



March 2021 | Volume 32 | Issue 3  
Onaabadin-Giizis (Snow-Crusted Moon)

# TRIBAL OBSERVER

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

## Virtual 2021 State of the Tribe Address

(Editor's note: The Tribal Observer is rerunning Tribal Council's introduction speeches from the virtual State of the Tribe Address on Friday, Jan. 22, 2021, in an effort to give those Members who may not have internet access a chance to read the remarks of each Council member's introduction. The meeting was a 10 a.m. livestream via the Sagchip.org website.)

- Welcome/Introduction by Public Relations Director Frank Cloutier
- Welcome song by Onion Creek Drum
- A moment of silence to remember all of those who have walked on
- Honor song by Onion Creek Drum
- Invocation by Tribal Chaplain Alice Jo Ricketts
- (Drummers depart)

**Tim J. Davis**  
Chief

"Welcome everyone, good morning. It's great to be before you today. I hope all is well with you and your loved ones. This morning there will be a few presentations from several departments.

I want to recognize all of our dedicated Tribal employees working through the pandemic. At the Tribal government level and the Tribal gaming enterprises. Thank you so much for your hard work; all your overtime you put in, the Tribal Council really appreciates it.

To all our students out there, of all ages, please continue your education. Our Tribe will need you, in the future, to lead us.

I want to say thank you to all the previous Tribal Councils that got us here and all of our former employees that worked so hard to get us here. I want to say thank you to all of them.

I want to say to this Council, I am really proud of this Council, being as young as you are, your involvement in every topic. All the comments you guys have is really appreciated by me. I really am proud of you. Thank you so much.

This Tribe will push forward because we've always been a leader in Indian Country. We're not the top leader, but we're going to get there in the future, so thank you guys."

**Joe Kequom**  
Sub-Chief

"I'd just like to say a few remarks to the District III Tribal Members. Boozhu and good morning to all District III Tribal Members.

2020 was a difficult year for everyone and going into this year, the pandemic is far from over. Everyone is touched by the new norms it has brought on, no matter what district you are in.

When you talk to business owners or government administrators, they will tell you they are being slammed by the pandemic. But I can tell you the overall Tribal program, priorities and planning never missed a mark. We learned lessons of streamlining, consolidations and using new methods in modern technology, even by guys like the Chief and I. We learned evolving policy, especially when trying to follow the CDC guidelines.

Also, we learned to keep our gaming enterprises open and not be a super spreader during the pandemic like everyone thought it would.

As we are moving through the pandemic, I learned previous Tribal Councils had us prepared for the future. Some good thoughts by previous Tribal Councils helped us maintain our enterprises and government services.

As you'll hear in the State of Tribe Address, we will press on continuing tradition using vision, forethought and lessons learned to help secure the future of all Tribal Members in all the districts. May God bless us all. Thank you."

**Carmen Otto**

District I representative  
"Good morning, my name is Carmen Otto and I am a District I representative Tribal Council member."

**Theresa Jackson**

District I representative  
"Good morning, I am Theresa Peters Jackson, District I Tribal Council member. I wish all of you love and blessings and a happy new year."

### Features

- 2 Public Notices
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**Gayle Ruhl**

District I representative  
"Boozhu, Wabanoungkwe n'dishnikas Miishke d'odem Mount Pleasant ndo njibaa.

You may know me as Gayle Ruhl, I am a District I Tribal Council representative.

I just want to say my heart goes out to the community during this time. I, and the rest of Council, definitely have you and the community in our thoughts and prayers every day as we try to get through this.

State of the Tribe | 6

## Operations at Waabooz Run Golf Course end

### PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPT.

Acting upon Migizi CEO Robert Juckniess' advice, the Migizi Economic Development

Company Board of Directors and Tribal Council have decided to end the operation of Waabooz Run Golf Course. After carefully considering all options, it was agreed that shuttering Waabooz Run would improve the financial performance of Migizi EDC.

As with most golf courses, Waabooz Run has experienced a decline in play for several years as the golf industry has gone through a substantial contraction. Waabooz Run was hard hit during the 2020 pandemic, being unable to operate until mid-summer.

While the course could not allow play, the maintenance and upkeep costs remained, which created an unsustainable situation. Golf operations are costly due to significant labor and material requirements to operate the course.

This decision opens the door to several positive options, including the further development of the land currently occupied by Waabooz. At the forefront of those opportunities is



the chance to add new features to Soaring Eagle Waterpark and Hotel. Several proposals have been submitted to the Migizi Board for review, including an outdoor swimming pool, an expansion of Soaring Eagle Hideaway Landing RV Park, and a walking trails system that would benefit both guests and community members. Developments such as these were not possible while the golf course remained in operation.

To improve the position of Tribally-owned businesses, it was a necessary action and one that the CEO, the Migizi Board, and Tribal Council feel is the best path forward. Those involved feel optimism toward the land and property possibilities, which represent high value to the Tribe.

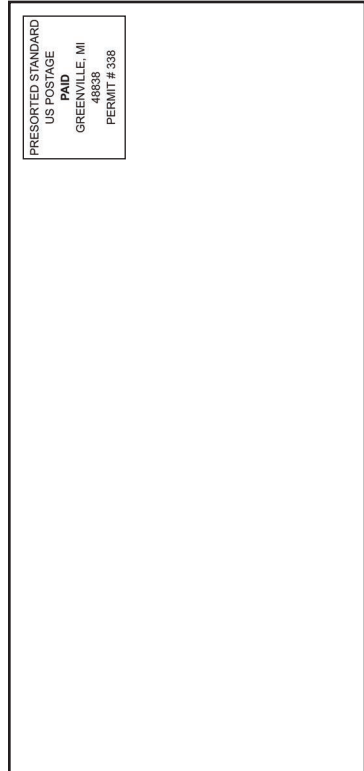


## Attention Tribal Members Tribal Council Regular Session Meetings

Will be held at 6 p.m. beginning March 2

### Regular Tribal Council Sessions

- ▶ First Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m.
- ▶ Inside the Council Chambers of the Black Elk Government Complex
- Meetings are open to Tribal Members.
- Administration will announce ahead of time if meeting date or time changes for possible weather or emergencies. However, it is rare the times change.
- Any SCIT Tribal Member or other individual/department must submit a written request if they wish to be placed on the Regular Council Session agenda.
- Anyone wanting to be added can call (989) 775-4003.





## Gary Lee Davis

May 25, 1949 - February 11, 2021

Gary Lee Davis, of Rose City, Mich., age 71, died Thursday, February 11, 2021.

Gary was born in Flint, Mich. on May 25, 1949, the son of the late Leo and Joyce (Johnson) Davis.

He was a proud member of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan. He loved and enjoyed spending time with family. Gary retired from General Motors.

Surviving are wife, Beth; children, Tony, Tim (Melissa), Troy, and Tara Davis; stepson, Gary Gallagher; sisters, Sandra (Jeff) Charles and Lisa Davis; brother, Chuck Rhodes; many grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

A private service was held at the Swartz Funeral Home at 1225 West Hill Rd. Entombment was held at the Flint Memorial Park.

Visitation was held from 12 to 8 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 15, 2021 at the funeral home.



## Attention SCIT Tribal Members of all ages:

Tribal Council would like your assistance with naming the New Tribal Academy slated for construction early spring of 2021. The road connecting the school to Broadway and East Remus had been constructed in 2020 and remains un-named. Any suggestions you have for the road would be appreciated as well.

Please send any recommendations and/or questions to Public Relations at:

- ▶ Email: [PublicRelations@sagchip.org](mailto:PublicRelations@sagchip.org)
- ▶ Phone: 989-775-4096



Attention Tribal Members

## INPUT NEEDED

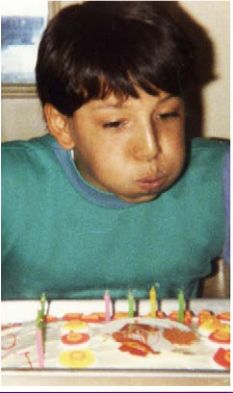
for the repurposing of the former Tribal Operations Building

(7070 E Broadway, intersection of Leaton and Broadway)

Tribal Council needs your input, ideas and/or suggestions such as: should it include a place for sacred fires, veterans memorial, meeting space and amphitheater.

Please send any suggestions, options and/or questions to Public Relations at:

- ▶ Email: [PublicRelations@sagchip.org](mailto:PublicRelations@sagchip.org)
- ▶ Phone: 989-775-4096



*Happy Heavenly Birthday*  
**Eric Hunt**  
March 1<sup>st</sup>  
*Love, Mom, Montana and Anthony*

## WALK IN MY MOCS Writers' Series

Presents **M. CARMEN LANE**

**Thursday, March 4, 2021**  
Public Reading via Zoom at 7 p.m.  
• Go to <https://zoom.us/j/99832256072>

**Bio:** M. Carmen Lane is a two:spirit African-American and Haudenosaunee (Mohawk/Tuscarora) artist, writer and facilitator living in Cleveland, Ohio. Lane's work ranges from experiential educator to diversity practitioner to organizational systems consultant to experimental artist — all of it integrates ancestry, legacy, and spirituality; pursues expansion, experimentation, and play.



Lane is founder and director of ATNSC: Center for Healing & Creative Leadership, an urban retreat center and social practice experiment in holistic health, leadership development, Indigenous arts and culture and the Akhsótha Gallery. Lane's work has been published in numerous journals and anthologies including the *Yellow Medicine Review*, *Red Ink Magazine*, *Anomaly*, and the Lambda Literary Award-nominated *Sovereign Erotics: A Collection of Two Spirit Literatures*.



Lane's first collection of poetry is *Calling Out After Slaughter* (2015). Lane has exhibited work during the FRONT 2018 triennial group show by Michael Rakowitz, *A Color Removed* at SPACES Gallery and at EFA Project Space's Spring 2019 exhibition *In The Presence of Absence*.

**For more information, please contact:**  
Amee Fisher at [afisher@sagchip.edu](mailto:afisher@sagchip.edu) or 989.317.4793

## PATHWAY PROGRAM

For Juniors & Seniors



Explore career options, gain experience, and enhance your educational journey through the pathway program.

**Apply for SCTC Pathway!**

### SCTC Pathway Program For Juniors & Seniors

(TBD virtual, in person, or both options)

- ▶ Starting: Tuesday, Aug. 24, 2021
- ▶ Ending: Monday, July 26, 2022
- ▶ Every 4th Tuesday, from 3:30 - 5:00 p.m.
- ▶ Two 40 minute sessions, each session is different, with a 10 minute break between sessions
- ▶ Limited to 15 students
- ▶ Student/parent information night: Aug. 3, 2021

### Requirements:

- ▶ Underrepresented, first-generation, or low-income
- ▶ Currently enrolled in school
- ▶ Junior or Senior
- ▶ Must attend and participate in all sessions

### Registration:

- ▶ Opens: May 10, 2021
- ▶ Closes: July 2, 2021

**For more information, please contact:**

Kathleen J. Hart | SCTC Equity Program Coordinator  
• Phone: 989.317.4827 • Email: [khart@sagchip.edu](mailto:khart@sagchip.edu)



## Testing Center

(Located at the former At-Large offices)

**Open: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.**

**Closed for lunch: 12 – 1 p.m.**

**989.775.4637 or 989.775.4626**

- ▶ If you have signs or symptoms of COVID-19 or if you believe you require testing, please call the Nimkee Testing Center at 989.775.4637 to discuss your symptoms.
- ▶ If you are experiencing severe symptoms, such as difficulty breathing, call 911 for urgent medical help.

**Practice Social Distancing • Stay Home If You Can**  
**Wear Your Mask • Hand Hygiene**

## Andahwod Prescription Pick-up

Andahwod Elder Services would like to assist local Tribal elders with prescription pick-up from Nimkee Pharmacy.



Elders Services can deliver prescriptions Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Elders must call in own prescription/refills. Elder Services will not pick up any controlled substances and/or narcotic medications.

**If you need your prescriptions picked up, please call:**

- Andahwod Front Office: 989-775-4300
- Elders Advocate: 989-775-4307
- For more information, please call: 989-775-4300

## Attention Registered Patients of Nimkee

If you would like to receive the **COVID-19 Vaccine**  
Please call: 989.775.4959

Leave the following info:

- ▶ Name
- ▶ DOB
- ▶ Phone number



## SECR Access Club Hours

### SECR Access Club hours of operation

- Sunday - Thursday: 8 a.m. to 2 a.m.
- Friday & Saturday: 8 a.m. to 4 a.m.

### Slot Palace & Bingo Hall Access Club hours of operation

- All days: 8 a.m. to 12 a.m.

## 2021 Annual Reports

are now being accepted

**Deadline: May 4, 2021 by 5 p.m.**

**\*Notarization of Clerk's forms is NOT required at this time\***

- Forms are available by mail, email and online at [www.sagchip.org](http://www.sagchip.org)
- Post marked forms, email or faxed will not be accepted

**For more information, please contact:**  
The Tribal Clerk's Office at 989.775.4051



## Tribal Council Regular Session Meetings

The Regular Tribal Council Sessions now start at 6 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month in the Council Chambers in the Black Elk Government Complex, in accordance to the Tribal Constitution.

Meetings are open to Tribal Members.

Administration will announce ahead of time if meeting date or time changes for possible weather or emergencies. However, it is rare the times change.

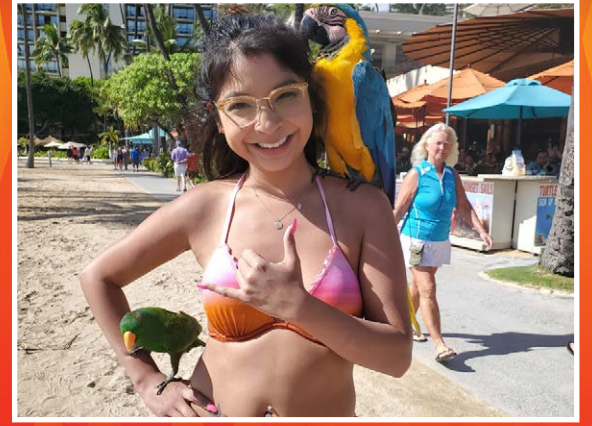
Administration's administrative assistant III compiles and prepares the agenda.

Approximately two weeks prior to the meeting, an email is sent to Tribal Operations employees to remind them of the meeting and request any submissions for the agenda.

Any SCIT Tribal Member or other individual/department must submit a written request if they wish to be placed on the Regular Council Session agenda. Anyone wanting to be added can call (989) 775-4003.

### Regular Council Session Dates

- March 2
- April 6
- May 4



*Hau'oli La Hanau*  
(Happy Birthday)

*Marcella Garcia*

*We love you! Love, your family*

## Tribal Court New Hours

The Tribal Court has recently changed its hours to:

**Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

(with the exception of weekly staff meetings on Wednesday 8-9 a.m., windows closed).

No appointment is required, but must pass all health screenings in order to be allowed entry.

## Input needed for Veterans Memorial Site

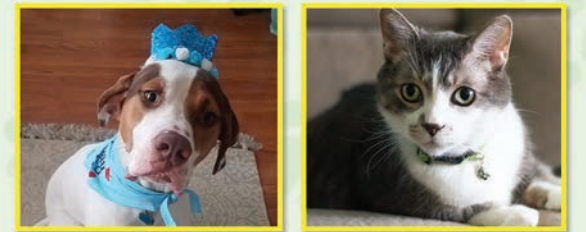
Tribal Council has recently approved for a Veterans Memorial Site. Input needed from Tribal Members, Anishinabe Ogitchedaw Veterans and Warriors Society and veterans on suggestions for location and memorial ideas. The space will need to be large enough to hold events and several event attendees.

**For input, please contact the Public Relations Department at:**

- Email: [PublicRelations@sagchip.org](mailto:PublicRelations@sagchip.org)
- Phone: 989-775-4096

## Rez Pets

"It's Raining Cats and Dogs!"



Attention Tribal Members and employees, please submit a photo of your pet(s) to show them off in the April 2021 Tribal Observer. Households with two or more pets, please submit one 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 Black Elk Government Complex.

**Please include:**  
Owner's name(s), name of pet, age and breed  
**Deadline: Wednesday, March 17**

## New SCIT Education App

The Tribal Education Department is thrilled to announce our new app for mobile phones! Stay up-to-date with access to SCIT Education programming, events, deadlines and other information: SCA, Sasiwaans, DK-12, Higher Education, Project AWARE and Education Administration.

You can view this short video that showcases the apps features and how you can easily navigate to find what you are looking for. <https://youtu.be/b5555ULzHFk>

You can download the app for free on both Google Play or the Apple App Store.

- Download for Android: <https://bit.ly/3eJHx5s>
- Download for iPhone: <https://apple.co/3dh6WDC>

Connect with SCIT Education, anytime, anywhere.

## Soaring Eagle Spa is currently closed

Due to Phase Three of Hotel renovations, the plumbing that is located in the Spa ceiling needs to be taken down and replaced. This is projected to take three to four months. Please stay tuned to our Spa website for any further updates.



## NOW HIRING

### Call Center Agents With Sign On Bonus

- ▶ **Full-Time Call Center Agents**  
**\$250 sign on bonus**  
*\*After successful completion of 90 day probation.*
- ▶ **Part-Time Call Center Agents**  
**\$125 sign on bonus**  
*\*After successful completion of 90 day probation.*
- ▶ **\$100 Employee Referral Bonus**  
*\*Referred applicant must be hired and must successfully complete the ninety (90) day probationary period with satisfactory performance.*

**For more information, please call:**  
Human Resources at 989.775.5600

## Tribal Clerk's Office Update

The Clerk's Office now has Annual Report, Address Change and Child Welfare forms, including envelopes and pens available outside at the Drop Box located at the Black Elk Building main doors.

**Office hours:**  
• Monday – Friday: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
• Closed: 12 - 1 p.m. (by appointment only)

**For more information, please call: 989.775.4051**



## Attention SCIT Tribal Members:

The Ziibiwing Cultural Society's  
**Collection Committee**  
needs Committee Members

**For more information, please contact:**  
William Johnson at 989-775-4730 or [wjohnson@sagchip.org](mailto:wjohnson@sagchip.org)



## Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Libraries Curbside Pickup

**Available Now!**

### How to use the curbside services

1. To place a hold on items, please call 989.775.4508 or visit [www.youseemore.com/saginaw](http://www.youseemore.com/saginaw)
2. Once available, they are placed in a locker, and you will be given a PIN to open the locker.
3. Pick up your items, close the locker and re-lock the lock to secure it.

### Curbside printing also available

- Email your documents to: [LibraryPrint@sagchip.org](mailto:LibraryPrint@sagchip.org)
- We will print them, and place them in the lockers using the above instructions.

### For more information, please email:

- [AHeidemann@sagchip.org](mailto:AHeidemann@sagchip.org)
- [KCondon@sagchip.org](mailto:KCondon@sagchip.org)
- [LDisel@sagchip.org](mailto:LDisel@sagchip.org)



## Well & Septic PROGRAM

**Free to Tribal Members who reside within the IHS service area: Isabella, Clare, Midland, Arenac Missaukee counties**

**If you are experiencing problems with your well or septic, please contact the Planning Department. \*You must own your home.**

**To make an appointment:** Please call the Planning Department at (989) 775-4014.



## Tribal Council

### Chief

**Tim J. Davis** | District One

### Sub-Chief

**Joe Kequom** | District Three

### Treasurer

**Maia Spotted Tail** | District One

### Secretary

**Jennifer L. Wassegijig** | District One

### Sergeant-at-Arms

**Martha Wemigwans** | District One

### Chaplain

**Alice Jo Ricketts** | District One

### Council Member

**Ronald F. Ekdahl** | District One

### Council Member

**Theresa Jackson** | District One

### Council Member

**Chip Neyome** | District One

### Council Member

**Carmen Otto** | District One

### Council Member

**Gayle Ruhl** | District One

### Council Member

**Ron Nelson** | District Two

## SALUTING OUR AMERICAN HEROES

The Hero Card is for all active duty and veteran members of the U.S. military. If you're already at an ACCESS Card tier level with higher benefits, you'll keep those advantages instead. Card holders can earn and redeem points at any of our Soaring Eagle Properties listed below:

- Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort
- Saganing Eagles Landing Casino & Hotel
- Soaring Eagle Waterpark & Hotel (Including Waabooz Run Golf Course & Hideaway RV Park)

### HERO CARD BENEFITS

<b>25% Discount on a Standard Room</b> At Soaring Eagle or Saganing Eagles Landing (Sunday thru Thursday, Based on availability)
<b>10% Dining Discount</b> Any dining outlet at Soaring Eagle or Saganing Eagles Landing. <i>Discount applied to final bill.</i>
<b>25% Discount on Products or Services</b> At Soaring Eagle Spa & Salon
<b>25% Discount on Gift Shop Purchases</b> At Soaring Eagle or Saganing Eagles Landing Gift Shops
<b>50% Dining Discount Days</b> Any dining outlet at Soaring Eagle or Saganing Eagles Landing on the following days: Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day, Patriot Day, and Veteran's Day. <i>Discount applied to final bill.</i>

## Tribal Operations entry is by Appointment Only

Tribal Operations buildings are still on "lock down" mode, anyone coming in must make an appointment.

**If making an appointment, you must:**

- **Wear a mask** or be given one by the department they have an appointment with
- **Prescreen question:** You will be asking if you have a cough or shortness of breath. If the answer is "yes," you will have to reschedule at a later date.
- **Temperature check:** Community members will be met at the door by a Tribal employee.
  - **Temperature of 100.4 or below:** you may enter.
  - **100.4 or above:** you must reschedule and cannot enter the building.

## Unclaimed per capita disbursements for deceased Tribal Members

The following is a list of unclaimed per capita disbursements for deceased Tribal Members. Any person who has been court appointed as the member's Personal Representative of the Estate can contact the Per Capita Office to claim the funds. All monies must be claimed within 2 years from their date of death, or such monies will be forfeited and returned to the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe's Per Capita Trust.

Tribal Member Name	Date of Death
Bailey Sr, Fredrick	12/8/2019
Chippeway Sr, Lester	2/7/2020
Collins, Steve	5/20/2020
David, Paul	8/26/2019
Douglas, Francis	6/2/2020
Falsetta, Stella	3/23/2019
Garlick, Joseph	10/16/2019
Hunt II, Bert	5/21/2020
Jackson, Matthew	9/19/2020
Jackson, Ronald	9/20/2019
Leaureaux Sr, Donald	6/13/2020
Leaureaux, Oliver	1/17/2020
Miller, Ryan	2/3/2020
Moore, Steven	10/8/2019
Romer, Doris	8/14/2020
Sands, Sean	3/19/2020
Scharaswak, Leroy	3/2/2020
Sowmick, Kyle	5/27/2020
Squanda, Clarence	6/13/2020
Stempek, Lena	9/17/2019

## The 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.

**Minaadendamooing – 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.

## Conservation Committee Seats

The Planning Department has been tasked by Tribal Council to solicit letters of interests for adult SCIT members to fill two vacant seats on the Conservation Committee for the two year terms (ending Nov. 2022) per Ordinance 11, section 102, subdivision 2 and the approved Ordinance 11 Conservation Committee By-Laws.

**Please submit a letter of interest along with your qualification and experience to:**

Donald Seal  
Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan  
Planning Department  
7070 E. Broadway Rd.  
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858  
dseal@sagchip.org

**All letters of interests will be accepted until the seats are filled by Tribal Council.**

## Tribal Observer

Boozhu! The Tribal Observer, a monthly newspaper, is published on the first of each month. To contact Tribal Observer staff, please call 989-775-4096 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  
7500 Soaring Eagle Blvd.  
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, 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 place an advertisement, please contact the Tribal Observer at 989-775-4096 or [Observer@sagchip.org](mailto:Observer@sagchip.org) 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  
7500 Soaring Eagle Blvd.  
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

**Contact Information:**  
Phone: 989-775-4096  
Email: [Observer@sagchip.org](mailto:Observer@sagchip.org)  
[www.Sagchip.org/TribalObserver](http://www.Sagchip.org/TribalObserver)



## Gov. Whitmer appoints Tribal Education director to Student Recovery Advisory Council

**NATALIE SHATTUCK**

Editor

Tribal Education Director Melissa Isaac is one of 29 to be appointed by Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer to the Student Recovery Advisory Council, announced on Feb. 4, 2021 after the governor signed Executive Order 2021-02 to create the Council.

The Student Recovery Council will provide guidance and recommendations to ensure Michigan students have the tools and resources they need to get back on track as COVID-19 has brought hardships for all.

“The COVID-19 pandemic has hit Michigan hard, and our students, families, teachers, and school staff have all felt the strain. Still, our educators have worked tirelessly to teach our children during this pandemic under the most stressful conditions, and for that our state is forever indebted to them for their service,” said Gov. Whitmer, in a media release. “It is important to remember that schools also provide other services that students need to succeed including reliable access to the internet, nutritious meals, and mental health supports.”

Gov. Whitmer continued, “COVID-19 has exacerbated inequities in our education system, and we know more work is needed to address



Courtesy of Marcella Hadden, Niibing Glizis

**Tribal Education Director Melissa Isaac is appointed by Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer to the Student Recovery Advisory Council.**

the significant impact this pandemic has had on our children. This council will be integral to ensuring our students and educators are equipped with everything they need to thrive.”

Isaac previously served on the governor’s Return to School Advisory Council which developed a framework to inform K-12 districts planning for the 2020-2021 school year. Now, Isaac has been appointed by the governor to serve on this newly-formed Student Recovery Advisory Council.

“It is definitely an honor to be recognized as an educational leader in our state,” Isaac said. “Many, not all, of the people appointed to this Council were also members

of the Return to School Advisory Council that developed the MI Safe Schools Return to School Roadmap. It is a product of that work we were asked to come together to address how to move forward as a result of the learning challenges our schools faced from the pandemic.”

Housed within the Department of Technology Management and Budget, according to a media release, the council is tasked with:

- Developing and submitting recommendations to the governor, state superintendent, and state budget director regarding student recovery
- Recommending actions to develop and improve systems for academic support for students who experienced learning loss due to COVID-19
- Recommending actions to develop and improve systems for mental and physical health for students impacted by COVID-19
- Recommending actions to develop and improve systems to support high school students transitioning into post-secondary education
- Recommending actions to develop and improve out-of-school time supports, including, but not limited to, summer school, before and after school programs, and extended school years
- Assembling critical voices from the education and public health communities to assist in

identifying key challenges students face due to the pandemic

• Providing other information or advice or take other actions as requested by the governor

• Reporting regularly to the governor on its activities and make recommendations on an ongoing basis

When asked what it means to have Tribal representation on the advisory council, Isaac said, “The majority of PK-12 Anishinaabek learners in the State of Michigan attend some form of public school. The decisions that are made by the Student Recovery Advisory Council will directly impact them. It is necessary to have Anishinaabek perspective and voice at the table when these important discussions are occurring.”

“My life’s work has been dedicated to the development of our Anishinaabek youth. For too long, they have been unfairly and unjustly disparaged,” Isaac said. “Our young people are disproportionately suspended, referred for Special Education eligibilities, and are one of the lowest performing groups on assessments, among many other unfortunate struggles. This is a national, systemic problem, not a student problem. The pandemic has exacerbated these inequities. There are no easy answers for this but I’m ready and willing to step into these spaces for the good of our Anishinaabek learners across the State of Michigan.”

The governor has appointed individuals reflecting the diverse geographic and demographic composition of this state and representing parents, students, school leaders, educators, individuals with expertise in public health, pediatrics, mental health, and community members.

The Advisory Council will also include four participating members of the Michigan Legislature: Senators Wayne Schmidt and Dayna Polehanki and Representatives Lori Stone and Brad Paquette.

The Council will serve until Dec. 31, 2021.

“Our ancestors suffered and made heartbreaking sacrifices for their descendants to be educated. We are those descendants. They thought about us before we existed,” Isaac said. “It is an incredible act of love to ensure your people have opportunities for a good life. I feel a sense of responsibility to carry that on for them, for us and for the ones coming after us. Anishinaabe bimaadiziwin is our inherent right. Our ancestors and our youth are the ones guiding this work. I am privileged and grateful for this opportunity.”

The Executive Order 2021-02 may be viewed online at the following link: [https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/MIEOG/2021/02/04/file\\_attachments/1683361/EO%202021-02%20Student%20Recovery%20Advisory%20Council.pdf](https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/MIEOG/2021/02/04/file_attachments/1683361/EO%202021-02%20Student%20Recovery%20Advisory%20Council.pdf)

## “Hair Today, Gone Tomorrow,” an innovative fundraiser to benefit Art Reach

**ART REACH OF MID MICHIGAN**

MOUNT PLEASANT, Mich. – Art Reach of Mid Michigan is launching its newest fundraiser “Hair Today, Gone Tomorrow,” an innovative campaign to benefit Art Reach of Mid Michigan and Wigs for Kids.

Executive Director Amy Powell is putting her waist-length hair on the line. The more money raised, the more elaborate we will get with her new hairstyle.

To contribute, text DONATE to (989) 487-1973 today.

- **\$500:** Short haircut and styled (Hair donated to Wigs for Kids)

• **\$1,000:** Hair dyed Art Reach Purple OR Green (Voters’ choice on Facebook)

• **\$2,500:** Shaved artistic design undercut

• **\$5,000:** Cut hair AND dye Purple or Green (Voters’ choice on Facebook)

• **\$10,000:** Cut hair. Dye Purple AND Green and shaved artistic design undercut

The funds raised during this campaign will be used to fund general operations and educational programming at Art Reach of Mid Michigan.

“While we were brainstorming ideas to raise money to mitigate the budget shortfall from 2020, Amy suggested a haircutting fundraiser,” said Jeffrey Silvernail, Art Reach marketing



coordinator. “We [the staff] thought it would be a really fun and unique way to raise money, engage the community and benefit two great organizations.”

For more information, call Art Reach at (989) 773-3689.

## March 2021 Tribal Elder Birthdays

- 1) Edith Murdoch  
James Schneider
- 2) Randall Jackson  
Janice Hill  
Arthur Miller Jr.
- 3) Angela Bennett  
Winona Hancock  
David Joseph  
Susan Pretzer  
Terri Verga-Nassif  
Barbara Walraven  
William Walraven
- 4) Elizabeth Cabay  
Judith Bennett  
James Gingerich  
Phillip Nelson
- 5) Wanda Brodie

- Nancy Chippewa  
Gerald Slater  
Kenneth Vasquez  
Teresa Bailey  
Terri Cummings  
Herbert Robinson Sr.  
Clifford Saboo Jr.  
Sandra Tabako
- 6) Jessie Glover  
J.D. Snowden  
Diane Morley  
William Burnham  
Roland Jackson Jr.
- 7) Daniel Cloutier  
Danny Stevens
- 8) Margaret Rosario  
Michelle Eddy

- Timothy Stevens  
Lorraine Walker
- 9) Marsha Gibson  
Theodore Kowalski  
Robert Stanton  
Russell Stevens
- 10) Maynard Sharp
- 11) Michael Jackson  
Jolene Quinlan  
Clifton Chippewa II  
Bernadette Reyes  
Stephen Walraven  
Darwin Ziehmer
- 12) Lorna Call  
Julia Wixson
- 13) Sherry Bame
- 14) Ronald Judson Jr.  
Linda Davis  
Barbara Roy
- 15) Alice Ricketts  
Coy McCollum

- Michael Watson
- 17) LeeAnn Ruffino  
Joseph Kowalski  
Patrick Smith  
Merton Flory
- 18) Marion Williams  
Thomas Bates  
Rhonda Dutton  
Wanda Wallace
- 19) Rita Redman  
Janice Roach
- 20) Etta Ayling  
James Cates  
Lawrence Verga Sr.
- 21) Marlene Jackson  
Elaine Kraska
- 22) Kim Aasved  
Kim Ambs  
Paige Vanderlooven
- 23) Rickie Burnham  
Harry Jackson

- Lisa Zangara
- 24) Kevin Jenkins  
Larry Bearden  
Karen Mills
- 25) Naomi Staggs  
Joseph Chamberlain  
Carolyn Crawford  
Constance Pallett
- 26) Timothy Bennett  
Paul Bird  
Clifford Chamberlain
- 27) John Miller Sr.
- 28) Thelma Henry-Shipman  
Dawn Hunt  
Kelly Huyser
- 29) Brian Wray  
Craig Waynee
- 30) Janet Barnhart  
Esther Chatfield
- 31) John Rhodes



## State of the Tribe

continued from front page

Hopefully things brighten up, I really hope our community comes together, works together tirelessly, even though we have our differences. That's what I promise to do, is work every day to promote our Tribe, to go into the future better than the day before.

Please stay positive and connect with those you love. Miigwetch."

### Martha Wemigwans

Sergeant-at-Arms

"Good morning Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribal Members. I am Martha Wemigwans, your Tribal Council Sergeant-at-Arms. I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for giving me this chance to serve you all.

Times have been very trying and thank you again for being very patient and understanding. I hope everyone is staying safe and healthy during these difficult times.

My thoughts and prayers are with the community. Have a great day."

### Maia Spotted Tail

Treasurer

"Mino Gizhep friends and relatives!

Maia Spotted Tail N'dizhnikaaz, Naw-me dodem, Saginaw Chippewa Aki n'donjibaa.

I come to you today with a good heart and good intentions and to deliver an update on your financial profile.

I do want to reiterate my gratitude and appreciation for entrusting me to serve on your Tribal Council, and to my fellow Council members for their selection of me as the treasurer for this term. I am grateful and I do not take this responsibility lightly.

In the past year, I have attempted to deliver the financial information with the highest level of transparency. I hope that I have accomplished this for you all. These presentations are compressed and scaled back for the sake of time; should you find that you have questions or clarifications, please reach out to me anytime. I will make you and your inquiries a priority.

I would like to also encourage you all to remain vigilant in taking the COVID-19 virus seriously and continue to practice the proper safety measures in order to combat the virus. Native Americans are few and we must do our part to protect our current membership and future generations. When you are offered the vaccine, please take it. It is important to remember that you are not only protecting yourself but our entire community.

With that, I hope that you are all safe and healthy. Please put out your semaa, prayers, and good vibes so that we can all gather in person for the next meeting in July. Miigwetch!"

### Jennifer L. Wassegijig

Secretary

"Good morning. Jennifer Wassegijig, Tribal Council Secretary. I'm thankful to be here today to serve my community.

Thank you for your support and prayers. God bless."

### Alice Jo Ricketts

Chaplain

"Good morning again, this is Alice Jo Ricketts, Tribal Chaplain. In the last year, my faith has been challenged. But God showed up, He really did. The numbers don't lie and we thank each and every one of you for praying for not only your leaders, but your whole community. God bless."

### Ronald F. Ekdahl

District I representative

"Mino Ghiizhep wagosh nindishinkaas Makwa Dodem. Saginaw Chippewa ndonjibaa.

Good morning, I'm Ronald Ekdahl District I representative.

I wanted to take the time today to speak to you, the Membership. We don't often have the opportunity as leaders to address the Members as a whole and I think it is important to speak to you at this time.

A few topics I wanted to express my opinions on are the pandemic and response from the Tribe, its impacts and the opportunities moving forward. Finally, some updates around the Cannabis Committee and the work we are doing.

The pandemic brought about unprecedented challenges to the Tribe and to the entire world. The unique challenges we faced as a Tribe were focused on the health and wellbeing of our citizens and the operation of our hospitality business. The closure of the casinos is something I never thought would happen, but it did. It left us in a financial hole as far as the Tribe's ability to generate revenue.

Through the strategic leadership of our CEO Mike Bean and thoughtful consideration from the Tribal Council, we have been able to run our casino businesses. The operation of the casinos is vital for our way of life. It pays for the government programs our health care and it also contributes to 117 million per capita annually to all of you Tribal Members. It is an essential business for our Tribe and we must do our very best

to protect it. This decision has been met with mixed emotions.

I want to say that we are doing our very best to keep the safety of our employees and patrons a top priority. To this point, the plans and safety measures have worked. While nothing is perfect, we can continue to improve and get through this together.

The Cannabis Committee was formed in the early months of this administration. I am a representative serving on the committee. We have been working to find opportunities for cannabis within our community. A major step towards this would be to develop an ordinance that governs how cannabis will be regulated on the Reservation. I am happy to say that work has begun on the drafting of that ordinance. Also through collaboration with Migizi, the Cannabis Committee is looking at possible business ventures for the Tribe. The approval of an ordinance is vital to these efforts and I look forward to working towards its completion.

In closing, I would say that it has been a very tough year. As we host this meeting virtually, I can say that it is not the same as gathering with all of our Members. I know I miss the daily interactions with people; just being able to sit down and talk. I am thinking of you and I hope that this message brings you some joy. Please continue to reach out with questions or concerns. Miigwetch."

### Absent - Chip Neyome

District I representative

### Ron Nelson

District II representative

"Boozhoo. Good morning, I'm Ron Nelson, your District II Saganing Community representative. I wanted to thank each of my District II members for your support and commitment to our community.

Together we have been able to build a sustainable economic resource and, with the assistance of our Saganing gaming associates, support over one-third of our income.

As a Tribe, we are stronger together to safeguard your future.

To our ancestors that made the sacrifices in order for us to become what we are today, we honor you and say Chi-Megwetch!"

### Sub-Chief Joe Kequom recognizes Tribal Police Officer Dave Merrill

### Introduction of 2020-2021 Youth Council by Jennifer Wassegijig

### Statement about Legislative updates by Frank Cloutier

### Soaring Eagle property update by Migizi CEO Robert Juckniess

### "Why get vaccinated" and video update by Executive Health Director Karmen Fox

### Member Services PSA by At-Large Program Supervisor Craig Graveratte

### Treasurer's Report by Treasurer Maia Spotted Tail

### Tribal Council answers Members' questions/concerns/recommendations

### Closing by Jennifer Wassegijig

"On behalf of Tribal Council, we would like to thank you for attending our 2021 virtual State of the Tribe Meeting.

Many times we forget to recognize our frontline workers who work hard to protect our community and our members. Chi-miigwetch to our Fire Department, police force and Nimkee staff for all your hard work and dedication; it does not go unnoticed. We would also like to thank our Andahwod staff for taking all the safety measures to protect our elders.

Although 2020 has been a challenging time for all, we are ready to move forward. It's a new year for new beginnings. I pray for peace, love, health, prosperity and unity for 2021. May God bless us all!

Don't forget to take advantage of the Premium Play and food voucher which can be redeemed beginning today (Jan. 22, 2021) until Feb. 22, 2021."

### Travel song by Onion Creek Drum

• End of meeting – 12 p.m.

**MIGIZI**  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CO.

**Positions Now Available!**

Apply today at  
[www.migiziedc.com](http://www.migiziedc.com)

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with the perfect home & financing from ICCU!

**ICCU** Isabella Community Credit Union  
ICCUonline.com • 989-773-5927  
Solutions for life!

**Adopt a Pet**

**Chris**  
Chris, a 7-month-old male, is a shy kitty as he came in a bit on the feral side. He has made great improvements and tries his best to be brave in new situations. Fill out an adoption application and HATS will contact you in one to two business days to set up an appointment. Due to COVID, adoptions are by appointment only at this time, and require a face mask to visit the shelter.

**Sugar**  
Sugar, a 9-month-old Pit Bull mix, is as sweet as her name. She has a lot of energy and loves to play. Sugar was surrendered to the shelter after not getting along with another un-spayed female dog in her home. Sugar is not recommended to live with another female, but since she is being spayed she should not have a problem living with a male. We would require a meet and greet.

**Humane Animal Treatment Society**  
1105 S. Isabella Rd., Mt. Pleasant [Hatsweb.org](http://Hatsweb.org)  
Phone: 989.775.0830 Email: hats.publicrelations@gmail.com  
\*Building is currently closed to walk-in visitors. Adoption visits must be scheduled ahead.



## March Promotions



**You could win a share of  
\$1,000,000 in Premium Play prizes!**

Saturdays in March | 4PM - 11:30PM

Every half hour from 4pm to 11:30pm, 5 lucky Access Loyalty Club members will each win \$1,200 in Premium Play! That's \$96,000 in Premium Play ever Saturday in February, March & April!

**ACCESS Card holders will receive one (1) entry for every 300 points earned playing (slots, tables, & bingo) on their ACCESS Card from 12am February 28th, 2021 – March 27th, 2021 at 11:25pm.**



**MONDAYS, MARCH 1, 15 & 29  
10AM-10PM**

Get \$10 in Premium Play for every 800 points that you earn on your ACCESS card. Earn up to \$50 Premium Play total!



**EVERY SUNDAY  
9AM-11:59PM**

HERO card holders can earn \$10 in Premium Play for every 800 points earned. Up to \$50 Premium Play total. Exclusively for HERO card holders.



**FRIDAYS  
6PM-10PM**

Hourly drawings for up to \$1,800 in Premium Play and 500 bonus entries into the Grand Prize Drawing. \$20,000 Grand Prize drawing Friday, March 26 at 10pm.



**THURSDAYS | 3PM-11:59PM**

Play your favorite slots for a chance to win \$25 in Premium Play! Ricochet Rewards will randomly award 50 players \$25 in Premium Play. These random rewards can ricochet multiple times between the hours of 3PM and midnight every Thursday!



**Win a \$30,000 prize voucher**

to Dolney RV Center Saturdays in March  
5PM-9PM

One lucky guest will be drawn each hour from 5pm-9pm to play our very own Corn Hole Game. Each guest will get to throw 3 bean bags and win up to \$1,000 in cash! Grand Prize \$30,000 voucher giveaway at 10pm on Saturday, March 27!

**ACCESS Club members will receive one entry for every 200 points earned on their ACCESS club card and then 10X the entries on Sundays, March 7, 14 & 21.**



**FRIDAYS  
6AM - 11:59PM**

Earn points and get Premium Play!  
Earn 300 points = \$5 in Premium Play  
Earn 1300 points = \$15 in Premium Play  
Earn 3000 points = \$30 in Premium Play

\*Guests are eligible to earn each reward once each week.



**TUESDAY, MARCH 2  
8AM-11:59PM**

Earn 500 points and then swipe at any of our promotional kiosks to receive a receipt redeemable for a special gift! Once all gifts are claimed, guests will receive \$10 in Premium Play.

\*Guests may participate twice a day.



**WEDNESDAYS | 4AM - 11:59PM**

Earn points and get Premium Play!

Points Earned	Reward Amount
300	= \$5
800	= \$10
1800	= \$25

Every hour from 9AM - 9PM we will be doing a drawing for up to \$100 in Premium Play.



**SUNDAYS, MARCH 7 & 14  
11AM-11PM**

Play your favorite slots with your ACCESS card on Sundays for a chance to randomly win up to \$100 in Premium Play!





## Seventh Generation's ice skating rink provides community with winter activity

**NATALIE SHATTUCK**

Editor

When one Tribal department has an idea, it does not take long for other departments to begin assisting in any way they can to help make the dream a reality.

When Dan Jackson, cultural representative for Seventh Generation, had the idea to put in an ice skating rink on the program's property, it became reality with the support of funds from the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College's Extension Program, and came to life with assistance from the Tribal Fire Department filling in the rink.

Now, the Bi Zhoosh Kwadwek (skating place) is available for Tribal Members and their families from dawn to dusk near the Seventh Generation Elijah Elk Cultural Center at 7957 E. Remus Rd. in Mount Pleasant, Mich.

Community members are often spotted on the ice skating rink. How often? According to Tonya Jackson, administrative assistant II for Seventh Generation, "it depends on the day and/or weather, but there are a few youth that utilize it often."

Tonya Jackson said the busiest times on the rink tends to be just before dark, and lights are on before dark to keep the community and rink safe.

Before anyone skates on the rink, they must sign a waiver, which is available in the shed next to the rink.

"We (Seventh Generation and its staff) are not liable for injuries obtained, it's a skate at your own risk," Tonya Jackson said.

Safe social distancing protocols also must be observed while on and near the rink.

The ice skating rink is closed nightly for maintenance and Seventh Generation requests volunteers for shoveling after snowfalls.

"We are fortunate to have this space for our youth and community to use, especially since it is an outdoor activity during a pandemic," Tonya Jackson said.

Shortly after the rink opened, Seventh Generation put out a call for any used or no longer needed ice skates to donate to the program. Migizi Economic Development Co. was one to answer the call and donated \$500 to help with the purchasing of skates.

Aambe bi zhooskwadwed! (Come skate!) A hockey game night was held on the rink on Saturday, Feb. 20 from 8 to 10 p.m. for community members. Spectators were welcomed to watch the players.

Chili, frybread and hot cocoa were available during the occasion and heating stations were set up for spectators.

Players must have brought their own equipment and social distancing was required.

## Seventh Generation hosts drive-thru Baby Celebration for babies born in 2020

**NATALIE SHATTUCK**

Editor

Mnaajaadaa gda binooji-inhsminaanik (Let's celebrate our babies). This season's Baby Celebration was a drive-thru occasion to keep the health and safety of the community in mind amid the pandemic.

Seventh Generation Elijah Elk Cultural Center hosted the Jan. 28 event for Tribal Members, descendants and their babies born in 2020.

"We had 38 babies drive through, out of 57 that were reported," said Tonya Jackson, administrative assistant II for Seventh Generation.

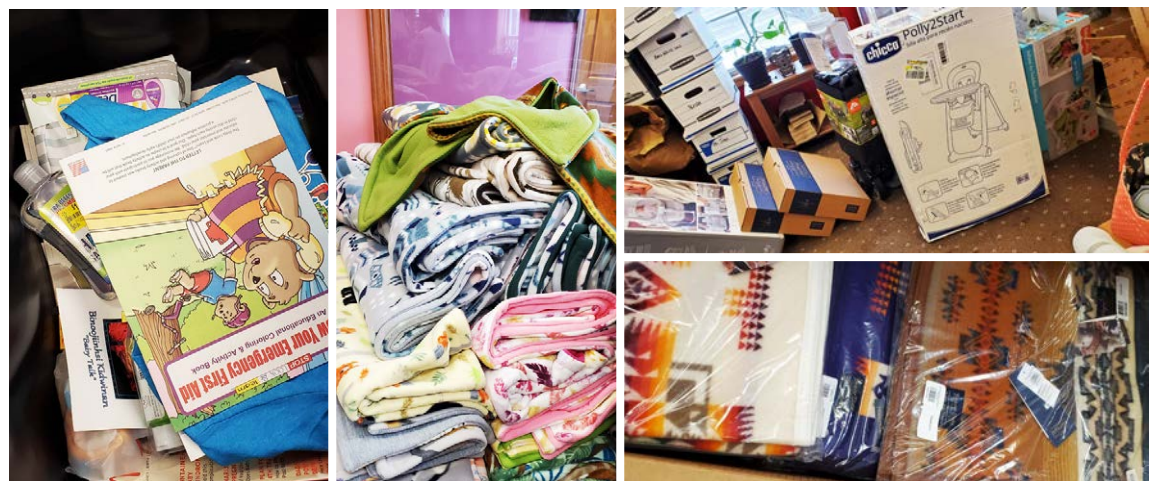
The babies, age 0-12 months, must have been present in the vehicle between the 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. timeslot to receive a tote with gifts that included: a baby blanket made by Sandy Smith;

baby Pendleton donated by Ziibiwing; art project for baby and family; miscellaneous giveaway items; baby food; Anishinaabemowin for baby from the Anishinaabe Language Revitalization Department; bookmark and parenting information; and a bowl of soup, fry bread and blanket dog.

Babies, parents and grandparents who were present at the drive-thru event were eligible for raffle drawings.

Winners from the drawings were the following:

- Baby swing: Carli Sprague
- Wagon: Ashley Garleer
- High chair: Mira Shomin-Jackson
- Stroller: Phoenix Pelcher
- Bassinet: Remi Jule Yaybay Samp
- Baby/toddler chair: Angelica Sanders
- Mom gift card: Ashley Asquian



Photos courtesy of Tonya Jackson

**Seventh Generation's drive-thru Mnaajaadaa gda binoojiinhsminaanik (let's celebrate our babies) Jan. 28 event honors babies born in 2020.**

- Dad gift card: David Bennett
- Grandma gift card: Ashley Garleer
- Grandpa gift card: Mitch Hinmon

"Raffle prizes were donated and/or purchased from different departments," Jackson said. "(The Public Relations

department) provided the mom, dad, grandma, and grandpa gift cards; Seventh Generation provided larger ticket items; ACFS (Anishinabeg Child and Family Services) purchased large ticket items; Nimkee's Healthy Start Program purchased the totes; ALRD, Prevention and Tribal Libraries all (provided

info; Ziibiwing donated Pendletons; Sandy Smith also had handmade blankets; and Nimkee Clinic included COVID-19 information."

"A huge chi-miigwetch to those that assisted with everything and the departments that also helped make this a successful event," Jackson said.

## Book review: "Firekeeper's Daughter" by Angeline Boulley

**ELLIE MITCHELL**

Saginaw Ojibwe, Eagle Clan

Daunis is a shkiniikwe (young Anishinaabe woman) soon to go off to the University of Michigan where she plans to be pre-med. Unfortunately, a family emergency forces her to change her plans and she decides to stay in her hometown of Sault Ste Marie for her freshman year. Daunis witnesses a crime and agrees to assist the FBI's investigation.

Indigenous readers will find familiar themes in

"Firekeeper's Daughter." Daunis struggles between competing advice and expectations of different relatives. Racism, blood quantum, and enrollment are topics that impact day-to-day life.

The infiltration of drugs in the community, untimely death, and an uncaring criminal justice system are major plot points. But there are the positives. Daunis lives in a close-knit community, surrounded by friends and relatives.

The novel opens with the protagonist visiting her grandma. Later that day, Daunis babysits little cousins

whose mother, an overworked tribal employee needs to rush back to work.

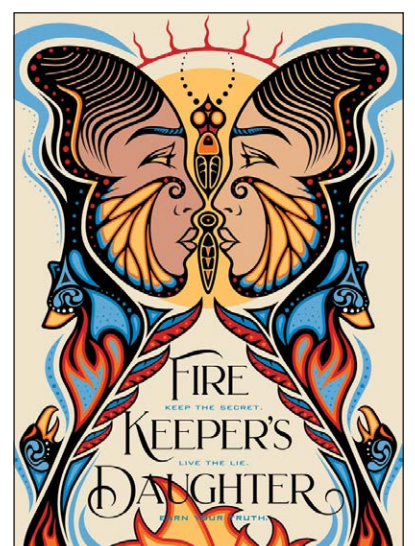
Language revitalization is an enduring theme, and the text is interspersed with Anishinaabemowin.

"Firekeeper's Daughter" is the debut novel of Angeline Boulley, a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. This book will be a journey in recognizable world for Anishinaabe readers; while there is darkness and tragedy, community and Anishinaabe culture and identity provide their usual support and guidance.

For so long, young adult fiction has been noticeably bereft of Indigenous representation. A novel by an Anishinaabekwe about an Anishinaabekwe is heart-lifting in this chaotic world.

Not only is the work itself is trail-blazing, so is the author. The backing of a major publisher and media hype around her novel offer new possibilities for other Indigenous writers and readers.

"Firekeeper's Daughter" by Angeline Boulley will be available March 16 2021, at



Courtesy photo

booksellers and at the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Library.





## Anishinaabemowin WORD SEARCH

<b>zhiwaagamizigan</b>	syrup
<b>nagamo</b>	sing
<b>apaabowe</b>	season
<b>ozhaawashko</b>	green
<b>naadoobii</b>	gather sap
<b>ningide</b>	thaw
<b>nagweyaab</b>	rainbow
<b>onaabani-giizis</b>	March
<b>babaamaadizi</b>	travel about
<b>niimi</b>	dance
<b>ishkwaapon</b>	stop snowing
<b>debizi</b>	lucky
<b>aniibiish</b>	tea
<b>gichi-noodin</b>	very windy
<b>bagami</b>	arriving
<b>onaabadin giizis</b>	snow crusted moon
<b>ziigwan</b>	spring
<b>giiosewasim</b>	hunting dog
<b>azhashkiiwizide</b>	muddy feet
<b>ningide</b>	melt

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

*A Concise Dictionary of Minnesota Ojibwe by John D. Nichols and Earl Nyholm*

## Anishinaabemowin CROSSWORD

### Word Bank

- Giizhsen
- Daajiigen
- Mnopkwad
- Ninaatig
- Kikook
- Boodwe
- Zisbaakdabo
- Ninaatigokan
- Ninaatigo Ziiwaakmide
- Aadoobiiwok

### Across

- 3:** Maple tree
- 5:** They are collecting (sap)
- 6:** Maple sugar bush
- 8:** Maple sap
- 10:** It's done

### Down

- 1:** Maple syrup
- 2:** Stir
- 4:** Pails/Kettles
- 7:** It tastes good
- 9:** He/She is making a fire

Anishinaabe Language Revitalization Department, Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan

- Across**
- 3. Maple tree (Ninaatig)
  - 5. They are collecting (Aadoobiiwok)
  - 6. Maple sugar bush (Ninaatigokan)
  - 8. Maple sap (Zisbaakdabo)
  - 10. It's done (Giizhsen)
- Down**
- 1. Maple syrup (Ninaatigo Ziiwaakmide)
  - 2. Stir (Daajiigen)
  - 4. Pails/Kettles (Kikook)
  - 7. It tastes good (Mnopkwad)
  - 9. He/She is making a fire (Boodwe)

Answers



## Meet the Artist: “Boontak! (Stop It!): Stolen Daughters of Turtle Island” exhibit

(Editor’s note: Marcella Hadden is the photographer for the portraits featured in the exhibition “Boontak! [Stop It!]: Stolen Daughters of Turtle Island.” This exhibit is featured in the Ziibiwing Center to raise awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls [MMIWG]. Hadden answers questions provided by the Tribal Observer below.)

**Artist:** Marcella Hadden

**Art:** Photography

**Tribe:** Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe

**Currently resides:** Mount Pleasant, Mich.

**What inspired you to photograph these portraits and relate it to Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls?**

During the winter when it is slow, I will do something new and I did a low light session with my granddaughter. We used a red blanket for a splash of color that really lit up in the dark. While editing them, she said it reminded her of MMIW theme of the recent round dance. I put her photo up on Facebook



Courtesy photo

**Marcella Hadden**

and let everyone know that if they wanted one to raise awareness for MMIWG that I would be more than happy to create one for them. (No charge, of course.) The response was overwhelming and I had to set several days aside and schedule people to come in for their portrait. Ziibiwing was nice enough to donate a space in which to do it and offered assistance with donating paint for the faces. It was during that time, that the opportunity arose to create the exhibit for it.

**Is there a personal story behind your outreach for MMIWG awareness?**

I really believe I did not choose it, but that the cause



Courtesy of Marcella Hadden, Niibing Giizis

**Congresswoman Deb Haaland is photographed by Marcella Hadden as part of the Boontak! exhibit to raise awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.**

chose me. It’s evident as to how everything came together for it.

**Why did you feel it was important to capture photos that helps raise awareness for MMIWG?**

Nobody is going to fight for Native people but Native people. This is our story and it’s best if we tell it. The MMIWG epidemic has a harsh truth to it that is better to be exposed than to be swept under the rug as it has been.



Courtesy of Marcella Hadden, Niibing Giizis

**Gracie Flores**

**What advice do you have to other Native women regarding MMIWG?**

Learn to protect yourself. Take a self-defense class. Trust your gut instinct. Look out for others, especially the vulnerable ones.

**Have you made any changes in your own life to help prevent MMIWG?**

Yes, I realize how cruel and evil the world can really be. It’s a double edge sword because the older you become, the more wisdom you have and you can share that wisdom, but you can’t live anyone else’s life. People will do and live



Courtesy of Marcella Hadden, Niibing Giizis

**Kiersten Flores**

their life as they see fit. I’ve learned to leave a lot of my fears and worries up to the Creator and trust that we are exactly where we should be and that others will be protected.

**What is your reaction that MMIWG awareness is becoming more known, for example, by Congress?**

Excited and thankful. Even to have the exhibit here on our Reservation for a short while can make women think differently and open eyes to anyone who doesn’t know about the neglect, poor protection and inaccurate reporting on Native women.



# Splash

# &

# PLAY

## GIVEAWAY



FEBRUARY 8 - MARCH 24

Purchase a Day Pass to Soaring Eagle Waterpark and Hotel and receive an entry to win one of the years hottest gaming consoles, **the PlayStation 5!**

Valid Monday - Friday



Entries accepted 2/8/21 - 3/24/21. One winner will be drawn on 3/25/21. Prize must be picked up within 30 days of being notified or a new winner will be drawn. Employees of Migizi Corporate and Soaring Eagle Waterpark and Hotel are ineligible to participate. Management reserves the right to change or end promotions without notice.





## Indigenous groups endorse Interior Secretary-nominee Deb Haaland

### GLOBAL INDIGENOUS COUNCIL

*Rocky Mountain Tribal Leaders Council, Global Indigenous Council, Great Plains Tribal Chairmen's Association ask why hasn't the Senate scheduled Interior Secretary-nominee Deb Haaland's confirmation hearing?*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Native American advocacy groups Rocky Mountain

Tribal Leaders Council, Global Indigenous Council, and Great Plains Tribal Chairmen's Association announced their strong endorsement for Interior Secretary-nominee Deb Haaland, a proven and unwavering warrior on Indigenous issues, including the fight to end the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls crisis.

The organizations, which represent every tribe in Montana, South Dakota, North Dakota, Nebraska, and tribal

nations in states as geographically disparate as Louisiana, Arizona, and Alaska, wrote Sens. John Tester (D-MT), Steve Daines (R-MT) and Mike Rounds (R-SD), urging swift confirmation of Rep. Haaland (D-NM) as secretary of the Interior.

"Few will be aware of this, but one of the first things Rep. Haaland did after being elected to the U.S. Congress – even before taking office – was to publicly support our national

billboard campaign to raise awareness for the Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) tragedy," the groups wrote to the senators. "Throughout her tenure in Congress, Rep. Haaland has welcomed our input on MMIWG legislation and fully comprehends this ongoing and existential threat to our Indigenous cultures and communities."

Rep. Haaland has reaffirmed her commitment to calling attention to the all-too-hidden

MMIWG epidemic in order to end this tragedy for so many Native American families.

"I am honored to provide full support of the Global Indigenous Council on the Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women crisis. It is my privilege to support your national billboard campaign. With your help we continue to raise awareness so we can end the silence of this crisis!" Rep. Haaland stated.

The letter is available below in its entirety:

Feb. 10, 2021

Dear Senator Rounds,

**Re: Secretary of Interior Nominee, Representative Deb Haaland (D-NM).**

We write to offer our unequivocal support for Secretary of the Interior nominee, Representative Deb Haaland (D-NM). We urge you to not only support her during the confirmation process, but respectfully request that you also urge your colleagues in the U.S. Senate to do the same, particularly those serving on the Committee on Indian Affairs.

Together, the Rocky Mountain Tribal Leaders Council, the Global Indigenous Council, and the Great Plains Tribal Chairmen's Association represents every tribe in Montana, Wyoming, South Dakota, North Dakota, Nebraska, and tribal

nations in states as geographically disparate as Louisiana, Arizona, and Alaska. In short, a large swath of Indian Country and the citizenry arguably most invested in and impacted by the policies adopted by the Department of Interior.

It really should not be necessary for us to explain why Rep. Haaland is the most-fitting nominee for Secretary of the Interior in our nation's history, but in this divisive political atmosphere we feel that we must attempt to briefly summarize why. Rep. Haaland has not been nominated to President Biden's cabinet on the basis of wealth, social status, or to repay a favor, quite the contrary, Deb Haaland's life and career has exemplified selflessness and acting in service to others.

Recently described in USA Today as "hardscrabble," her personal story is one that, as Indigenous people, we can well

relate to, and it clearly served to provide the foundation for her political career and the integrity that she is known for throughout Indian Country.

Few will be aware of this, but one of the first things Rep. Haaland did after being elected to the US Congress – even before taking office – was to publicly support our national billboard campaign to raise awareness for the Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) tragedy. Throughout her tenure in Congress, Rep. Haaland has welcomed our input on MMIWG legislation and fully comprehends this ongoing and existential threat to our Indigenous cultures and communities.

Unlike many in high political office, Rep. Haaland has never tried to disassociate extractive industry from the clear evidentiary pattern that identifies it with MMIWG cases. With the Bakken as just one example, extractive industry man camps at oil and shale fields, and along pipeline and construction routes, provide what has been accurately called "the nitroglycerin" to the MMIWG crisis. There is good reason for tribal nations and their tribal members opposing projects such as the Keystone-XL Pipeline; not only would that have created immense vulnerability to reservation communities along its proposed route, it, like similar initiatives from a bygone age, threatened environmental catastrophe.

Rep. Haaland has consistently demonstrated intellectual honesty when it comes to her decision making relative to controversial projects. The Keystone-XL Pipeline is an appropriate example. Though it is frankly absurd for the purpose of political expediency to try and separate the Tar Sands from the Keystone-XL Pipeline, numerous Members of Congress have attempted to do so. It is estimated that the Tar Sands contain 360–510-billion tons of carbon. With continued Tar Sands expansion, greenhouse gas emissions from increased operations approached 108-megatons last year.

Rep. Haaland represents one of the states that had Keystone progressed, faced a potential catastrophe.

The Ogallala Aquifer extends from west Texas to the Dakotas and from Nebraska to New Mexico, and it is the key formation in the High Plains Aquifer system. Underlying 174,000-square miles of eight states, the Ogallala Aquifer provides for 20 percent of the irrigated farmland in the U.S. Without that aquifer, the U.S. loses its "breadbasket." TransCanada's proposed 274-miles of Keystone-XL Pipeline in Nebraska was, in places, to be laid where the aquifer is 10-feet or less underground. Scientists concluded that if the Ogallala Aquifer was contaminated by Tar Sands crude it would be "virtually impossible to restore" to a pristine state.

Rep. Haaland was aware of these facts. She was honest about the situation. And she knew the figures on supposed job creation were vastly exaggerated. This is the leadership that the American people need when decisions on extractive industry projects are being made.

With Deb Haaland as Secretary of the Interior, we are confident that the Bureau of Land Management will also revert to its mission and cease to act as a realtor for multinational extractive industry corporations. Public lands are ancestral Indigenous territories, yet the original stakeholders have been omitted from any decision-making process and hence many sacred lands and mountain ranges have become pasture for livestock while the main species prospering on the great plains are nodding donkeys.

Due to systemic and institutional racism, Indigenous people, Black, Brown and Asian citizens, have been disenfranchised from our public lands, our wilderness areas, and many of our most iconic national parks. The countenance of God that John Muir spoke of being reflected in the mountains was white, and the faces remain so. It is long overdue that this fact was addressed. Similarly, many ESA listing and delisting decisions are "Trojan Horses" for tribal nations.

The most recent example was the Trump Administration's drive to delist the grizzly bear

in Greater Yellowstone from the ESA. For tribes, this raised multiple threats, from sovereignty issues and treaty rights to religious and spiritual freedoms and the very foundation of the federal-Indian trust responsibility. Thankfully, tribal plaintiffs prevailed in federal court, but we seek to be partners with a Secretary of the Interior, not plaintiffs. Now we face another similar issue with the delisting of the grey wolf. More than 100 tribal nations have already signed a treaty calling for consultation and participation in this process, and for Indigenous Traditional

Ecological Knowledge (TEK) to be incorporated as an integral part of species' management plans.

For too long, the Department of the Interior has classified tribal consultation as a "dear tribal leader" letter. For even longer, the original stewards of this land have been ignored and our voices silenced. It is way overdue that an Indigenous person held the position of Secretary of the Interior, and we are proud to support Rep. Deb Haaland to be that woman to make history.

Thank you. Sincerely,

Gerald Gray – chairman, Rocky Mountain Tribal Leaders Council

Tom Rodgers – president, Global Indigenous Council

A. Gay Kingman – executive director, Great Plains Tribal Chairmen's Association

William Snell, Jr. – executive director, Rocky Mountain Tribal Leaders Council

Rain Bear Stands Last – executive director, Global Indigenous Council, Senator Lisa Murkowski (AK), vice chairman

Senator John Hoeven (ND) Senator James Lankford (OK) Senator Steve Daines (MT) Senator Jerry Moran (KS)

Rocky Mountain Tribal Leaders Council - Billings, Montana

Global Indigenous Council, Billings - Montana/ Washington, DC

Great Plains Tribal Chairmen's Association - Rapid City, South Dakota

## Sentimental sayings in Anishinaabemowin

### ISABELLE OSAWAMICK

Anishinaabe Outreach Specialist

Animate is the living. It is the movement of objects or living beings. Animate is movement.

In Anishinaabemowin, the "he" and "she" are categorized into the animate/living.

The words he and she belong in the animate (living) category. They are not separated. In

Anishinaabemowin "her" and "him" are of the same category.

For most Animate words, the "\_\_\_ak" ending indicates plural.

In Anishinaabemowin, the letter g is an abbreviation for "giin" which is you.

The letter "n" has a nasal sound (through the nose), sometimes written as nh.\* In Anishinaabemowin, the letter g is an abbreviation for "giin" which is you.

- **Ga-zhi (gaa-sheh)** Mom/Mother
- **Ngazhi (ngaa-sheh)** My mom/my mother
- **Noos (noos)** Dad/Father/My dad/My father
- **Gme-si-nin (kmeh-seh-nen)** I miss you
- **Gme-si-ni-go (kmeh-seh-neh-go)** We miss you
- **Nme-si-na (nmeh-seh-naw)** I miss her/him
- **Nme-si-nak (nmeh-seh-knock)** I miss them
- **Gma-kwen-min (kmah-kwenh-men)**  
I think of you/I'm thinking of you
- **Gma-kwen-mi-go (kmah-kwenh-meh-go)**  
We think of you/We're thinking of you
- **Nma-kwen-ma (nmah-kwenh-mah)**  
I think of her/him
- **Nma-kwen-mak (nmah-kwenh-mock)**  
I think of them



## Editorial: Nimkee Fitness Center upgrades with new equipment, new look

**JADEN HARMAN**

Fitness Coordinator

Recently the Nimkee Fitness Center was able to improve and upgrade the facility with brand new equipment. Prior to this upgrade, the majority of the equipment had been at the Nimkee Fitness Center since it first opened 21 years ago.

We are extremely grateful for this opportunity and are excited to share it with the community. Not only did we get new equipment, but we were able to improve the layout of the facility.

We moved the cardio equipment to the front of the facility where it faces the windows for a better view and the strength equipment to the back. With other improvements, we were able to make the facility look and feel bigger.

One of the highlights is new Life Fitness cardio machines. These cardio pieces have large



Nimkee Fitness

touchscreen monitors that display many features, which include: interactive terrains (mountains views, beaches, city tours), personal coaching, and various entertainment settings such as watching YouTube, Netflix, and utilizing other apps.

With the changes and engaging opportunities such as this, we hope it will inspire our members.

Now, more than ever, it is important to look to better your health by being active and improving your fitness. We are currently allowing a building capacity of 13 people into workout and require mask or face shields.

We hope to see you soon to experience the new Nimkee Fitness.



Photos courtesy of Jaden Harman

New equipment is added and rearranged to improve the Nimkee Fitness Center.

## Early screening essential to prevent colorectal cancer

**CENTRAL MICHIGAN  
DISTRICT HEALTH  
DEPARTMENT**

Colorectal cancer is the third most common cancer diagnosed in both men and women in the United States with a lifetime risk of about one in 23 (4.3 percent) for men and one in 25 (4.0 percent) for women.

The American Cancer Society estimates there will be 104,270 new cases of colon

cancer diagnosed in the United States in 2021 and 45,230 cases of rectal cancer. It is estimated that colorectal cancers will cause about 52,980 deaths during 2021.

Central Michigan District Health Department wants to ensure the public knows that colorectal cancer is preventable with early detection.

The death rate from colorectal cancer has been dropping in both men and women since the mid-'80s, mainly because more people are getting

screened and changing their lifestyle-related risk factors.

From 2013 to 2017, incidence rates dropped by 1 percent each year. This downward trend is mostly in older adults and masks rising incidence among younger adults since at least the mid-'90s. From 2012 through 2016, it increased every year by 2 percent in people younger than 50 and 1 percent in people 50-64.

Colorectal polyps are being found earlier by screening and removed before they can

develop into cancers or are being found when the disease is easier to treat. In addition, treatment for colorectal cancer has improved over the last few decades. As a result, there are now more than 1.5 million survivors of colorectal cancer in the United States.

There are often no symptoms when colorectal cancer is first developing which means it can only be detected through regular early screening.

Being over age 50, having a family history of colorectal

cancer, having a history of colon polyps or inflammatory bowel disease, and having a history of certain cancers are all factors that create a higher risk for colorectal cancer.

All men and women of average risk for colorectal cancer should have regular colorectal cancer screening starting at the age of 50. Your doctor may recommend earlier screening if you have one or more risk factors.

Call your medical care provider and ask about his/her recommendations for screening.

## StrongHearts Native Helpline launches 24/7 operations and text advocacy

EAGAN, Minn. – StrongHearts Native Helpline (1-844-7NATIVE) announced last month it will soon expand operations by offering advocacy services 7 days a week, 24 hours a day. The expanded service launches on Feb. 19 and coincides with the additional expansion of text advocacy later this year.

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

StrongHearts is a project of the National Indigenous Women's Resource Center and the National Domestic Violence Hotline.

"Our goal is to make caring support available to as many Native American and Alaska Natives as possible," said StrongHearts Director Lori Jump (Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians). "Victim-survivors need to be able to reach out when it's safe for them, around-the-clock, through a variety of means."

According to the National Institute of Justice and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's 2010 National Intimate Partner and Sexual Partner Survey, Native Americans and Alaska Natives experience some of the highest rates of domestic and sexual violence in the United States. The study found that more than four in five American Indian and Alaska Native women had experienced violence in their lifetime, and one in three had experienced violence within the past year.

The study also examined how this violence affects tribal communities and Native survivors. For American Indian and Alaska Native people, the study found about half of women and nearly one in five men stated they needed victim services. With few options and supportive resources, Native American victims of abuse often go without assistance.

To address these inequities and better serve Native Americans and Alaska Natives, StrongHearts has been rapidly expanding. In 2020, StrongHearts launched

online chat advocacy and sexual violence advocacy.

As the pandemic continues and victim-survivors in abusive relationships are forced to shelter-in-place with their abusive partners it becomes even more vital to offer multiple communication options so victims can decide what is a safe and appropriate option for them.

As American Indian and Alaska Native communities continue to navigate the isolating effects of COVID-19, 24/7 expanded operations and text advocacy will allow those experiencing domestic and sexual violence to connect with a highly-trained advocate whenever they need free, anonymous and confidential support.

Like online chat advocacy, text advocacy increases accessibility for individuals who may be hearing impaired and those who may be uncomfortable or unable to vocalize a call for support.

"We are eager to expand our services to reach every Native victim-survivor who needs it," Jump said. "StrongHearts will continue our work until all of our relatives have the

resources they need and are safe from violence."

StrongHearts Native Helpline is a culturally-appropriate domestic, dating and

sexual violence helpline for Native Americans, available by calling 1-844-762-8483 or clicking on the Chat Now icon on strongheartshelpline.org.



**Free Membership!**

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- ▶ InBody Scan

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8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

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Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

**989.775.4690**



# Report: First-ever national data regarding Native peoples' perspectives toward COVID-19 vaccine

SEATTLE, Wash. – Urban Indian Health Institute (UIHI) released a study with the first-ever national data regarding American Indian and Alaska Native peoples' knowledge, attitudes, and beliefs about a COVID-19 vaccine.

The study surveyed American Indians and Alaska Natives across 46 states – representing 318 different tribal affiliations – to gather information ranging from individuals' willingness to receive a COVID-19 vaccine to the hurdles they face in accessing healthcare and resources.

"This data will be important to all organizations conducting COVID-19 vaccine education efforts," said Abigail Echo-Hawk, director of UIHI. "Native communities have unique challenges and needs that usually are not considered in public health campaigns."

American Indian and Alaska Native people continue to be disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The COVID-19 incidence and mortality rates are 3.5 and 1.8 times that of non-Hispanic whites, respectively.

While there has been worry about vaccine participation in Native communities, 75 percent of study participants claimed they would be willing to receive a COVID-19 vaccine, higher than the national average according to an Ipsos survey from October 2020, which indicates that 64 percent of the U.S. general population was willing to receive a vaccine.

"Willingness to receive a vaccine and hesitancy are not mutually exclusive," said Echo-Hawk. "Fear and distrust of government and medical systems still exists in our community, which are hurdles that we have to overcome."

Echo-Hawk hopes the report can start to create a better understanding of the unique perspectives of Native people.

"The data indicates that most Native people willing to be vaccinated feel it is their responsibility for the health of their community," Echo-Hawk said. "This shows what motivates our community when it comes to decision-making."

**Report key findings:**

- Seventy-five percent of participants were willing to receive a COVID-19 vaccine.

- Seventy-four percent of participants claimed that getting vaccinated is their responsibility to their community.

- Eighty-nine percent of participants wanted evidence that the vaccine is safe right now and in the long term.

- Thirty-nine percent of all participants reported difficulty traveling to their clinic for an appointment.

- Two-thirds of participants willing to get vaccinated were confident that COVID-19 vaccines were adequately tested for safety and effectiveness among Native people.

- Seventy-five percent of participants willing to get vaccinated had concerns about potential side effects.

- Twenty-five percent of participants were unwilling to receive a COVID-19 vaccine.

- Ninety percent of participants unwilling to get vaccinated recognized COVID-19 as a serious disease.

- Eighty-nine percent of participants unwilling to get vaccinated had concerns about potential side effects.

Link to the report can be found here: <https://www.uihi.org/projects/strengthening-vaccine-efforts-in-indian-country/>

Urban Indian Health Institute is a Public Health Authority and one of 12 Tribal Epidemiology Centers in the country. It conducts research and evaluation, collects and analyzes data, and provides disease surveillance and resources to strengthen the

health of American Indian and Alaska Native communities.

**Sources:**

- <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm6949a3.htm>

- <https://www.ipsos.com/sites/default/files/ct/news/documents/2020-11/global-attitudes-on-a-covid-19-vaccine-oct-2020.pdf>



## LAKE SUPERIOR



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Tribal community members and their pets are invited to participate in a ...

## Saginaw Chippewa Rez Pet Parade

...coming summer 2021. Time now to create pet outfits!

Tribal community members are invited to create Anishinabe-inspired outfits for their pets for a summertime Rez Pet Parade.

**TAKE IT/MAKE IT OUTFIT BOX:**

Please share your extra beads, fabric, fur, leather, ribbon, and other materials with the community in the take it/make it outfit box on Ziibiwing's front porch under the canopy. . . and take some supplies to make your pet's outfit.



Co-Sponsor

More details will follow with the date/location for the parade!



Gaazhak (cat)




Nimookaajiih (dog)

## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Monday, March 8, 2021 • 10am-3pm

BOONTAK (Stop it!):  
Stolen Daughters of Turtle Island  
Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women & Girls

Special Monday opening of changing exhibition.  
Gift Bag for Tribal community women & girls who attend March 8, 2021 (while supplies last).




Gift Bag includes:

Tobacco tie, MMIWG sticker,  
Red whistle & flashlight for safety,  
Printed tribute to two exceptional Indigenous women:  
SCIT Chief Gail George & Poet Laureate Joy Harjo


**March 8, 2021**

**International Women's Day**

is celebrated in many countries around the world. It is a day when women are recognized for their achievements without regard to divisions, whether national, ethnic, linguistic, cultural, economic or political. [www.un.org](http://www.un.org)



Co-Sponsor:



**ZIIBIWING GIFT SHOP IS OPEN!**  
Tuesdays - Saturdays • 10am-3pm  
No appointment needed.  
All health protocols are in effect.

**NO PERFORMANCE CIRCLE CLASS ON MARCH 30<sup>th</sup> DUE TO SPRING BREAK**

**ZIIBIWING CENTER STAFF CAN BE REACHED BY PHONE OR EMAIL**



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*of Anishinabe Culture & Lifeways*

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## MARCH 2021 | Tribal Community Event Planner

### Recovery on the Rez

March 2, 9, 16, 23 | 2 p.m.

- Online via ZOOM
- Non-judgmental mutual aid support group that welcomes all styles of recovery
- Meeting ID: 829 1218 8791
- Passcode: 123456

### Virtual Community Talking Circle

March 3, 17, 31 | 2 p.m.

- Online via ZOOM
- Meeting ID: 931 3019 2864
- Passcode: db2pup
- ChOsawabine@sagchip.org

### Self Management, Self Direction: Back to Basics

March 4, 11, 18, 25 | 3-4:30 p.m.

- Online Via ZOOM
- 10-week program
- A flexible course designed for adults or older youth who want to begin to build, or rebuild, the fundamental building block skills inherent in self-management and self-direction.
- Sessions can be done independently and do not rely on the previous session for content. Join us as you can.
- Registration: Prevention@sagchip.org or 989.775.4818 or 989.775.4880

### K'chi-twaa-Mshkod'e (Sacred Fire)

March 4, 11, 18, 25 | 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

- Seventh Generation
- [TJackson@sagchip.org](mailto:TJackson@sagchip.org) or 989-775-4780
- Social distancing/masks required
- Tobacco offering for those who need a safe place to offer prayers

### Drive-Thru Sacred Fire Lunch with Anishinabemowin packets

March 4, 18 | 12 - 1 p.m.

- Seventh Generation
- [TJackson@sagchip.org](mailto:TJackson@sagchip.org) or 989-775-4780
- 3/4 menu: Spaghetti, garlic bread and salad
- 3/18 menu: Beef stew and salad

### Walk in My Mocs Artists Series

March 4 | 7 p.m.

- ZOOM link: <https://zoom.us/j/99832256072>
- Public reading featuring M. Carmen Lane
- 989-317-4793
- Lane is a two:spirit African-American and Haudenosaunee (Mohawk/Tuscarora) artist, writer and facilitator.

### Creators Garden: Traditional Herbal Medicine

March 11 | 7 p.m.

- With Joe Pitawanakwat
- Virtual event via ZOOM
- ZOOM link: <https://zoom.us/j/7183878124>
- 989-775-4818 or [chosawabine@sagchip.org](mailto:chosawabine@sagchip.org)
- Pitawanakwat is an Ojibway from Wiikwemkoong, Ontario. He is the founder and director of Creators Garden, an Indigenous outdoor, and now online, education based business, focused on plant identification, beyond-sustainable harvesting, and teaching linguistic, historical, cultural, edible, ecological and medicinal significance through experiences.

### Earth Day Rez Clean-Up

April 22 | 10 a.m.

- Volunteers needed
- 989.775.4093 or [kshomin@sagchip.org](mailto:kshomin@sagchip.org)



Eagles Nest Tribal Gym

# DROP-IN SESSIONS

Every Friday

Two time slots available:

▶ 5:15 - 6:15 p.m.   ▶ 6:45 - 7:45 p.m.

- Half gym only to increase social distancing
- Multiple small groups (house-holds) at a time
- Max of 4 per group
- Temperature check upon arrival
- Masks will be required







Activities include: Weight room (Youth 17 and under must be supervised by an adult), dodgeball, golf nets, kickball, basketball and cardio (stationary bike, treadmills & rower.)

Pre-registration required, please contact:  
Recreation staff at [Recreation@sagchip.org](mailto:Recreation@sagchip.org)

## MARCH 2021 | Tribal Community Calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat./Sun.
1	2	3	4 ●	5	6 ●
			Sacred Fire 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. 7th Generation		7
8	9	10	11	12	13 ●
			Sacred Fire 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. 7th Generation		14
15	16	17	18 ●	19	20 ●
		Tribal Observer Deadline Rez Pets submissions due	Sacred Fire 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. 7th Generation		21
22	23	24	25	26	27 ●
			Sacred Fire 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. 7th Generation		28
29	30	31 ●	<b>Isabella Conservation District Annual Tree and Shrub Sale</b> Pre-orders due by April 7, 2021. Order forms available on our Facebook page, via email or stop in to our office at 5979 E. Broadway Rd., Mt. Pleasant MI 48858. Pick-up will be in mid-April. For more information, please call 989.772.5927 ext. 3 or email <a href="mailto:crystal.beutler@mi.nacdn.net">crystal.beutler@mi.nacdn.net</a>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● SECR Payroll</li> <li>● SCIT Per Capita</li> <li>● SCIT Payroll</li> <li>● Curbside Recycling</li> <li>● Waste Collection*</li> </ul> <p style="font-size: x-small;">*Bins must be curbside by 6:30 a.m.</p>



## Tribal Observer Classifieds

To place your ad, call the Tribal Observer at 989-775-4096, email [observer@sagchip.org](mailto:observer@sagchip.org), call to make an appointment in the Observer offices in the Black Elk Building or mail to Tribal Observer, Attn.: Classified, 7500 Soaring Eagle Blvd., 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.**

- |                           |                          |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>100</b> Employment     | <b>125</b> Miigwetch     |
| <b>105</b> Lost and Found | <b>130</b> Services      |
| <b>110</b> For Rent       | <b>135</b> Events        |
| <b>115</b> For Sale       | <b>140</b> Giveaways     |
| <b>120</b> Announcements  | <b>145</b> Miscellaneous |

### 100 Employment

#### Tribal Operations

##### Case Manager - ITC

Open to the public. Bachelor's degree in social work, psychology, human services, or related field. One year case management experience. Must have CAD/C or demonstrated experience working with substance abuse and co-occurring treatment protocols. Experience in working collaboratively across multiple disciplines,

organizations, community systems, and a diverse population. Knowledge of Native American traditions and culture preferred. This is a grant funded position.

##### Land Title & Realty Specialist

Open to the public. High school diploma or GED. Three years title or real estate experience. Experience with legal descriptions and understand laws and regulations of real estate transactions. Experience with the practices and principles of real estate management, such as Register of Deeds, Title Research, and

or Realty Specialist. Excellent administrative and organizational skills in record keeping.

##### Paraprofessional

Open to the public. High school diploma or GED. Pass a state or local exam (i.e. basic skills test of Michigan for teacher certification or ETS ParaPro assessment) or complete at least two years of study at an institution of higher education (60 semester hours) or associates degree. Two years' experience working with children in a school setting preferred. Knowledge of and experience with Ojibwe language preferred.

##### ACFS Director

Open to the public. Under the supervision of Tribal Administration, direct, establish, plan and coordinate all activities and segments included within Anishnaabeg Child and Family Services (ACFS). This includes prevention and outreach services, protective services, ICWA and licensing services. Assure protective services investigations, prevention, child and family service cases and open-active cases including descendants as outlined in the ICWA agreement between the state DHS, and SCIT are responded to in a manner consistent with the department's overall goal: Mission Statement; fundamental values and beliefs; and practice principles; consistent with 25 C.F.R., Part 20, Subparts D-F; in compliance with the Tribal Code, Title II Children's Code; and in compliance with the Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act. All ACFS staff must adhere to mandated reporting laws. Master's degree in social services, human services or related field. Must have and maintain a full Master's Social Worker License (LMSW). Five years social services experience. Two years' experience in a supervisory capacity. Experience working with tribal communities and outside social services. Experience with budget administration, operation, reports, contract management and development.

##### SCTC Tutor

Open to the public. At least 60 completed credits towards a College degree with an overall GPA of 3.0 or above. Strong mathematics and/or English background ability to demonstrate competence in SCTC MTH 230, MTH 120, ENG 101, ENG 102, and ENG 130 or equivalent is higher preferred.

##### Prosecutor

Open to the public. Juris doctor from an ABA accredited law school. Minimum of three years experience as a practicing attorney, familiarity with federal Indian law preferred. Minimum of one year experience as a prosecuting attorney. Member of a State Bar Association and in good standing.

Understanding of all codes and professional standards applicable to the conduct of prosecutors. Experience with juvenile welfare cases. Experience with Tribal Code, Federal law, State law and court procedure. Under the supervision of Tribal Council, work closely with Tribal law enforcement and judicial officials to effectively administer justice on the Isabella Indian Reservation on behalf of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan. Prosecute crimes under the jurisdiction of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe within the exterior boundaries of the Isabella Reservation.

### Soaring Eagle

#### Call Center Agent PT

Open to the public. Sign on bonus \$125 after 90-day probation. Employee referral bonus \$100 after 90-day probation. High school diploma or GED. Must be at least 18 years of age. One year of customer service work experience. Previous reservation experience with hotel, car rental, airline, cruise ship or travel agency preferred. Must be able to pass a typing test of at least 30 words per minute.

#### Guest Relations Representative PT

Open to the public. Must be at least 18 years of age. Must be able to work weekends, holidays, emergency shifts, and rotating schedules.

### Saganing

#### Guestroom Attendant

Open to the public. Must be at least 18 years of age. Three months of housekeeping experience preferred. \*Sign on bonus: After satisfactorily completing 90 days of employment, team members who were hired for full-time will receive a \$250 bonus.

#### F&B Custodial Worker

Open to the public. Must be at least 18 years of age. Kitchen cleaning experience preferred.

#### F&B Attendant

Open to the public. Must be at least 18 years of age. Cash handling, banking, or accounting experience preferred.

#### Finance Cashier PT

Open to the public. Must be at least 18 years of age. Six months cash handling or cashiering experience. Must have basic math skills with the ability to pass a written math test with 80 percent accuracy and ability to handle large amounts of currency.

#### Beverage Waitstaff

Open to the public. Must be at least 18 years of age. Restaurant server experience preferred.

#### Maintenance Worker PT

Open to the public. Must be at least 18 years of age. One year custodial and maintenance experience. Experience with plumbing and carpentry.

#### Casino Ambassador

Open to the public. Must be at least 18 years of age. Six months of heavy cash handling or hospitality experience in a fast-paced, high-pressure environment. Must pass a math proficiency test.

#### Inventory Control Driver/ Warehouse

Open to the public. High school diploma or GED. Must be 18 years of age. One year receiving or warehouse experience. One year experience in driving vehicles and rigs that require a Chauffeur's License. Experience with operating warehouse equipment including forklifts.

#### Transit Driver

Open to the public. Must be at least 21 years of age. Must have good hearing and at least 20/40 vision in each eye with or without corrective lenses. Must be able to work all shifts including weekends

and holidays. Must have a valid CDL with passenger endorsements or a Chauffeur's License.

#### Line Cook

Open to the public. Must be at least 18 years of age. One year of restaurant cooking experience with increasing levels of responsibility, or six months of Saganing internal culinary training. Must be able to pass ServSafe Certification.

#### Cashier FT

Open to the public. Must be at least 18 years of age. Six months cashiering and/or hosting experience. Must be able to operate a POS.

#### Cashier PT

Open to the public. Must be at least 18 years of age. Six months cashiering and/or hosting experience. Must be able to operate a POS.

#### Count Team Associate

Open to the public. Six months cash handling experience. Gaming, banking, or customer service experience preferred.

#### Laundry Attendant

Open to the public. Must be at least 18 years of age. Three months of hotel housekeeping or laundry experience.

### Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Court Notice of Fee Schedule Modification Effective Jan. 1, 2021

#### Intergovernmental

- Intergovernmental Service of Process: \$15

#### Civil Matters

- Damages equal to or less than \$1,000: \$55
- Damages more than \$1,000 & less than \$5,000: \$105
- Damages \$5,000 or greater & less than \$25,000: \$160
- Damages \$25,000 and greater: \$210
- Petition for Judicial Review: \$65
- Real Property: \$30
- Landlord Tenant: \$65
- Enforcement of Foreign Judgement - order equal to or less than \$1,000: \$55
- Enforcement of Foreign Judgement - order \$1,000 or greater & less than \$5,000: \$105
- Enforcement of Foreign Judgement - order \$5,000 or greater & less than \$25,000: \$160
- Enforcement of Foreign Judgement - order \$25,000 or greater: \$210
- Civilcounter-claim: \$30
- Enrollment/Membership: \$65
- Civil Jury Fee (due at filing): \$525
- Writ of Garnishment: \$20
- Workers Compensation Appeal: \$30
- Child Support/Custody/Paternity Petition: \$65
- Divorce without children: \$125
- Divorce with children: \$160
- Divorce Judgement Fee: \$80
- Annulment: \$125
- Civil Restraining Order: \$30
- Civil Appeal: \$160

#### Juvenile

- Emancipation: \$30

#### Probate Matters

- Estate: \$65
- Adoption: \$105
- Guardianship for a Minor: \$65
- Guardianship for an Incapacitated Adult: \$65
- Marriage License: \$40
- Marriage Ceremony Fee by a Tribal Judge: \$40

#### Motion Fees

- Adoption/Appellate/Civil/Domestic/Juvenile/Civil Restraining Order/Probate: \$55 \*If court appointed, fee not applicable or from Guardian Ad Litem

#### Tribal Bar Admission

- Attorney Admission: \$150

#### Miscellaneous

- Criminal Appeal: \$55
- Copies- court related/per page: \$3
- Copies- non-court related/per page: \$3
- \*plus \$4 per each 15 minutes: \$5
- History Check SCIT Agencies: \$11
- History Check Outside Agencies: \$27
- Certified Fee: \$11

#### Transcripts (requests must be in writing)

- Original & one copy within 30 days: \$3
- Original & one copy within 7-10 days: \$6
- Additional copies: \$2

### Utilization of Nimkee Clinic for COVID-19 Testing

**Purpose:** To streamline testing of associates by utilizing additional resources for COVID testing.

**Test Group:** Tribal Operations

**Phone:** 989-775-4626 or 989-775-4637

**Address:** 2591S. Leaton Rd., Mt. Pleasant, MI

**Testing hours:** Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

**Closed:** 12 - 1 p.m. for lunch | **Appointment required**

#### Associates testing process:

- Need for testing of associate identified per current policy/guidelines
- Form completed by direct manager/supervisor/director or designee, email form to [covid.nimkee@sagchip.org](mailto:covid.nimkee@sagchip.org)
- Utilize "submit" button located by managers signature area on form to populate email
- Associate sent based on symptoms, exposure guidelines — dates may vary
- Appointment is required: Once Nimkee receives the form, they will call the staff member to make an appointment
- Associate will show for assigned appointment time — reinforce to be on time due to appointments after associates
- Associate will park in front of the building, go to the door, ring the doorbell — Nimkee staff will bring associate in for the testing
- Associate will identify as an employee from Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort — Nimkee staff will know to address form
- Nimkee will call staff member with results
- Once testing is completed and test results are final, form will be completed by Nimkee staff and emailed to "cvdnotify" email group from Nimkee to include test results and return to work (RTW) date
- Occupational Health Department will disseminate results/RTW information to appropriate departments
- Individual departments will notify associates of RTW status
- If further testing is required, Nimkee staff will inform "cvdnotify" group, complete McLaren form and send staff member for testing — this process would be only activated for symptoms and it is negative, Nimkee feels test could be a false negative — process for dissemination of results would move forward per current procedure

# ENTERTAINMENT



**LUKE BRYAN**  
with MORGAN EVANS  
Saturday, May 29 | 8:00PM

**Ticket Prices:**  
\$49, \$132, \$164, \$195  
**ONSALE NOW!**



**SHINEDOWN**  
with THEORY OF A DEADMAN  
and POP EVIL

Friday, August 6 | 8:00PM

**Tribal Member Presale**  
March 5th, 2021

**Public Onsale**  
March 13th, 2021

**Ticket Prices:**  
\$24, \$40, \$50, \$62

Tickets can be purchased at the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort and Saganing Eagles Landing Box Offices from 9AM-10PM. Tribal Members must present Member ID at the Box Office upon purchase.



**MEGADETH and LAMB OF GOD**  
with TRIVIUM & IN FLAMES

Saturday, July 10 | 6:00PM

**Ticket Prices:**  
\$24, \$40, \$69, \$72  
**ONSALE NOW!**



**MIRANDA LAMBERT**  
with LEE BRICE

Saturday, July 24 | 8:00PM

**Ticket Prices:**  
\$35, \$75, \$92, \$109  
**ONSALE NOW!**

# BINGO



YOU COULD WIN UP TO  
**\$50,000**  
IN CASH!

Achieve the Soaring Star pattern in 30 numbers or less for a chance to spin the prize wheel and win up to \$50,000!

And the prizes don't stop! With MULTI-WIN Games, the prizes keep going and going and going, no matter how many winners!

**Super Win Soaring Star Multi Win**  
is played Wednesday - Sunday  
during our Matinee Session at 1:30PM  
and Wednesday - Saturday during our Evening Session at 7PM.

Ball Calls	SPIN & WIN
<b>Soaring Star in 17 or less</b>	<b>\$5,000 - \$50,000</b>
Soaring Star in 18 exactly	\$2,500 - \$25,000
Soaring Star in 19 exactly	\$1,500 - \$15,000
Soaring Star in 20 exactly	\$1,000 - \$10,000
Soaring Star in 21 exactly	\$750 - \$10,000
Soaring Star in 22 exactly	\$500 - \$5,000
Soaring Star in 23 exactly	\$450 - \$4,500
Soaring Star in 24 exactly	\$400 - \$4,000
Soaring Star in 25 exactly	\$350 - \$3,500
Soaring Star in 26 exactly	\$300 - \$3,000
Soaring Star in 27 exactly	\$275 - \$2,750
Soaring Star in 28 exactly	\$250 - \$2,500
Soaring Star in 29 exactly	\$225 - \$2,250
Soaring Star in 30 exactly	\$200 - \$2,000



SoaringEagleCasino.com | Mt. Pleasant, MI | 1.888.7.EAGLE.7

Must be 18 to game. Must be an ACCESS Loyalty Club Member to participate in promotions. Management reserves all rights.