me. On the other hand, it was my elementary school coach who found a way to reach me. Even after I went to high school and college to play football, he still was there in the stands cheering me on.”

Pockrandt, a Saginaw Valley State University alumnus, has authored two best-selling books on Amazon. He has been featured in other publications including “The Confident Father’s Guidebook,” “The Good Men Project,” “Addicted to Success,” “Man in The Middle,” and many more.

Ricketts’ podcast is available for listening on [www.jasonpockrandt.com](http://www.jasonpockrandt.com).

## New MP City Link mobile app helps residents quickly connect with community

**NATALIE SHATTUCK**

Editor

With a smartphone and a free mobile app, Mount Pleasant residents can report non-emergency issues located within the city limits.

The MP City Link app, launched by The City of Mt. Pleasant, provides on-the-go access to the City’s latest news and information.



Courtesy of Mollie Ferency

App users may submit a description, picture and a

location of a neighborhood issue, such as a pothole, streetlight outage or park trail obstruction.

Reports will be automatically submitted to the respective department for review, and individuals who submitted the request will be notified when the issue has been acknowledged and closed.

The app also allows residents to register for Parks & Recreation activities, see

upcoming events, and pay bills and fines.

Users are also able to view, comment on and vote to fix problems submitted by others.

“We’re always looking for new ways to increase engagement with the members of our community,” said City Manager Nancy Ridley. “With so many of us taking our smartphones and tablets everywhere we go, we are excited to offer this

mobile-friendly tool for residents to both stay informed of City happenings, as well as report non-emergency issues we can address to make Mt. Pleasant the best it can be.”

The app is available for download on Android and iPhone.

The app was developed in partnership with SeeClickFix, a software company specializing in government communication apps for citizens.

## Mount Pleasant Historic Preservation Improve Award nominations due March 31

**NATALIE SHATTUCK**

Editor

On Feb. 23, the City of Mt. Pleasant announced its Historic District Commission is currently seeking nominations for

the 2017 Historic Preservation Improvement Awards.

Nominations are due March 31 by 4:30 p.m.

The annual awards honor exterior improvements of residential and commercial

properties in Mt. Pleasant.

There are four areas of the awards: Preservation, Restoration, New Construction or Downtown Historic District Choice.

Properties must be at least 25 years old, and the improvements

must have been completed between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31, 2016.

The applications chosen will best reflect the Secretary of Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties.

Winners will be announced in May during National Historic Preservation Month.

Nomination forms are available on the City’s website at [http://www.mt-pleasant.org/boards\\_and\\_commissions/HDC.asp](http://www.mt-pleasant.org/boards_and_commissions/HDC.asp)

Environment & Culture

# SUMMER CAMP

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- Fax: 989.775.4528
- E-mail: [Khart@sagchip.org](mailto:Khart@sagchip.org)

**Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College**  
C/O: Kathy Hart  
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## Elders Advisory Board and Youth Council join for first ever meeting

**JOSEPH V. SOWMICK**

Photojournalist

A moment of contemporary Tribal history between youth and elders took place as members of the Youth Council and advisor Angela Gonzalez met with the Elders Advisory Board for the first time on Feb. 22.

EAB member Angel Jackson said she admired the way the Youth Council wants to connect with the elders in the community and how respectful they were.

“I think the Youth Council representatives are very determined. Although they weren’t sure on what they really wanted, having them coming to EAB proved to us that they are true leaders,” Angel said. “Through being able to talk together, we found out some specifics and how they definitely wanted us to join them at an upcoming event.”



Observer photo by Joseph Somwick

**Youth Council members share a moment at Andahwod with the Elders Advisory Board on Feb. 22. (Left to right, front row: Dennis and Marie Kequom, Cynthia Floyd, Flossie Sprague, Kathy Hart and Angel Jackson. Back row: Abby Nahdee, Zack Jackson, Maya Madrigal, Rosalie Maloney, Barb Sprague, Madison Kennedy-Kequom and Kenson Taylor.)**

Youth Council Advisor Tonya Jackson said the Youth Council is asking for the EAB to join them to represent the Tribe in Traverse City on May 20-21.

“The Native Student Organization of Northwestern Michigan College made the request to have our flag and a

delegation present and the youth thought of how cool it would be to have the elders join us,” Tonya Jackson said. “The youth are excited to work with the elders to help bring the community a bit closer together. They are planning a few different other activities with them in the future.”

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 A A T Y H N J K L M P W Q Z S A Z M B I  
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WII-MNOOKMI (SPRING IS COMING!)

ancestor	aanikoobijigan
arrow	bikwak
come awake	amajise
bean soup	mashkodesiminaaboo
bead work	manidoominensikaan
beaver hide	amikwayaan
ice	mikwam
frost	zasakwa
corn soup	mandaaminaaboo
kitchen	jiibaakwewigamig
home	abi
decorate	wawezhi
elder	gichi ay'aa
energetic	gwaashkwizi
good health	minobimaadizi
council	zagaswe'we
leader	ogimaawi
truth	gwayakotam
handbag	zhooniyaamashkimod
handkerchief	moshwens

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:** My husband's parents are planning our summer trip but this year, I really do not want to attend. This is a 10-day trip to Florida which is what we have done for the last five years. I get along with everyone really well except for my sister-in-law's husband. He gives me the creeps and I always catch him staring at women! Everyone but his wife knows he's a womanizer. I just don't want to go this year. I spoke to my husband but he says I am being ridiculous. How do I go and deal with this creep? **Sleazy Eyeballs**

**Dear Eyeballs:** Please have a conversation with your husband again and let him know that you will be more than willing to go right after he has a firm talk with him. Your husband should not dismiss your uneasy feelings around a family member who is making you feel uncomfortable. Most times, a simple confrontation is all it takes. Go and have fun, be kind and let your husband know if it happens again.

**Dear WW:** After 15 years of marriage, I found out that my husband got another woman pregnant. We have three children right now so I don't want to end my marriage. However, the only condition I have is that he gives up any paternity rights to this child. I am so devastated by this that every day is a struggle. My reality has been altered and I don't even know who I am any more let alone who I am married to. What should I do? **Betrayed Beyond Belief**

**Dear Betrayed:** Your life is in crisis and you need to seek marriage counseling as soon as possible. I would like to add that as painful as it may be, your husband does have a moral obligation to raise the child he conceived. If you plan to divorce over this, he can be the one to explain to your children why. Please don't make any rash decisions and allow professional therapist/counseling to help in this process.

**Dear WW:** My birthday is in the middle of January. My children threw me my annual get together with dinner and gifts. One of the gifts I received was a re-gift from Christmas. I know because I bought it! It was the same crockpot I gave to my niece. I can tell by the distinct pattern on it. However, it was her mother that gave it to me. I feel cheated like I am not even worth putting some thought into my gift. Am I right to be this hurt over it? **Such A Crock**

**Dear Crock:** When people are given gifts, they can do whatever they want to with them including "recycling" them. Not everyone has funds to purchase gifts for the many occasions throughout the year and if you have a large family, it can be quite costly. Don't get worked up over it. At least it's not rotting in someone's closet. You could make a game of it and re-gift it again to your niece or the next birthday celebration!

## WHERE ON THE REZ?



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## LAST MONTH:



Eagles Nest Tribal Gym

**Last Month's Winner:**  
 Kayle Crampton

## Men's Rez League tournament action brings excitement to the Eagles Nest Tribal Gym

**JOSEPH V. SOWMICK**

Photojournalist

On Feb. 19 in the Eagles Nest Tribal Gym, Rez ballers were hooping it up with exciting Men's Rez League tournament action.

Recreation Manager Lucas Sprague said the double elimination tournament capped off another successful season of basketball.

"This year, we had a quadruple overtime nail biter that saw Team Trepanier triumph over Team Ca\$h. That semi-final game by itself had the fans in the stands going and was exactly what the Men's Rez League was all about this year, all out competitive basketball," Sprague said.

The Run N Gunners took that same drive into the tournament finals and forced tournament champions The Bomb Squad to overtime, Sprague said.

"Every one of the five league teams came to play and from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., the action was up and down the court all day long," he said.

Referees Andrew "Bear" Raphael, Eric Pearson and Brandon Ardvinov oversaw the action while Recreation

staffers Kyle Shomin and Walter Trepanier assisted with Organized Sports Specialist Lindsey Sprague helping with the scoreboard and keeping track of tournament brackets.

Along with eventual Men's Rez League Champions, The Bomb Squad taking down runner ups Run N Gun 74-72 in overtime, other teams in the tournament included Team Trepanier, Team Ca\$h and House of Vasquez.

The consensus MVP for the tournament was The Bomb Squad power forward Kyle Ready. Jordan Ham from Team Ca\$h had the hot hand from the arc, draining eleven 3-pointers in one game.

Former Mid Michigan Community College Lakers standout Shomin from Team Run N Gun led the league in scoring with an 18.5 average. Chuck McLaren from The Bomb Squad was the man in the middle with more than seven assists, two steals per game.

Final standings of the six-week league that started on Jan. 8 saw The Bomb Squad and Run N Gun sporting identical 5-1 records with House of Vasquez at 3-3, Team Ca\$h at 2-4 and Team Trepanier at 0-6.



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

The Bomb Squad took home some 2017 Men's Rez League tournament hardware for their final 74-72 victory over Team Run N Gun.



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

The Bomb Squad power forward Kyle Ready brought his "A" game and was awarded consensus tournament MVP.



## Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort receives Business Community Service Award

**JOSEPH V. SOWMICK**

Photojournalist

On Feb. 6, the Mount Pleasant Area Chamber of Commerce announced the 2016 Business Community Service award winners for small and large business and the 2016 Young Professional of the Year.

The Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort received the Large Business Community Service Award.

Bret Hyble, president/CEO of the Mount Pleasant Area Chamber of Commerce, said the award was given away based on several criteria.

“The winners of the Business Community Service awards were chosen based on their support of Chamber of Commerce initiatives,” Hyble said. “The Soaring Eagle demonstrated each one of the criteria for selection that included involvement in the community, dedicating resources in the form of financial support, employee volunteer hours and leadership to improve the quality of life in Isabella County.”

Migizi EDC. CEO Robert Juckniess nominated Chief Frank Cloutier and the Soaring Eagle.



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

**Chief Frank Cloutier discusses Tribal gaming at the Oct. 6 business expo breakfast at the Mount Pleasant Comfort Inn.**

In the nomination, Juckniess said, “The Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort in Mount Pleasant is wholly owned by the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe led by Chief Frank Cloutier. This business is an integral part of the community and has been in existence since 1993 and provides thousands of jobs to local people. In addition, these jobs also enable locales to further their skills, enhance their trades and give back to their community.”

Cloutier is a regular at Chamber events as both an

attendee as well as a featured speaker.

“(Cloutier’s) knowledge and support of Mount Pleasant is unmatched by anyone I know,” Juckniess said. “I must also point out that the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe is extremely generous to the community by donating over a quarter of a billion dollars over the past 22 years to local businesses and schools. In fact, under the leadership of Chief Cloutier, the Tribe recently announced its fall 2016 multi-million dollar contributions for the local communities. I would be so bold as to state that there is no one from Mount Pleasant that hasn’t benefited in some way by the largesse donated by this business.”

Cloutier said he appreciates the support and the work the Mount Pleasant Area Chamber does and welcomes the recognition on behalf of all staff members.

“When our business properties are recognized for the contributions we make to the community, that is a direct reflection on the quality of employees we have,” Cloutier said. “I have seen the giving spirit we have here at Soaring Eagle and our employees are so connected

with wanting to be a part of the community. This is a true team win for all of us.”

Casino CEO Ray Brenny said he believes involvement with others within the professional community is important in the hospitality industry.

“Many resort destinations and gaming operations have fostered a positive relationship with their local area Chamber of Commerce and Convention and Visitors Bureau,” Brenny said. “Soaring Eagle welcomes the opportunity to be a host of Chamber events and it is the customer service that our operation provides that keep people coming back.”

Hyble said Gary Lane from In a Snap Photobooths received honors as Young Professional of the Year.

“The winner of the Young Professional of the Year Award honors one outstanding Mt. Pleasant area young professional who has demonstrated leadership to improve the quality of life in Isabella County and significant support of Mt. Pleasant Chamber initiatives,” Hyble said. “The winners will be presented with their awards along with the



2016 Outstanding Citizen of the Year and Eagle Award winners at the 60th annual awards banquet - Diamond Anniversary Ball on March 4 at the Comfort Inn Conference Center.”

Barbara Cataldo, marketing director for the Chamber, said Soaring Eagle has hosted the Michigan Young Professional Network Statewide Conference for the last three years, and will again this year.

“When Mount Pleasant hosted the Regional Business after Hours (that included Bay Area, Saginaw, Midland and Mt. Pleasant Chambers), it was at the Soaring Eagle and they did a fabulous job,” Cataldo said. “Every year, they also host the legislative breakfast in fall and spring.”

Cloutier has served as a Chamber Board member since 2007 and Public Relations Director Erik Rodriguez took over his chamber position when he was elected chief.



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Dr. Dylan Miner, Artist





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## Sioux Native artist and author Paul Collins shares stories with Behavioral Health clients

**JOSEPH V. SOWMICK**

Photojournalist

Cultural teachings come in a variety of ways, and a surprise visit by acclaimed Sioux Native artist and author Paul Collins inspired Behavioral Health staff and clients on Feb. 17.

Internationally known for his realist painting style that highlights textures, light, and detail, Collins visited the Reservation with his wife Carol.

Collins expressed his gratitude for his wife and told the audience how important it is to have a partner who gives mutual respect.

“We all need someone to believe in us it gives us energy in strength to move ahead. We are exposed to way too much violence; this constant negativity just creates more negativity and that sometimes leads to drug, alcohol and physical abuse,” Collins said. “I truly believe in subliminal messages. That is why I choose to paint positive images of strength. Until I reach the spirit world, I will continue my journey to capture the human spirit and living respectfully within the circle of life, bringing attention to caring for Mother Earth, and awakening within us the joy of harmony.”

Collins shared a story on how art is a footprint of history because you can go back through the ages and explore ancestors’ ways hundreds of years ago.



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

**Internationally-acclaimed artist Paul Collins (left) and his wife Carol (right) gifted an original signed print to aspiring Native art student Cameron Kole (center).**

All this art throughout history highlights our commonality,” Collins said. “It is crucial that all human beings understand the importance of Mother Earth and that she can live without us but we cannot live without her.”

Collins said “there is an intrinsic love of art that exists in most people’s hearts.”

“Unfortunately, so many of us are exposed to so much negativity we don’t even understand how to release what is a deep inside our hearts. Our hearts are very fragile and thoughtless acts and nasty words can leave scars,” Collins said. “We must all be wiser and kind in our actions and take each other’s hand and help each other grow stronger. Art is a part of who we are. We use it in our everyday lives.”

Collins said he believes his friend Dennis Banks is

one of the many influential historical figures he has painted that have shaped the world for the better.

“Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Nelson Mandela, Gandhi, Harriet Tubman, Mother Teresa and Dennis Banks have all fought selflessly for humanity and it was an honor to paint each of them,” Collins said. “Dennis’ influence helped change America’s concept of Native Americans forever. With the formation of the American Indian Movement, the leaders and members brought to the forefront the massive abuse towards Native Americans.”



Courtesy of Collins Art

**At the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio, Collins did an Aug. 8, 2016 unveiling of his new 2,700 square-foot mural that honors Native athlete Jim Thorpe.**

Collins said he met Banks when he was living on the Pine Ridge Reservation and the siege at Wounded Knee began.

“The world was watching and (the American Indian Movement) was commanding their attention. The actions they took and the sacrifice they and other advocates made have given Native Americans the many opportunities that exist today,” Collins said. “I know many people don’t know the history or the sacrifices made by those who came before them. That is why I paint; to highlight the sacrifices made to pave a more solid road for all of us and to encourage us to excel.”

Christa Gomez, case manager for Behavioral Health, said she found Collins’ message inspiring.

“Paul is an extraordinary man and it was such an honor for him to take time out to visit with us,” Gomez said. “His humility and generous heart really inspire me and it was a sheer delight to have him interact with our clients and staff.”

Dianna Chipp, clinical therapist, said she enjoyed the presentation.

“(Collins) is a treasure of indigenous knowledge and showed how his art connects with nature,” Chipp said. “Listening to (the Collins’) comforting words of wisdom and feeling the love they share for all of humanity was truly beautiful. It was one of the moments in time that leave you without the right words to express the experience we had.”

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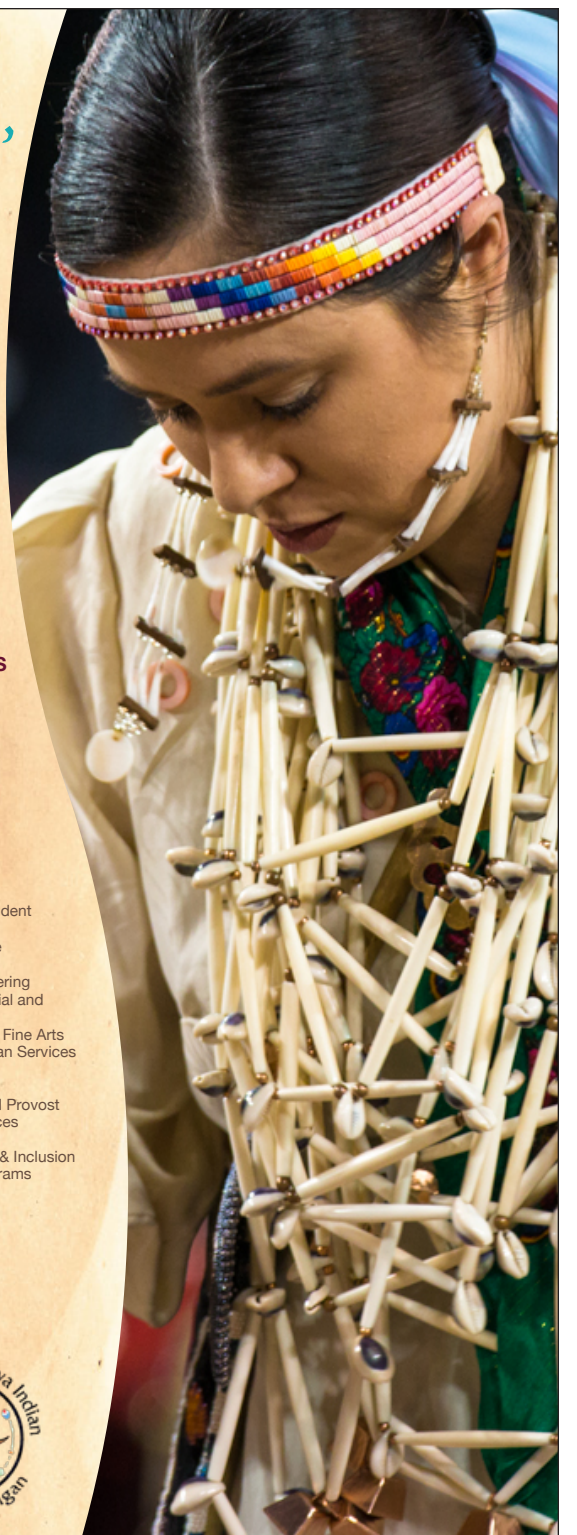
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## AICF CEO honored in Washington, D.C. for tribal college leadership

**NATALIE SHATTUCK**

Editor

DENVER, Colo. – American Indian College Fund President/CEO Cheryl Crazy Bull (Sicangu Lakota) was honored in Washington, D.C. for her inspiring leadership skills within tribal colleges.

Crazy Bull was one of two American Indian women leaders honored at the Capitol Hilton last month by the National Indian Women’s “Supporting Each Other” Inc. recognition lunch.

The 2016 honorees “have become role models for all Indian women – they have become shining examples of wisdom, generosity, commitment, happiness, and sharing their love for our families and our communities,” said Teresa Sheldon, member of the Tulalip Tribes of Washington State and of the National Indian Women’s Supporting Each Other, in a press release.

Crazy Bull was introduced by South Dakota Senator Kevin

Killer (Oglala Lakota), an Oglala Lakota College alumnus.

She was then presented with flowers by Ernie Stevens (Oneida), president of the National Indian Gaming Association, and wrapped in a Pendleton blanket by previous honoree Cecilia Fire Thunder (Lakota) and Patsy White Foot, president of the 2016 National Indian Education Association.

Her award was presented by Debora Juarez (Blackfeet) of the Seattle City Council.

“I am honored to (be) recognized by and be among women whose leadership is inspiring and supportive,” Crazy Bull said. “I am thankful for all of the students whose perseverance and commitment has been so rewarding in my career and my life. So many people make it possible for me to build resources for tribal student success and for our tribal colleges to be even better at the work they do in our communities. I thank all of them, especially my family, for being there for

me so I can be there for others.”

Melanie Benjamin, chief executive of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Gaming Association, was also honored at the event.

Benjamin received flowers and a Pendleton blanket from Senator Al Franken (D-Minn.), and presented with her award by Minnesota Representative Peggy Flanagan (White Earth Tribe of Ojibwa.)

The American Indian College Fund has been the nation’s largest charity in supporting Native higher education for more than 25 years.

The College Fund believes “education is the answer” and has provided more than 100,000 scholarships since its 1989 inception, and an average of 6,000 scholarships per year to American Indian students, according to collegefund.org.



Courtesy of American Indian College Fund

**Cheryl Crazy Bull (third from right), president and CEO of the American Indian College Fund, is honored in Washington, D.C. during the National Indian Women’s “Supporting Each Other” Inc. event in February.**

*(Left to right) Debora Juarez (Blackfeet), council member of Seattle City; Julie Johnson (Lummi), president of the “Supporting Each Other” program; Kevin Killer (Oglala Lakota), state senator for South Dakota; Patsy Whitefoot (Yakima), president for the 2016 National Indian Education Association; Crazy Bull; Cecilia Fire Thunder (Lakota), co-organizer for “Supporting Each Other”; and Ernie Stevens Jr. (Oneida), president of National Indian Gaming Association.*

“With only 13 percent of Native people having college degrees, we need to focus on more Natives going to college and graduating,” Crazy Bull said.

The College Fund also supports a variety of academic and support programs, ensuring students have the tools to graduate and succeed in their careers.

## Kevin Humphreys hired as Migizi’s human resources manager

**JOSEPH V. SOWMICK**

Photojournalist

On Jan. 30, Marc McCain, human resources specialist for the Migizi Economic Development Company, announced Kevin Humphreys will be joining Migizi as the new human resources manager.

Humphreys has experience in hospitality and

manufacturing management, as well as more than 15 years in human resources, McCain said.

Humphreys has resided in the central Michigan area for 17 years.

“I have watched the development of businesses associated with the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe over that period of time,” Humphreys said. “The position in human resources was an opportunity to bring my professional training in human resources as well as my previous background in hospitality and retail management.”

Along with serving the country as a U.S. Army veteran, he also holds a Bachelor of Science in administration from Rutgers University.

Humphreys spent the first part of his career in operations, and said he understands the daily challenges of running a front-line department or business.

“Now as a Human Resources professional, I play a supporting role that I take very seriously. I enjoy partnering with front-line managers and tackling problems, working with the stake holders and developing not only tactics to address the problems at hand, but longer term strategies that make sure we steer clear of future problems,” Humphreys said. “It is very rewarding when some time down the road, you can look back and reflect on how far the team has come and take pride in knowing there are systems, people, and a culture in place that will continue to move the business forward.”

“We look forward to Kevin continuing to grow with Migizi and the different perspectives he will bring to our company,” McCain said.

Migizi CEO Robert Juckniess provided Humphreys with a personal tour of the Migizi properties, and introduced him to many associates.

“We know that Kevin will provide great leadership and help to move Migizi further forward with its important HR requirements,” Juckniess said. “Kevin is committed to improving the quality of new hires, enhancing our training and maximizing our employee retention.”

Humphreys offered advice to someone who is considering employment at a Migizi property.

“Applicants should understand what they are applying for,” Humphreys said. “Our positions are guest oriented. Our present businesses are all customer service related and require a personality that looks forward to interacting with our guests in whatever setting that may be. It could be in Cardinal Pharmacy or in the Nbakade Restaurant or in the Soaring Eagle Waterpark. Each of these settings is a customer service position and the job is to take exceptional care our guests.”



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

**New Migizi Human Resource Manager Kevin Humphreys works at his office located in the Arnold J. Sowmick Plaza near Cardinal Pharmacy.**

# Adopt a Pet

Winona



Hi! I’m Winona! I’m a 4-year-old girl who loves being the life of the party. I am looking for a new best friend. I thought I had it all, but when I ended up with HATS in July 2016, my best friend never came looking for me. I do not want any feline siblings and any children in the household should be at least 10 years old because I like to play rough!

Bob the Girl



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## Betsey Alonzo selected as Educator of the Month

Congratulations to Betsey Alonzo, higher education college vocational recruitment and support specialist, for being selected as our Educator of the Month! The following is a questionnaire completed by Alonzo:

**How long have you worked for the Education Department?** Two years in May 2017.

**What is your favorite part of working in this department?** Encouraging others to seek higher education.

**Do you have any pets?** No.

**What is the one thing that you love to do? Why?** Cook, I enjoy cooking and baking for my family and friends.

**What is your favorite Disney movie?** "Alice in Wonderland."

**What is your favorite candy/snack?** Chocolate covered gummy bears.

**What is one of your favorite quotes?** "When I stand before God at the end of

my life, I would hope that I would not have a single bit of talent left, and could say, 'I used everything you gave me.'" — Erma Bombeck

**What is your favorite vacation spot and why?** Daytona Beach, Fla. to visit my father.

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



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

**Betsey Alonzo (center) receives Educator of the Month. (Left to right: Youth Leadership Manager Deb Smith, Alonzo and Administrative Assistant II Christina Sharp.)**

## Michigan Indian Elders Association: Student Incentive Program 2016/17

A Student Incentive Program is being offered by the Michigan Indian Elders Association (MIEA) to recognize students who achieve all A's for a marking period as well as students who achieve perfect attendance for a marking period.

There will be a minimum of \$3,000 available to fund this program this year.

An award of \$25 will be made for each qualified entry up to the minimum available funds in the program. In the event that the number of qualified entries exceeds the funds available, the winners will be determined by lottery.

### To qualify:

- The student must be an enrolled member or be a direct descendant of an enrolled member of one of the MIEA constituent tribes/bands.

- The student must be in Grades 1-12 at a public or private school. Home schooling is not eligible.

- A student must be in Grades 4-12 to qualify for the straight A award (A-, A, A+). For a school system that uses a grading system based on numbers, the equivalent to straight A's will be acceptable.

- A student must be in Grades 1-12 to qualify for the perfect attendance award. Perfect attendance means exactly that. A student must be in school or at a school-sponsored function each day of the marking period. Excused absences for anything other than a school sponsored/approved function do not constitute perfect attendance.

- The first two marking periods ONLY of the 2016/2017 school year will be used to determine the winners for this lottery.

- A student can qualify for both the perfect attendance and straight A's for both

marking periods. For example, straight A's and perfect attendance for both marking periods would mean four chances to win.

### Please submit the following items:

- A parent of the student must complete and sign the Student Incentive Program Application Form in order for the student to qualify for an award.

- A copy of the child's report card signed by the parent or a letter from an administrator of the student's school must be submitted with the completed application form to verify the achievement of straight A's and perfect attendance.

- A copy of student's (or parents') tribal identification card.

The drawing to determine the winners will be held at the April 2017 Conference of the Michigan Indian Elders Association.

**Very important:** You must follow these directions for your child to be considered for an award. The completed application form (included with these instructions), a signed report card or verification letter of achievement from a school administrator and copy of the student's or parent's tribal identification card must be received or postmarked no later than March 15, 2017.

**The link for the form is:** <http://michiganindianelders.org/students.php>

Applications received/postmarked after March 15, 2017 will not be accepted, no exceptions.

### Please send the form mentioned documents to:

LeAnn Stindt  
103 Big Bear Road  
Iron River, MI 49935

### Renaissance

**The following students earned perfect attendance for January:** Bryson Roth, Jacob Delacruz, Jennifer Delacruz, Syriana Smith, Jayne Starkey, Nixie Snyder, Tylor Linville, Tyler Snyder, Ahsiniis Smith, Tierra Ash, Elijah Otto Powers and Sabashtion Davis.

### Ganiard

**The following students earned perfect attendance for January:** Jaidyn Barnes, Lilly Chamberlain, Hailey Cozzie, Jay Foster-Fleming, Emiliano Garcia, Annabelle Hart, Konner Hilleger, Caleb Howard, Isabella Jackson, Dehmin Kahgegab, Kaden Mena, Nadia Mills, Tehya Morales, Kage Ortiz, Miah Perez, Jordan Teller, Ethan Treichel, Savannah Treichel, Ava Vogel and Amelia Whitt.

### Pullen

**The following students earned perfect attendance for January:** Tahlia Alonzo, Braeden Bennett, Miles Davis, Nikodin Davis, AhLannah Dodd, Abraham Graveratte, Letcia Hawkins, Trevor Isham, Heath Jackson-Hofer, Caitlyn Loyd, Arilynn Peters, Miikawadizi Prout, Kannan Quezada, Isaiah Rodriguez, Helena Sargent, Hope Stevens, Alex Taylor, Isaiah Taylor, Jayden Taylor, Cruz Vaquera, Johnny Vertz, Kiarah Vertz, Lakiah Vertz, Micah Wagner, Dacey'n Weldon, Remy Weldon, Azrae Wemigwans and Oginiihns Zerbe.

### Fancher

**The following students earned perfect attendance for January:** Dylan Bennett, Elijah Teller, LahRae Wilson, Areyu Sineway, Cailey Treichel, Caedyne Bailey, Alayna Barnes, Devyn Bennett, Zoey Haggard, Trent McConnell, Aaliyah Mena and Nautica Mena Strait.

### Vowles

**The following students earned perfect attendance for January:** Augustine Gibbs, Mateo Harris, Anthony King, Kaden Kjolhede, Isabell Lerma, Zamiah Marshall, Ian Martin, Kollin Martin, Mia McCreery, Maisia Mena and Ringo Stevens.

### McGuire

**The following students earned perfect attendance for January:** Bailey Burger, Andrew Kequom, Tasheeah Schwanke, Tavia Agosto, Arianna Altiman, Mahayla Freeman, Kasina Laughlin, Aleigha Schwanke, Emily Stevens, Alexis Taylor, La'Anna Trudeau, Mackenzie Burger, Zheesheeb Compo, Jonathan Davis, Tayden Davis, Adrianna Garcia, Isaiah Harris, Joc Keshick and Adrianna West.

### Shepherd

**The following elementary students earned perfect attendance for December:** Kearnn Alexander, Katilyn Cantu, Samuel Cloud, Sadie Cogswell, Eyhana Feliciano, Angelica Hinmon, Lyric Owl, Jayden Pelcher, Karma Pelcher, Sandra Slater, Madalyn Sineway, Aubreyanna Stevens, Anjelica Smith and Thomas Williams. **January:** Kearnn Alexander, Johnathan Bailey, Katilyn Cantu, Samuel Cloud, Akhario Gibbs, Analeigha Gibbs, Armani Marko Lyric Owl, Jayden Pelcher, Karma Pelcher, Kyleigh Pelcher, Layla Pigeon, Aiden Raphael, Maya Ryan, Sandra Slater and Madalyn Sineway.

**The following middle school, high school and Odyssey Shcool students earned perfect attendance for December:** Miah Chatfield, Sienna Chatfield, Foster Crampton, Lily Dean, Jasmine Isham, Olivia Lawson, Camron Pelcher, Brandon Seegraves, Miingin Starkey, Emma VanHorn, Jacob Williams, Akima Alaniz, Christina Benz, Adam Jewell, Abbie Master, Dia Niezgod, Jordan Seegraves, Allyssa Shawboose, Carli Sprague, Tyler Van Horn, Brooklyn Jackson and Guadalupe Pelcher. **January:** Miah Chatfield, Sienna Chatfield, Foster Crampton, Olivia Lawson, Camron Pelcher, Olivia Sineway, Jacob Sineway, Christopher Spencer-Ruiz, Andee Raphael, Leo Bennett, Christina Benz, Taylor Borton, Nathan Isaac, Abbie Master, Alicia Raphael, Joey Sineway and Tyler VanHorn. **The following middle school students earned a 3.0 or higher GPA for the first trimester:** Rumalda Alanis, Aiyana Bross, Miah Chatfield, Sienna Chatfield, Foster Crampton, Lily Dean, Jasmine Isham, Alize Jackson, Quincey Jackson, Hunter Johnson, Jarrad Johnson, Zachary Lezan, Mana Pelcher, Andee Raphael, Adam Saboo, Brandon Seegraves, Jacob Sineway, Olivia Sineway and Christopher Spencer-Ruiz. **High school:** Akima Alaniz, Leo Bennett, Hayley Cogswell, Kira Fox, Sedona Mejia, Alicia Raphael, Allyssa Shawboose, Joey Sineway and Scott Sura. **Odyssey:** Brooklyn Jackson.

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## Anna Winters selected as Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College's Student of the Year

### NATALIE SHATTUCK

Editor

Anna Winters was chosen as the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College's Student of the Year during a luncheon on Thursday, Feb. 16.

Winters receives a \$1,200 scholarship from the American Indian College Fund which sponsors the Student of the Year funds at all 37 existing tribal colleges or universities.

In the SCTC West Building, Nathaniel Lambertson, dean of students, announced the finalists along with President's and Dean's lists names.

"(Anna) initially began her academic career at University of Wisconsin-Osh Kosh more than 15 years ago in 2002," Lambertson said. "She came to SCTC in fall 2014 and has experienced most everything from a 3.9 semester GPA, all the way to some semesters where she had to withdraw from most, or all, of her courses."

Winters is scheduled to graduate in May 2017 with a liberal arts degree.

On her recognition, Winters said, "It feels amazing. It's



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

**Dan Jackson (far left) performs an honor song for the top three Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College students selected for Student of the Year. (Left to right) Chase Stevens, Jennifer Seibt and Anna Winters (selected as Student of the Year) were recognized at SCTC's Feb. 16 luncheon.**

unbelievable. It's still setting in."

Students of the year from each tribal college or university will be honored at a banquet at the American Indian higher Education Consortium annual conference in Rapid City, S.D. on March 19.

Chase Stevens and Jennifer Seibt were also considered as student of the year finalists.

"All three of the applicants were very strong," Lambertson said. "What seemed to set Anna apart is that she has had very little support and has faced a wealth of challenges and

setbacks, but she has always found a way to persevere."

Along with submitting an application, requirements consisted of an unofficial transcript, tribal enrollment verification, digital color photograph, a nomination form signed by the college president and essay answers to the following questions: "What challenges have you overcome to attend college?" and "what are your education and career goals and how will this scholarship help you achieve them?"

A scholarship committee evaluated the applications

### President's List (4.0 GPA)

Beneficiaries receive a \$250 credit to their student account:

- Suzanne Baily
- Deanna Campbell
- Dawn Morrow
- Monica Pelcher
- Jennifer Seibt
- Lucas Sprague
- Chase Stevens

### Dean's List (3.5 and greater GPA)

Beneficiaries receive a \$50 gas card:

- Faith Montoya
- Diedre DeFeyer
- Chyann Haas
- Jared Hovick
- Abbie Jackson
- Mitchell Jackson
- Jennifer Lewis
- Andrea Perschbacher
- Lynette Smith
- Caroline Trevino
- Steve Wassegijig

## SCTC Extension offers 2017 community education business workshop series

### JOSEPH V. SOWMICK

Photojournalist

The Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College is demonstrating an entrepreneurial spirit as students and community come together for a series of 2017 business workshops.

Jeff Gotaas, adjunct faculty instructor for the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College, has taught business classes for nine years and is the lead instructor for the workshop series that began Jan. 18.

Gotaas has an extensive management consultant background and has served as a cost

accounting specialist for more than 15 years.

Shuna Stevens, extension coordinator, said one of the goals for the workshops is to provide educational resources to the community that leads to the successful completion of business plans that are ready for use in pursuing and starting a business.

"Jeff is a familiar face with our students and SCTC alumni and can provide insight on what it takes to start up a business," Stevens said. "These business workshops are being brought to the community through SCTC Extension with funds from the

USDA NIFA, Special Emphasis: Anishinaabe Arts and Crafts and Entrepreneur Grant."

SCTC President Carla Sineway said many students and Tribal community members attended.

"Our mission is to reach out to all and provide educational opportunities," Sineway said. "Shuna is doing an excellent job and we look forward to more workshops to come."

Gotaas academic credentials include a bachelor's degree in business administration from Western Michigan University and a master's degree in education, with certification to teach business and history in grades seventh to 12th.

"Gotaas will be teaching the classic plan for starting up a business as well as buying a current business," Stevens said. "Gotaas has developed what he calls a quick start version of

getting a business going and will include supplemental instruction on website building."

"The workshops will be held from 12 to 1:20 p. m. on the campus of SCTC in the east building, in classroom 6," Stevens said. "In order to complete the workshop series, you will need to attend at least one of the classes from all four sessions."

The series are broken down into four sessions: General company description, and products and services; marketing plan, and operational plan; management and organization, and personal financial statement; and startup expenses and capitalization/financial history and analysis, financial plan, and the executive summary.

SCTC Extension will be providing supplemental business-related workshops through the year, such as an overview of Quick Books,

demonstrate success can be achieved through perseverance," Lambertson said. "Many students face the same roadblocks that Anna has, but fewer find the resolve not to give up."

Winters said she focused on determination throughout her education journey.

"It took me a little longer to graduate than the standard two years," Winters said. "I never stopped... I took it step-by-step, and it took a little longer than I thought."

what a small business needs to know about taxes, and what is needed for a loan application.

For suggestions on a specific business-related topic, or to receive the complete schedule, please contact Shuna Stevens at [sstevens@sagchip.org](mailto:ssstevens@sagchip.org) or 989-775-4123.



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

**SCTC Business Instructor Jeff Gotaas shares his quick start version of getting an entrepreneurial business going with students and community.**

## Women's Leadership Conference

*Empowerment through Education*

**Saturday, June 3, 2017**  
9 a.m. to 4 p.m. | Eagles Nest Tribal Gym

This conference will focus on Empowerment through Education, with Native American women leaders in our community speaking.

- Free event
- Open to students 9th grade and older.
- Continental breakfast, lunch with keynote speaker and snacks.
- Leadership information provided.

**Registration deadline: May 3, 2017**  
Limited to the first 50 who register.

**Contact Information:**  
Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College  
2274 Enterprise Dr. Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

**Women's Leadership Program**

- Jennifer Seibt: [jseibt@sagchip.edu](mailto:jseibt@sagchip.edu)
- Anna Winters: [awinters@sagchip.edu](mailto:awinters@sagchip.edu)
- Kathy Hart: [khart@sagchip.edu](mailto:khart@sagchip.edu)
- Or by Phone: 989.775.4123

In collaboration with the American Indian College Fund for the Native Women's Placed-based Leadership and Community Organizing Program.

## SCTC Board of Regents One Vacancy

**If you are interested in serving, please submit a resume and a letter of interest explaining how you meet the criteria to:**

*Ms. Colleen Green*  
SCTC Board Chair  
2274 Enterprise Drive  
Mt. Pleasant, Michigan 48858

**Deadline: Open Until Filled**

### Qualifications of Regents:

1. An enrolled member of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan (SCIT) or another federally-recognized tribe, band or group. If a member of SCIT of Michigan must adhere to the tribal policy regarding committee membership.
2. Attainment of at least 25 years old.
3. Significant education or work experience related to the process of higher education or vocational training or the administration of education or vocational training institutions and programs.
4. Any specific requirements of organizations providing financial or other benefits to SCTC or providing accreditation of SCTC programs.



## WPBA professional Line Kjorsvik racks up win at 2017 Masters Tournament

**JOSEPH V. SOWMICK**

Photojournalist

For the eighth consecutive year, the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort hosted the Women's Professional Billiard Association (WPBA) Masters Event Feb. 2-5.

The nine-ball masters event championship staged the top female competitors in the world of professional billiards.

Thirty-one elite players competed for the "2017 WPBA Masters Champion" title in the double elimination tournament.

This year, players vying for the title included WPBA Hall of Fame member Ewa "The Striking Viking" Laurance, seven-time Canadian champion Brittany "Double B" Bryant, Colorado State Ladies Champion Melissa "The Viper" Little and Swedish multiple WPBA champion Helena "The Sledgehammer" Thornfeldt and Atlanta's own Monica "The Assassin" Webb.

The finals saw Line Kjorsvik from Trondheim, Norway march through the field undefeated to take trophy honors against former WPBA world champion and BCA Hall of Fame inductee Karen "The Irish Invader" Corr.



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

**WPBA professional Line Kjorsvik from Trondheim, Norway concentrates before delivering one of her shots in finals competition.**

Kjorsvik is a six-time European champion with 35 medals to her credit along with a bronze medal at the World Games and a two time Women's Euro Tour Champion.

In semifinal action, Corr defeated WPBA Dutch champion Tamera Peeters from Heerlen, Holland and Kjorsvik bested Bloomington Minn. billiards protégé April Larson. The 16-year-old phenomenon was the talk of the tournament as she brought down fellow competitors Jennifer "9MM" Barretta and Canada's own Krista Walsh on her way to the semifinals.

Kim "Lone Star" Newsome, from Montgomery, Texas has maintained her WPBA professional status since 2001 and lost a close match to semifinalist April Larson.

"As current president of the WPBA, I would like to thank Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort for hosting another first class masters event," Newsome said. "The property is breathtaking, and the staff is always so friendly and accommodating. We look forward to many more years at this exciting resort destination!"

Casino CEO Ray Brenny said the event had a great turnout.

"All of us at Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort loved hosting the WPBA event again this year along with having ESPN national coverage," Brenny said. "As a world class resort, we were able to host competitors from around the world and give them the Soaring Eagle experience. We are already looking forward to next year's tournament."

Tim McCullough, guest service performance development specialist for Soaring Eagle, was on site for the trophy presentation.

"The best of the best in women's billiards come here to compete and put on a great



Courtesy of Tony Fox Photography

**Tim McCullough (center), guest service performance development specialist, presents the Soaring Eagle 2017 WPBA Masters trophy to winner Line Kjorsvik (left) and second place finalist Karen Corr (right.)**

show for all of our guests," McCullough said. "A champion is crowned and the energy is electric. It's a must-see event and we are proud to be a major stop on the WPBA tour and look forward to next year."

Vicki Paski, also known as "Diamond Vic," is a hall of famer from Grand Ledge, Mich.

"It seems natural to me to have world class players competing (at Soaring Eagle)," Paski said. "It was unfortunate that some of the regulars had a schedule conflict, but there was no shortage of exciting matches as a result. April Larson was a delight and on and off the table, she sparkles. Newcomers

should take heed, stay down and shoot straight and the sky is the limit!"

According to WPBA.com, there are nearly 300 player members participating at the professional and regional tour grass roots level who make up the WPBA. Established in 1976 under "Women's Billiard Alliance," this membership-owned organization provides opportunities for aspiring female players to reach the pinnacle of the sport.

The WPBA season concludes with the prestigious 2017 Rivers Casino Open held at Rivers Casino & Resort in Pittsburgh on April 19-23.

## Four shows entice contestants to "come on down" as The Price Is Right Live! returns

**JOSEPH V. SOWMICK**

Photojournalist

The lights, sound, and excitement was electric as "The Price Is Right Live!" made its return to the Soaring Eagle stage for four shows on Feb. 17 and 18.

The announcer Andy Martello hyped up hopeful contestants as they screamed and chanted one of the most popular game show phrases in history – "come on down."

Emmy-winning television host Todd Newton greeted the audience with his trademark smile as the familiar game show starting theme music echoed through the venue.

Newton is known to audiences worldwide for his work on the E! channel where, for more than a decade, he gave audiences a VIP pass to red carpet events, and brought audiences face-to-face with Hollywood's biggest stars.

Modeled after the popular CBS game show "The Price Is Right," the stage show invited selected audience members to play classic games such as Plinko, Cliffhanger, The Big Wheel and Celebrity Showcase for prizes including cash, appliances, vacations and cars.

Patrons even had an opportunity to become instant



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

**Warnella Humphrey (second from right) made The Price is Right Live! a family affair as she attended with her family members Tamika, LeShae and Ulysses.**

winners and win prizes right from their seats.

"The similarities between the television show and the live show are endless," Newton said. "It's the same games, music and energy that they've been watching in their living rooms for 45 years."

Newton said he considers the daytime game show's original host, Bob Barker, a mentor.

Current daytime host Drew Carey took the mantle from Barker when he made the decision to retire after a remarkable 35 years.

Richard Fix and Karen Wyman came on down from Hartland.

"I believe the reason 'The Price Is Right' has been able to keep going all these years is because real people win and it's a lot of fun," Fix said at

the event. "Karen's daughter came up with the slogan 'don't make me frown, let me come on down' for our T-shirts and that's exactly where we want to be."

Mimi Slanga from Fostoria also attended.

"I got to play some Plinko, that's my favorite game," Slanga said during the show. "I



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

**"The Price Is Right Live!" game show host Todd Newton returns to the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort with a wealth of prizes for lucky winners.**

still miss Bob Barker as host. He was an animal rights activist and the show wasn't over until he made sure people were getting their pets spayed and neutered. Look at all the people here. The Price Is Right is like an American icon."

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*Experience:* Former Prosecuting Attorney Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan, and Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Indian Reservation; Former Public Defender Assiniboine Sioux Tribe; Criminal Defense Attorney

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## Former heavyweight champ Mike Tyson brings the "Undisputed Truth" to SECR

**MATTHEW WRIGHT**

Staff Writer

The Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort hosted former heavyweight champion boxer Mike Tyson on Friday, Jan. 27.

The retired professional boxer still finds himself throwing combos and delivering knockouts. They have recently come from a new source, as he hung up his boxing gloves more than a decade ago.

Today, "Iron Mike" finds himself providing entertaining through witticisms and anecdotes as he shares his life story during "Mike Tyson: Undisputed Truth."

The script for his routine was crafted with the help of his wife Kiki.

His monologue is supplemented by a large video screen which periodically showed small video clips and photos from his past.

After a short introduction video, Tyson emerged on stage and set the tone with a light-hearted jab at his past.



Observer photo by Matthew Wright

**Former heavyweight champion Mike Tyson greets the SECR audience during his Jan. 27 show.**

"As crazy as this may sound..." Tyson said. "Don't worry; you guys will leave here with two ears tonight."

The one-man show has proven to be an honest, compelling and ultimately entertaining account of his rise, fall and later resurgence.

"I made it my mission to make the impossible, possible," he

said. "I already accomplished that by becoming the youngest heavyweight champion of all time... That record is going to stand for a long, long time."

The emotional first half finds Tyson recounting his troubled childhood, in a broken home. He was born in 1966 in Brooklyn, N.Y., and

was only 2 years old when his father abandoned the family.

"My childhood was filled with chaos," he said. "I just remember them always drinking... House parties... My mom drinking, fighting with her boyfriends."

In his 2013 autobiography, also titled "Undisputed Truth," Tyson described his childhood on the streets.

"I stole from everyone. I stole tires off parked cars and collars off dogs. I stole pennies out of shoes. I was lucky if I ate dirt and balls of grass. I was lucky to eat a shoe."

He described himself as a small, shy kid with a lisp who resorted to fighting to counter the constant bullying. He fell in with the wrong crowd, and soon was living a life of crime.

"By the time I was 12 years old, I was arrested over 38 times," he said.

His bad behavior landed him in the Tyron School for Boys in upstate New York. It was here that he met counselor and former boxer Bob Stewart and his passion for boxing was kindled.

Tyson shared videos of many of his fights starting with his March 6, 1985 professional debut.

A recounting and whimsical reenactment of a fight with boxer Mitch Green saw Tyson wearing a wig to impersonate his opponent.

In the last portion of the show, he addressed the downward spiral of his life and career. This included his battle with substance abuse, addiction, anger problems and the infamous Evander Holyfield fight in which Tyson bit and severed his opponent's ear.

"After six arrests, I cleaned my life up," he said. "I'm just happy to make a comeback, because anyone who has fallen as far as I fell doesn't come back... But I made a super comeback."

For more information on upcoming shows at the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort, visit its website at [www.soaringeaglecasino.com](http://www.soaringeaglecasino.com), "Like" their Facebook page or add their Twitter handle [SoaringEagle777](https://twitter.com/SoaringEagle777).

## The Tenderloins comedy troupe bring the laughter with their Impractical Jokers tour

**JOSEPH V. SOWMICK**

Photojournalist

The Tenderloins comedy troupe made a dazzling debut to the Soaring Eagle stage with two sold-out shows on Feb. 11, and brought plenty of laughter with the "Santiago Sent Us" live tour.

The Tenderloins, derived from the TV show "Impractical Jokers," are four high school friends from Staten Island, N.Y. who formed the live improv and sketch comedy troupe in 1999.

Their brand of comedy finds Joe Gatto, James "Murr" Murray, Brian "Q" Quinn and Salvatore "Sal" Vulcano challenging one another into doing public pranks while being filmed by hidden cameras.

The group won the \$100,000 grand prize on NBC's "It's

Your Show" competition.

Q and Sal gave the original pitch and sent their hidden camera format pilot episode to TruTV that was recorded on their iPhone.

The network announced the television series in the spring of 2011, originally slated to be named "Mission: Uncomfortable."

The "Impractical Jokers" do not know the details of the prank until the moment they are performing it on strangers. They perform the pranks as challenges to the unsuspecting public and if they fail them, they go on "a loser board."

At the end of the episode, the joker with the most failures goes through a punishment, created by the winning jokers and is usually far worse than the challenges themselves.

Just like their show, the live audience got an opportunity to

join in the fun as they get to give the jokers thumbs up or thumbs down depending how did delivering their pranks.

"Impractical Jokers" has been renewed for a sixth season. New episodes began airing on Feb. 9.

Alexis Venegas from Freeland attended the show and found the jokers "outrageously hilarious."

"My favorite is Sal, because if I was a joker, I'd be like him," Venegas said. "He falls down laughing so hard every single time and he when he does certain pranks, he is just hilarious because sometimes he can't stop laughing. I'm pretty sure I've seen all of their TruTV shows and about died laughing. They are truly awesome!"

Kim Saboo from Mount Pleasant attended with her family.

"My son, Adam, and I were laughing so hard that our sides hurt," Saboo said. "We were still laughing about some of

the pranks the next day! We're huge fans of the show and can't wait for them to come back to Soaring Eagle."



Courtesy of Meridian Entertainment

**The Tenderloins, TruTV improv troupe featured on the reality comedy series "Impractical Jokers," made their first Soaring Eagle appearance. (Left to right: Brian "Q" Quinn, James "Murr" Murray, Salvatore "Sal" Vulcano and Joseph "Joe" Gatto.)**



**Attention Tribal Members**

The Zibiwing Cultural Society Board of Directors needs to fill a 2-year term vacancy. Please submit a letter of interest and resume to:

Shannon Martin  
6650 E. Broadway, Mt. Pleasant, Michigan 48858  
or email [smartin@sagchip.org](mailto:smartin@sagchip.org)



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## Healthy Heart Breakfast serves record 214 Egg McNimkee sandwiches in two hours

**JOSEPH V. SOWMICK**

Photojournalist

Another helping of Nimkee history was served up at the 2017 Healthy Heart Breakfast on Feb. 9 in the Public Health Kitchen.

Robyn Grinzinger, health educator and event coordinator, said Nimkee Public Health had 145 people streaming in and out for the Egg McNimkee breakfast special.

“Some (participants) had a McNimkee delivered by friends to their departments and we served a record 214 sandwiches in just two hours,” Grinzinger said.

Grinzinger shared her appreciation to all who made the



Nurse Helen Williams (left) and Fitness Coordinator Jayme Green handed out the Egg McNimkees on Feb. 9.



The Nimkee Public Health kitchen enjoyed a steady stream of visitors for its annual Healthy Heart Breakfast.



Medical Transcriptionist Nettie White is on a roll with her bingo equipment.

event a success. She also said the event is a true team effort.

“We had a great breakfast and some wild bingo games with lots of singing, exercise breaks and lots of laughs, all of which is great for your healthy heart,” Grinzinger said. “Much thanks to SCIT Recreation for the use of your bingo daubers and to ALRD for the use of your bingo game. Elders Isabelle and Margaret from ALRD made a wonderful addition to our breakfast again this year.”

Dave Maki, purchasing agent, was the door prize winner, and trivia winners were Lanette Zaleski, Mary Quigno and Mikki Marcotte.

Grinzinger thanked Tribal Council, Tribal Administration and the Health Board for their

continued support of health education, and the Public Health department which checked participants’ blood sugar and blood pressure, and was available for flu shots.

Nurse Susan Sowmick said attendees were encouraged to monitor their heart health with screening for blood pressure, pulse and glucose levels.

“Keeping (blood pressure, pulse, and glucose) within normal levels helps to decrease stress on your heart,” Sowmick said. “Eating a good diet with lots of fruit and veggies helps to keep your heart happy.”

Egg McNimkees are made with a whole grain muffin, low fat cheese and egg beaters along with fresh fruit for good proteins, fiber and vitamins.

“And best of all is the fact that laughter is good for your heart; it provides some exercise and stress relief and is just plain fun,” Sowmick said.



Nurse Susan Sowmick (right) takes Cathy Matthews' blood pressure.



Health Educator and event coordinator Robyn Grinzinger shares some healthy heart trivia.



Elder Robin Bonnau is one number away from a healthy heart winning bingo.

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# Crash the Nimkee Fitness Center event breaks record with 151 visitors in one day

**NATALIE SHATTUCK**

Editor

The Nimkee Fitness Center was breaking new records on Thursday, Feb. 2.

The staff hosted a “Crash the Fitness Center” event in an effort to bring in at least 150 people exercising in the center that day, a record number never previously reached.

The goal was met at 6:35 p.m. with Bob Storrer, substance abuse counselor for Behavioral Health, walking in as the 150th patron.

About 10 minutes after Storrer, Wellness Coordinator Toni Smith walked in, totaling 151 individuals who contributed to the day’s goal.

When entering the fitness center, each participant had to sign in and work out for at least 30 minutes anytime during the business hours from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

**Sally Van Cise, nutritionist for Nimkee Public Health, provided a healthy cooking demonstration after 5 p.m.**

“The day was filled with 20 new membership sign ups, smiling past members coming back and everyone’s genuine energy and excitement,” said Jayme Green, fitness coordinator. “Even the Tribal Fire Department showed up.”



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

**Jenna Davis gets a cardiovascular workout on the exercise bike.**

A Fat Blast class was available from 12:10 to 12:50 p.m., and a yoga class was in session from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Healthy recipes and free samples were offered throughout the day.

Sally Van Cise, nutritionist for Nimkee Public Health, provided healthy cooking demonstrations.



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

**Nimkee Fitness Center staff show getting healthy together is a team effort.**

Each participant received a free wristband with a fitness challenge written on it. Those receiving a wristband are eligible to win a \$50 Dick’s Sporting Goods gift card if they post a picture on social media showing their completion of the challenge they were given, using the hashtag #CrashTheFitnessCenter.

The challenge must be completed in February, and one winner will be chosen on March 1.

The fitness center is open to all Tribal Members, employees, descendants, and members of other tribes.

“It was truly wonderful to see the fitness center radiating such positive energy,” Green said. “Thank you to all the participants who crashed the fitness center. We all came together by recruiting, exercising, working, and supporting the Nimkee Fitness Center.”

## Environmental Nutrition answers how to drink water safely

**MARSHA MCCULLOCH**

MS, RD

*(Editor’s note: The following article is provided by Environmental Nutrition January 2017, and submitted by Sally Van Cise, MPH, RDN, nutritionist for Nimkee Public Health. For more information on safe drinking water, Joe Johnson and Jonas Wilcox, water operator supervisors, are available throughout the SCIT Utilities department. Johnson may be reached at 989-775-5235.)*

**Water is vital for life, but its purity and safety should be tested.**

“Don’t drink the water” is not a warning typically heard in the U.S., yet some of us may be drinking water that could cause harm.

Major issues with contaminants, such as lead or bacteria,

make news headlines, but more subtle issues may go undetected. Taking time to get informed about the water in your home is important for your health and safety.

Where to start? Review the annual water quality report sent by the local public water utility.

“The water in one community could be vastly different from that of another community,” said Kristi Pullen Fedinick, staff scientist in the health program at the Natural Resources Defense Council. “Even the water in the house down the street could vary from yours, especially when it comes to contaminants like lead.”

*(Editor’s note: Taylor Hollis, watershed outreach coordinator, reported SCIT has the safest drinking water in Michigan.)*

If you suspect an individual household problem, you can get your water tested, by a local water supplier. Fees vary

depending on the specific contaminants you’re measuring.

**Lead:** This infamous toxin that impairs brain function gets into drinking water when it comes into contact with lead in pipes or lead solder that holds water pipes together.

“Water utilities typically add a chemical that coats pipes, and that coating allows the water to pass through without interacting with lead in pipes,” Fedinick said. “The reason Flint, Mich., recently had high levels of lead in the water is because the city switched to a water source that was inadequately treated, which caused the protective chemical coating on lead pipes to break off, allowing the water to come into direct contact with lead.”

The tricky thing with lead is you can’t see, taste, or smell it.

“The only way to know if there’s lead in your water is to get it tested,” Fedinick said. “A number of local water utilities

offer free or low-cost testing for lead or you can send water to a certified lab for testing.”

**Disinfection:** “Chlorine and chloramine are added to water to kill disease-causing pathogens,” Fedinick said. “One of the downsides is that the chemicals themselves can change the taste and smell of water.”

Another concern with disinfectants is that they can combine with organic matter, such as miniscule bits of leaves that get into water, and create disinfection byproducts. These compounds slightly increase the risk of bladder cancer.

The EPA limits levels of disinfection byproducts in public water, and annual water quality reports list the amounts of these contaminants (most commonly trihalomethanes and haloacetic acid.)

**Other Contaminants:** “Drinking water contaminants can vary widely based on where you live and the activities happening there,” Fedinick said. “So, consider likely contaminants before getting specific testing.”

For example, if you live in a farming community, your water might have higher amounts of nitrates and pesticides. In an industrial area, contaminants might include benzene or toluene. And many cities add fluoride to water (as a dental protectant), which some people prefer to remove.

“The best way to ensure you’re getting clean, healthy water is to be an informed consumer,” Fedinick said. “Don’t dismiss annual water quality reports, and seek individual testing if you have private well water (which isn’t regulated by the EPA).”

**Getting Purer Water:** “Look for filters that provide the most

protection at a price that makes sense for you,” Fedinick said.

Check the website of NSF International to find out if the filter you’re considering is certified to remove the contaminants you’re concerned about. The Environmental Working Group also provides a water filter buying guide.

Here are two common approaches, although there are hundreds of products available.

**Adsorption:** Uses a medium such as activated carbon to latch onto and remove contaminants. Some mainly remove chlorine, while others also remove chloramines, disinfection byproducts, pesticides, industrial pollutants, and lead. Adsorption is used in everything from pitchers to whole house filtration units.

**Reverse osmosis:** Uses semipermeable membranes to eliminate many substances not removed by adsorption and is the only NSF-certified way to reduce nitrates and fluoride.

Most cost effective to use for drinking water. Commonly available as under-sink units.

**Bottled Water Safety:** “Don’t assume bottled water is any safer or cleaner than tap water,” Fedinick said.

She shares these important considerations:

- Check the water bottle label for the water source. It might be a municipal source like you get from your tap.

- Bottled water is regulated by the FDA while tap water is regulated by the EPA. These agencies’ standards for chemical pollution of water are nearly identical.

- Bottled water has a big impact on the environment due to the fossil fuels used to manufacture and ship bottled water. Plus, only 37 percent of water bottles are recycled.

### 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

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <b>ABP Eye Site</b><br>1535 E Broomfield<br>Mt Pleasant, MI | <b>Pleasant Optics</b><br>500 S Mission4164<br>Mt Pleasant, MI | <b>Traverse Vision</b><br>E. Bluegrass Rd.<br>Mt. Pleasant, MI |
|---|--|--|



## Editorial: March is Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month

**JENNA WILCOX  
& MARGARET STESLICKI**

Nimkee Clinic

March is Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month. Your primary medical care team at Nimkee Clinic wants to help spread community awareness and education on this topic.

Colon cancer affects men and women equally, and 90 percent of new cases will occur in people who are age 50 and older (Cancer.org.)

Your primary care team would like you to become more self aware of the signs and symptoms of colorectal cancer which include: Change in bowel habits, rectal bleeding or having blood in your stool, persistent abdominal

discomfort, nausea and/or vomiting, and unexplained weight loss. You may also have no noticeable symptoms at all.

If you develop any of the above signs/symptoms listed, please schedule an appointment with your primary care provider.

Some risk factors of developing colorectal cancer to keep in mind include: Individuals with personal and/or family history of polyps or cancer, people over the age of 50, those with ulcerative colitis or Crohn's Disease, and being Native American or African American.

In September 2015, Nimkee Medical Clinic was awarded a five-year grant, the Tribal Colon Cancer Collaborative Project, through the Inter-Tribal

Council of Michigan and in state partnership with the Cancer Control Program.

According to Michigan tribal data, there are low rates of colon cancer screening among Native American populations in Michigan and potentially higher rates of colon cancer.

Every individual between the ages of 50-75 should have colorectal screening, and if you have a family history you will need to be screened at least five years prior to the time the relative was diagnosed with colorectal cancer.

As of Jan. 1, 2017, our screening rates for Nimkee registered patients between the ages of 50 to 75 is 59 percent.

To address this health disparity and to assist our

Tribal community, Nimkee Clinic and Public Health Departments have signed a pledge with the American Cancer Society to increase colorectal cancer screening rates with adult patients ages 50-75 years to 80 percent by Sept. 30, 2018.

Please help us to beat colorectal cancer and to reach this goal for the community.

Here is what you can do: Get screened if you are between the ages of 50 to 75 and/or have a family history of colorectal cancer, maintain a healthy weight, adopt a physically active lifestyle, eat a healthy diet, do not use tobacco, and limit alcohol intake.

If you are a Nimkee eligible patient and would like more information about Nimkee Clinic's effort to

help with colorectal cancer screening, please call Twila at 989-775-4681 or Jamie at 989-775-4638 to schedule a screening.

Every Nimkee patient who completes their colorectal screening will receive a \$25 gift card.

To help raise awareness, please join us and wear blue on Friday, March 3 for the national Wear Blue Day.

To help raise awareness, please join us and wear blue on Friday, March 3 for the national "Wear Blue" day for colorectal cancer awareness. Andahwod is also hosting Nimkee Clinic for "Colon Bingo" at 5 p.m. on March 3. Nimkee Memorial Wellness Center cares about you. Your good health is a gift of respect to you and to those you love!

## Editorial: Tips to easily include fitness into your daily office routine

**JUDY DAVIS**

Nimkee Public Health

There are many ways to get fitness in while at work and/or sitting at your office, some examples include:

- For more energy and productivity – instead of eating at your desk or the lunch room table, eat while you walk.

- Instead of using the restroom closest to your desk, choose another one further away.

- Instead of filling a 22 oz. water bottle, fill a 16 oz. one. This activity will force you to walk somewhere to refill your bottle.

- Get more steps in and become more creative by taking your next meeting outside

(weather permitting) for a 30-minute walk.

- For those using cell phones at work, stroll around the office while on your phone. If you have a desk phone, stand and march in place.

- If you share an office, do a lap or march in place 20 times when you hear a certain word spoken in the office. (Get your fellow colleagues to join you!)

- Create an objective for yourself such as getting up to walk at least four times during the work day. As a reminder, set the timer on your computer or phone.

Keep walking! Congratulations to the Nimkee Fitness Center staff who were able to get 151 participants for their "Crash the Fitness Center." And in the process, they signed up 20 new members!

If you have not visited the Fitness Center, plan to do so in the coming weeks. Jayme or Jayden would be happy to guide you around.

Also, we still have plenty of slots for the Morey Courts free walking, sponsored by the Public Health 4x4 Grant. Contact me at 989-775-4629 weekdays if you have any questions.

## Editorial: Creating a life that matters

**PETE BISSONETTE**

Novel Author

Are you doing what matters most to you?

Does your work give your life meaning?

I'm not asking whether you are happy, but whether your life has meaning.

A study in the Journal of Positive Psychology examined attitudes toward happiness and meaning. It showed a meaningful life and a happy life overlap in certain ways, but are ultimately different.

"While happiness is an emotion felt in the here and now, it

ultimately fades away, just as all emotions do," wrote Emily Esfahani Smith about the study in The Atlantic. "The amount of time people report feeling good or bad correlates with happiness but not at all with meaning. Meaning, on the other hand, is enduring. It connects the past to the present to the future."

Another study confirmed this, she said, "People who have meaning in their lives, in the form of a clearly-defined purpose, rate their satisfaction with life higher even when they were feeling bad than those who did not have a clearly-defined purpose."

Giving your work meaning can be a simple shift in perspective, as it was for me.

Back in the '90s the focus of our company, Learning Strategies, was to sell more audio programs and enrollments. We were sales oriented as were most companies.

Then we switched our mindset from selling to helping more people experience their potential, and two things happened: First, I felt more fulfilled and happier, and second, our business grew significantly.

The level of meaning in my life increased considerably as did the success we enjoyed.

My colleague Stewart Emery and his co-authors of the book "Success Built to Last" interviewed 200 of the world's most successful people and uncovered the same experiences.

"Above all else, no matter where they have chosen to excel—in business, the arts, sports, social service, community, or family—each has achieved success by focusing on the things that matter most to them," Emery said.

"Enduringly successful people follow their hearts, aligning their thoughts and actions with their passions," Emery said. "They become energized by their work and stay on purpose and committed in the face of setbacks and challenges."

I couldn't agree with him more.

During our company's long-term success, there have been some extremely difficult times. But as long as we held fast to our vision to serve others, we really never had to worry. It fueled everything we did.

To create a life that matters to you, consider the following:

- What gives your life meaning? What brings you the greatest joy? Loving what you do and who you are is the greatest motivator for building lasting success. Just shifting our company focus from sales to impacting people, gave me and our staff meaning, and it continues 20

years later. Is there a shift like that you can make?

- Are your thoughts toxic or supportive? Are negative thoughts and self-doubt or the criticism of others drowning out that voice inside of your head—that whisper or "silent scream" telling you what really matters? Learn to responsibly manage your thoughts in ways that keep you on track to your goals, despite obstacles or burdens you will undoubtedly face.

- Are you taking action? What are you doing to bring you closer to your goals or attract into your life people and activities that will support you? While meaning drives success, meaning without action will get you nowhere.

When you align your thoughts and actions with what gives your life meaning, you magnify your passion and impart greater clarity to your purpose than ever before.

*Pete Bissonette is author of the forthcoming novel, "Breakfast Tea & Bourbon," where living a meaningful and joyous life weaves through the story. He is the president of Minneapolis-based Learning Strategies, a personal development training and publishing company founded in 1981. For more about his novel, please visit: <http://www.breakfastteaandbourbon.com/>*

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## March 20 is National Native HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

### ROBYN GRINZINGER

Health Educator

To honor all Native people, we encourage everyone to get tested for HIV this month.

It is recommended that everyone age 13 to 64 get tested at least once in their lifetime.

If you are concerned, or just want to be tested or retested for peace of mind, please come in for a simple blood draw.

#### Nimkee and Saganing testing information:

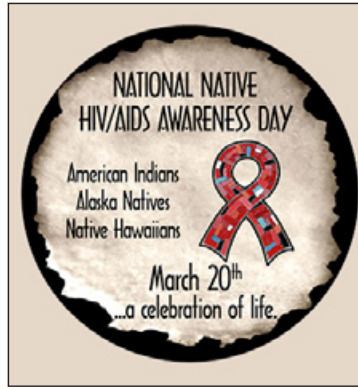
- Testing is free if you are CHS eligible.

- Not sure if you are CHS eligible? Call Contract Health: Margaret 989-775-4634 or Shelly 989-775-4639

- If you do not have insurance, you will be responsible for payment and will be billed by the lab for \$42.

- If you are direct only, your primary insurance will be billed; you will be responsible for the difference if they do not cover the entire amount.

This day honoring American Indians, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians is observed each year at the



Courtesy of www.aids.gov

start of spring and is intended to empower everyone to get tested and bring HIV/AIDS awareness to communities.

### HIV testing process and locations

#### Nimkee Memorial Wellness Center:

- **Walk-in testing:** Monday through Friday 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- **At patient registration:** Inform front desk you are here for lab. The nurse will call you back to the lab. When in the lab, please inform the nurse you want an HIV test.

#### Saganing Tribal Center

- **Contact:** Jenny at 989-775-5823 to schedule an appointment.

#### Central Michigan District Health Department

- **Free testing:** Call Kim at 989-773-5921 ext. 1409 to schedule an appointment for all or one of the following: HIV, Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, Hepatitis C, and Syphilis.

*\*Testing at all locations is confidential*

## Editorial: March is Endometriosis Awareness Month

### JENNA WILCOX

Women's Health Coordinator

March your way into the month of March by wearing yellow. Why? Because yellow is the color for Endometriosis Awareness Month which occurs this month.

According to the Mayo Clinic, endometriosis can be defined as “an often painful disorder in which tissue that normally lines the inside of your uterus – the endometrium – grows outside your uterus. With endometriosis,

displaced endometrial tissue continues to act as it normally would – it thickens, breaks down and bleeds with each menstrual cycle. Because this displaced tissue has no way to exit your body, it becomes trapped. Endometriosis can cause pain – sometimes severe – especially during your period.”

Why do we ask all those personal questions at your women's health screening appointment? By asking, certain key questions can help us link your signs and symptoms and risk together for diagnosing endometriosis.

Here is a list that Mayo Clinic has stated to be common signs and symptoms to look for: Pelvic pain, often associated with your menstrual period; painful periods (dysmenorrhea); pain with intercourse; pain with bowel movements or urination; excessive bleeding with menstrual periods; infertility; fatigue; diarrhea, constipation; bloating and nausea, especially during menstrual periods.

If you have developed any of the above symptoms, please talk with your medical care provider.

According to the Mayo Clinic, the following risk

factors increase females' risk of endometriosis: Never giving birth; starting your period at an early age; going through menopause at an older age; having short menstrual cycles — for instance, less than 27 days; your menstrual flow is longer than seven days; having a low body mass index; alcohol consumption; one or more relatives (mother, aunt or sister) with endometriosis; any medical condition that prevents the normal passage of menstrual flow out of the body; and having any uterine abnormalities.

Remember, yearly physicals are a great time to talk with your medical provider and especially talk with your medical provider if you have developed any signs/symptoms that are abnormal.

If you have not yet been scheduled for your yearly women's health screening and are a Nimkee eligible patient, please contact Jenna Wilcox, RN, BSN, at 989-775-4604 or Judy Davis at 989-775-4629.

For more information about endometriosis, please visit [www.mayoclinic.org](http://www.mayoclinic.org) or contact your primary care provider.

### Purchased Referred Care Referral Policy & Guidelines

The Purchased Referred Care (PRC) Program is for medical/dental care provided away from an IHS or tribal health care facility. PRC is not an entitlement program, an IHS referral does not imply the care will be paid. If IHS is requested to pay, then a patient must meet the residency requirements, notification requirements, medical priority, and use of alternate resources ([www.ihs.gov](http://www.ihs.gov)).

#### 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

### 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 Group Exercise Schedule March 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	



## Isabella County Commission on Aging offers tax preparation assistance to elders

**JOSEPH V. SOWMICK**

Photojournalist

On Feb. 21, Isabella County Commission on Aging offered tax preparation assistance to District One elders at the Andahwod Continuing Care and Elder Services facility.

Tax Preparation Specialist Jean Murray said the ICCOA program is associated with AARP and since 1968 the volunteer-based program has helped nearly 50 million low-to-moderate-income taxpayers.

Murray was joined by fellow volunteers Pat Podell and Debbie Barker.

“The AARP Foundation Tax-Aide offers free tax preparation help to anyone, and if you’re 50 and older, and can’t afford a tax preparation service, the service is especially made for you,” Murray said. “We understand that retirement or other life

changes may mean your taxes are a little more complicated now. With the help of our team of IRS-certified volunteers we make it easy for you.”

Rosalie Maloney, interim senior assisted living administrator, said “taxes do not always have to be approached with fear, especially when there’s an expert to help.”

“The volunteers sent to us by the Commission on Aging were just wonderful,” Maloney said. “They were very knowledgeable and informed. It was really gratifying to be able to offer our elders a comfortable space to get their taxes done and to know that it’s a free service is a bonus.”

Items needed when meeting with a specialist includes: 1) last year’s tax return, 2) social security cards or other official documentation for self and any other every individual on the return, 3) photo identification required

for all taxpayers, 4) State of Michigan Tribal 4013 form and 5) a checkbook if requesting direct deposit.

“Having a social security card is essential and it certainly helps to have all the proper documentation when visiting anyone who prepares your taxes,” Murray said. “For Tribal Members, it is also a good idea to bring any of your personal identification cards like your elders membership green car and your purple resident Tribal Member card used for sales tax discounts.”

Chris Sineway, director of Business Regulation, reminds all resident Tribal Members that they need to stop by the office for the Tribal 4013 form before filing state taxes.

“Members need to send in the 4013 with their Michigan 1040 to receive their sales tax refund for sales tax paid over the year. The State of Michigan has elected to use the calculated measure instead of having members collecting receipts and turning them in to get their refund,” Sineway said. “The State says that the average person spends 15 percent of their disposal income on taxable items and therefore that is measure they use.”

Sineway said the 4013 uses the Adjusted Gross Income from the line 10 of the MI 1040, and

uses this number to come up with the amount to be refunded by calculating the number of months that a member resided inside the agreement area times it by the AGI.

“The AGI is capped at \$80,000 so if you make over this amount you will have to use that for your AGI,” Sineway said. “For members who have either moved into the tax agreement area or moved out that the number of months is calculated by the month after it is reported to the Tribal Clerk. For example, if you move into the tax agreement in May, the effective date is June; likewise if you move out of the tax agreement in August the effective date is September. If you enter the incorrect number of months on the form the State will deny your refund and you will get a denial letter.”

Denise Pelcher, contract health clerk, said she noticed an increase in questions coming into the At-Large/Member Services and the staff does their best to answer them.

“As the At-Large Member Services department, we sometimes get questions regarding



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

**Elder Beatrice Seger (center) and her son Matthew (right) receive some tax preparation assistance from volunteer Pat Podell (left) at the Isabella County Commission on Aging sponsored event.**

taxes that we can usually answer. But if more detailed assistance is needed, we usually refer them over to the Tribal tax department to talk to Chris Sineway or to a tax preparer that we work with in the local area,” Pelcher said. “It’s important for all Tribal Members to file their state and federal returns because April 15 will be here before you know it.”

The next tax preparation assistance will be offered on March 28 and District One elders can sign up for the free service by calling Andahwod at 989-775-4307.

If Tribal Members have any questions, please feel free to contact the Office of Business Regulation at 989-775-4105 or At-Large/Member Services at 989-775-4942.

## Caregiver’s Circle

Caregiver’s Support Group

March 30 & April 27

2 - 3:30 p.m. | Andahwod CCC & ES  
2910 S. Leaton Rd Mount Pleasant, MI 48858

For more information, contact:

Deja Collins-Echandia at 989.775.4301 or Dcollins-echandia@sagchip.org

- Come speak, share, and gain strategies to help with your daily caregiving responsibilities.
- Beverages and light snacks will be provided.

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FIND NEW ROADS





## Hearts come together at Andahwod Valentine's Day Box Social

**JOSEPH V. SOWMICK**

Photojournalist

Love was in the air and hearts came together at the annual Andahwod Valentine's Day Box Social on Feb. 11.

Rosalie Maloney, interim senior assisted living administrator, said there were 23 elders who took part in the festivities.

Games included a candy jar guessing game, Valentine's Day crossword, word search contest, a "pass the prize" musical chairs game and the much-anticipated box social live auction.

Sheligh Jackson, administrative assistant II, said 11 baskets and boxes were donated for the auction.

The basket donated by the Tribal Council had the highest winning bid of \$100.

That basket was purchased by Elders Advisory Board member Angel Jackson who then gifted it to Andahwod resident Barb Sprague, who also serves on the EAB.

"Angel also purchased a gift basket, donated by her, and gifted it to Andahwod resident Dolly Rueckert," Sheligh Jackson said. "We raised over \$400 on the box social alone and the monies from Andahwod fundraising efforts (including raffles and 50/50 drawings) to go directly into funding Elders activities."

The items available to bid on included a Russell Stover's candy bouquet, a movie lover's gift basket, an old-fashioned lunch box with sandwiches and snacks, a silk floral arrangement with "mystery" amount gift

card, a kitchen cleaning supplies basket and the Council's basket filled with gourmet goodies.

Angel Jackson said she admired the laughter and the smiles that came with the two-hour event.

"Everyone did a great job and it was a lot of fun. I especially loved all of the Valentine's Day love songs that were played," Angel said. "I always have a good time with the elders and would encourage the community to join us at our next event."

Amy Shawboose, interim assistant elders advocate, helped coordinate the event.

"All I could think of when asked for my thoughts on the box social were shataha ('wow' in Ojibwe)," Shawboose said. "The elders certainly knew what they wanted and were willing to fight



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

**Andahwod residents and visitors partake in the Valentine's Day musical chairs contest on Feb. 11.**

for those auction items in a good way. Congratulations to all of the box social winners for providing a lively competitive auction."

Tribal Council member Kenny Sprague won the "pass the prize" musical chairs game, and Andahwod resident Marilyn Bailey won the candy jar guessing game.

Damon Cornett, dietary cook, said an assortment of appetizers were served including cheese and crackers, vegetable tray, fresh fruit kabobs, cheese cake bites, and a full beverage station including sherbet punch.

Andahwod also provides candy grams, delivered to Tribal

departments and local schools, for profit on Valentine's Day.

"This year, our team of staff and volunteers sold 190 candy grams. That's 46 more than last year," Maloney said. "Andahwod residents decorated many of the bags themselves. Their artistic touch is an extra something special. I would like to say thank you everyone for pulling out all the stops to get this done."

Maloney also wished to say chi-miigwetch to the departments that donated items for their giveaway totes during the box social: Nimkee Public Health, Nimkee Medical Clinic and Soaring Eagle Waterpark and Hotel.

## Editorial: Don't be scammed by insurance companies

**JULIE PEGO**

Case Manager

When you turn 65, you may be targeted by insurance companies trying to sell you a medical insurance policy that takes the place of an original Medicare policy. The company might lead you to believe that they are from Medicare or Social Security, so they can set up an appointment to come to your home.

Neither Social Security nor Medicare have representatives that go door-to-door or make an appointment to come and visit you at your home and you don't

need to talk with them about a Medicare policy.

The Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe offers a Medicare supplemental policy that is paid for by the Tribe to Tribal Members who have Medicare Part A and B. This policy covers Medicare copays and deductibles.

Considering that the Part A deductible for a hospital stay is more than \$1,000, having the supplemental policy can save you a lot of money.

If you are being harassed about buying from an insurance company that wants to

come to your house to talk about their products, you might want to consider putting your name and telephone number on the National Do Not Call Registry to stop unwanted solicitation calls. Do this by calling **1-888-382-1222**.

If you would like assistance with getting enrolled in Medicare Part B, so you can get the Medicare supplemental policy offered by the Tribe, or need assistance with putting your name on the Do Not Call Registry, please call Julie of Andahwod Elders Services at **989-775-4306**.

## Andahwod January Employee of the Month

**ANDAHWOD STAFF**

Andahwod's January 2017 Employee of the Month is Lacy Robinson!

Lacy is a certified nursing assistant at Andahwod CCC and ES. She has worked there on and off since 2009.

Lacy has also worked for the casino in housekeeping for two and a half years.


What Lacy said she loves most about working at Andahwod is "being able to help the elders."

When Lacy is not working, she likes to enjoy her free time with her son, husband, family and friends.



Courtesy of Andahwod

**Lacy Robinson**



### Chi-miigwetch from Andahwod

Andahwod CCC & ES would like to say chi-miigwetch to those Tribal departments that donated items for the elder box social gift bags.

Donations came from the Soaring Eagle Waterpark and Hotel, Nimkee Medical Clinic and Nimkee Public Health.

Items donated included hand sanitizers, tissue packets, and hand lotions which we used to fill small toiletry bags given to each attendee. Everyone left with a little something even if they didn't win any bids on the auction baskets.

## March 2017 | Andahwod CCC & ES Events

**Euchre & Potluck**  
Mondays | 6 p.m.

**Open Crafts with Elisa**  
Tuesdays | 5 p.m.

**Language Bingo**  
March 2 | 1 p.m.

**Lent Friday Dinners**  
March 3, 17, 31 | 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

**Jewelry with Kay**  
March 7 | 1 p.m.

**Elders Breakfast**  
March 8 & 22 | 9 a.m.

**Bingo with Friends**  
March 15 | 1 p.m.

**Elders Tax Preparation**  
March 28 | 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

**Caregiver's Circle**  
March 30 | 2 - 3:30 p.m.

For more information, please call: 989.775.4300 \*\*Activities and events are subject to change.

## MARCH 2017 Tribal Elder Birthdays

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 2 Randall Jackson, Janice Hill, Arthur Miller Jr., James Schneider  | 15 Coy McCollum, Michael Watson   |
| 3 Angela Bennett, Winona Hancock, David Joseph, Susan Pretzer, Barbara Walraven   | 17 Merton Flory, Joseph Kowalski, Patrick Smith, Danny Stevens          |
| 4 Elizabeth Cabay, James Gingerich, Phillip Nelson  | 18 Marion Williams, Thomas Bates, Rhonda Dutton, Wanda Wallace          |
| 5 Wanda Brodie, Nancy Chippewa, Gerald Slater, Kenneth Vasquez, Terri Cummings, Herbert Robinson Sr., Clifford Saboo Jr., Sandra Tobako | 19 Rita Redman, Janice Roach  |
| 6 Jessie Glover, Diane Morley, William Burnham, J.D Snowden   | 20 Etta Ayling, Oliver Leureaux Sr., Lawrence Verga Sr.                 |
| 7 Daniel Cloutier   | 21 Marlene Jackson, Elaine Kraska                                       |
| 8 Timothy Stevens, Lorraine Walker  | 22 Kim Ambs, Kim Aasved, Paige Vanderlooven                             |
| 9 Marsha Gibson, Theodore Kowalski, Robert Stanton, Russell Stevens   | 23 Rickie Burnham, Harry Jackson, Lisa Zangara                          |
| 11 Jolene Quinlan, Clifton Chippewa II, Bernadette Reyes, Stephen Walraven, Darwin Ziehmer  | 24 Larry Bearden, Karen Mills, Joyce Sandell                            |
| 12 Lorna Kahgegab Call, Robert Williams, Julia Wixson   | 25 Naomi Staggs, Joseph Chamberlain, Stella Falsetta, Constance Pallett |
| 13 Bernadine Gross, Sherry Bame   | 26 Timothy Bennett, Clifford Chamberlain                                |
| 14 Linda Davis, Patrick Otto Sr., Barbara Roy   | 27 John Miller Sr.  |
| 15 Alice Ricketts   | 28 Thelma Henry-Shipman, Dawn Hunt, Kelly Huyser                        |
|   | 29 Brian Wray, Steven Moore, Craig Wayne                                |
|   | 30 Janet Barnhart, Esther Chatfield                                     |
|   | 31 John Rhodes  |



## MARCH 2017 EVENT PLANNER

### Drums Out: Singing for Fun

March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 | 5 - 7 p.m.

- Contact: 989.775.4780
- Location: 7th Generation Blue House

### Free Auricular (Ear) Acupuncture

March 1, 15 | 11:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

- Location: Saganing Tribal Center

March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 | 4 - 6 p.m.

- Location: Behavioral Health
- Contact: 989-775-5810 or 989.775.4850

### Rez Rock: Open Jam Sessions

March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 | 5:30 - 7 p.m.

- Location: Eagles Nest Tribal Gym
- Contact: 989.775.4115

### Beading & Craft Class

March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 | 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.

- Location: Behavioral Health
- Contact: 989.775.4818

### Donnie Dowd: Traditional Healer

March 2 | 10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

March 3 | 1 - 3 p.m.

- Location: Behavioral Health
- Call for an appointment: 989-775-4850

### Traditional Sweat Lodge

March 3 | Sweat Lodge teachings and fire lighting: 5 p.m.

- Location: Behavioral Health
- Contact: 989-775-4879

### Menopause & Beyond

March 3 | 12 - 3 p.m.

- Location: Nimkee Public Health Kitchen
- Contact: 989-775-4654
- Lunch provided

### Baseball Clinic

March 5 | 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

- Location: Eagles Nest Tribal Gym
- Contact: 989.775.4149
- Learn skills at free clinic.

### SCA Round Dance

March 10 & 11 | TBD

- Location: Eagles Nest Tribal Gym
- Contact: 989.775.4453

### Emergency Preparedness Triage Training

March 9 | 5 - 8 p.m.

- Location: 7th Generation
- Contact: 989.775.4621
- Learn how to help your family and community during a disaster.

### Be W.E.L.L. Challenge Group

March 9, 23 | 12:10 - 1 p.m.

- Location: Nimkee Public Health Kitchen
- Contact: 989.775.4696
- Topics include: Meal planning, how stress affects weight loss and mindset coaching.

### Youth Lunch & Learn: Diabetes Education & Prevention

March 10 | 12:30 - 2:30 p.m.

- Location: SCTC West Building Classrooms 1 & 2
- Please R.S.V.P: 989.775.4123 or [sstevens@sagchip.org](mailto:ss Stevens@sagchip.org)
- For 4th - 6th graders and their parents/guardians.
- Healthy lunch provided.

### Annual Recreation Luau

March 13 | 6 - 8 p.m.

- Location: Eagles Nest Tribal Gym
- Contact: 989.775.4115 or 989.775.4121
- Food, games and giveaways

### Saganing Talking Circle

March 15 | 6 p.m.

- Location: Saganing Tribal Center
- Contact: 989.775.4879
- Everyone is welcome.

### Volleyball Clinic

March 21 | 5:30 - 7 p.m.

- Location: Eagles Nest Tribal Gym
- Contact: 989.775.4149
- Join CMU Volleyball coaches and players at free clinic.

### Moccasin Making Class

March 29, 30 | 6 - 8 p.m.

- Location: 7th Generation
- Contact: 989.775.4780

### ALRD Language Classes

M/W/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 East Building, Classroom 6
- Registration: 989.775.4123 or register in person at the SCTC East Building
- Registration is required.

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: Start up expenses and capitalization financial history and analysis, financial plan, and the executive summary.

## TRIBAL COMMUNITY CALENDAR | MARCH 2017

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT./SUN.
<p><b>HEALTHY NATIVE PEOPLE MEETING</b></p> <p>April 27 &amp; 28, 2017</p> <p>Great Wolf Lodge Traverse City, Mich.</p> <p>For more details, contact: Maddy Gallegos at <a href="mailto:mgallegos@itcmi.org">mgallegos@itcmi.org</a> or 906.632.6896 ext. 108 *Registration for the meeting is soon to follow.</p>	<p><b>1</b></p> <p>Talking Circle Andahwod   7 p.m.</p> <p>Traditional Teachings Saganing   11 a.m.</p> <p>Open Gym Tribal Gym   6 p.m. - 9 p.m.</p> <p>Youth Council Meeting Old Conference Room   5 p.m.</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>Talking Circle 7th Generation   3 p.m. - 5 p.m.</p> <p>12-Step Meditation Group B. Health   7 - 9 p.m.</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>New Spirit Moon Andahwod Conference   1 p.m.</p> <p>AA/NA Spirit Bear Meeting Andahwod Maple Lodge   7 p.m.</p> <p>Drop-in Group B. Health   11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.</p> <p>Colon Bingo Andahwod   5 p.m.</p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p>Talking Circle Andahwod   10 a.m.</p> <p><b>5</b></p> <p>New Spirit Support Group B. Health   4 p.m. - 5 p.m.</p>	
<p><b>6</b></p> <p>Drop-in Group B. Health   5 - 7 p.m.</p> <p>Women's Traditions Society B. Health   5 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p>Ogitchedaw Meeting Seniors Room   6 p.m.</p> <p>Substance Abuse Meeting B. Health Lodge   6 - 8 p.m.</p> <p>Weight Room Workouts Tribal Gym   5:30 - 7 p.m.</p> <p>Crafts with Friends 7th Generation   5 - 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>8</b></p> <p>Talking Circle Andahwod   7 p.m.</p> <p>Open Gym Tribal Gym   6 p.m. - 9 p.m.</p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p>Anishinaabemowin Sacred Fire Lunch 7th Generation   11 a.m. - 1 p.m.</p> <p>Talking Circle 7th Generation   3 p.m. - 5 p.m.</p> <p>12-Step Meditation Group B. Health   7 - 9 p.m.</p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p>New Spirit Moon Andahwod Conference   1 p.m.</p> <p>AA/NA Spirit Bear Meeting Andahwod Maple Lodge   7 p.m.</p> <p>Drop-in Group B. Health   11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.</p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p>Talking Circle Andahwod   10 a.m.</p> <p><b>12</b></p> <p>New Spirit Support Group B. Health   4 p.m. - 5 p.m.</p>
<p><b>13</b></p> <p>Drop-in Group B. Health   5 - 7 p.m.</p> <p>Women's Traditions Society B. Health   5 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p>SCTC STEM Club Pi Day SCTC E. Building   12:15 p.m.</p> <p>Substance Abuse Meeting B. Health Lodge   6 - 8 p.m.</p> <p>Weight Room Workouts Tribal Gym   5:30 - 7 p.m.</p> <p>Crafts with Friends 7th Generation   5 - 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>15</b></p> <p>Talking Circle Andahwod   7 p.m.</p> <p>Tribal Education Advisory Meeting   9 a.m.</p> <p>Youth Council Meeting Old Conference Room   5 p.m.</p> <p>Painting with Families Tribal Gym   6 p.m. - 8 p.m.</p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p>Talking Circle 7th Generation   3 p.m. - 5 p.m.</p> <p>Asset Building Management Housing   12 p.m.</p> <p>12-Step Meditation Group B. Health   7 - 9 p.m.</p> <p>SCA Spelling Bee SCA   1:30 - 3:30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p>Tribal Observer Deadline   5 p.m.</p> <p>New Spirit Moon Andahwod Conference   1 p.m.</p> <p>AA/NA Spirit Bear Meeting Andahwod Maple Lodge   7 p.m.</p> <p>Drop-in Group B. Health   11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.</p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p>CMU Powwow Grand Entries: 1 &amp; 7 p.m.</p> <p>Talking Circle Andahwod   10 a.m.</p> <p><b>19</b></p> <p>CMU Powwow Grand Entry: 12 p.m.</p> <p>New Spirit Support Group B. Health   4 p.m. - 5 p.m.</p>
<p><b>20</b></p> <p>Drop-in Group B. Health   5 - 7 p.m.</p> <p>Women's Traditions Society B. Health   5 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p>Bingo with Friends Saganing   10:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.</p> <p>Substance Abuse Meeting B. Health Lodge   6 - 8 p.m.</p> <p>Weight Room Workouts Tribal Gym   5:30 - 7 p.m.</p> <p>Crafts with Friends 7th Generation   5 - 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>22</b></p> <p>Vendor Workshop Ziibiwing   6 p.m. - 8 p.m.</p> <p>Open Gym Tribal Gym   6 p.m. - 9 p.m.</p> <p>Talking Circle Andahwod   7 p.m.</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p>Anishinaabemowin Sacred Fire Lunch 7th Generation   11 a.m. - 1 p.m.</p> <p>Talking Circle 7th Generation   3 p.m. - 5 p.m.</p> <p>12-Step Meditation Group B. Health   7 - 9 p.m.</p> <p>SCA Science Fair SCA   8 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p>New Spirit Moon Andahwod Conference   1 p.m.</p> <p>AA/NA Spirit Bear Meeting Andahwod Maple Lodge   7 p.m.</p> <p>Drop-in Group B. Health   11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.</p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p>Talking Circle Andahwod   10 a.m.</p> <p><b>26</b></p> <p>New Spirit Support Group B. Health   4 p.m. - 5 p.m.</p>
<p><b>27</b></p> <p>Women's Traditions Society B. Health   5 - 7 p.m.</p> <p>Drop-in Group B. Health   11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.</p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p>Substance Abuse Meeting B. Health Lodge   6 - 8 p.m.</p> <p>Weight Room Workouts Tribal Gym   5:30 - 7 p.m.</p> <p>Crafts with Friends 7th Generation   5 - 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>29</b></p> <p>Talking Circle Andahwod   7 p.m.</p> <p>Open Gym Tribal Gym   6 p.m. - 9 p.m.</p> <p>Youth Council Meeting Old Conference Room   5 p.m.</p>	<p><b>30</b></p> <p>Talking Circle 7th Generation   3 p.m. - 5 p.m.</p> <p>Family Spirit Healthy Start Nimkee Kitchen   4 - 7 p.m.</p> <p>12-Step Meditation Group B. Health   7 - 9 p.m.</p>	<p><b>31</b></p> <p>New Spirit Moon Andahwod Conference   1 p.m.</p> <p>AA/NA Spirit Bear Meeting Andahwod Maple Lodge   7 p.m.</p> <p>Drop-in Group B. Health   11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● SECR Payroll</li> <li>● SCIT Per Capita</li> <li>● SCIT Payroll</li> <li>● Waste Collection* *Bins must be curbside by 6:30 a.m.</li> </ul>



## Tribal Observer Classifieds

To place your ad, call the Tribal Observer at 989-775-4010, Email: [observer@sagchip.org](mailto: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](http://www.sagchip.org). \* Job postings are subject to change daily.**

- 100 Employment
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- 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). Must maintain up-to-date Board certification, or be grandfathered to allow SCIT to bill third party payers. Must complete a fingerprint/background check. Applicants not licensed by the State of Michigan prior to interview will be required to obtain licensure by the State of Michigan before date of hire.

##### 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 (minimum three or more years experience working for an Indian tribe or Indian organization); knowledgeable about federal Indian law and the history of Indian tribes; sensitivity to Indian rights; ability to adjust priorities on short notice and to apply effective management techniques and leadership skills in directing the activities of attorneys and support personnel; and demonstrated experience in managing complex legal issues and litigation.

##### 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. This position is responsible for the purchasing, bidding, trading, monitoring, and billing for energy. This may include but is not limited to de-regulated electricity, natural gas, and potential self-generation.

##### 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.

##### Dietary Cook Aide PT

Open to the public. Must have high school diploma. This position also requires previous experience in a kitchen atmosphere with quantity and quality food preparation and service in a group residential atmosphere preferred. Physical examination and recent negative TB test required.

##### Clerical Pool

Open to the public. Must be at least 18 years of age and possess a high school diploma or equivalent. Clerical experience is a plus. Applicants must have a telephone contact number and be available on short notice for short-term employment.

##### 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. All candidates must possess strong interpersonal communication skills, strong writing skills, and be proficient with Microsoft Office and accounting finance software. Knowledge of a Tribal Governmental organization preferred.

##### Anishinabe Language Revitalization Director

Open to the public. Minimum five years specific demonstrated experience developing and working with Anishinabemowin programs/projects.

Knowledge and certification in Native language instruction or bachelor's degree or equivalent combination of education and Anishinabemowin-related experience. Applicant must demonstrate leadership ability, commitment to this community and to the Anishinabe language and culture. Applicant must demonstrate fluency and a strong working knowledge about Anishinabemowin.

##### 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).

##### Special Education Teacher

Open to the public. Bachelor's degree in special education or education, valid Michigan Elementary Teaching Certificate with special education endorsement. Must be willing to attend training. Prefer minimum of two years teaching experience and working experience with Native Americans. Hiring in accordance with Indian Preference Laws.

##### Dental Assistant

Open to the public. High school diploma or equivalent. Graduate of an accredited Dental Assisting Program, or two years of dental assisting experience. Must complete a fingerprint/background check. Performs dental assistance including chairside assisting, dental charting, dental laboratory procedures, equipment sterilization and maintenance, and exposing radiographs.

##### Secondary Language Immersion Specialist

Open to the public. Must possess required specialized unique skills include demonstrated fluency and knowledge of Anishinabe language acquisition, a clear understanding of immersion philosophy and two years experience teaching Anishinabemowin with children in a school setting or community setting. Must have a high school diploma or equivalent. Possession of a teaching/language certificate preferred.

##### Victim Witness Coordinator

Open to the public. Master's degree in social work or counseling required. Three to five years experience in counseling, social work, or crisis intervention, including experience in victim assistance, volunteer supervision; and must possess license or limited license in counseling or social work with the State of Michigan. Any equivalent combination of experience and training which provides the knowledge and abilities necessary to perform the work.

##### Social Services Supervisor

Open to the public. Bachelor's degree in social work or related field required. Master's degree preferred. Four years experience in a human services setting

and one year supervisory experience. Must have knowledge of applicable tribal and federal law as they pertain to tribal children and families. The supervisor concentration will be in the area of protective services along with acting as the lead to the supervisor management team.

##### Tribal Schools Principal

Open to the public. M.A. in educational administration with five years teaching experience or bachelor's degree in education field with eight years experience. Prefer knowledge of Ojibwe language and culture of Ojibwe language speaker. Must have administrative experience. Must have working knowledge of school budgets and grant writing. Must be able to communicate clearly with people and be organized and efficient.

##### Tribal Historic Preservation Officer

Open to the public. 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. Must possess a strong commitment to the Ziibiwing Cultural Society's mission.

##### Business Services Coordinator

Open to the public. Master's degree in health and human services field required. Minimum of four years administrative experience working with behavioral health programs, tribal communities and outside systems to include supervisory experience. Must possess knowledge and expertise in organizational management to include; budget development, expenditure control, knowledge of federal, state and tribal regulations, personnel management, community and public relations, development and maintenance of program evaluation systems and implementation of changes.

##### General Labor Pool

Open to the public. Must be at least 18 years of age and possess a high school diploma or equivalent. Must be physically fit and be able to perform manual labor.

##### Anishinabe Language Apprentice

Tribal Members only. Must possess specialized unique skills including a high level of motivation in acquiring the Anishinabe language, a clear understanding of immersion philosophy and a demonstrated commitment to learning and speaking Anishinabemowin. Must have a high school diploma or equivalent. Experience working with children in a school setting preferred. Possession of a teaching/language certificate preferred.

##### Tribal Ops Maintenance Worker PT

Open to the public. Must be at least 18 years of age. Must have a high school diploma or equivalent. Must possess a valid Michigan driver's license and ability to acquire a tribal drivers license.

### 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. Must be able to work weekends, holidays, and graveyard shifts.

#### Guest Room Attendant PT

Open to the public. Must have a high school diploma or GED. Requires three months housekeeping experience. Must be able to lift up to pounds.

#### Housekeeping Manager

Open to the public. Must be at least 18 years of age and have a minimum of two years housekeeping supervisory experience in either hospitality or casino field. Available to work all three shifts as required.

#### Waitstaff PT

Open to the public. Must be at least 18 years of age. Must have a high school diploma or equivalent.

#### Housekeeper PT

Open to the public. Must have a high school diploma or GED. Must be at least 18 years of age. No previous experience required.

#### Massage Therapist PT

Open to the public. Must have a high school diploma or GED. Must be at least 18 years of age. Must have a valid Michigan massage certification. 600 total hours required for certification. One year experience preferred.

#### 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.

#### Steward PT

Open to the public. Must have a high school diploma or GED. Must be at least 18 years of age. Must have an organized and thorough in work ethic and a strong desire to provide service.

#### Security Officer PT

Open to the public. Must be at least 18 years of age and have a high school diploma or equivalent. Good reading, writing and mathematical skills. Ability to handle irate, disorderly or intoxicated guests in a professional manner.

#### F&B Custodial Worker PT

Open to the public. Must be at least 18 years of age with a high school diploma or equivalent. Must be able to lift at least 50 pounds. Must have basic knowledge of power washing equipment, power vacs, and hydraulic lifts. Must be willing to further knowledge of food equipment.

#### Inventory Control Warehouse FT

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. One to three years experience in receiving or warehousing. Must have experience on stand up or sit down fork lift or be able to be certified prior to 90 day probationary period is completed.

#### Inventory Control Warehouse PT

Tribal Members only. High school diploma or equivalent. Must be able to obtain and maintain a tribal driver's an Industrial Truck Operator Permit. One to three years experience in receiving or warehousing. Must have experience on stand up or sit down fork lift or be able to be certified prior to 90 day probationary period is completed.

#### Line Cook FT - Pastry

Open to the public. Must be at least 18 years of age with a high school diploma or equivalent. One year restaurant cooking experience with increasing levels of responsibility, communication and teamwork skills. Or six months of SECR internal Culinary training.

#### Promotions Assistant

Open to the public. Must be at least 18 years of age. High school diploma required. Associate's degree in business, public relations, or related field; and/or equivalent combination of education and experience. Two years experience in marketing and promotions in the hospitality and/or casino industry, sponsorship, event planning, public relations or advertising.

#### Function Service PT

Open to the public. Must be at least 18 years of age with a high school diploma or equivalent. One year customer service experience and/or the ability to successfully pass in house training.

#### Valet Parking Attendant PT

Open to the public. Must have a high school diploma or GED. Must be at least 18 years of age. Must have a valid Michigan Driver's License.

#### Host/Hostess PT

Open to the public. Must be at least 18 years of age have a high school diploma or equivalent. Must have good guest service skills and work well with others.

#### Key Booth Attendant PT

Open to the public. Must be at least 18 years of age. Must have a high school diploma or equivalent. Must have one year hospitality or customer service experience. Must have a valid Michigan Driver's License with no more than six points.

### SELC

#### Waitstaff (level 1) PT

Open to the public. Must be at least 18 years of age. Must have a high school diploma or equivalent.

## Indigenous Health and Wellness Day

Promoting Our People's Health:  
Putting "WE" in Wellness

April 20-22, 2017

Middle and High School students

**Thursday April 20, 2017 Madison College: Truax Campus- Afternoon Program**  
Information Sessions | Interactive Activities | Native Student Panel | Dinner

**Friday April 21, 2017 UW-Madison Campus-All Day Program**  
Featuring Well For Culture co-founders Chelsey Luger and Thosh Collins | Campus tour | Lunch and more!

**Saturday April 22, 2017 Madison College: Truax Campus-All Day Event**  
Madison College Annual Pow Wow

Register by April 6th to guarantee provided lodging.

\*\*\* <http://med.wisc.edu/iabd2017> \*\*\*

Questions? Contact [lauren.cornelius@wisc.edu](mailto:lauren.cornelius@wisc.edu) or (608)262-7218

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## Seventh Generation “mnajaadaa binoojihns” welcomes babies born into community

**JOSEPH V. SOWMICK**

Photojournalist

On Jan. 30, Seventh Generation welcomed babies born into the Tribal community by honoring the new binoojihns at the Baby Celebration in the Elijah Elk Ceremonial Building.

This year, 13 babies and about 65 people attended.

The event began with an opening song by Daniel Jackson, followed by a blessing from language specialist Isabelle Osawamick.

Ray Cadotte, visitor services representative of the Ziibiwing Center, brought in hoop dancers and shared the dance teachings.

Cultural Manager Lee Ann Ruffino said the celebration takes place twice a year; in the winter and summer.

“Our staff looks forward to hosting this event with help from the Nimkee Public Health nurses, Healthy Start Program, Anishinaabeg Child and Family Services, Anishinaabe Language Revitalization Department, Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College and the Behavioral Health Program,” Ruffino said.

Anna Hon, child nurse, said this collaboration welcomes the new little spirits that have been born since the last celebration.



Courtesy of Lee Ann Ruffino

**Morningstar Pelcher Nozhackum smiles with her daughter Mia Alvarez.**

“What a privilege it is to be part of such a dedicated group of staff whose purpose is to bring back... Native traditions of feasting in honor of the new babies,” Hon said. “To the yummy food, we add the much-needed Native American cultural component to our goals here at Nimkee Memorial Wellness Center, and that is to bring back some of the Tribe’s traditions.”

Hon said she finds joy in getting to know new parents during this event.

“At these celebrations, there are a lot of ways the families are honored,” Hon said. “The parents are encouraged to bring their grandparents and family

members as we all get to enjoy the new life God has blessed the Tribal community with.”

Osawamick and Margaret Flamand from ALRD did the Plinko game using “baby talk” and immediate “family members” vocabulary.

Everyone that played the game won, as they had to say the phrase or word in Anishinaabemowin.

“It was a fun way to learn our language and prizes were donated by Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College,” Osawamick said. “We saw big brothers and big sisters come play the Plinko game to win prizes for the new baby in their families. It was great to see parents play Anishinaabemowin Plinko and learn how to speak in the language to their baby. It was a fun way to learn Anishinaabemowin.”

Osawamick said “mnajaadaa binoojihns” is an Ojibwe translation than means “let’s celebrate baby.” She said “maajtaamgad zhki-maadziwin” is how one would say “start of a healthy life.”

This idea to honor the babies in the community was originally brought on by the Family Resource Program, Milton “Beaver” Pelcher and Virginia Pigeon in the early ‘90s, Ruffino said.

“The energy in the ceremonial building radiated love as beautiful babies cried and cooed,” Ruffino said. “The



Courtesy of Lee Ann Ruffino

**The Seventh Generation Program honored all of the participants at their Winter 2017 Baby Celebration on Jan. 30.**

children played and laughed and this was just good medicine for your soul. Babies bring out the silly in me and to make a baby smile fills my heart.”

Sandy Smith, housekeeper for Behavioral Health and resident seamstress, has been making babies blankets given away at the event for 23 years.

Seventh Generation gifted Smith with a cedar shaker and a cedar box to keep it in.

“The very first blanket I made, my sister (the late Mary Alison) said I needed to make a blanket for Beaver’s daughter,” Smith said. “And she (was at the event) with her baby and she has her blanket... it continues



Courtesy of Lee Ann Ruffino

**Andrew Wagner is all smiles with his daughter Makiyah.**

generation after generation with all these new mothers.”

The Seventh Generation said chi-miigwetch to everyone who attended and those that helped out to make it a successful night.



Courtesy of Lee Ann Ruffino

**Little Liam relaxes in the arms of his mother Faith Osawabine.**



Courtesy of Lee Ann Ruffino

**Xavier Alvarez found the baby celebration was just ducky.**



Courtesy of Lee Ann Ruffino

**Mary Quigno holds little Ava Leareaux (daughter of Lauryn Leareaux and Will Potter.)**



Courtesy of Lee Ann Ruffino

**Jacqueline Haught lovingly looks at her son Jeremiah.**



Courtesy of Lee Ann Ruffino

**Brianna and Andrew Tatro share a moment with their daughter Lily and son Benji.**



Courtesy of Lee Ann Ruffino

**Elder Sandy Smith has Ava Leareaux wrapped up in one of the blankets she made.**



Courtesy of Lee Ann Ruffino

**Melissa Montoya lovingly holds her bundle of joy Valarae Isaac.**



Courtesy of Lee Ann Ruffino

**Stephanie Sprague has her hands full with twin grandbabies Kyla and Keaton Kingbird.**