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Slavery in Michigan: Prosecutor discusses local sex trafficking case

NATALIE SHATTUCK

Editor

Modern-day slavery continues to exist.

Currently, millions of adults and children around the world are victims of human trafficking: The use of force, fraud or coercion to exploit a person for labor or commercial sex.

Human trafficking is prevalent throughout the United States, and yes, it occurs in Michigan.

Native American women and children are at high risk for becoming victims.

In comparison to other racial and ethnic groups, Native women and children remain the most frequent victims of physical and sexual violence in the United States and Canada (www.rainn.org).

To further educate on the topic, the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe and United States Attorney's Office (EDMI) presented "Shedding Light on Human Trafficking" on Jan. 28 in the Eagles Nest Tribal Gym.

Prosecutor Sara Woodward, human trafficking and project safe childhood coordinator from the United States Attorney's Office in Detroit, discussed her recent federal



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

On Jan. 28, Prosecutor Sara Woodward discussed a local human trafficking case that began in Mount Pleasant, Mich. in August 2013.

prosecution of Willie Curry, 36, who found his 15 and 16-year-old victims in Mount Pleasant, Mich. after they had run away from a group home.

On Aug. 3 2013, Curry was fishing in the Chippewa River at one of the local Mount Pleasant parks when the two girls approached him, asking if he had a cell phone they could use.

Curry lured his victims to Detroit with promises of clothing, cell phones and once there, he physically and sexually assaulted his victims, forcing them into prostitution, Woodward said.

He "gave the girls drugs and alcohol, took explicit photos

of them and posted their photos online."

"Some people are appalled sex trafficking is posted online (Craigslist and other sites), but it is helpful for law enforcement because it is evidence," Woodward said.

On Aug. 14, 2013, when one of the victims refused to comply with Curry's demands to engage in sexual acts with strangers for money, he raped her, Woodward said.

The next day, Aug. 15, 2013, that victim climbed out of the bathroom window at 5 a.m., and ran to a gas station where a lady drove her to meet her dad in Okemos, Mich.

Michigan State Police interviewed the victim, receiving enough information that lead to the rescue of the two other victims in Curry's home on Aug. 19, 2013.

"Typically, vulnerable victims are not traditionally 'good witnesses,'" said Woodward, who also serves as deputy chief for the General Crimes Unit. "Cases can be frustrating, messy and labor intensive. Traffickers know that their victims are not 'good witnesses' and expect law enforcement not to believe them."

Curry and his girlfriend Tammy Pollard, who also

played a major part in the crime, both plead guilty and the crimes charged include: Sex trafficking minors by force/fraud/coercion, production of child pornography, felon in possession of a fire arm.

The minimum sentence is 15 years to life.

Woodward explained bonds often form between traffickers and the victims.

"One of the victims thought Curry was great," Woodward said. "She needed male love that she had been lacking in her life, but she hated Tammy... The longer the victim is with the trafficker, the harder it is to break that bond."

During questioning, Woodward said prosecutors should not ask the victim about the trafficker right away, because they might become defensive.

"Instead, ask about the first time (the victim) ran away," Woodward said. "If you are law enforcement, hear her out and find out what caused her to run away in the first place."

Woodward said "Curry was nowhere near as bad as one of the victim's fathers, who had raped her for 10 years."

Trafficking | 10

SCIT responds to Tribal families affected by Flint water crisis

JOSEPH V. SOWMICK

Photojournalist

From the generous Oct. 7, 2015 donation the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe made by providing 24,000 bottles of water to Flint, Mich., the water crisis has garnered massive national attention as a public health emergency.

Families were faced with confronting elevated levels of lead in children when the city switched from the Detroit water system to a cheaper alternative: The Flint River.

In a proactive move to protect their health, the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Council and departments are developing a coordinated plan to assist Tribal families affected.

As a developing story, the Tribal Observer met with the Planning Department and its Environmental Team Jan. 20.

The meeting attendees were Environmental Specialist Sally

Kniffen, Watershed Outreach Coordinator Taylor Hollis, Water Resources Technician Aiman Shahpurwala, Water Quality Specialist Carey Pauquette, Environmental Response Program Specialist Michael Fisher and Environmental Resources Technician David Syckle II.

Kniffen said it is important that each of us do our part to maintain the health and purity of our groundwater by disposing of chemicals, oil, and other hazardous material properly through household hazardous waste collection programs to keep these pollutants from entering drinking water.

"The Environmental Team works with area partners to provide monitoring of surface waters that interact with the groundwater, to identify and address any contamination concerns," Kniffen said.

Pauquette said the Environmental Team relies on the trained, trustworthy, technical staff of the water treatment facilities in Saginaw and Isabella to ensure the drinking water for the Tribal Community is clean, safe, and healthy.

Joe Johnson, water operator supervisor, started working in his current position since Oct. 2013, along with intern John Trepanier.

Johnson has also worked as SCIT water operator since 2005.

"We have a certified lab through the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)," Johnson said. "We run hourly samples on the softening process and we do daily testing on the bacteria samples. We have five operators who have tested and been certified by the Michigan



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

Water Operations intern Aaron Jewell tests titrations which determines end-point of water samples.

Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). Our director is also certified and our two new operators will be testing for certification this year along with our new intern."

Director of Utilities Barry Skutt said the main difference between Flint and the Tribal

Flint water | 3



Arthur Roland Henry March 14, 1929 - Dec. 26, 2015

Arthur Roland Henry, 86, died at Kaiser Foundation Hospital on Dec. 26, 2015 in Fontana, Calif., due to an aortic aneurysm rupture.

Henry was born on March 14, 1929 in St. Charles, Mich. to parents, Arthur Nowgeeshig Henry and Alice Beechem. He grew up in St. Charles and Lapeer, Mich.



Henry served in both the Army and Navy and was a paratrooper for the 82nd Airborne Division of the Army. He moved to California in early 1950, where he worked at many industrial plants, and completed his career at the Chaffee School District where he was a bus driver and maintenance mechanic.

After retiring, he and his beloved companion, Hazel, enjoyed many years attending area parades in his Bagatti.

Henry was a past post commander and a member of the American Legion for 56 years, and a proud member of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe.

Henry is survived by his only daughter, Judith Ann Ramirez, of Attica, Mich.; two grandchildren, Todd, of Lapeer, Mich. and Anthony (Sandy) of Laurel, Md. and four great-grandchildren, Taylor, Jacob, Erica and Lukas.

He is preceded in death by his parents, brother, Robert and sisters; Pearl Brown, Glendora Hinkle, Carol Chapman and niece, Rencie Laur.

Henry is survived by his lifelong companion, Hazel Swallow of Bloomington, Calif. along with many beloved nieces, nephews, and cousins of the Henry, Stevens, Peters, and Douglas families.

Henry was buried at Green Acres Cemetery and Mortuary on Jan. 5, 2016 in Bloomington, Calif. A memorial took place Feb. 27 at the Tribal Gym in the Tribal Operations building in Mount Pleasant, Mich. to celebrate his life.

Kevin Lee Rodriguez June 1, 1955 – Feb. 9, 2016

Kevin Lee Rodriguez, 60, passed away Tuesday, Feb. 9, 2016.

Kevin was preceded in death by his parents, Lupe and Shirley Rodriguez; his brother, Lupe Rodriguez Jr; nephew, Spencer Snyder and his grandparents.



Left to cherish his memory are his brothers and sisters, Daniel Rodriguez, Antonio Rodriguez, Lisa (Joe) Snyder, and Trisha Trasky; several nieces and nephews; and his partner, Shawn D. Knight, and lifelong friend, Timothy Porter, as well as many friends he made throughout his life in the Grand Rapids area.

Kevin formerly worked at Grand Rapids Foam and Rubber as well as the Soaring Eagle Resort and Charleston, S.C., City Market.

Funeral services were held Saturday, Feb. 13, 2016 at Stegenga Funeral Chapel.

At-Large/Member Services

has a limited number of health grants available to any member who lives outside of Nimkee's five County Purchased Refer Care area. (*Arenac, Clare, Isabella, Midland and Missaukee.*)

Grants Available:

Hearing Aid | Vision | Braces
Substance Abuse | Mental Health

You can get the guidelines and grant applications:

- In the At-Large/Member Services office
- Call us: 1-800-884-6271 and we will mail them to you.
- Online at: www.sagchip.org/Member%20Services/

Please read the guidelines very carefully as the grants have changed.

PLEASE REPORT ALL WILDLIFE VIOLATIONS

To the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Police Department



Dispatch: 989.775.4700
Tip Line: 989.775.4775

Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Police

6954 E BROADWAY, MT PLEASANT, MI
TEL: 989-775-4700



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

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

Attention Tribal Members

At-Large/Member Services would like to remind you that it is Tax Season and that everyone MUST file FEDERAL, STATE and in some cases CITY income tax.

If you have any questions or need assistance please contact our office at 989.775.4944 or stop in.

ATTENTION

Anishinabe Ogitchedaw
Veteran & Warrior Society Members

Now Recruiting New Members



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

Saginaw Chippewa Conservation Committee

2016 Regular Meeting Schedule

March 3	• 12 p.m.	• Planning Dept
March 17	• 12 p.m.	• Planning Dept
March 31	• 12 p.m.	• Planning Dept
April 14	• 12 p.m.	• Saganing Tribal Center
April 28	• 12 p.m.	• Planning Dept
May 12	• 12 p.m.	• Planning Dept
May 26	• 12 p.m.	• Planning Dept

Meetings for June - December are to be determined.

** All times and locations subject to change by committee*

Attention Tribal Members

If you receive any notices from the **IRS (Internal Revenue Service), Federal Taxing Authority, or State of Michigan**, please contact At-Large/Member Services at **989-775-4944 before you take any action.**

In Loving Memory



March 1, 1976
Eric Lee Hunt

We miss and love you. Especially on your birthday and holidays. You will always be in our hearts.

Love, the Hunt family

Rez Pets

"It's Raining Cats and Dogs!"

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

Email your photos to observer@sagchip.org or turn them in to the Tribal Observer office located inside the Tribal Operations building.



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

Deadline: Wednesday, March 16

Powwow Committee Vacancies

Attention Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Members

The Saginaw Chippewa Powwow Committee currently has six vacancies on the committee to fill. If you are interested in serving on this committee that will assist in the planning, coordination of activities, set up, and daily operations of the event, please submit a letter of interest to the Powwow Committee.

SCIT Powwow Committee
7070 E. Broadway
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

All submissions will be recorded and then forwarded to Tribal Council for selection and notification purposes.

Michigan Indian Leadership Program

(formerly the Pre-College Leadership Program)
at Michigan State University

July 10-15, 2016

Contact Information:
Stephanie Chau,
Assistant Director of Undergraduate Diversity
(517) 355-0177
(517) 355-0234
chaus@msu.edu



2015 Participants Making Black Ash Baskets

- FREE Summer Program to Help Students Prepare for College
- Explore Academic Programs at Michigan State University
- Cultural Workshops and Social Activities
- Network with Native Staff and Faculty
- Extracurricular Development
- Study for the SAT
- APPLICATION DEADLINE: APRIL 30, 2016
- For More Information and Application, Please Visit Our Website: http://www.canr.msu.edu/pre_college/pre_college_leadership_program

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



Check out the **Tribal Observer ONLINE**

www.sagchip.org/tribalobserver



Attention: Tribal Clerk/Enrollment Hours

Tribal Clerk's/Enrollment office will now be closed on Fridays for walk-in/desk services for Administrative Office days, until further notice.

The Clerk's office will still be open Monday through Thursday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. for regular business.

2016 Powwow Logo Contest: "Honoring Anishnaabe Artists"

Attention all Artists: The Saginaw Chippewa Powwow Committee is having a logo design contest for this year's upcoming powwow. If you would like to enter, please send your entries to the Powwow Committee.

Your logo design should be designed around the theme "Honoring Anishnaabe Artists" entries can be in color (four color max). Your designs can be hand drawn or created electronically.

Please mail your design entries to:

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

They can also be dropped off at the At-Large Office C/O Craig Graveratte. If you create an electronic version, it can be emailed to cgraveratte@sagchip.org.

All entries must be received no later than March 11, 2016 at 5 p.m. Please include your contact information along with your entry.

The winning design will be displayed on the T-shirts for this upcoming year. Also, the winning logo design will receive \$200 and a free T-shirt or hoodie with your design. Prizes will also be awarded for second and third place as well. (Yet to be determined).

If you have any questions please contact the Powwow Committee at **989-775-4942**.

Flint water

continued from front page

water infrastructure is the age and materials used (*see page 12 for Hollis' drinking water article*).

"We have the oldest parts of our system, installed by Indian Health Services (IHS), in the '60s," Skutt said. "These are mainly AC water mains. The rest of our system is comprised of C-900 PVC pipe; which is a plastic pipe approved for drinking water and HDPE (high density poly-ethylene) connections; these are the thick black plastic lines also rated for drinking water that go from the main line to the homes. There is no lead in any of those materials."

Under the Safe Water Drinking Act, the EPA regulates what tests need to be completed and at what time to ensure safe water, Skutt said.

"We provide details of our system and they provide the requirements for testing," Skutt said. "We then send them the reports and a copy of our Consumers Confidence Report."

A subsequent meeting with Nimkee, SCIT Utilities, SCIT Planning and At-Large/Member Services took place in the Nimkee Public Health conference room on Feb. 5.

A briefing in Council chambers with the inter-department crisis management team ensued on Feb. 11 where Tribal Chief Frank J. Cloutier and Tribal Council requested a recommendation from Tribal Health Board and the research of the issue for their review.

Nimkee Executive Health Director Karmen Fox said the Tribal Health Board made a unanimous

recommendation that allowed testing for the affected Tribal members, families and descendants in Flint (*see page 23 for Fox's article*).

Margaret Steslicki, medical clinic director for Nimkee, said she is concerned about the health of community members and the Flint community.

"Our nursing staff are already making personal phone calls to registered patients of Nimkee living in Flint and will be following up with a letter including health information," Steslicki said. "Tribal Members and their families not registered at Nimkee may also visit (the clinic) to have a lead screening completed. We are especially concerned with children ages 0-10 years, however, would recommend that all members of your household be tested."

Along with the clinic, At-Large/Member Services Program Supervisor Craig Graveratte has been working closely to identify Members that live in Genesee County and Flint, Mich.

"Many departments are coordinating their efforts on this and letters will be sent to Tribal Members residing in those areas with detailed information," Graveratte said. "If you live, work, or go to school in an area that has been potentially exposed to the water with lead contamination since April 2014, it is important to have your lead levels tested."

Anna Hon, maternal child nurse, is also concerned. "Lead is found in paint, dust, dirt, water, and it can enter a child's body and make them sick," Hon said.

Walk-ins are available for lead testing at Nimkee, just sign in at the front desk. For any questions, please contact Twila at **989-775-4681** or Margaret at **989-775-4618**.



Happy Birthday
Marcella
Love, Mom



Alice Jo Ricketts,
my Queen Love,
Happy 50th Birthday,
Loves yas



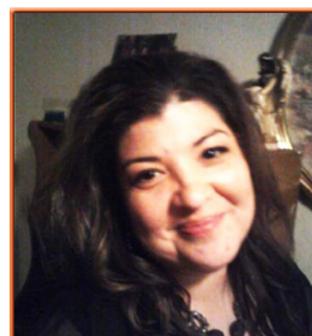
Happy 75th Birthday
Lorna Kahgegab Call
March 12th
From your children, grandchildren and great grandchildren



Happy Bday Sis!!
Know you are loved :)
Love your big sis & niece's.
March 17th



Look who's turning 18?
Kayen Neyome Fuller
Love Grandma Gen



Happy Birthday
beautiful woman,
Bless you my daughter
Christina!
Mom



Thanks to the 7th Gen Program, and an awesome teacher who goes by the name "Chief" who worked with me to make this feather box.
This took from Feb. 8-16 to complete
Thank you,
Rebecca Rittmaier



God Bless you Beautiful, and
Happy Birthday!
Love Mom & Derwin



Happy Birthday
Dia, and Adam!
Giimaa loves you!



Tribal Council

Chief

Frank J. Cloutier, District 3

Sub-Chief

Brent D. Jackson, District 1

Treasurer

Gayle Ruhl, District 1

Secretary

Michelle R. Colwell, District 1

Sergeant At-Arms

Ronald F. Ekdahl, District 1

Tribal Chaplain

Diana Quigno-Grundahl, District 1

Council Member

Candace B. Benzinger, District 1

Council Member

Tim J. Davis, District 1

Council Member

Lindy Hunt, District 1

Council Member

Amanda Oldman, District 1

Council Member

Kenneth Sprague, District 1

Council Member

Ron Nelson, District 2

Attention Tribal Members: Facing reduced income... Now what?

When facing reduced income, take the following steps immediately to bring your spending in line with the reduced level of income you're expecting.

- Pay your mortgage, housing costs, food and utilities first.
- Reduce or cancel any services that you don't need right now. Watch package deals and contracts that renew automatically.
- Communicate your current situation to your creditors. They are often better able to assist you before you fall behind on your payments.

• It is absolutely crucial to revise your budget so that your spending is in line with your current income. This is not the time to rely on credit and get into further debt.

• Help is available; don't hesitate to take that first step in seeking support.

Contact Sherrill Kennedy in the Housing Department at 989-775-4552 to make an appointment for free, confidential guidance and budgeting assistance.

Nami Migizi Nangwiihgan offered teen dating violence awareness facts in February

BROOKE HUBER

SART Lead

February was Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month, and Nami Migizi Nangwiihgan brought facts to the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal community.

In 2015, Nami Migizi Nangwiihgan served 137 survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault and/or stalking.

Nearly half (46 percent) of these survivors were between the ages of 13-24. Teen Dating Violence is prevalent in our community.

One in three girls in the U.S. is a victim of physical, emotional or verbal abuse from a dating partner, a figure that far exceeds rates of other types of youth violence (loveisrespect.org).

We cannot combat these issues if we do not understand them; do your part by exploring the following resources listed below:

- www.loveisrespect.org/resources/dating-violence-statistics/
- www.nativelove.niwr.org/statistics/
- www.healthfinder.gov/nho/FebruaryToolkit2.aspx

Long-lasting effects: Violent relationships in adolescence can have serious ramifications by putting the victims at higher risk for substance abuse, eating disorders, risky sexual behavior and further domestic violence.

Being physically or sexually abused makes teen girls six times more likely to become pregnant and twice as likely to get a STD.

Half of youth who have been victims of both dating violence and rape attempt suicide, compared to 12.5 percent of non-abused girls and 5.4 percent of non-abused boys.

Lack of awareness: Only 33 percent of teens who were in an abusive relationship ever told anyone about the abuse.

Eighty-one percent of parents believe teen dating violence is not an issue or admit they don't know if it's an issue.

Though 82 percent of parents feel confident that they could recognize the signs if their child was experiencing dating abuse, a majority of parents (58 percent) could not correctly identify all the warning signs of abuse.

Seven Grandfather Teachings

Nbookaawin ~ Wisdom

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

Zaagidowin ~ Love

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

Minaadendamoowin ~ Respect

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

Zoongide'ewin ~ Bravery

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

Gwekwadiziwin ~ Honesty

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

Dibaadendiziwin ~ Humility

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

Debwewin ~ Truth

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

Indian Child Welfare Committee Vacancy

The Indian Child Welfare Committee (ICWC) has been established to provide community input on the welfare of children of the Tribe. They make recommendations to the Tribal Court regarding termination of parental rights, guardianships, and/or adoptions, and the appropriate disposition of any minor in need of care. The ICWC also license foster homes and child care centers. The ICWC meets twice a month with special and/or emergency meetings occurring on occasion.

There is currently one vacancy

Letters of interest must be submitted to Anishnaabeg Child & Family Services by March 1, 2016. Please include your contact information and a brief statement about why you would like to be on the ICWC in your letter.

Please feel free to contact Felicia Bross at 989-775-4906 for more information.

Send letter of interest to:

Anishnaabeg Child & Family Services
7070 E. Broadway Rd, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

Tribal Observer

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



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

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

Subscription rates are \$30 per year.

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

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

Tribal Observer Advertising

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

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

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

Tribal Observer Subscription Form

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip code: _____

Please mail form to:

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

Contact Information:

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



Tribal Council and Court officials host historic meeting with Isabella County judges

JOSEPH V. SOWMICK

Photojournalist

On Feb. 9, the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Court was the place to view another chapter in history as the Chief Frank J. Cloutier offered opening remarks at the inaugural Judges' Summit and introduced fellow Council members Candace B. Benzinger, Ron Nelson, Kenneth Sprague, Amanda Oldman, Lindy Hunt and Diana Quigno-Grundahl.

Chaplain Quigno-Grundahl provided a welcome prayer.

Cloutier commended the efforts of Tribal Court Judge Patrick Shannon, Magistrate Carol Jackson and their staff for coordinating a tour of their offices and court facilities.

"With the busy schedules of Tribal Council and the dockets of both Tribal Court and the Isabella County Trial Court, it is quite a task just being able to pick a date and time finally get together," Cloutier said. "As elected Tribal officials, we welcome the opportunity to have other units of government come to our reservation. I think it's something that fosters cooperation and breaks down the barriers that tend to surface

when dealing with local, state and federal challenges."

Mark Duthie, circuit court judge for Isabella County, was joined by Paul H. Chamberlain, chief judge of the Isabella County Trial Court, District Court Judge Eric Janes, Probate Court Judge William Ervin and Bruce Kilmer, administrator for the Michigan Supreme Court.

Chamberlain said he found the occasion a great opportunity to re-establish contact between Isabella County Trial Court and the Tribe.

"Although we have had past meetings individually with Tribal Court and Tribal Council, we recognize it is a monumental occasion to get all three governmental bodies together at the same time," Chamberlain said. "We have many areas of mutual concern that can be addressed through mutual understanding and cooperation and a meeting like this helps brings the communication forward."

Duthie enjoyed his first visit to the Tribe and was impressed how the Tribal Court implements their judicial proceedings.

"It is always positive to discuss how we can work together to ensure that



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

Tribal Council and Court officials meet with Isabella Court judges. (Left to right, front row: Judge William Ervin, Council member Amanda Oldman, Tribal Court Magistrate Carol Jackson, Judge Mark Duthie, Judge Paul Chamberlain, Administrator Bruce Kilmer, Judge Eric Janes and Tribal Court Judge Patrick Shannon. Back row: Council members Ron Nelson, Candace B. Benzinger, Diana Quigno-Grundahl, Kenneth Sprague, Chief Frank J. Cloutier, Lindy Hunt and Ronald F. Ekdahl.)

members of our community are well-served by our respective courts," Duthie said.

Janes appreciated the Tribal Court tour.

"It is my understanding that this meeting was the first ever held between the elected officials of Tribal Council and the entire Judiciary of the Isabella County Trial Court," Janes said. "Working together, we have a real opportunity to address and work on many

issues that relate to both of our organizations and the community as a whole."

Ervin has served the community as a trial court judge for 27 years, and welcomed the opportunity for the Judges' Summit.

"This is the first time the Isabella County Trial Court Judges and the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Court and Tribal Council have met and interacted with each other," Ervin said. "We all face the same type of problems with our families. This collaboration will benefit the Tribe, the Tribal Court, and the State Court but most of all, the families and children of our community."

Kilmer viewed the summit as an excellent opportunity to get to know each other better and learn how we can continue to work together.

"I have served on the Mount Pleasant City Commission and as mayor of Mount Pleasant. This brought me into contact with the Tribal Council and Tribal/City issues," Kilmer said. "This was a very positive and productive experience getting to know and understand many of the issues

facing the both (SCIT) and the City of Mt. Pleasant as we seek together to continue to serve the needs of our community.

"Currently as a regional administrator for the Michigan Supreme Court, I work with state courts throughout the central and northern Michigan area," Kilmer said. "In addition, one of my assignments is to work with Tribal and State judges when they have issues of jurisdiction and when they seek to work cooperatively in their communities."

Getting to meet the Tribal Council and learning how the Tribal Court functions allowed Kilmer to see the Tribe faces many of the same problems and issues in the state courts and Tribal Court.

"We both work on finding solutions and services for the people appearing in court and have the challenge of moving heavy dockets in a fair and expeditious manner," Kilmer said. "We are always finding new administrative and technological solutions to help us serve the public and to communicate these with other entities that are intricately involved with the courts."

MIIBS Project Management: Request for proposal

On behalf of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe, Tribal Council is preparing to receive all interested proposals for project management and oversight to an important community investment.

Tribal Members and/or Native Americans are strongly encouraged to apply.

The proposed project manager must include development and future plans for the Mount Pleasant Indian Industrial Boarding School (MIIBS) including a community survey in which to assist with guidance.

The Council is seeking a project manager with experience and can demonstrate the key components necessary to complete this important project on time and within a developed budget.

Please include within your proposal: A cover letter outlining your educational background and key project experiences, an overview of your project approach (project scope of services) and proposed fee required to complete project phases (pre-design, design, construction, and closeout) and any reimbursable fee.

Tribal Council will evaluate proposals based on the following criteria:

- Tribal Member/Native American Preference
- Education Level
- Relevant Experience examples such as:
 - Management of construction documents(AIA)
 - Feasibility studies
 - Budget management
- Leadership Capability
- Past Performance (if applicable)
- Fee

This position is open until filled. Please forward your detailed proposals along with references to:

Marcella Hadden, MIIBS committee member
Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe
7070 E. Broadway, Mount Pleasant, MI 48858

Scope of Services Project Management

For Mount Pleasant Indian Industrial Board School (MIIBS) Project

- Initial Fact Finding - acquire and review all previous reports/studies, strategic plans, structural and environmental reports, community survey results, etc.
- Draft and implement MIIBS community needs survey per strategic plan.
- Prepare a report that offers direction and potential work plans to inform future property use and development.
- Continue to review and implement strategic planning goals and objectives.
- Provide quarterly updates to Tribal Council and Tribal Community.
- Design and implement a funding and development plan - such as establishing a foundation and/or permanent endowment.
- Identify, prepare and submit grants with the Grant Department including the administration of the award.
- Maintain open lines of communication with City of Mount Pleasant, State and Federal key officials in the maintenance and development of the former boarding school property.
- Identify and inventory items in MIIBS building that need to be retained or auctioned including storage space.
- Maintain relationships with Tribal Departments to secure and maintain MIIBS buildings/property.
- Continue to provide guidance and assistance throughout the process to help ensure responsibilities and expectations of committee members.
- Conceptualize future plans for what the MIIBS property will look like and its function - from survey results and/or community input.

WANTED
ATTORNEY AT LAW

William L. Antrobis

Specializing in: Tribal Law, and Federal Indian Law;

Overturning Prior State of Michigan Criminal Convictions For Lack of Jurisdiction; Appeals to Tribal, and State Courts; Tribal Disenrollment Cases in Tribal Court; Criminal Cases, Juvenile Cases, Child Support Reductions, and Child Removal Cases; Michigan Prisoner Housing Collection Actions in State Court

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

Tribal Affiliation: Member of the Six Nations Tribe, Ontario Canada

Contact: (989) 772-6277
113 W. Broadway, Suite 240
Mt. Pleasant MI 48858

Tax Time DEALS

Price & Payment, 0 Down Plus Tax, Title & Doc



2012 Ford Focus SE
FWD, Auto, 35k Miles, Gas I4 2.0L,
MP3, Keyless Entry. #FC129A
72 mos/\$196/\$11,860



2014 Chevy Cruze 1LT
FWD, Auto, 26k Miles, Turbo Gas
I4 1.4L, Cruise, Security. #FU195
72 mos/\$246/\$15,495



2012 Ford Focus S
FWD, Auto, 47k Miles, Gas I4 2.0L,
MP3, Keyless Entry. #FU214
72 mos/\$178/\$11,300



2014 Chrysler 200 LX
FWD, Auto, 36k Miles, Gas I4 2.4L,
Security, Cruise, MP3. #FU080
72 mos/\$214/\$13,500



2011 Ford Fusion SE
FWD, Auto, 52k Miles, Gas I4 2.5L,
Cruise, Rear Bench Seat. #FU219
66 mos/\$219/\$12,800



2011 Ford Fiesta SE
FWD, Auto, 44k Miles, Gas I4 1.6L,
MP3, Keyless Entry. #FC082A
66 mos/\$175/\$10,298



2012 Mazda Mazda6 i Sport FWD
Auto, 38k Miles, Cruise. #FU140
72 mos/\$234/\$14,700



2013 Chevrolet Equinox LS FWD
Cruise, Auto, 27k Miles. #GC045B
72 mos/\$274/\$17,398



2012 Kia Optima EX
FWD, Auto, 40k Miles, Gas I4 2.4L,
Cruise, Security, MP3. #GT024A
72 mos/\$251/\$15,800



2012 Ford Taurus Limited FWD
Auto, 93k Miles, Gas V6. #FC132A
72 mos/\$254/\$15,995



2013 Dodge Grand Caravan SE FWD
Auto, 42k Miles, Gas/Eth. #GU002
72 mos/\$252/\$15,850



2011 Lincoln MKS AWD
Auto, 53k Miles, Gas V6 3.7L,
Cruise, Keyless Entry. #FU215
66 mos/\$334/\$19,500



2012 Ford Fusion SE
FWD, Auto, 28k Miles, Gas I4 2.5L,
Cruise, Security, MP3. #FP014
72 mos/\$261/\$16,350



2014 Ford Escape SE
4WD, Auto, 29k Miles, Turbo Gas
I4 1.6L, Cruise, MP3. #GT152A
72 mos/\$328/\$20,495



2010 Ford Ranger Sport Ext Cab 4WD
Auto, 68k Miles, V6 4.0L. #FU194
60 mos/\$276/\$17,495



2011 Chevrolet HHR
LT w/1LT, FWD, 66k Miles, Gas/
Eth. I4 2.2L. #FU027B
66 mos/\$179/\$10,498



2010 Ford F-150 XL
Regular Cab, 4WD, 161k Miles, V8
4.6L, Auto, 1-Owner. #GU011
60 mos/\$148/\$7,895



2014 Ford Taurus SEL
AWD, Auto, 23k Miles, Gas V6
3.5L, Cruise, MP3. #FP094
72 mos/\$364/\$22,800



Certified 2014 Ford Fusion SE FWD
Auto, 23k Miles. #GP001
72 mos/\$281/\$17,589



2015 Chevrolet Cruze LT FWD
Auto, 19k Miles. #FU196
72 mos/\$282/\$17,650



2010 Lincoln MKX AWD
Auto, 51k Miles, Gas V6 3.5L,
Cruise, Climate Control. #FP089A
60 mos/\$389/\$20,800



2013 Chrysler 200 Limited FWD
Auto, 16k Miles. #FU130
72 mos/\$276/\$17,450



2012 Chevrolet Camaro 1LT RWD
Auto, 23k Miles, Gas V6. #FU178
72 mos/\$364/\$22,800



2013 Ford Taurus Limited FWD
Auto, 57k Miles. #FU115A
72 mos/\$318/\$19,975



2014 GMC Sierra 1500 SLE Crew Cab 4WD
Auto, 39k Miles. #FT443A
72 mos/\$526/\$32,880



2014 Jeep Patriot Latitude FWD
Auto, 16k Miles, I4 2.4L. #FU146
72 mos/\$309/\$19,450



2013 Dodge Avenger
SXT, FWD, 57k Miles, Gas I4 2.4L,
Auto, Tungsten Metallic. #FT469C
72 mos/\$236/\$14,795



2006 Toyota Tundra SR5 Crew Cab 4WD
4WD, Auto, 84k Miles. #FT459B
42 mos/\$436/\$16,995



2013 Ford F-250 XLT Extended Cab 4WD
Auto, 34k Miles, w/Plow. #FU201
72 mos/\$638/\$39,900



2013 Ford F-150 STX Extended Cab 4WD
Auto, 18k Miles, Gas/Eth. #FP102
72 mos/\$448/\$27,950



2012 Jeep Wrangler Unlimited Sahara 4WD
Auto, 35k Miles, Gas V6. #FU148
72 mos/\$489/\$30,695



2011 Chevy Silverado 1500 LT Crew Cab 4WD
Auto, 63k Miles, V8 5.3L. #FT441A
66 mos/\$447/\$25,995

Just Arrived

2009 Dodge Journey SXT 60mos/**\$216**/\$11,695
4 Dr., FWD, 3.5L 6 Cyl., Auto, Cruise, Power Locks & Windows,
Chrome Wheels, Third Row Seating, Bright Blue, 78k Miles.

2012 Dodge Journey SXT 72mos/**\$279**/\$17,650
4 Dr., FWD, 3.6L 6 Cyl., Auto, Full Power, Trailer Tow Package, Third
Row Seating, Silver Metallic, Black in Color, Luggage Rack, 34k Miles.

2015 Ford Fusion SE 72mos/**\$406**/\$25,495
4 Dr., AWD, Fully Loaded, Moon Roof, Leather Heated Seats, Alloy
Wheels, Navigation, Dual Power Seats, 13k Miles, Tan Leather.

2011 Ford Escape Ltd 66mos/**\$299**/\$17,688
6 Cyl., Auto, Full Power, Moon Roof, Alloy Wheels, Silver in
Color, Black Leather, 58k Miles.

2014 GMC Savana 72mos/**\$429**/\$26,900
3/4 Ton Cargo Van, V8, Auto, Air, Power Locks & Windows,
Cruise, White in Color, 6k Miles.



2013 Ford Mustang GT Premium RWD
Auto, 8k Miles, Gas V8. #FP050
72 mos/\$526/\$32,900



2011 Ram 3500 4WD Laramie Crew Cab
Auto, 114 Miles, Diesel. #GT094A
66 mos/\$557/\$34,950



2015 Ford Expedition XL 4WD
Auto, 14k Miles. #FU189
72 mos/\$628/\$39,250



Certified 2013 Lincoln MKZ FWD
Auto, 12k Miles, Gas I4. #FP046
72 mos/\$447/\$28,000



Certified 2013 Ford Explorer XLT FWD
Auto, 60k Miles, Gas I4. #ET378A
72 mos/\$414/\$25,998



2013 Ford F-150 Crew Cab 4WD
Auto, 26k Miles. #FU175
72 mos/\$486/\$30,500

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Migizi Spotlight: Good things to happen in Spring 2016

FREDERICK KUHLMAN
Migizi Marketing Manager



MIGIZI

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CO

With the election of a new Tribal Council and new appointments to the Migizi Economic Development Company's Board of Directors, the coming months look to hold some exciting changes.

As we are approaching spring, we are looking forward to opening Waabooz Run Golf Course and Soaring Eagle Hideaway RV Park, as well as the excitement and energy of the spring break season at Soaring Eagle Waterpark and Hotel.

Soaring Eagle Waterpark and Hotel is in the midst of the

winter and spring break seasons for the regions schools. The waterpark will welcome visitors from the local area as well as the surrounding states and Canada.

This year's "Under the Sea" theme will see visits from Dory and Nemo from the movie "Finding Nemo", and Eric and Ariel from "The Little Mermaid". A professional sketch artist will draw caricatures of guests and a DJ will be playing great dance music on select nights.

Having adjusted the hours of operation to better match attendance patterns, waterpark management has found it is best to open every day, and as such, we are happy to share that families can enjoy the waterpark seven days a week.

We are also excited by the upcoming fourth anniversary of the opening of Soaring Eagle Waterpark and Hotel, a birthday celebration is being planned.

With the approach of warm weather, Waabooz Run Golf Course is about to begin the

spring maintenance routine to get the course in prime condition for the season.

Golf Manager Steve Norbury and Grounds Superintendent Tory Fletcher return to their posts in April and the course will open as soon as weather permits.

Upgrades were made at the end of the 2015 season to ensure that Waabooz Run will indeed have the best kept links in the area.

The staff takes great pride in the condition of the course and makes certain golfers always remember their time on the beautiful Tribal property.

If you have plans to attend the Michigan Golf Show in Novi, Mich., or the Mid-Michigan Golf Show in Midland, Mich.,

Waabooz Run representatives will be in attendance.

Soaring Eagle Hideaway RV Park is in the process of coming back to life for 2016. With the addition of a water trampoline and other upgrades, the Tribe's highly-rated RV Park is certain to become a seasonal destination for campers throughout Michigan and the Midwest.

Please stop in and visit all of your Tribal businesses and explore the benefits offered to Members. If you haven't yet discovered the rewards of Cardinal Pharmacy, call or stop by soon, our staff is ready to serve you.

Remember when you shop your Tribal businesses, your dollars help to support the entire Tribal community.

Saginaw Chippewa ninth annual Round Dance is a family affair

JOSEPH V. SOWMICK
Photojournalist

One event stands alone every year that never fails to bring our tradition and culture together and the Saginaw Chippewa ninth annual Round Dance will be a family affair.

The Saginaw Chippewa Academy Anishinaabe Biimaaziwin teachers (Nathan Isaac, Joe Syrette, Aaron Chivis, James Day, Matthew J. Sprague and Cecilia Stevens) coordinated the labor of love and have been doing community fundraisers to provide the needed support for the March 11-12 Round Dance at the Eagles Nest Tribal Gym in Mount Pleasant, Mich.

Isaac is a Sarnia, Ontario First Nations member from the Turtle Clan and said he is honored to have many supporters who have sponsored the Round Dance throughout the years.

"The community has been and remains our biggest sponsor," Isaac said. "We also appreciate the people who travel across the U.S. and Canada to

bring their spirit here. This gathering is about remembering our loved ones and those who have passed on."

"The Saginaw Chippewa Tribe and their Tribal departments have always stepped up in providing contribution and we surely appreciate that," Isaac said. "But it is everyone who truly believes and supports the Round Dance through buying raffle tickets and our soup fundraisers shows it is a community-driven event."

Isaac embraces technology and social media to get the message of what is happening at the annual Round Dance on the Isabella Indian Reservation out to the world.

"The CD we put out last year was our first ever and we have many Facebook followers excited about the Round Dance," Isaac said. "We have been circulating the CD through the singers on the album and it's been to Quebec, Alberta, Saskatchewan and it mentions this year's round dance and the interest has exploded all

over. Singers that weren't even invited traveled 20 or 30 hours by car just to be with us and be a part of the celebration and we welcomed them and took care of them."

All the proceeds from the CD sales and the community driven fundraisers go directly to supporting the Round Dance activities.

Chivis, member of Grand Traverse Band, said Peshawbestown and Mount Pleasant were two of the first round dance venues in the Great Lakes area.

"To my knowledge, they were some of the only ones in Michigan that follow round dance protocol as close as possible to our Cree relatives, from which the round dance comes from," Chivis said. "I have attended Michigan round dances in Manistee, Grand Rapids, Detroit, Charlevoix, and Dowagiac to name a few. Round dances have a great social aspect to them, no regalia needed; just rocking music and you can literally dance every song if you wish. Many of these newer round dances are more social in nature, letting everyone come and enjoy good music and dance the night away."

The Round Dance has had a goal from the beginning, to keep the ceremonial aspect, as well as the social.

Syrette, member of Batchewana First Nation of Ojibwe, said the teachings that he received are from the "Maskwacis" (Bear Hills) out in Hobbema Alberta, Canada.

"The Round Dance originates from the Cree people and the teachings I received were given to me from late Elders that have passed on," Syrette said. "Their names are Frank Eagle, Walter Lightning, Jack Bull and Norman Yellowbird. I am still very lucky and honored to still receive knowledge from adopted and extended family members such as Cecil Crier, Melvin Potts, Francis Green, Clayton Saskatchewan, Chuma Lightning and Merle Yellowbird."



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

Tribal Elders Fran and Raymond Fisher Sr. finds out it pays to support a Round Dance raffle. (Back row left to right: Matthew J. Sprague, Aaron Chivis and Nathan Isaac.)

Syrette explains the round dance origin story and teaching passed down from generations mentioned:

"There was a woman who loved her mother very much. The daughter never married and refused to leave her mother's side. Many years later, the mother now very old, passed away. The daughter's grief was unending. One day as she was walking alone on the prairie her thoughts filled with pain. As she walked, she saw a figure standing alone upon a hill. She came closer and saw that it was her mother. As she ran toward her she could see her mother's feet did not touch the ground. Her mother spoke and told her she could not touch her. "I cannot find peace in the other world so long as you grieve," she said, "I bring something from the other world to help the people grieve in a good way." She taught her ceremony and the songs that went with it. "Tell the people that when this circle is made, we, the ancestors, will be dancing with you and we will be as one." The daughter returned and taught the people the round dance ceremony. There is a belief that the northern lights are also spirits of the ancestors dancing in the Green Grass world. It is regarded as a good sign if the northern lights dance as the people dance. The ceremony also ends when the circle is broken on the last song and the people weave in and out as they dance. This is to honor the

northern lights and announce the ceremony is ending."

The round dance is used in many ways of honoring loved ones, communities, organizations, birthday, anniversaries and memorials.

Syrette said there are also many protocols that need to happen in order to make it an actual round dance and for it not be just a social event. One protocol is women are not to be using the drums for it is the man's job and responsibility. The women have their own responsibilities within the round dance.

The Saginaw Chippewa Round Dance has built a reputation for hosting one of the premier Round Dances in the Great Lakes area with invited singers from all across Turtle Island.

Featured dignitaries at press time include Brad Crain (North Battleford, Saskatchewan), Rocky Morin (Enoch Cree Nation, Alberta), Jermaine Bell (Wind River Reservation, Wyoming), Harvey Dreaver (Big River, Saskatchewan), Kenny Merrick Jr. (Spirit Lake, Montana), Opie Day (Boise Forte, Minnesota), Junior Ottawa (Manawan, Quebec), Bidy Keewatin (Regina, Saskatchewan), Skip Churchill (Mille Lacs, Minnesota), Hokie Clairmont (St. Paul, Minnesota) and Jeremiah Churchill (Mille Lacs, Minnesota).

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Jermaine Bell
Harvey Dreaver
Kenny Merrick Jr.
Opie Day
Junior Ottawa
Bidy Keewatin
Skip Churchill
Hokie Clairmont
Jeremiah Churchill

Emcee
Mike Sullivan
Stickman
Joe Syrette

Friday
5:30 Doors Open
6pm-1am RD

Saturday
3:30 Doors Open
4pm Feast followed by RD
7:45 Student Honoring
12am Midnight Lunch
3am Closing

The 9th Annual Saginaw Chippewa Round Dance invites all singers and families to attend. Singers from the United States & Canada bring their gift of songs to share with all. This annual event grows larger and more exciting year after year and you won't want to miss the rockin' sounds this year.
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“Wilderness Skills of Our Ancestors” demonstration offers insight into past

JOSEPH V. SOWMICK

Photojournalist

“The Wilderness Skills of Our Ancestors” demonstration on Feb. 20 at the Ziiibwing Center of Anishinabe Culture and Lifeways provided a packed room of participants with some indigenous knowledge and offered insight into the past.

Jim Miller of Willow Winds gave a spirited interactive demonstration that featured multimedia and some hands-on opportunities to learn about the tools and products used back in the day.

“This is what we do and it’s our roots and our history,” Miller said. “From canoes to tanning hides and starting fires, we get to put our hands on those things that give us life. When you are making a birch bark basket, it is one thing to sit in the classroom and read about it, but when you dig around the roots and smell the earth and when you can feel and smell the bark, it wakes up our senses. The beginning for me was about touching those senses.”

Throughout the past several years, he has become a highly sought after lecturer and instructor. His traditional demonstrations breathe life into indigenous history and are featured regularly at special events around the country.

Miller has tanned buckskins for several movies including “Thunderheart”, “The Indian in My Cupboard”, “Last of the Dogmen” and “A Will of Their Own”.

Birch bark baskets, traditional Indian villages and canoes, created by Miller in the woodland Indian design, have been featured at several museums and cultural centers around Michigan and across the United States, including historic Ft. Michilimackinac in Mackinaw City, Mich. and Cranbrook Institute of Arts and Science in Bloomfield, Mich.

Miller has done authentic wigwam and village construction for the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Cultural Heritage Center, Cranbrook Institute of Art and Science and the Chippewa Nature Center.

Miller has also offered presentations for the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Bahweting School and



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

Ziiibwing Visitor Services Representative Raymond Cadotte (left) receives some personal instruction from workshop presenter Jim Miller.



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

A packed Ziiibwing Center conference room full of workshop participants watches Miller share some pre-1800’s technology.

also at Ferris State University in Big Rapids.

His television credits include a NBC mini-series “A Will of Their Own”, and appearance in Michigan Magazine, Michigan Out-of-Doors and Outdoor Magazine.

SCIT Tribal Member and Native artist Ellie Mitchell found the whole workshop interesting and captivating.

“(Miller) packed a lot of knowledge into the two-hour demonstration. The knowledge shared just goes to show our ancestors were geniuses,” Mitchell said. “To manage to thrive and survive in the wilderness along with keeping our territories and beating

back enemies is exceptional. Learning about tree roots and the tanning process is something we don’t get in school.”

Little River Band of Ottawa Tribal Elder and Native artist Shirley Brauker has worked with Miller for five years at the Indian Village Camp in Manistee, Mich. and was excited to see him at SCIT.

“You can see that Jim is respectful in the way he treats all his materials: He began with smudging the room and it shows he works in a reverent kind of manner,” Brauker said. “I think it’s valuable for all the Tribal Members to see some of our ancient customs

and tradition that were handed down over time.”

Miller continues to teach classes and demonstrate traditional wilderness skills at camps, nature centers, museums and schools throughout the state and around the country.

On June 15-19, Miller and his Willow Winds staff are offering a comprehensive traditional wilderness skills camp at their northern Michigan, location at 962 F-30, Mikado, Michigan, 48745.

For more information on the camp or how to schedule an on-site demonstration, please call **989-736-3487** or access Miller’s website at www.jmwillowwinds.com.

“Tax Q & A Workshop” takes some challenges out of filing 2015 return

JOSEPH V. SOWMICK

Photojournalist

Native Americans, just like any other citizens in the U.S., have an April 18 deadline looming to file their mandatory 2015 tax returns. The SCIT Housing department devoted two workshops hosted by Boge, Wybenda & Bradley on Jan. 26 and H&R Block on Feb. 13.

The firms of Boge, Wybenda & Bradley, PC are a certified public accounting firm based out of 215 North Main St. in Mount Pleasant and offers consultation.

Steven Bradley, CPA, is well aware of the challenges of filing local, state and federal taxes and is an important resource that specializes in tax preparation services for the Central Michigan area.

“It was an honor and privilege for me and my firm to meet with the many Tribal Members and employees that attended...,” Bradley said. “I wanted to provide the attendees some of the common things that taxpayer’s might want to keep in mind when gathering pertinent information for preparing their 2015 tax return.”

SCIT Housing Manager April Borton looks forward to providing educational workshop with special guest speakers on a regular basis.

“As many of the Tribal Membership knows, one of the Housing department’s many goals is to go the extra step in presenting informative workshops that provide



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

Steve Bradley, CPA, from Boge, Wybenda & Bradley, shares information on the 2015 tax filing season.

our members tips and skills to protect their finances,” Borton said. “In addition, information to help them keep as much of their income in their pocket by making sound financial decisions.”

Bradley offered several insights for the taxpayer to consider before they submit their 2015 tax return:

1) Did the taxpayer make any energy improvements to their home? For example, did you add insulation, storm doors, new windows, furnace, energy efficient hot water heater, new roof or energy approved shingles?

2) The American Opportunity Credit has been made permanent. This credit can be as much as \$2,500. For those taxpayers that have children in college, please provide your tax preparer with the 1098-T. Also, make sure to add the costs of books and other supplies that are a requirement for class. Please remember

a laptop computer counts as supplies on the 1098-T.

3) The mortgage insurance premiums deduction has been extended through 2016. It is an important deduction for homeowners to make and can amount to a large deduction.

4) For those Tribal Members who own businesses, the maximum section 179 deduction is \$500,000 but phases out if you purchase more than two million dollars in depreciable personal and real property.

5) Taxpayers should be aware they need to see if they have any employee business tax deductions (non-reimbursed mileage, use of cell phone, home computer and internet, supplies for printing work documents at home, meals, hotel and lodging, union dues, professional dues and subscriptions, professional organizations including membership dues and parking permit fees.)

At-Large/Member Services Supervisor Craig Graveratte said he and his staff were encouraged to hear the dialogue and the interaction between Bradley and community members.

“I would strongly suggest Tribal Members file taxes or if you are not sure if you should file, please call us at **989-775-4942** and we can guide you in the right direction,” Graveratte said. “When the IRS steps in and takes all your income, you may run the chance of losing your home, car, property and bank accounts. Our staff at

At-Large/Member Services can help, but you need to call us. Please don’t wait until it’s too late.”

Chris Sineway, director of SCIT Business Regulations, reminds members they need to stop by the Business Regulations Office and pick up their 2015 Michigan Resident Tribal Member Annual Sales Tax Credit (Michigan Tribal 4013 Form).

“This credit is for only members who reside with the tax agreement area and the reimbursement for sales tax paid by the member over the past year for items that are not exempt, such as furniture or appliances,” Sineway said. “This is a calculated measure that is based off the adjusted gross income for the year and the number of months you have resided within the tax agreement area. If you reside outside of this area, you are treated just like a resident of the state of Michigan and are responsible for income tax to the state on your per capita and any other

income that you might earn over the year. If you move out of the agreement area during any part of the year, you will have to prorate your income to reflect the portion that is taxable for the year.”

Sineway said resident Tribal Members need to make sure they come and fill out the tax exemption application with the Business Regulations Office before they purchase a home improvement item.

“All home improvement purchases are covered if they are purchased within the tax agreement area or they are delivered to the home located within the tax agreement area,” Sineway said. “If they are purchased outside of the tax agreement area and are picked up they are not covered and taxes must be paid. The sale tax is only exempt if you are a resident Tribal Member and this is done with the 4013 Annual Sales Tax Credit form.”

Sineway may be reached at **989-775-4105** for anyone who has any questions.

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Tribal members cheer on CMU Chippewas during Quick Lane Bowl

JOSEPH V. SOWMICK

Photojournalist

Tribal Member and Central Michigan University student Breanna Colwell took her clarinet down to Ford Field as her CMU



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

CMU running back Romello Ross scored a touchdown that gave the Chips a 14-13 lead in the fourth quarter.

Marching Chippewas played at the Dec. 26 Quick Lane Bowl.

Her mother (Tribal Council Secretary Michelle Colwell) attended many of the CMU games this season and wasn't about to miss her play on the Detroit Lions' home turf.

Tribal Council Treasurer Gayle Ruhl attended to fire up the Chips, and brought her family for the festivities.

Erik Rodriguez, interim public relations director, was on hand to help coordinate the SCIT entourage during the contest.

A hometown favorite from Detroit Western High School, CMU running back Romello Ross grounded out 100 yards and touchdown that put the Chips ahead in the fourth quarter.

Gophers quarterback Mitch Leidner was named the game's MVP after he scored on a 13-yard run and threw a pass to KJ Maye to complete a two-point



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

The 2015 Quick Lane Bowl drew many Tribal families to enjoy the game in Detroit. (Left to right: Gayle Ruhl, Cauy George, Lars George, Jason George and Arlon George.)



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

Proud mom Michelle R. Colwell joins her daughter, CMU Marching Chippewas band member Breanna Colwell, as she gets ready to perform at the pre-game festivities.

conversion with 4:26 left to give Minnesota the 21-14 lead.

CMU junior quarterback Cooper Rush had the Chippewas driving late in the fourth quarter but an untimely interception with less than one minute left in the Gopher red zone sealed their fate.

"We had many Tribal Members in the stands at each

of the games and they weren't about to miss an opportunity to see the Chips play in a bowl game," Rodriguez said. "It was a hard fought game and they were in it right at the end."

At the post-game press conference, the Tribal Observer had a moment with first-year CMU Football Coach John Bonamego.

"I felt like we were right there and there was not enough at the end," Bonamego said. "We made too many mistakes and Minnesota had a good plan. They executed it. They definitely deserve the win, but we feel like we were right there and had our opportunities to win the game. Just didn't get it done."

Trafficking

continued from front page

Woodward said "in Grand Rapids, Mich. alone, there are about 1100 children for sale on the internet."

Woodward suggests that hotel staff watch for signs of human trafficking. Signs could include individuals who seem like they may not be free to go wherever they want, or if many visitors are in and out of the same hotel room throughout the course of the night.

On behalf of the Soaring Eagle Waterpark and Hotel, General Manager Bonnie Sprague said they have joined efforts with the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort in an attempt to prevent human trafficking from occurring at both hotels.

"Our properties are members of the Michigan Lodging and Tourism Association," Sprague said. "We have teamed up with MLTA and the Sandra Day O'Connor Institute's SAFE Action Project to safeguard adolescents from exploitation."

In learning that Michigan is the number one state to experience human trafficking in the hotel industry, the Sandra Day O'Connor Institute provides trainings for hospitality teams, specifically training the general hotel, security, front desk/reservation, food and beverage, housekeeping and maintenance, Sprague said.

"This training will help our teams recognize warning signs and properly report suspicious behavior," Sprague said. "Once all of our team members have been through the training, our hotel properties will receive a decal to place on our hotel doors, letting our guests know that we are a safe place to stay."

Sprague said both SEWPH and SECR properties have experienced similar occurrences;

with the most recent occurrence at SECR during the past holiday season.

"We do not take these types of crimes lightly, and we have been training our teams to recognize this hideous crime for several months now and will continue until we complete the training," Sprague said.

Mandy Wigren, victims of crime advocate for Tribal Judicial Services, served as hostess for the event.

"Sex crimes against women and children, along with domestic violence are the largest crimes in our Tribal community," Wigren said.

Sen. Judy Emmons (R-Sheridan) and Tribal Council member Lindy Hunt attended the discussion.

Sen. Emmons, an advocate for human trafficking education, spoke and provided some information to the audience.

"Every story, circumstance, location (of human trafficking) is different," Emmons said. "It is happening right next door, everywhere."

Emmons said it may difficult to hear these stories or to learn it is happening so close to home, but it is the reality. In order to raise awareness, trafficking conversations must continue.

According to the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, indicators an individual may be involved in trafficking include:

- Does not attend school on a regular basis/has unexplained absences
- Frequently runs away from home
- Makes references to frequent travel to other cities
- Exhibits bruises or other signs of physical trauma, withdrawn behavior, depression, anxiety or fear
- Shows signs of drug addiction

- Has coached/rehearsed responses to questions

- Has a sudden change in attire, personal hygiene, relationships, or material possessions

- Makes references to sexual situations or terminology that are not age appropriate

- Sudden delinquent conduct

- Has a "boyfriend" or a "girlfriend" who is noticeably older and/or refusal to disclose the identity of the boyfriend/girlfriend

- Confusion about when and where they are

- Attempts to conceal recent scars or tattoos

Vulnerability factors that may draw traffickers into the community or cause locals to decide to get involved with trafficking (www.ncjfcj.org):

- 50-80% of victims were involved with child welfare services at some point

- Minimal social support

- Poverty

- Limited education

- Lack of work opportunities

- PTSD

- Run away/thrown away/homeless

- History of previous sexual abuse

- Drug or alcohol addiction

- History of truancy

- Physical, mental, emotional health challenges

According to the Blue Campaign, non-law enforcement personnel should never attempt to directly confront a suspected trafficker or rescue a suspected victim; doing so could cause self-harm and also danger to the victim.

Danielle Bannon, chief of police for the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Police, attended and said it's beneficial to get this information out to the public.

"Tribal officers use training to look for human trafficking signs," Bannon said. "The cases aren't necessarily in large quantities on the Reservation, but our officers do keep their eyes out."

Anyone who witnesses or suspects a human



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

Sen. Judy Emmons (R-Sheridan) presents the difficult truth that sex trafficking, the modern-day slavery, occurs in Michigan.

trafficking victim, please call the Homeland Security Investigations Tip Line at **1-866-347-2423** or submit a tip online at ice.gov/tip.

The National Human Trafficking Resource Center is also available at **1-888-373-7888**.

Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Police Department Dispatch may be reached at **989-775-4700** and the Tip Line is **989-775-4775**.

Adopt a Pet

Lexi



Lexi is a 1-year-old Labrador Retriever and Australian Cattle Dog mix. Lexi is looking for a running partner and a buddy to play fetch with. She loves playing with tennis balls and her dream home would supply an endless amount. She does not like to share the limelight, so a household with no other pets is required.

Keisha



Keisha is female Domestic Shorthair mix who is still a young kitten. Her personality is still developing, but she is consistently full of energy. She will need an owner who can play with her often and properly socialize her so she can turn into a well-balanced adult. She has been with HATS since June 2015.

Available at: The Humane Animal Treatment Society

1105 S. Isabella Rd. Mt. Pleasant ➡ Hatsweb.org ➡ 989.775.0830 ➡ Email: isabellahats@gmail.com

Monday - Friday: 9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., Saturday: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. | Puppies: \$175, Dogs: \$160, Senior Dogs: \$50, Kittens: \$85, Cats: \$55, Senior Cats: \$35



ANISHINAABEMOWIN WORD SEARCH

X	G	I	Z	I	B	I	I	G	I	N	I	G	A	A	D	E	H	N	
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maanazaadi	Balm of Gilead
nanaandawi	heal
gashki	free
miizh	give
gizhewaadizi	generous
aanji bimaadizi	life
giziibiiginigaade	washed
agamiing	(at the) water
biinad	clean
onaabanjigaade	chosen
mikwam	ice
ningide	melt
ningidemaged	thaw
ziigwan	spring
awakaan	animal
nibaa	sleep
amajise	come awake
ozhiitaa	prepare
wiiaasi nabooob	stew
mashkodesiminaaboo	bean soup

SPRING IS HERE! GIIBIZIIBIWAN!

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

WIGWAM WISDOM

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



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

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

Dear WW: I met my husband in college and got married soon after. After we got our master's degrees, he decided to pursue his doctorate. I worked, paid the bills and raised two children. Now that he has his degree and started working, I can see the big divide! He even told me that his income is HIS money to do with what he wants. Of course that meant a new luxury sports car. I can't believe how he's treating me now. After all these years, is this what I have to look forward to? **Education Feud**

Dear Feud: Unfortunately, your situation is more common than you think. He may actually resent you for having to take care of everything while he pursued his education. Men do best when they feel needed and relied upon. The sports car makes me think of a mid-life crisis. Plan a trip to see if you can rekindle your marriage. It might also be your turn to stay home and let him take care of you now!

Dear WW: I am a stay-at-home mom taking care of my two children. My husband's work is seasonal so there are times where we will have to live off of unemployment until work starts up again. I don't mind this and we can live within our means. The problem is that my mother constantly nags me about getting a job. She's even offered to babysit! She's making me feel guilty and I feel like getting a job just to make her happy. Should I? **Jobless & Happy**

Dear Jobless: Not really sure what her reasons are for wanting you to work? Maybe she doesn't want you to be dependent upon your husband. Maybe she thinks you need more money. Maybe she just wants to spoil her grandchildren. All-in-all, now you are grown and on your own, it's up to you to live your life the way you want you.

Dear WW: I hate my job and my boss! I can't ever get anyone to listen to me. We used to be a nice Mom-and-Pop business until it went corporate. Now I feel like I'm swimming with sharks. The real boss works two states away and knows nothing of what I do. However, I know from experience and hands-on how to solve some of the problems that are going on. Why don't they ask me? I feel like jumping ship but loyalty is keeping me here. I have no interest in climbing the corporate ladder either. What should I do? **Dreadful**

Dear Dreadful: Find another job! Life is too short to be at a job you hate. Life is too short to waste another minute hating your boss. Life is too short to not have the respect you deserve. Good luck.

WHERE ON THE REZ?



Do you know where this is?

Answer the puzzle correctly by March 16 through e-mail or telephone. Your name will go into a drawing and one winner will receive two free announcements in the Tribal Observer.

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

LAST MONTH:



SCIT Water Treatment

Last Month's Winner:
No Winner

Tribal Library hosts first "Blind Date with a Book" reading program



Alexandria Strand



Debra Tworek



Alayana Disel

Photos courtesy of Lee-Anne Disel

LEE-ANNE DISEL

Library Assistant

The Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Library held a new reading program, "Blind Date with a Book," on Jan. 25 through Feb 12.

Blind Date with a Book was a three-week program aimed at getting people to take a chance and try a book they normally wouldn't read.

Participants checked out a wrapped book, took it home, read it and brought it returned it to the Tribal Library to rate it "hot or not."

The program involved a great turn out with a lot of positive feedback. It sparked the interest of some patrons who went on to discover new authors and book series that they plan to continue reading.



The Tribal Library staff would like to thank the Tribal Public Relations department for their prize donations and hopes to see everyone participating again next year.

This year's winners were Debra Tworek, Alexandria Strand, and Alayana Disel.



Saginaw Chippewa Conservation Committee now offering hunting tags

JOSEPH V. SOWMICK

Photojournalist

The Saginaw Chippewa Conservation Committee has made a lot of progress over the last few years and the Tribe now has its own hunting tags available for purchase at the SCIT Planning Department.

Conservation Committee Chairman Jim Walker said the committee brought the idea up in early discussions but funds were not available to purchase the printer and accessories.

“The system that was developed was ungainly and expensive as the special paper is over \$1.50 per sheet, so the idea was revisited...,” Walker said. “All methods season for whitetails runs from the day after Labor Day until the Sunday of the first full weekend in January, small game and trapping are still open through April.”

The committee was created by Tribal Council four years ago with members appointed by Council. By ordinance, all members are required to be SCIT Tribal Members.

Current officers are Jim Walker, Vice Chairman Harry Ambs, Secretary Jonas Wilcox, Treasurer Linze Ritter, and committee

members Michael McCreery and Tim Walraven.

Former committee member and current Council member Ronald F. Ekdahl was also a part of their recent Feb. 18 the committee meeting.

“The committee itself has been in existence for over four years. Prior to that, the committee was known as the Ordinance 11 committee which was changed with the rewrite of the ordinance for Tribal Council review and approval,” Ekdahl said. “As a Tribal Member who enjoys hunting and fishing, I firmly believe we have a sovereign right to hunt and fish on our land and I know Council is behind the efforts in support of the Conservation Committee. We are looking forward to meeting with board members on Tuesday, March 1 in Council chambers.”

SCIT Wildlife Biologist Heather Shaw serves as a staff resource for the committee and said its role is vital in ensuring that Tribal trust resources are protected, enhanced, and conserved for the next seven generations.

“I work with the committee to assist in setting seasonal bag limits and harvest regulations, providing seasonal harvest reports, determining program needs and providing program



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

Conservation Committee Chairman Jim Walker holds up the first Tribal hunting tags, now available for purchase at the Planning Department.

updates on current projects which may enhance opportunities for the Tribal community,” Shaw said. “Several Michigan tribes have a similar structure where a natural resources committee will meet with the Tribal biologists to discuss annual regulation changes based on seasonal harvest patterns and to discuss ongoing projects whose goal is to meet the needs of the Tribal community. These committees

provide their recommendations to natural resources department directors and they are subsequently implemented and made available to the Membership.”

Other Great Lakes Tribes in Michigan who have natural resources or conservation committees include Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians, Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians and the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

Walraven and McCreery were selected by Tribal Council appointment on Feb. 17 to fill two vacancies on the six member board.

“I would like to thank Tribal Council for seating me on the Conservation Committee,” Walraven said. “I can see there is a lot of work to be done to get caught up to the other tribes in Michigan. With continued support from Tribal Council and the membership of the Tribe, I am sure we can get there and beyond. I look forward to the challenges and accomplishments ahead.”

McCreery is honored to serve on the committee and takes their trust responsibility as a steward of the environment seriously.

“We will continue to lead in the enforcement, conservation and management of Tribal natural resources by successfully and responsibly preserving the Saginaw Chippewa's sovereign right to hunt and fish, both on the inland lands and waters as well as commercial and subsistence fishing on the 1819 Great Lakes,” McCreery said. “We will wisely utilize our natural resources in order to promote, honor and respect our traditional, spiritual and physical relationship with the land and waters. We will implement management strategies that protect our resources on, above, below and within the land and waters for the future benefit of our Tribe.”

The committee meets every two weeks on Thursdays at noon. Typically in the conference room at SCIT Planning although there are meetings scheduled at the Tribal Center at Saganing at least once every quarter.

The committee is governed by the bylaws of Ordinance 11 and copies of the ordinance are available at the SCIT Planning office, located at 2451 Nish Na Be Anong Rd. in Mount Pleasant, Mich.

Their meetings are open for anyone to attend. For more information, please call **989-775-4014**.

Where exactly does the Tribal drinking water come from?

TAYLOR HOLLIS

Watershed Outreach Coordinator

Many Michigan residents are asking where their drinking water comes from. The water can come from lakes, streams, rivers, reservoirs or underground aquifers.

The Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe has two drinking water treatment plants. One is located within the Isabella Reservation and one is located in Saganing, Mich.

SCIT's water treatment plants are responsible for providing safe, balanced, and softened drinking water to

private residences, businesses, and the community.

The SCIT Isabella Reservation extracts its drinking water from underground aquifers while the Saganing water treatment plant utilizes surface water from Lake Huron.

Well water is naturally filtered through the ground, which is known to be an efficient treatment process.

“Our Tribe has four wells,” said Joe Johnson, water operator supervisor for SCIT. “Well Three is located off of Little Elk Road. Well Four is located west of Shepherd Road. Well Five is located north of Remus Road and Well Six is located north of Ogemaw.”

At the water treatment plant, the water is softened and pH is stabilized.

After physical, chemical and biological contaminants are removed, the water is pushed through filters for additional purification. A disinfectant is added for further precaution as well as fluoride for dental health.

The treated water is delivered to the elevated water towers for distribution through a system of pipes constructed of ductile iron, concrete, or plastic.

Both SCIT's water treatment plants take additional precautions by working with the Environmental Protection Agency to perform a biennial

assessment to identify potential sources of contamination and determine that the drinking water sources are not at risk of contamination by these sources.

The Bureau of Indian Health Services also conducts an annual survey of the overall system.

Saganing's water treatment plant draws water from the Saginaw-Midland Municipal Water Supply Corporation, which has two extraction locations in Lake Huron, one and two miles offshore of Whitestone point.

Unlike the Isabella Reservation, the surface water extracted from Lake Huron is soft water, so the Saganing water treatment plant does not use a softening process; however, the rest of the treatment process is similar to the Isabella Reservation's.

“To date, there have not been any Maximum Containment Levels or Action Levels in the water testing on the Saganing system,” said Jonas Wilcox,

water and wastewater manager for Saganing.

Similarly to the Isabella location, the Saganing water treatment plant tests daily for alkalinity, pH, temperature, total hardness, turbidity, and bacteriological coliforms, while hourly testing is conducted for chlorine. On a yearly basis, parameters including copper, lead, and nitrate are evaluated.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me at **989-775-4162**, thollis@sagchip.org, or stop in the Planning Department.

Resources: SCIT Tribal Utility Authority Water & Waste Water Treatment: www.sagchip.org/utilities/index.htm
SCIT Utility Authority Consumer Confidence Report and annual drinking water reports: www.sagchip.org/utilities/reports/2015WaterQualityReport.pdf



MIGIZI
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CO.

Attention Adult Tribal Members

Migizi EDC has one vacancy on its Board of Directors to fill a Community Member seat. Those interested should exhibit exemplary experience in business, be responsible and express integrity as well as good judgment. Each interested party should be sensitive to the unique goals and the culture of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe. The ideal candidate would recognize the need for diversification within the Tribe's holdings as well as demonstrate expertise in and have an understanding of business management, administration, accounting, finance, law, advertisement, public relations and other related disciplines. Time requirements include all regularly scheduled meetings, including additional project meetings and special meetings. This appointment and its term will run concurrent with Tribal Council elections.

A Letter of Intent will be accepted until March 11, 2016 and should be mailed to:
Migizi Economic Development Company, c/o Melanie Burger, 7070 E. Broadway Rd., Mt. Pleasant MI 48858



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Cherokee Tribal student Reyna Frost excels on CMU Women's Basketball team

JOSEPH V. SOWMICK

Photojournalist

The Central Michigan University Women's Basketball team received a gem when they recruited a Cherokee Tribal athlete who has been a dominating force on the court in her freshman year.

CMU small forward Reyna Frost is a three-time all-state standout from Reese High School and has been continuing her promising career as a starter for the Mid-American Conference division leaders.

"It's really an honor to wear the Chippewa uniform as a Native American, and it means a lot to represent my culture and my school," Frost said. "And being able to represent both sides of me as a student and an athlete is a blessing."

Frost believes the values she had growing up Native have translated well to being on a team like the Chippewas.

"At least from what I've learned, our Tribe is a fighting Tribe and we know how to stay strong and that has helped me get through the tough parts of being a student athlete," Frost said. "I think that's what really got me to this level and to be able to overcome these obstacles."



Courtesy of CMU Basketball

CMU Chippewas Women's Basketball standout Reyna Frost accelerates toward the rack in a game against Middle Tennessee.

"It is an honor to come right out of high school and play but to reach and be a part of a Division I level team and to work with the coaching staff and my fellow teammates is really amazing," Frost said. "We all work so well together and I could not ask for more than just being a part of this team."

Frost remembers seeing the Saginaw Chippewa Academy

students and their families in the stands at the Dec. 15 Hoops for Hunger. The SCA students beat other area schools in raising donations for the local area food bank and won the first place Spirit Award trophy.

"That game was crazy and the atmosphere was exciting," Frost said. "It was the first time where I was in the starting lineup. Seeing all those kids there and knowing they give back to their community and do what they can do help. With all the community coming together, that game shows we can all make a difference and it reminded me that we are more than just athletes."

Her proud parents (Matt and JoAnn Frost) cheer on her efforts and she is the first Reese Rockets girls' basketball player to reach the Division I college level.

"I just play the sport because I love it and I kept getting better at it," Frost said. "Once Coach Guevara offered me an opportunity to come here, I knew it was a great school and this is where I need to be. I couldn't be happier with my choice and to be a Chippewa!"

CMU Head Coach Sue Guevara has the team ready to

compete for a MAC Championship and a possible bid to the NCAA tournament and Frost has been an integral part of the success.

"Reyna has been such a delightful surprise," Guevara said. "I knew she was special, but for her to contribute right now like she has as a freshman, from coming off the bench and working hard to getting the start,

for a player to come into a program and want to be the team's leading rebounder, that doesn't happen. Everybody wants to score, but (she) wants to lead and rebounding takes heart, effort and relentlessness, and that's what (she) puts out on the floor."

Guevara is in her ninth year at CMU and appreciates the support between the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe and CMU.

"When you look at it, we're Chippewas: We are family, families get involved with families," Guevara said. "I think for the Saginaw Chippewa Academy, we have gone over there and we have run basketball clinics on the Reservation and we look forward to doing that again after this season is over. Whether we're putting on a clinic or reading with the



Courtesy of CMU Basketball

Frost dominates the court in her freshman year.

students, just so the young kids can see themselves and the possibilities that Reyna can do it and you can be a student athlete, too."

Guevara admires the student athletes who put forth the effort to be successful and Frost is a shining example of that.

"Reyna wants to do well and she works at it. She works at it before practice and she works at it after practice, in the gym and watching film," Guevara said. "She is a sponge and whatever you tell her to do, she does. Our team, like Reyna, we're driven. We're driven to get better every time we step on that court. You've got to understand what you're wearing and what you're representing and Chippewas are all about going after championships."

SCIT Recreation takes to the Palace as Detroit Pistons celebrate Ben Wallace Night

JOSEPH V. SOWMICK

Photojournalist

Detroit basketball royalty was in the house as the SCIT Recreation department drove to the Palace of Auburn Hills as the Pistons brought their "A" game against the NBA World Champion Golden State Warriors.

The evening was electric as Tribal fans cheered with the sold-out crowd. A clock tower dong reverberated as a white banner adorned with "Wallace" in blue and "3" in red was raised to the rafters on Jan. 16.

Lucas Sprague, recreation youth activities manager, saw a piece of sports history happen right before his eyes.

"This was the place to be in Michigan on Ben Wallace

Night," Sprague said. "Defense wins championships and 'Big Ben' owned the paint during his career. With the 2004 Pistons World Champions on hand, it made sense the underdog Pistons would beat the Warriors 113-95."

Wallace, a four-time Defensive Player of the Year, was joined by his coach, Larry Brown, and many of his teammates from the 2004 NBA title team on the court for a ceremony at halftime.

Golden State NBA all-star power forward and former MSU Spartan Draymond Green said that while growing up in Michigan, he looked up to Wallace and tried to play the way he did.

Tribal Council member Amanda Oldman made the trip with her husband Jason and gave thanks to the SCIT Recreation Department for another great family event.

"It was a great time to see our SCIT Members and families enjoying themselves," Oldman said. "(It was) impressive to see a Palace welcome to the SCIT on the big screens and the cheers from the audience. This surely made us feel welcome. I hope the Tribe will continue to support these activities and offer more sporting events and activities for all to enjoy."

Louanna Bruner, interim human resources director, said as soon as the the youth activities department made the



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

Amanda and Jason Oldman were one of many Tribal families to venture down to the Palace of Auburn Hills.



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

Bear, Alicia and Andee Raphael celebrate the Pistons win and their dad's successful shot on the Palace floor.

announcement of game tickets on sale, her children had to go.

"It ended up being me and my children's (Tyrone and Jenna Rios and step-son, Alec Mills) all-time favorite experience at the Palace," Bruner said. "The seats were amazing and we knew everyone sitting around us. The game itself was a spectacular victory over the National Champions. Being able to witness the retirement of Big Ben Wallace's jersey made the game even more memorable. Of course, my children may say being able to go on the game floor to shoot a free-throw was their best part."

As part of the experience, the Recreation department had all the guests go down on court to shoot a free throw after the game.

Erik Rodriguez, interim public relations director, said the Saginaw Chippewa Indian

Tribe takes great pride in having the ability to offer such tremendous family activities and trips to its Membership.

"The Recreation department once again provided the community with a day of family fun down at the Palace of Auburn Hills," Rodriguez said. "Not only did they get to see a great Detroit Pistons win, but they also received a shout out on the big screen and were

able to go on the court after the game for a free throw shot. Miigwetch to those involved and committed to providing another quality event."

Bear Raphael and Jenna Rios hit nothing by net with their successful shot but everyone who watches "Detroit Basketball" at the Palace leaves a winner.



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

NBA MVP Steph Curry is starting to get frustrated as the Pistons continue to manhandle the World Champs.

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Pamp selected for 2016 John Cumming Isabella County Historical Preservation Award

JOSEPH V. SOWMICK

Photojournalist

On Feb. 6, the Mount Pleasant Area Historical Society joined by The Genealogical Society of Isabella County and Shepherd Historical Society selected Turtle Clan Tribal Elder Waabanoqua (Judy Pamp) as a 2016 John Cumming Isabella County Historical Preservation Award winner.

Pamp has served the community as the Ziibiwing Center assistant director since 2005.

She also serves on many local and state diversity, educational, and humanities committees to build a stronger awareness and knowledge of the Anishinabe of the Great Lakes and the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan.

Pamp, along with award recipient Loren Anderson, shared the honor with their families during Isabella County 157th Founders Day celebration.

Frank Boles, director of the Clarke Historical Library at Central Michigan University, said the award was given to Pamp and Anderson at the First Methodist Church in Mount Pleasant, Mich.

Named in honor of John Cumming, the Clarke Library's director from 1961 until his

retirement in 1982, the Cumming Award was created as part of the 2009 Isabella County Sesquicentennial Celebration. It celebrates and honors individuals who have contributed to preserving the history of Isabella County.

"The John Cumming Isabella County Historical Preservation honor is awarded annually to a person or persons who have performed extraordinary service in documenting Isabella County's past and sharing that information with the general public," Boles said.

"Ms. Pamp, both through her position at Ziibiwing, as well as through numerous volunteer activities, has been instrumental in enriching the public's understanding of the county's history," Boles said. "Through her work, and of course that of the Ziibiwing Center, critical historical information is both preserved within the Tribe, as well as shared with the broader public in a way that helps create a better understanding of the tribe's history within the community."

Past MPAHS President Jack Westbrook and Vice



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

MPAHS President Jack Westbrook presents the 2016 Cumming Award to Judy Pamp.

President Valerie Wolters gave out the awards.

Pamp said she was humbled and appreciative to receive the award and acknowledged the efforts of her fellow Ziibiwing team.

"I wish to thank my co-worker Anita Heard for nominating me and supporting my efforts to help keep the history, culture, language, diversity and spirit of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan and other Great Lakes Anishnaabek alive," Pamp said. "We all have a responsibility to educate the world and its citizens about the value of our unique Anishinabe culture, the contributions we have made throughout history and continue to make in contemporary times and to let the world hear our beautiful Anishinabemowin."



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

Pamp is surrounded by family as she receives her MPAHS honor. (Pictured left to right, front row: Judy Pamp, Colleen Pamp-Wagner and Becky Pamp-Ettinger. Back row: Tobias Pamp, Gegek Pamp and Tomoki Nunokawa.)

Pamp also recognized the good work the Mt. Pleasant Area Historical Society is doing in their effort to preserve the rich connections between Isabella County and SCIT.

"We strengthen the bonds of brotherhood and break down the walls of misconceptions, miscommunications, and hurtful stereotypes through sharing and educating others about (SCIT) and other Great Lakes Anishnaabek," Pamp said. "Each and every one of us can make a positive impact upon our Tribal community, mid-Michigan and the world. I encourage everyone to love our Anishinabe culture enough to learn it and share it with others."

Similar to Pamp's commitment, Anderson has devoted many years to preserve and promote the history of Isabella County.

Anderson served as chairman of the Isabella County 150th Anniversary Celebration. Since then, he has maintained the Mt. Pleasant Area Historical Society changeable local historical display in the lobby of the Isabella County Court House at 300 North Main St. in Mount Pleasant.

The Cumming award is annually presented as part of the Isabella County Founder's Day Celebration which also featured a pancake breakfast, historical displays, a quilt show, and various awards presentations.

Cranbrook Curator Wood makes history come to life during Ziibiwing lecture

JOSEPH V. SOWMICK

Photojournalist

History came alive on Jan. 30 at the Ziibiwing Center.

Cameron Wood, anthropology coordinator and museum educator for the Cranbrook Institute of Science (CIS), lectured during the CIS Great Lakes Native American Collection.

Central Michigan University student Andrew Paquette, studying environmental biology and museum studies, is a Ziibiwing Center intern and learned a different cultural perspective from the lecture.

"I found it very interesting to hear not only how the artifacts were created, but their journey from when they were created to how they ended up in the Cranbrook Institute of Science," Paquette said. "Hearing their stories just made these objects come to life. They became more than just museum artifacts when we hear they had a rich history to them."

Wood has a bachelor's degree in anthropology from Michigan State University and a master's degree in history from Oakland University.

His master's thesis examined the relationship between the Nottawasseppe Huron



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

Cranbrook Curator Cameron Wood provides on screen examples from the Institute of Science archives.

Potawatomi and American settlers in southwestern Michigan in the mid-19th century.

Wood said his primary academic area of interest is Great Lakes Native American history and culture. He also is interested in the history and culture of "ritual movement," across cultures, including dance and martial art forms.

"Cameron, in his capacity as CIS curator of collections and anthropology educator, has assisted me with the selection of the objects for our exhibit," said William Johnson, curator for the Ziibiwing Center.

Wood highlighted most of his lecture about two individuals who donated many of the artifacts and artwork that are on loan from CIS to Ziibiwing: Milford H. Chandler and Mary Bell Shurtleff.

"Milford Chandler was born around 1900 and grew up in rural Indiana," Wood said. "Although as a career he worked as an engineer focusing carburetors, from boyhood he had an interest in Native American culture. Throughout the early part of the 20th century he traveled periodically throughout the Midwest purchasing items from Native people, especially in Iowa, Illinois, and Wisconsin. He was acquainted with a number of well-known scholars affiliated with various museums, especially the Field Museum in Chicago. Later in his life, he became friends with Richard Pohrt Sr., a younger man also interested in Native American culture and antiquities. Over time Chandler sold various pieces to several different museums, including CIS."

Wood also centered on Shurtleff who was born in 1900 at Cross Village, where her family had lived since 1870.

"(Shurtleff) attended the University of Michigan and taught Latin and other subjects at schools in the

Upper Peninsula," Wood said. "During her lifetime, she was an avid historian of the Cross Village region and loved to collect quill boxes. Many were made in Cross Village during the 1930's, which at the time was the focus of a Works Progress Administration (WPA) program that encouraged artists to continue traditional art forms such as quill work and black ash basketry to provide income. Ms. Shurtleff built up a large collection of quill boxes, along with other items that her family had acquired over time living while living in Cross Village. After retiring from teaching Ms. Shurtleff converted part of her grandparent's home into a museum, and kept it open free to visitors for 15 years. Eventually she closed it, and her quill box collection was graciously donated to CIS."

Johnson said 25 people attended the CIS Great Lakes Native American Collection lecture.

"Everyone was very eager to learn about the Chandler and Shurtleff collections," Johnson said. "When Cameron talked about the porcupine quill box artists from the Petoskey area, everyone was so excited. It was very educational learning

about other Tribal artists and the history of their artistic accomplishments."

"The mutually beneficial collaboration between Ziibiwing and CIS began in 2008," Johnson said. "The 39 Native American human remains and 34 associated funerary objects were repatriated to the Michigan Anishinaabek Cultural Preservation & Repatriation Alliance (MAGPRA) in 2010. The Native American human remains and associated funerary objects were removed from Macomb, Monroe, Oakland and Wayne counties."

The lecture brought to life the nature of the Ziibiwing changing exhibit that is on display until April.

The exhibit supplements Wood's lecture with examples of quill boxes from the Petoskey area that had been collected by a local resident, a number of black ash baskets (some made under the WPA project in the '30s), as well as hundreds of ancient stone tools.

Stone tools and items include knapped blades and ground stone axes, adzes, and ornamental pieces.

Many items can be traced to Miami, Ho-Chunk, Ojibwe, Odawa, and Potawatomi indigenous peoples.

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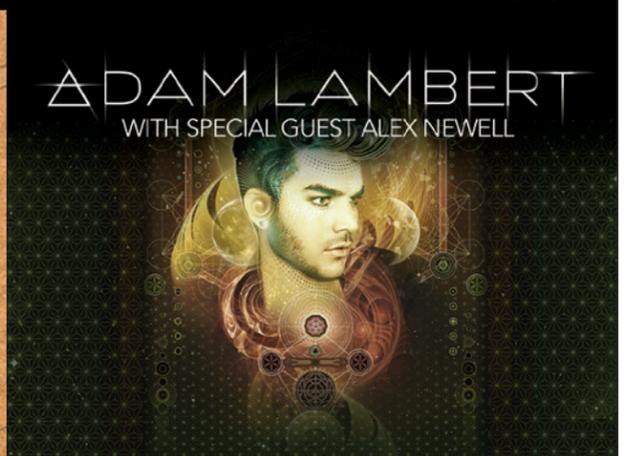
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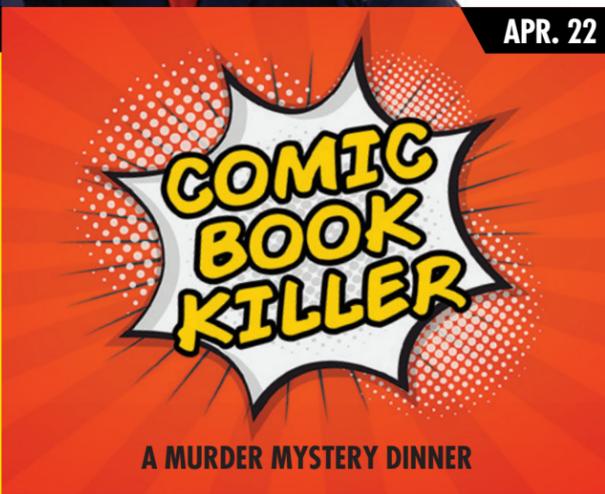
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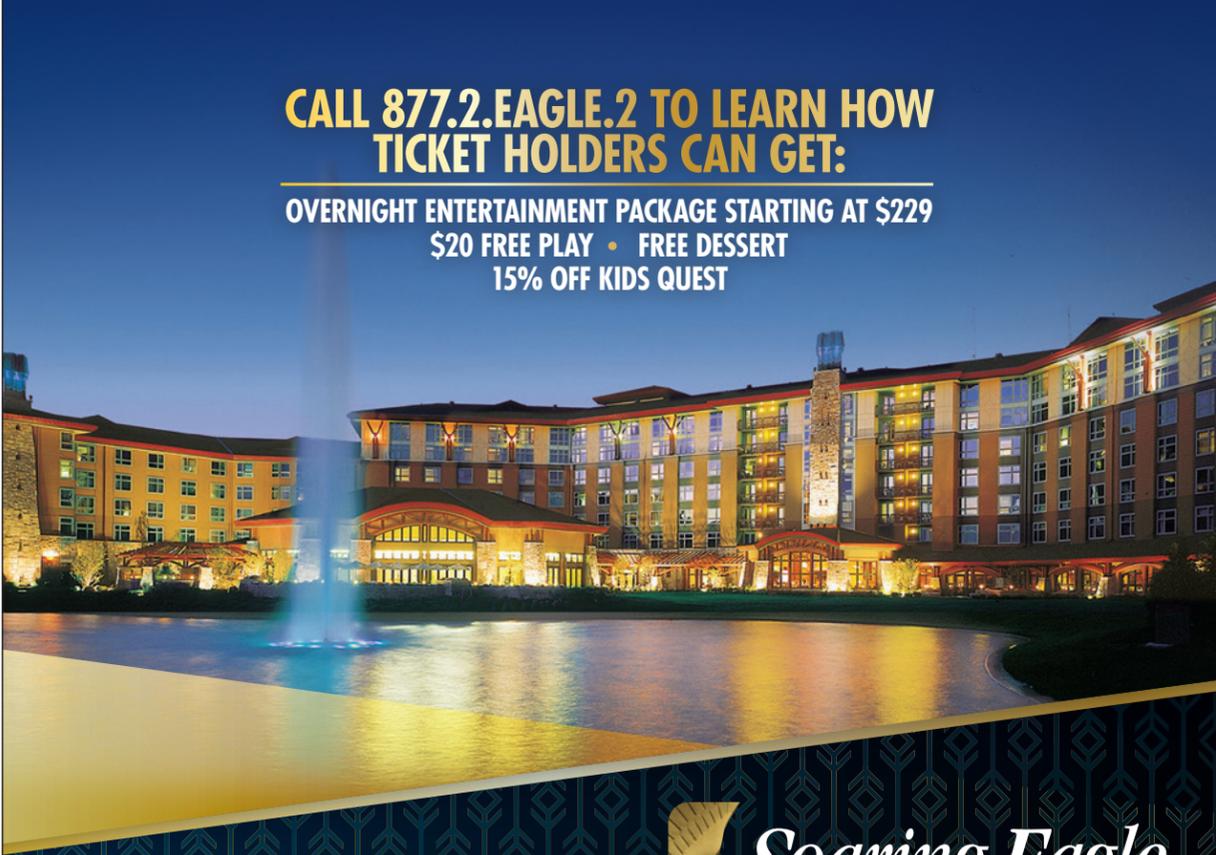
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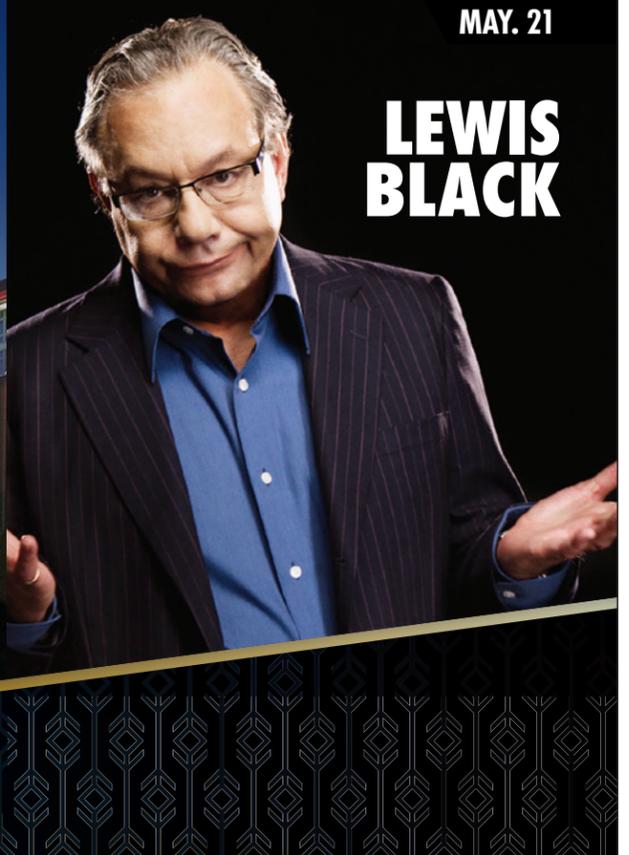


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Niikewehn Mentoring Program serves as a model of collaborative academic efforts

JOSEPH V. SOWMICK

Photojournalist

There are many programs that come and go throughout the Tribal community because of the economic realities of budget cuts.

One gem that is thriving and surviving because of the academic collaborative effort of the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College, Central Michigan University and Mid-Michigan Community College is the Niikewehn Mentoring Program.

Nicole McLachlan, coordinator for CMU and SCIT Niikewehn Mentoring, said the program roots date back to 2002 and additional funding was received through SCIT and the university in 2013 to revive the effort.

“Our program serves 52 Tribal students from the 5th through 8th grade, and we currently have 38 college student mentors in five local area schools,” McLachlan said. “Most of (the mentors) attend CMU, but we also have a few mentors from the SCTC, MMCC and one that attends Michigan State University.”

McLachlan said she was honored to be able to work with program founder David Kinney, Ph.D, from CMU and Colleen Green, director of CMU’s Native American Programs, as

a graduate assistant on research for the program in the beginning of January 2014.

Shortly after, the opportunity arose and McLachlan was able to take on the coordinator position.

Kinney began the program in 2001, but it was in hiatus from mid-2002 to late 2012. The program restarted in January 2013.

“By the end of this May with support of CMU and Tribal Council, we will have four total years of programming,” Kinney said.

McLachlan said she couldn't have asked for a better career after graduating from CMU.

“In my social work courses and life in general, I always held close to these three values, empowerment, passion and growth,” McLachlan said. “I know that each and every one of these mentors has a purpose in the lives of the youth that they mentor. They have the opportunity to listen to them and to help them realize how amazing and uniquely gifted they are. Meanwhile, they grow that passion in them and aid them in growing as an individual and an active member of society.”

McLachlan said many of the mentors are able to use their life experiences growing up to help the kids through tough times.

“Through their experience, many of our mentors want to



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

Niikewehn Mentoring Program Coordinator Nichole McLachlan provides instruction to SCA students and their CMU mentors.

work with youth in their communities when they graduate,” she said. “I also recently had one of my mentors say the other day that she was hoping that the experience would allow her to become closer with a young child that was in her life. I am reminded everyday by endless accounts from our mentors and youth that the program is making a difference.”

Green said Niikewehn works well to highlight the SCIT and CMU collaboration where CMU has a goal to create diversely-educated professionals who will work in a global society.

“This program provides students a chance to work within a sovereign Tribal nation and gain experience working in two different worlds,” Green

said. “(Youth and CMU students) both learn to embrace our Anishnaabek culture and language. Our students share their experience with others to create awareness across campus and with them for life.”

Alice Jo Ricketts, prevention specialist for Saginaw Chippewa Behavioral Health, said she believes when mentoring youth is substance abuse prevention at its best.

“When we are allowed to join hands with a youth, whether it is academically, socially or spiritually, we give them hope and drive to do and be the best they can be,” Ricketts said. “It goes along with the old saying ‘build a strong child first instead of fixing a broken adult later.’ (The program) is a way for our younger generation to see and experience... higher education and that it is reachable.”

Robin Spencer, research center specialist for Ziibiwing Center, said her grandson Christopher is in the mentoring program and loves it.

“For us, this program means a lot,” Robin said. “It gives Christopher time with a male

mentor, which he needs since he doesn't have much male time in his life right now. I think it's a positive program for many of our children... It helps to encourage them and give most of them a positive boost.”

Deb Peterson, tribal education outreach worker, and her son Mason have been involved with the program for two years.

“(The program does) a lot of community service-type activities and activities that support healthy decision making and teamwork,” Deb said. “Nichole herself has taken language lessons so she can use the language with the kids, and she is also looking for cultural activities and programs to be a part of.”

Scheduled in March, the youth and their mentors are taking up a collection of youth books and art supplies to distribute to several local children's hospitals. They will also be collecting water bottles and jugs at each of the five participating schools for residences and animal shelters for Flint, Mich.

If anyone is interested in learning more about or becoming a mentor, please contact Nichole at nijj@cmich.edu or call 989-774-3203 or 989-775-4818 for more information.

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Youth Achievement Advisor Kari Klouse receives "Educator of the Month"

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

Congratulations to Kari Klouse for being selected as the December Educator of the Month! The following is a questionnaire completed by Klouse:

Which program do you work for? I work for K-12 Education.

McGuire

The following students earned perfect attendance for January: Tahlia Alonzo-Villanova, Natalia Martin, Ava Mena, Owen Seybert, Micha Wagner, Alex Hinmon, Caleb Burger, Nikodin Davis, Miikawadizi Prout, Kanne Quezada, Isaiah Rodriquez, Hope Stevens, Cruz Vaquera, Bailey Burger, Jonathan Martinez and Leonard Pamp-Ettinger.

Shepherd

The following middle school students earned perfect attendance for the third marking period: Christina Benz, Taylor Burton, Miah Chatfield, Sienna Chatfield, Nathan Isaac, Olivia Lawson, Damien Martinez, Andee Raphael, Adam Saboo, Camron Scarlott-Pelcher, Emma Vanhorn and Chelsea White. **High school:** Leo Bennett, Jarek Chamberlain, Cypi Escamilla, Uriah Main and Michael Pelcher. **The following elementary students earned perfect attendance for January:** Kearnin Alexander, Johnathan Bailey, Sam Cloud, Jonathan Cogswell, Sadie Cogswell, Lily Dean, Jennifer DeLaCruz, Hunter Johnson, Jared Myers, Sarah Osawabine, Ashani Pelcher, Jayden Pelcher, Layla Pigeon, Brandon Seegraves, Madalyn Sineway, Sandra Slater, Aanzhenii Starkey and Aubreyanna Stevens. **The following middle school students are being recognized for their GPA in the third marking period:** Christina Benz, Miah Chatfield, Sienna Chatfield, Tony Garcia, Quincey Jackson, Jarrad Johnson, Olivia Lawson, Andee Raphael, Adam Saboo, Camron Scarlott-Pelcher, Jacob Sineway, Matthew Smith and Emma VanHorn. **High school:** Nijjii Batcher, Jarek Chamberlain, Hayley Cogswell, Kylie Fisher, Kira Fox, Tristin Jackson, Uriah Main, Arionna Mejia, Skyler Neyome, Michael Pelcher, Alicia Raphael, Kara Sanders, Taylor Seegraves, Allyssa Shawboose, Isabella Smith and Abbey Sura.

Renaissance

The following students earned perfect attendance for January: Jadrian Jackson, Emma Henry, Novaly Hinmon, Isaiah Otto-Powers, Kyla Henry, Josalynn Shaw, Logan VanOrden, Elijah Otto-Powers, Cordelia McDaniel and Makayla Stevens.

What is your title? Youth achievement advisor for Mary McGuire, Pullen, and Renaissance schools.

How long have you worked for the Education Department? I have worked in K-12 for 15.5 years.

What is your favorite part of working in this department? My favorite part of my job is seeing students that I had worked with become successful adults, and the amazing friendships I have with my co-workers.

What is the one thing that you love to do? Why? I love to scrapbook, I have

Pullen

The following students earned perfect attendance for January: Tavia Agosto, Mahayla Freeman, Emily Stevens, Alexis Taylor, La'Anna Trudeau, Mackenzie Burger, Jonathan Davis, Tayden Davis, Kayden Weekley-Dean, Riley Chamberlain, Aaron Graveratte, Binayshee Hendrickson, Josie Isham, Hunter Letts, Uniqa Munoz, Taleah Pelcher, Jacob Pumford and Makayla Stevens.

Mount Pleasant High

The following students earned perfect attendance for the third marking period: Caleb Alonzo-Vasquez, Esme Bailey, Tanille Bailey, Josh Bartow, Simone Bigford, Marina Brown, Eli Brown, Miles Bussler, Kimberly Chamberlain, Andrew Chingman, Bryan Chingman, Tyler Chippeway, Meredith Conrad, Kiara Denman, Peter Elizalde, Robert Falcon-Hart, Alyssa Finch, Keezhig Floyd, Sadie Fuller, Cauy George, Ashton Heinrich, Nodin Jackson, Hunter Kequom, Dylan Klein, Nia Lewis, Maya Madrigal, Matthew McKenny, Basil Naganashe, Calvin Parish, Yasmin Pelcher-Arias, Aleeya Peters, Kataya Peters, Phillip Peters, Shailyn Pontiac, Warren Ricketts, Hailey Ritter, Carina Romero, Gavin Seybert, Dajia Shinos, Shaylyn Sprague, Aubrey Trepanier, Lindsay Watters, Lexi Weely-Dean and Carlee Williams. **The following students earned a 3.0 GPA or higher for third marking period:** Caleb Alonzo-Vasquez, *Esme Bailey, Makayla Bailey, Chyna Bergevin, Kaylee Bigford, *Simone Bigford, Eli Brown, *Miles Bussler, Cheyenne Chamberlain, Kimberly Chamberlain, Karen Chippewa, Meredith Conrad, Kendra Cyr, Esperanza Dominguez, *Peter Elizalde, Sadie Fuller, Hunter Genia, Ashton Heinrich, Jordan Heinrich, Evelyn House, Nodin Jackson, Madison Kennedy-Kequom, Nia Lewis, Maya Madrigal, Jesse Mandoka, McKenzie Morland, Calvin Parish, Aleeya Peters, Edgar Peters, *Kataya Peters, Addison Pigeon, Shailyn Pontiac, Mastella Quaderer, Milan Quigno-Grundahl, Kalena Ricketts, Warren Ricketts, Hailey Ritter, Paige Ritter, Sabrina Romero, Elissa Schlegel, Dajia Shinos, Callista Sowmick, Eli Starkey, Jeffery Vasquez, Lindsay Watters, Lexi Weekly-Dean, Destiny Wetherbee, Carlee Williams, Shayanne Williams and Tanner Williams. **Denotes a 4.0 GPA.*

scrapbooked all four of my children's lives, and my grandchildren's, we have the best time going through the books and reminiscing over the past.

What is your favorite candy/snack? My favorite candy is Snickers almond bar, and I love McDonald's unsweetened ice tea.

What is your favorite Disney movie? My favorite Disney movie is "Cinderella".

Do you have any pets? I have no pets.

What is one of your favorite quotes? My favorite quote is: "I've learned that it takes years to build up trust and it only takes suspicion, not proof, to destroy it."



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

Youth Achievement Advisor Kari Klouse accepts her award. (Pictured left to right: Youth Leadership Manager Deb Smith, Klouse and Education Administrative Assistant II Tasha Wemigwans.)

What is your favorite vacation spot and why? My favorite spot to vacation is anyplace warm, sunny, and tropical.

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

Ganiard Cup Stacking Contest



On Jan. 22, LahRae Wilson, 3rd grader and daughter of Tahsheenah Foley, participated in a cup stacking competition at Ganiard Elementary. Wilson was one of the finalists in the contest.



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SCTC English 096 students go on location to visit the Tribal Observer offices

JOSEPH V. SOWMICK

Photojournalist

The Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College embraces many opportunities that give students a working knowledge of careers possible within the Tribal government, business and departmental operations.

On Feb. 3, the SCTC English 096 class visited the Tribal Observer offices and saw the inner workings of how the Native American Journalists Association publication is created.

The course instructor Justin Wigard said the students were absolutely enthralled with the visit.

“What struck me, as soon as I entered, was the synergistic manner in which the Observer staff (Managing Editor Natalie Shattuck, Graphics and Layout Artist Matthew Wright, Administrative Assistant Denise Cantu and Photojournalist Joseph Sowmick) all work together with each other and the many departments of the Tribe,” Wigard said. “We learned about how interconnected the staff is with everything and everyone in the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe, and it’s pretty heartwarming to see just how much effort goes into each and every story, from a massive rock show at the casino to



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

Tribal Observer Administrative Assistant Denise Cantu (left) speaks to the visiting SCTC English students.

fundraising efforts for the Flint water crisis.”

“Perhaps most impressive was the sheer amount of opportunities that my students, and really, so many members of the community, can all get involved with at the Tribal Observer,” Wigard said. “After our visit, my students and I decided that we should make it a class goal to write an essay or a creative piece to submit at the end of the semester.”

Wigard said he intends to use the information received on the field trip to shape the rest of the class semester to include some Observer writing assignments.

SCTC student Ashleigh Johnson thought the visit was educational and I liked how Wright explained graphic design, layout and how the team operates on a daily basis.

“It was amazing how they chose their stories and how they collaborate the settings and

designs of the paper as far as picture, size, structure, and topics,” Johnson said. “They also discuss culture, family values, and local events. I think this is the first time I ever got to visit a news and press company, and from the experiences, I have to say it was very interesting on how great they were as a team. It was also an honor to meet Joe Sowmick. Meeting him inspires me to be a photographer and journalist. Public Relations Director Erik Rodriguez came in and did an excellent presentation how public relations is working together with the Tribal Observer.”

SCTC student Alex Leureaux said the most interesting part of the visit was seeing how many people actually run the newspaper.

“It came as a shock to me that only four people really run the whole paper... and everything that goes into it,” Leureaux said.

“I thought they would have at least eight to 10 people. That was amazing to know.”

SCTC student Dolly Kogima echoed much of Leureaux’s observations on the newspaper operations.

“The most interesting part was the few people who work in the Tribal Observer, because they do a very good job on the articles, the pictures, and the layout,” Kogima said. “I think they make a good team! They go to a lot of functions on and off the Rez and do a lot of Soaring Eagle concerts. I see them working on evenings, weekends and holidays covering the Tribe and they make their time flexible so they can attend these functions. I also like how they put birthday announcements up and I know they have been doing that for years. We have a lot of family members that like to see those announcements.”

SCTC student Stella Mayhew said the most interesting part of our visit at the Tribal Observer was learning about the publishing process from Cantu.

“I imagined there was a bunch of people behind the scene, so to speak, and then I finally saw the small offices they work at in Tribal Operations,” Mayhew said. “When I get the Observer, I notice it consists of so many pages, pictures, information, and stories that

circle around the Native community. We got to learn about their schedule, which looks to be very full. I enjoyed meeting the faces behind our community news. I think interviewing famous people would be awesome, as long as they were nice!”

Kathy Hart serves as the STEM Recruiter/USDA Equity Grant project director and started having a Career Opportunity Day at SCTC two years ago, so students would see what kind of opportunities are out there for them. She is very supportive of the SCTC outreach with other Tribal entities.

“I think it was an excellent idea to have students visit a department within the Tribe to see what it takes to run that part of our business,” Hart said. “I think it would be nice to have students visit other departments within the tribe such as Marketing, PR, Human Resources, Casinos, Hotel, Administration, Council, Andahwod, Nimkee, Ziibiwing, and Migizi. This way, students will see and learn about what degree it would take to be able to work in one of these areas. When I was a student here at SCTC, I helped with our student newsletter we published for two years. It was an exciting experience and I can imagine how much it takes to do the Tribal Observer.”

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Our goal is to provide leadership, which will foster continued improvement of academic achievement and to address school-related issues that affect educational outcomes of Native youth in Michigan.



Nina Knight, SCTC English teacher, wins 2016 CCCC Tribal College Faculty Fellowship

NATALIE SHATTUCK

Editor

Nina Knight, English teacher for the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College, has won a 2016 CCCC Tribal College Faculty Fellowship.

The Conference on College Composition and Communication (CCCC) is an integral organization within the National Council of Teachers of English.

"The (fellowship) offers financial aid to a selected faculty member currently

working at tribally-controlled colleges to attend the CCCC April 6-9, 2016 in Houston," Knight said.

Knight received \$750.

The CCCC annual convention provides more than 500 sessions of forums on the teaching and learning of writing.

"The conference provides training and resources focusing on teaching practices, writing and literacy programs, language research, history, theory, information technologies and professional and technical communication," Knight said.

Knight will be announced as an award recipient on Friday, April 8 at the conference.

"Receiving this training will help SCTC students become more competitive in their educational and career goals as they will be receiving the newest and most advanced practices on reading, writing, and other forms of communication," she said.

The CCCC involves more than 5,000 members and subscribers. It supports and promotes the composition study and teaching, rhetoric and

communication skills at both an undergraduate and graduate program college level.

"With this fellowship, CCCC hopes to create new opportunities for tribal college faculty members to become involved in CCCC, and for CCCC to carry out its mission of serving as a truly representative national advocate for language and literacy education," Knight said.

For more information on the CCCC and fellowship, including past winners, please visit www.ncte.org/cccc/awards/tribalcollegefellow



Courtesy of Nina Knight

Nina Knight

Editorial: A new SCTC building and incorporating seven grandfather teachings

LEAH DENHOF

Contributing Writer

(Editor's note: Leah Denhof wrote the following article for Nina Knight's English 101 Composition II at the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College. Denhof wrote the article for the Summer II course in July 2015.)



When I first heard about the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College constructing their own new building to house our students on our own, I was a little disappointed that I would not be able to attend school in the new building. Then, as time went on, I realized this was not going to be built within the next year, which was an even bigger disappointment. That's when I saw the design, where it was going to be built, and how different it was going to be than I imagined.

This new college incorporated our grandfather teachings: Respect, Love, Truth, Humility, Honesty, Bravery and Wisdom. These seven grandfather teachings run parallel with the Living Building Challenge that incorporates the Net Zero Energy Building Certification.

The design is what I am extremely proud of because the builders, Rockford Construction, went through the Ziibiwing Center and incorporated the ways that our ancestors used to build their homes.

The new projected school will be built on our land surrounded by the trees most of its students grew up around.

As a future alumnus of SCTC, I believe this will not only benefit our people, it will also be the first of its kind.

Hopefully, SCTC will become a model in which other schools will look to when turning eco-friendly.

The Living Building Challenge will benefit any building constructed. According to the website, "the living building challenge defines the most advanced measure of sustainability in the built environment possible today and acts to diminish the

gap between current limits and ideal solutions."

The long-term goal with this Tribal College and the Living Building Challenge is that our school will last the test of time, it will be there for our future generations and will still look the same as the day it was built, with minimal repairs, and benefiting the land it will be built upon.

Any current building has the ability to be "Net Zero Energy" which is a part of the Living Building Challenge.

According to the website Net Zero Energy, "100 percent of the building's energy needs on a net annual basis must be supplied by onsite renewable energy. Renewable energy is defined as passive solar, photovoltaics, solar thermal, wind turbines, water-powered microturbines, direct geothermal or fuel cells powered by hydrogen generated from renewable powered electrolysis- nuclear energy is not acceptable option. The system may be grid tied or off the grid."

This means the energy the school can harbor can potentially be sold back to the grid from solar panels and such. It will be a source of income to the school.

When you include the design for the new school, bills will be minimal and it will generate income.

The potential for this new school, if built, will only help and do little to no harm to its environment and future students.

The design of the new building will be centered on the land and the people in which it is going to be built upon.

Rockford Construction was chosen to build the school because they are, "committed to our community, our

capabilities in high-tech sustainable construction, and our ability to work leaner and more collaboratively on behalf of our clients."

The new school will be the first of its kind leading the way when it comes down to our environment and energy usage.

The building itself will utilize the sun from the moment it rises to sunset, allow the surrounding trees to provide shade when needed and will not overreach the trees.

The courtyard will be a meeting area, but will also be diverse enough to be used by every student that enters the building.

The building materials that will be used will be as local to benefit cost, and the lighter materials can come from further because they are lighter than the heavier items. Each material utilized will be reviewed to determine if it is practical.

Growing up on the Isabella Reservation, we went to school every day, but I attended a public school that taught me about the American ways.

I was taught the ways of my Anishinabe people when I was out of school. Our teachings are just as valuable to me as my education is.

When I think of a new environmentally-friendly school that will incorporate our grandfather teachings; I know the building itself will be a great way to learn without having to worry about what materials are inside of the new school.

You see, there is a "red list" that Living Building Challenge requires making sure every ingredient is disclosed to ensure that it does not pose any serious risk either health or ecosystem wise.

My grandparents and parents taught me this is our land and that it must be respected and loved. This new school will have honest materials and teach wisdom to our future generations about our land and environment.

According to Declareproducts.com, "The red list represents the 'worst in class' materials, chemicals and elements known to pose serious risk to human health and

the greater ecosystem" and if Anishinabe people lived off this land, then why not build a school that will also be a part of our land.

The bravery in this project is that this will be the first of its kind, some people will criticize and have different opinions about our future school, but in order to start somewhere, we have to be brave.

From the beginning of my life, I was taught that I'm to only take what I need, no more or no less, that's what I feel like this new school will have to offer. Humility. It is a building that will sustain time, and offer many new teachings that involve our Anishinabe ways.

These are teachings the children and many adults in my generation have lost, and if there a little bit of hope to hold on to these ways and this new school will teach them; then it has my full support.

The new ordinance that the last Tribal Council passed this year about having to be 18 years old, and requiring persons to have their high school diploma is something I have been waiting to happen since I graduated.

In no way shape or form do I believe that the new ordinance will hurt any of our youth that are on the cusp of being a Tribal Member adult.

I do think some kind of financial classes should also be offered, to help with the significant amount of money we receive when turning 18.

What other way of showing support of higher education than to support this new school.

I am a Tribal Member that does not have children, got my diploma on time, and respects my elders and parents.

I am proud to say that although this school will cost a lot, it will pay itself off in due time, but it will provide our people with an eco-friendly building without evil toxins to harm us and uses the earth to sustain itself. It will be a safe and friendly school to build upon, this is the opportunity of a lifetime, and we once were the top tribe because of a gambling venture.

Why not break ground on a venture that everyone will be proud of and show exactly what our Council supports: Education.



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Allison Fisher wins 2016 WPBA Soaring Eagle Masters

MATTHEW WRIGHT

Staff Writer

The Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort hosted the top female billiards athletes in the world from Feb. 4-7 for the 2016 Women's Professional Billiard Association's Soaring Eagle Masters. The nine-ball championship featured a field of 48 elite players vying for the masters champion title.

Amateur players teamed up with the pros on at the WPBA Pro-Am Charity Event on Wednesday, Feb. 3.

Each participant paid \$100 to play in the charity with a WPBA professional. The event was presented by Dr. Pool Promotions Inc.



Observer photo by Matthew Wright

Jennifer Barretta lines up a jump shot during her semifinal match against eventual champion Allison Fisher.

Many Tribal community members were able to play alongside the best players in the world. Joining them were Tribal Council Members Candace B. Benzinger, Ronald F. Ekdahl and Kenneth Sprague.

All proceeds from the charity went to Notah Begay III Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to reversing Native American childhood obesity and Type 2 diabetes.

Matches began Thursday, Feb. 4 running through Sunday, Feb. 7. The semifinal and final rounds on Sunday were broadcasted live on ESPN3, beginning at 1 p.m.

The preliminary round featured 32 unranked players, with 16 players advancing to the next round. The 16 advancing unranked players then faced off against 16 ranked players in the double elimination bracket. The last two remaining players on each side of the bracket moved on to the semifinals round.

To determine winners in the final two rounds, the contestants must win two sets. The sets are won by the first player to take four games.

The first semifinal match featured ninth-ranked Jennifer

Baretta facing off against second-ranked Allison Fisher.

After finding herself down 3-1, Baretta won the next two games to tie the first set at three games each. Fisher came back to win the next game, taking the first set with a score of 4-1. She would go on to dominate the second set 4-0 and advance to the finals.

In the second semifinal match, fifth-ranked Monica Webb squared off against 12th-ranked Brittany Bryant. After winning the first set 4-1, Webb would take a commanding 3-1 lead in the second set. Answering the challenge, Bryant took the next two games to tie the set at 3-3.

The tie-breaking fourth game featured a heated defensive battle.

At one point, the two players deployed at least 10 straight safeties, or defensive shots meant to block the opponents next shot. Webb would take the second set and guarantee her place in the finals versus Allison Fisher.

The first set of the finals saw Fisher jump out to a 3-0 lead. Webb would fight back by taking two straight games, before falling to Fisher 4-2.

In a tense second set, Webb took a 3-2 lead over Fisher. After taking the next two games, Fisher tied the match at 3-3.

Fisher would close out the set with a critical win in the



Observer photo by Matthew Wright

Allison Fisher (left) and Monica Webb line up their lag shots to determine who will break first in the opening set of the Feb. 7 WPBA Soaring Eagle Masters.



Observer photo by Matthew Wright

All proceeds from the WPBA Pro-Am Charity Event went to support the Notah Begay III Foundation. (Left to right: Dr. Pool Promotions CEO Dean Roeseler, Fisher, WPBA Pro Brittany Bryant, Youth Council Member Kenson Taylor, Barretta, Tribal Council Sargeant-at-Arms Ronald F. Ekdahl and SECR Marketing Director Raul Venegas.)

final game, completing her run to the 2016 Soaring Eagle Masters Championship.

Tribal Council Sargeant-at-Arms Ronald F. Ekdahl presented trophies to both finalists.

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

Hits blare with country music legends Dwight Yoakam and Pam Tillis

NATALIE SHATTUCK

Editor

Country music fans gathered in the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort Entertainment Hall for a night to remember: A Dwight Yoakam and Pam Tillis concert on Friday, Jan. 29.

Up first was Pam Tillis who impressed with her acoustic set.

With her powerful voice and guitar in hand, Pam Tillis began the show with "Train Without a Whistle" and "Mi Vida Loca (My Crazy Life), her number one 1995 hit on the country charts.

"We're going to do some songs you may remember from your radio, we certainly hope so," Tillis said of "Spilled

Perfume", "All The Good Ones Are Gone" and "Cleopatra, Queen of Denial".

Tillis won a Grammy Award for Best Country Collaboration with Vocals in 1999 and a Country Music Association award in 1994 for Best Female Vocalist.

"I got to go to the Grammy Awards and sit next to Snoop Dogg. It was awesome," Tillis said.

Tillis also performed "Don't Tell Me What To Do" and "Shake the Sugar Tree".

"Michigan is wine country, isn't it? Ya'll grow some good wine up here," Tillis said leading into "Last Summer's Wine".

With only two more musicians on stage with Tillis, Mary Sue

Englund and Aria Stiles added to harmonies onto a flawless cover of The Beatles' "I Want To Hold Your Hand".

Stirring standing ovations were Englund's "I Am a Woman", sung with her and Tillis taking turns and "Maybe It Was Memphis".

Tillis said it was "so nice to return to Soaring Eagle" and she's "a huge Dwight fan, too."

She couldn't end her show, however, without mentioning her 83-year-old famous father who recently underwent colon surgery.

"My daddy is Mel Tillis and he's a country music legend... I'm so proud of him," she said. "He's been a huge inspiration to me... daddy is in the hospital and we went him to recover faster than he is... Ya'll just continue to pray for him. He's been in the music industry for 54 years, and he's not ready to hang his boots just yet."

To close, Tillis performed her father's song, "Heart Over Mind".

He's an American singer-songwriter, actor and film director, but Dwight Yoakam is most well-known for pioneering country music.

Since the early '80s, Yoakam has released more than 21 albums, totaling more than 25 million in sales worldwide, according to dwightyoakam.com.

Yoakam's set began with "Dim Lights, Thick Smoke", "Please, Please Baby", Elvis Presley's "Little Sister" and Buck Owens' "Streets of Bakersfield".

Yoakam moved around the stage in a jean jacket and his signature Levi jeans, and his band members even sported matching sequin jackets for the honkytonk performance.

"Thanks for coming out to see Pam and myself," Yoakam said. "It's great to come back to this part of Michigan where it gets colder and colder and colder. I hear Michigan is having a warm spell right now (19 degrees)."

Yoakam has recorded five Billboard number one albums, 12 gold albums and nine platinum albums.

Broadening his skills, Yoakam has also starred in many films. His most notable performances include his roles in "Sling Blade", "Panic Room", "Hollywood Homicide" and "The Three Burials of Melquiades Estrada".



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

American country music legend Dwight Yoakam gives a classic honkytonk performance during his Jan. 29 Soaring Eagle show.

Yoakam's most well-known songs include a remake of Johnny Horton's "Honky Tonk Man", "Guitars, Cadillacs", "Ain't That Lonely Yet", "A Thousand Miles From No Where" and "Fast As You".

Another large hit includes a cover of "Suspicious Minds", a 1969 hit for Elvis and Yoakam in 1992.

He took a break from his musical career for a few years to focus on film, but that hasn't stopped the 59-year-old from continuing to draw a large fan base to his concerts.



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

With her powerful voice and acoustic guitar, American country musician Pam Tillis performs "Train Without a Whistle".



Cheech & Chong third appearance a breath of fresh air for sold-out crowd

JOSEPH V. SOWMICK

Photojournalist

If there was anyone named “Dave” at the sold-out Feb. 20 comedy show at Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort, nobody told headliners Cheech & Chong who proclaimed “Dave’s Not Here.”

Cheech Marin and Tommy Chong shared that routine from their self-titled 1971 debut album along with other classics.

The duo was in rare form starting from the before show meet and greet, where they were informed it was indeed their third SECR performance.

“We have been here before? Three times? Are you sure?” Cheech asked.

Tommy Chong replied, “Maybe we have. You know drugs do affect your short-term memory (laughs).”

Cheech said, “Maybe it does, I can’t remember.”

Cheech & Chong sit their comedy stride in the ‘70s and

were “Still Smokin’” into the ‘80s with their films and stand-up routines. They are arguably considered the voice of the counterculture generation and their love for cannabis is unequalled (although the venue did smell like a lot of Cheech & Chong fans took their message right to their heart and lungs.)

Cheech & Chong pay homage to legendary comedians Lenny Bruce, George Carlin, Mort Sahl and Jonathan Winters as key influences on their careers since they first started in the late ‘60s.

Chong was a Canadian citizen and Cheech had moved to Vancouver from Southern California to avoid the draft at the height of the Vietnam War.

The pair performed stand-up shows, released many successful comedy record albums and are noted creators of the stoner movie genre. Their iconic critically-acclaimed and insanely funny movie “Up in Smoke” is still revered

and remembered for some of their most requested routines.

During their routine “Low Rider,” they made a segment of the movie come alive as they drove down the street smoking a “Led Zeppelin-sized joint.” The crowd roared during their music medley of “Basketball Jones featuring Tyrone Shoelaces,” “Me and My Old Lady,” “Save the Whales” and “Does Your Mama Know Me.”

Other famous characters like “Blind Melon Chitlin” and “Alice Bowie” and the holiday favorite “Santa Claus and His Old Lady” provided much laughter and a blast from the past.

The 1985 classic “Born in East L.A.” and the routine “Mexican Americans” capped an almost two-hour comedic blowout.

Octabiano Arroyo from Saginaw, Mich. attended with his girlfriend and laughed all the way through the show.

“I thought the bit where Cheech dressed up as a country hillbilly was hilarious,”



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

Tommy Chong (left) and his wife Shelby share a laugh with his comedy partner Cheech Marin in their third appearance at the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort.

Arroyo said. “If they can get them to come back for another show, I will definitely be coming back to see them.”

Jill Venegas and her friend Stacy Bateson from Freeland, Mich. went to the show with her boss and agreed the comedy was on point.

“Cheech & Chong were so funny. I loved all of it. There wasn’t one moment of it

where I didn’t stop laughing,” Venegas said.

New projects Cheech & Chong have in the works include a new film featuring Snoop Dogg, and rappers B-Real, Method Man, Redman, Wiz Khalifa and Curren\$y.

Cheech & Chong’s early careers will be chronicled in a 2016 documentary “Still Smokin’” later this year.

Excited contestants come on down for The Price is Right Live! experience

JOSEPH V. SOWMICK

Photojournalist

There are many events that one can see in the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort Entertainment Hall, but nothing can compare to seeing excited contestants come on down in droves for The Price is Right Live! experience.

The Price is Right Live! show made its third consecutive appearance on the SECR stage.

Joshua Blake, guest relations manager for SECR Marketing, said each of the four Price is Right Live! shows brought in a sold-out crowd.

“The SECR Marketing Department knows our patrons enjoy a chance to win and we know a game show like The Price is Right can deliver that excitement,” Blake said. “This is just another way we

can give our Player’s Club members and our loyal customers a chance to spin the big wheel and to bid on the showcase showdown.”

Daytime Emmy Award winning TV host Todd Newton served as the catalyst that kept the four Feb. 13 and 14 live shows moving.

Often referred to as “The Host with the Most” in the game show industry insiders, Newton made his international debut as the red carpet host on E! Entertainment Television.

Debra Ellison from Sterling Heights, Mich. is a loyal fan of the television game show and jumped at the opportunity to see it live.

“I think it’s wonderful that Soaring Eagle is offering the live game shows,” Ellison said prior to the event. “I love coming here for the comedy shows, but having a chance

to get on stage for the game show, we are really looking forward to it.”

In spirit of the game show, Debra sported matching T-shirts with her husband Harry Ellison.

“I had a dream that they are going to call my name to

come on down so just being here can be where a dream comes true,” Harry said. “This is what we come for and we hope that happens!”

Janet Byrd of Grand Rapids, Mich. came with her own entourage for her first Price is Right Live! experience.

“I’ve never been to one of the shows in the entertainment hall, but I’ve been to the casino many times. This is really a great concert facility,” Byrd said. “I wish every one of the folks here could make it to the stage... right after someone from our group (laughs).”



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

Sterling Heights, Mich. was in the house as two husbands took their wives out during Valentine’s Day weekend. (Left to right: Todd and Camie Bauman and Harry and Debra Ellison.)



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

Plinko royalty made the journey for The Price is Right Live! show. (Left to right: Sarah Harris, Margie Khapik and Carol Servis.)

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Bear River Health now offering tribal addiction and recovery program

BEAR RIVER HEALTH

BOYNE FALLS, MICH. – Bear River Health of Walloon Lake announced its acceptance into the Access to Recovery Program (ATR), colabeled the “Anishnaabek Healing Circle.”

Bear River Health’s goal is to provide additional options and support for Native Americans who struggle with drug and alcohol addiction.

The Anishnaabek Healing Circle/Access to Recovery Program has allocated funding to promote addiction healing and recovery specifically targeting the Michigan tribal population.

“The program allows for tribal members and their

family members to get approved for clinical treatment and recovery support services at no cost to the member, increasing the chances for success in recovery,” said Jason DeBeck, executive director of Bear River Health at Walloon Lake. “We are grateful to be part of a grant specifically for tribal members seeking recovery from a substance use disorder.”

Bear River Health at Walloon Lake’s mission is to help strengthen the heritage and traditions by providing amazing care while supporting the healing process. Improving patient’s quality of life and maintaining wellness is achieved through encouraging, educating and empowering clients throughout

the discovery process of the 12-step Wellbriety program.

“We understand the difficulties families and friends may experience when addiction enters their home,” DeBeck said. “Our program focuses on a combination of Native American traditions and other nontraditional clinical methods to ensure a strong foundation to start their recovery.”

Bear River Health at Walloon Lake is now accepting new clients who meet eligibility criteria.

Under the Anishnaabek Access to Recovery grant program, tribal members and their families can apply for services at no cost to the member.

Bear River Health will direct members who inquire

within the facility to the appropriate access center to start the eligibility process and will provide support every step of the way. They will work directly with friends and family to ensure the most comfortable transition to a full recovery.

Bear River Health understands recovery is a process and having a strong support system is a key pathway needed to get a person back on the road to wellness.

“Our team at Bear River Health is dedicated to raising awareness, seeing addiction as a treatable disease and providing the very highest level of care,” said Anna Eggebrecht, detox intake coordinator for Bear River Health.

Bear River Health will coordinate care directly with the appropriate tribal access center, and assist in preparing you for admission into the recovery program.

“We make it simple...a one stop shop for any tribal member and their families to receive addiction support at no cost to the member,” DeBeck said.

Contact Bear River Health:

For Tribal members (or family members), more information is available at: www.bearriverhealth.com or by calling The Bear River Care Team at 231-535-2822.

The address is 2594 Springvale Rd. Boyne Falls, Michigan, 49713

What are the health benefits associated with walking?

JUDY DAVIS

Nimkee Public Health
4x4 Grant Coordinator

Walking is the most popular physical activity among adults. Taking a walk is low cost and does not require any special clothes or equipment.

Walking may also:

- Lower your risk of health

problems like high blood pressure, heart disease and diabetes.

- Strengthen your bones and muscles.
- Help you burn more calories.
- Lift your mood.

Make walking fun by going to places that you enjoy, like a park or shopping center.

Bring along a friend or family member to chat with or listen to some of your favorite music

as you walk. Keep the volume low, however, so that you can hear noises around you.

Take a phone and ID with you and let family and friends know your walking time and route.

If it is dark outside, wear a reflective vest or brightly colored clothing and always be aware of your surroundings.

Now that March has arrived, many will be anxious

to get outdoors to walk. But if the March weather happens to turn out not to your liking, we have once again been awarded a 4x4 grant, which will help us to continue providing daily walking passes at Morey Court for all Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe members and employees. Just ask for the Tribal sign-in sheet at the front desk.

The Nimkee Fitness Center is also available for treadmill walking

Nimkee Public Health will again be coordinating the Tribe to Tribe Blue Cross Walking Challenge this spring and early summer.

Watch for future announcements via e-mail, the Tribal Observer, Facebook, and the Tribal website.

Join the BCBS “Win By Losing” Challenge!

Begins: Feb 29 - April 29



Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Michigan believes in supporting your health goals. That's why they have created the “Win by Losing” weight loss challenge — a free competition that helps you lose weight while having fun and earning bragging rights.

Its easy to join the “Win By Losing” Challenge!
You must be an employee.

Step 1: Sign Up
Send an email to: wellnesschallenges@sagchip.org by March 3, 2016 at 12 p.m. Be sure to send your name and weight.

Step 2: Check in
Starting on March 3, email wellnesschallenges@sagchip.org each week on Thursday by noon and be sure to include your name and the amount of weight lost each week.

The winning team wins a trophy with bragging rights, and T-shirts for each participant! We will be competing against other companies/organizations.

For more info, contact: Toni Smith 989-775-5624 or email tsmith@sagchip.org

March is Healthy Eating Month: What’s on your plate?

You can choose to follow the “My Plate” chart (pictured) when preparing your meals to help you and your families eat healthier.

The “My Plate” chart was designed using the 2015-2020 U.S. Recommended Dietary guidelines for Americans. The chart offers nutrition guidance to promote health and help to prevent chronic disease.



ChooseMyPlate.gov

- Make half your plate fruits and vegetables. (2.5 cups vegetables; 2 cups fruit every day)
- Make a quarter of your plate grains; make half of your grains whole grain. (6 ounces grains every day)
- Make a quarter of your plate protein and vary your protein choices. (5.5 ounces protein every day)
- Get 3 cups everyday of dairy! You can switch from whole milk, try 2%, 1% or fat free milk.
- Drink water instead of sugary drinks.
- Cut back on salt.
- Choose lean meats and poultry, and ground beef that is 90 percent lean.
- Make foods like cake, cookies, pizza, cheese, sausages and hot dogs occasional choices, not everyday foods to eat.
- Choose oils that are heart healthy, such as olive or canola oil.
- Get in some type of physical activity every day, a minimum of 150 min/week.
- Based on a 2,000 calorie daily food plan, you need the above recommended amounts.***
- For more info, go to www.choosemyplate.gov

Nimkee Fitness Center Group Exercise Schedule March 2016

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



The Athlete's Kitchen presents: Eat fat, get fat or eat fat, get healthy?

NANCY CLARK

MS, RD, CSSD

(Editor's note: The following article is from The Athlete's Kitchen, written by Nancy Clark, MS, RD, CSSD, from February 2016. The article has been submitted by Sally Van Cise, RD, nutritionist for Nimkee Public Health.)

Remember when the “eat fat, get fat” mantra prevailed? Athletes avoided fat like the plague. They ate poached fish, dry salads, and steamed vegetables in efforts to reduce the risk of getting fat.

Unfortunately for many low-fat eaters, dieting went awry. Fat-free foods left them unsatisfied, with gnawing hunger and a relentless drive for fat-free frozen yogurt (fat-free equals calorie free, right?) or (what the heck) a pint of Ben & Jerry's Chunky Monkey Ice Cream. They ended up gaining (not losing) weight.

Nutrition professionals learned a lesson: Advising

Americans to eat less fat led to the unintended consequences of eating more sugar: A big mistake.

Hence, the new 2015 Dietary Guidelines recommend we include health-promoting poly and monounsaturated fats in our meals—but still limit the artery-clogging saturated fats from greasy meats and fatty “junk” foods.

Given that Time magazine reported butter is back and the Paleo diet embraces coconut oil (high in saturated fat), athletes are left wondering whom to believe.

Can we really eat bacon, burgers and other foods rich in saturated fats without hurting our health? This article addresses issues related to dietary fat and your sports diet.

What about coconut oil ... is it better than olive oil?

All fats contain a variety of monounsaturated, polyunsaturated and saturated fats in varied proportions. The harder the fat—butter, beef lard—the more saturated it is.

The softer (more liquid) the fat (avocado, olive oil), the better it is for your health. Coconut oil (called an oil because it is from a plant, but it is solid at room temperature) has some “good” fats, but it also has some “bad” fats.

To date, research on the health risks or benefits associated with long-term intake of coconut oil is sparse.

What percent of my calories should come from fat?

The percent of total calories that should come from fat is whatever is left after consuming a foundation of grains, fruits and vegetables to fuel your muscles, and adequate protein-rich foods (lean meat, fish, beans, low-fat dairy, soy) to build and repair muscles. The percent of total calories from fat is less critical than the type of fat.

The 2015 Dietary Guidelines recommend no more than 10 percent of calories come from saturated fat. That means, if you eat 2,000 calories a day (a reducing diet from most active

people), you can choose 200 calories (22 grams) of saturated fat a day.

Ideally, you will spend those fat-grams on foods rich in nutrients, such as two percent milk (3g sat-fat per 8 ounces); reduced fat cheese (3-6g saturated fat per ounce), or hard-boiled eggs (1g saturated fat per egg) — not on empty-calorie butter (7g sat fat per tablespoon) or coconut oil (12g saturated fat per tablespoon)

Unsaturated fats knock down inflammation. For athletes who damage muscles during hard exercise, reducing inflammation can enhance recovery.

Hence, you want to eat health-promoting fats—extra virgin olive oil, avocado, all-natural peanut butter, nuts, and salmon. They are not only anti-inflammatory, but also needed to absorb vitamins A, D, E and K. They also help food taste better.

Enjoying some healthful fat in each meal makes the meal yummier and more satisfying—and easier for you to reduce hankering for decadent desserts.

NOTE: While unsaturated fats are health promoting, they are never-the-less calorie-dense. One tablespoon of oil (of any type) has about 120 calories. Eat fats in portions that fit within your calorie budget.

Are fat-free foods, like skim milk and fat-free salad dressing, wise additions to a sports diet?

The answer to that question depends on what other foods are in the entire meal. The goal is to not eat fat-free meals. That is, a fat-free breakfast of Cheerios and skim milk can leave you feeling “unfed” and hankering for a donut or two by 9:30 a.m.

In comparison, choosing 2 percent milk for the cereal could help you feel satiated. Better yet, add whole grain toast with all-natural peanut butter to the breakfast and you will be truly content.

Similarly, a salad with fat-free dressing can leave you hankering for cookies—unless you toss in some quality calories, such as avocado, chopped

walnuts, tuna and extra-virgin olive oil. Including some health-promoting fat in each meal and snack can actually help save you calories in the long run if it calms the cookie monster.

Should I avoid peanut butter because it is so high in fat?

No! Research suggests people who eat nuts and peanut butter are not fatter than people who avoid those foods. While the majority of calories in peanut butter do come from fat, the good news is the fat is primarily poly and monounsaturated (only 1g saturated fat per tablespoon of all-natural peanut butter).

Peanut and other nut-butters protect against heart disease and diabetes, two diseases related to inflammation. Like all fats, enjoy nut butters in portions that fit within your calorie budget.

I consider peanut butter to be one of the best sports foods (and diet foods) around, not just because it knocks down inflammation, but because it is yummy and satiating. That is, a lunchtime low-fat turkey sandwich leaves me hankering for dessert, but a peanut butter and honey sandwich leaves me feeling satiated for several hours; no snacks needed!

The bottom line: Enjoying health-promoting unsaturated fats in your sports diet reduces inflammation, enhances absorption of certain vitamins, helps curb the appetite — and adds yumminess. Just don't over eat calories from fat—or from any type of food, for that matter. The mantra “eat excess calories, get fat” is more accurate than “eat fat, get fat.”

Sports nutritionist Nancy Clark, MS, RD, CSSD, has a private practice in the Boston-area (Newton; 617-795-1875), where she helps both fitness exercisers and competitive athletes create winning food plans. Her best-selling Sports Nutrition Guidebook, and food guides for marathoners, cyclists and soccer players, as well as teaching materials, are available at www.nancyclarkrd.com. For online workshops, visit www.NutritionSportsExerciseCEUs.com.

Nimkee Clinic offering lead testing for Tribal Members, descendants

KARMEN FOX

Executive Health Director

Nimkee Clinic will provide lead testing for any Tribal Member, direct descendant or members of their household if they feel they may be at risk.

All lead testing information will be entered into Michigan Care Improvement Registry (MCIR) database.

“MCIR benefits health care organizations, schools, licensed childcare programs, pharmacies and Michigan's citizens by consolidating immunization information from multiple providers into a comprehensive immunization record. This consolidation reduces vaccine-preventable diseases and over-vaccination, allowing providers to view up-to-date patient

immunization history in one system (www.mcir.org).”

The Nimkee Clinic and At-Large/Member Services have been working closely to identify Tribal Members that live in Genesee County and or Flint, Mich.

Letters will be sent to registered Tribal Members residing in those areas with detailed information.

BCBSM Fitbit Challenge

Happy New Year! It's time to refocus on your health and we are here to help. The Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe and Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Michigan are joining forces to help you have a healthy 2016!

Join the “Fitbit” Wellness Challenge

Would you like to win a Fitbit? (Ends March 11, 2016)

Take charge of your health. It's easy! Here's how:

Step #1 – Time to have your Annual Check-up!

- It's free and will be covered 100 percent by your BCBSM health insurance. (Please note that there may be copays involved for any existing medical conditions that are being monitored or tested.)
- If you do not have a doctor, you can easily find one online at BCBSM.com. Simply click on “Find a Doctor” on the left hand side of the page.

Step #2 – Know your Numbers

Call your doctor and ask for an appointment for your annual exam.

Here is a list of information you will want to obtain:

- | | | |
|----------------------|------------------|---|
| 1. Blood Pressure | 3. HDL & LDL | 5. Blood sugar |
| 2. Total Cholesterol | 4. Triglycerides | 6. Height, weight, and waist measurements |

Step #3 – Take the BCBSM Health Assessment online! (Takes 15 min.)

1. Go to BCBSM.com and register online. You will need your BCBSM ID card to do this.
2. Click the Health/Wellness Tab to enter the BCBSM Wellness site.
3. Click on “Take Your Health Assessment and complete it.”
4. Once you've finished your Health Assessment, you will automatically be entered to win a Fitbit or various other prizes. (Information obtained is confidential.)

It's quick, easy and fun! Do it now... don't delay!



Nimkee Clinic Walk-in Hours

The Nimkee Clinic has walk-in hours on Tuesday nights from 5 to 7 p.m.

On Wednesdays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Nimkee Clinic has an Indian Outreach worker from DHHS onsite. The Outreach worker can help enroll patients in Medicaid or change from an HMO to insurance that Nimkee Clinic works with. No appointment necessary.



Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month

Dress in blue Friday, March 4

\$300,000 MORTGAGE MADNESS



Mt. Pleasant, MI • 1.877.2.EAGLE.2 • SoaringEagleCasino.com

WIN THE FINAL 1 OF 3 \$100,000 MORTGAGES!

SATURDAYS IN MARCH

Don't miss the final month to win big! March is the last time we're giving away \$100,000 to use towards a mortgage! Hourly winners will get \$1,000 in Premium Play plus 1,000 bonus entries for our grand prize drawing!



**HOURLY DRAWINGS:
EVERY SATURDAY 6PM-10PM**

**GRAND PRIZE DRAWING:
MARCH 26**

TAKE OFF ON 1 OF 4 TRIPS TO IRELAND!



FRIDAYS IN MARCH

Springtime is "win" time at Saganing Eagles Landing Casino. Every Friday, you could win cash, Premium Play or our grand prize: a \$5,500 travel voucher to Ireland plus \$1,000 in spending money! We're giving away 4 trips in all!

**HOURLY DRAWINGS:
EVERY FRIDAY 5PM - 9PM**

GRAND PRIZE DRAWING: 10PM



Standish, MI • 1.888.7.EAGLE.7 • Saganing-EaglesLanding.com

\$115,000 BINGO BASH!

SATURDAY, MARCH 5 | 4PM SESSION

10 GAMES PAYING OUT \$10,000! | COVERALL PAYS OUT \$15,000! | PRIZE DRAWINGS: 25 ITEMS IN ALL!

NOW THROUGH MARCH 2ND: SAVE \$40 WHEN YOU PRE-PURCHASE YOUR SPOT AT THE SOARING EAGLE BINGO HALL OR ON ETIX.COM

ST. PATRICK'S DAY BINGO
THURSDAY, MARCH 17
1:30PM & 7PM
SESSIONS

Celebrate the holiday
with St. Patrick's Day daubers
and beads!



Mt. Pleasant, MI • 1.877.2.EAGLE.2
SoaringEagleCasino.com





Andahwod Valentine's Day box social brings back fond memories for Tribal elders

JOSEPH V. SOWMICK

Photojournalist

Back in the '60s and '70s, the Chippewa Indian United Methodist Church and one of the first community groups (the Tomah Club) would offer box social fundraisers.

Tribal Elder and Andahwod resident Barb Sprague remembered those fond memories and approached the Elders Advisory Board she serves on with reviving the box social fundraiser on Feb. 13.

"We would have the box socials in the basement of the Methodist Church on the hill and I thought it would be good to try



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

Nothing beats the furious bidding as the elders scope out the box they would like purchase.

and bring that back," Sprague said. "I was wondering what people would think about it and what response we would get. We had a lot of attendees come out and for a first time in a long time, it gave the community a chance to get together to do something like we used to remember."

Cynthia Floyd, tribal elder and Elders Advisory Board member, attended with her family to take a walk down memory lane.

"Everyone would buy some sandwiches, cake and candies and put those in the boxes and would wrap it up in fancy paper with pretty ribbons," Floyd said. "It was like bidding on a present where you would eat with the person who made it and a lot of times people didn't know who that was. That was the fun of it."

Sheligh Jackson, administrative assistant for Andahwod, assisted Elisa Schleder, elders

activities assistant, with door prize drawings, along with a Valentine's Day word scrambles and crossword puzzles for the first person to correctly solve the game.

Jackson said the candy heart guessing game was a big hit with Elder Sarah Martin winning the first prize by correctly guessing 150 hearts in the jar.

Everyone walked away a winner and nine boxes vied for the most creative and most decorative honors (won by Barb Sprague and Jerry Douglas, respectively).

The nine boxes and gift baskets that were in the bid process were filled with an assortment of candy, stuffed animals, small gifts, candles, even money and scratch-off tickets.

Sam Anglin, support services manager for Andahwod, and his staff prepared a special menu to supplement the festivities.

"The menu for the box social event included chicken wings (garlic parmesan and original), barbecue and Swedish meatballs along with veggie and fruit trays," Anglin said. "Our elders advocates provided a valentine cookie decoration station complete with a red velvet cake. The elders really enjoyed the punch bowl with sherbet as our special beverage."

Former Tribal Chief and previous Elders Advisory Board member Dennis Kequom remembered the box socials while growing up on the reservation.

"There weren't too many things to do on a Friday night and the box socials were where people would gather at the

church or someone's house and it was good, clean fun and it helped the church out," Kequom said. "I think once the word starts to get around, we will have more people come out and more boxes to bid on."

Sprague reflected on the excitement that her grandparents Eli and Betsy Thomas felt when they got to join in the box socials.

"They really loved the sense of community it would bring and of course they were really involved with the church and it was one of the most popular things they would do," Sprague said.

Sprague said the money raised from box biddings goes directly to fund elders' activities.



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

The Saginaw Chippewa Academy students graciously made sure every elder was able to leave the social with their own hand-crafted Valentine.

Andahwod Easter Brunch

**Wednesday, March 23
11 a.m. - 1 p.m.**

- SCIT Elders - Free
- Adults - \$9
- Children 12 & Under - \$4

Baked Ham, Mashed Potatoes and Gravy, Green Beans, Cauliflower, Broccoli, Tossed Salad, Dinner Rolls, Scrambled Eggs, Bacon, Sausage, Hash Brown Squares, Oatmeal, Fruit, Cake, Beverages

For more information, please call 989.775-4300

MARCH 2016 Tribal Elder Birthdays

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 James Schneider | 15 Alice Ricketts, Coy McCollum, Michael Watson |
| 2 Randall Jackson, Janice Hill, Bernardino Perez Jr., Arthur Miller Jr. | 17 Merton Flory, Joseph Kowalski, Patrick Smith, Danny Stevens |
| 3 Angela Bennett, Winona Hancock, David Joseph, Susan Pretzer, Barbara Walraven | 18 Thomas Bates, Rhonda Dutton, Wanda Wallace, Marion Williams |
| 4 Elizabeth Cabay, James Gingerich, Phillip Nelson | 19 Rita Redman, Janice Roach |
| 5 Wanda Brodie, Nancy Chippewa, Gerald Slater, Terri Cummings, Herbert Robinson Sr., Clifford Saboo Jr., Kenneth Vasquez | 20 Etta Ayling, Oliver Leaux Sr., Lawrence Verga Sr. |
| 6 Jessie Glover, Diane Morley, William Burnham, J.D. Snowden | 21 Marlene Jackson, Elaine Kraska |
| 7 Daniel Cloutier | 22 Kim Ambs, Kim Aasved, Paige Vanderlooven |
| 8 Timothy Stevens, Martha Van Nuck, Lorraine Walker | 23 Harry Jackson, Lisa Zangara |
| 9 George Sprague, Marsha Gibson, Theodore Kowalski, Robert Stanton, Russell Stevens | 24 Larry Bearden, Joyce Sandell |
| 11 Jolene Quinlan, Clifton Chippewa II, Robert Neilson, Bernadette Reyes, Stephen Walraven, Darwin Ziehmer | 25 Naomi Staggs, Joseph Chamberlain, Stella Falsetta, Constance Pallett |
| 12 Lorna Kahgegab Call, Julia Wixson | 26 Timothy Bennett, Clifford Chamberlain |
| 13 Bernadine Gross, Sherry Bame | 27 Rex Alma, John Miller Sr. |
| 14 Debra Vidana, Linda Davis, Patrick Otto Sr., Barbara Roy | 28 Thelma Henry-Shipman, Dawn Hunt, Kelly Huyser |
| | 29 Brian Wray, Steven Moore, Craig Wayne |
| | 30 Janet Barnhart, Esther Chatfield |
| | 31 John Rhodes, Michele Stanley |

Michigan Indian Elders Association awarding straight "A" and perfect attendance students

The Michigan Indian Elders Association (MIEA) is offering a Student Incentive Program to recognize students who achieve all "A's" and students who achieve perfect attendance all in a marking period.

There will be a \$3,000 minimum available to fund this program. A \$25 award

will be made for each qualified entry up to the minimum available funds.

The first two marking periods only of the 2015/2016 will be used to determine the winners. The winners will be drawn at the April 2016 conference of the MIEA.

To qualify, students must be:

- An enrolled member or direct descendent of a tribe/band.
- In Grades 1-12 in public or private school.
- In Grades 4-12 to qualify for straight "A" award. (A-, A, A+)
- In Grades 1-12 for perfect attendance award.

Submissions must be received or postmarked no later than March 15, 2016.

Please contact LeAnn Stindt for more information or for the application. Please send the application to:

LeAnn Stindt
103 Big Bear Rd., Iron River, MI 49935

Please submit the following items:

- The student's parent must complete and sign the Student Incentive Program Application form (available at michiganindianelders.org).
- A copy of the child's report card signed by the parent or a letter from the school's administrator.
- A copy of the student's or parent's tribal identification card.

Andahwod CCC & ES Events - March 2016

Euchre
Mondays | 6 p.m.
• Contact: 989.775.4300

Beading
Tuesdays | 5 p.m.
• Contact: 989.775.4302

Jewelry with Kay
March 1 | 1 p.m.
• Contact: 989.775.4307

Language Bingo
March 3 | 1 p.m.
• Contact: 989.775.4307

Elders Breakfast
March 9 | 9 a.m.
• Contact: 989.775.4300

Bingo with Friends
March 16 | 1 p.m.
• Contact: 989.775.4307



MARCH 2016 EVENT PLANNER

Women's Tradition Society

March 7, 14, 21 | 5 - 6:30 p.m.
• Location: Behavioral Health
• Contact: 989-775-4879

Al-Anon Family Group Meeting

March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 | 5 p.m.
• Location: Behavioral Health
• Contact: 989-775-3742
• Strength and hope for friends and families of problem drinkers.

Round Dance Pot of Soup Days

March 2, 9 | 12-1 p.m.
• Location: Seniors Room
• Fundraiser for annual SCIT Round Dance

Recreation Luau

March 10 | 6-8 p.m.
• Location: Eagles Nest Tribal Gym
• Contact: 989-775-4149
• Food, games and giveaways.
• Limbo contest
• Luau-themed meal
• Tribal families welcome

Mt. Pleasant Public Schools and SCA Day at the Waterpark

March 11 | 12-5 p.m.
• Location: Soaring Eagle Waterpark and Hotel
• Contact: 989-775-4506
• Register by March 9 at 5 p.m.
• Only open to students who attend Mt. Pleasant Public Schools or the Saginaw Chippewa Academy.
• Waterpark pass for the student and one adult/guardian.

Survival Mom

March 11 | 1-4 p.m.
• Location: Nimkee Public Health Kitchen
• Please RSVP: 989-775-4621 or hwilliams@sagchip.org
• Do you know how to prepare your family for everyday disasters and worst-case scenarios? Come and learn how easy preparedness can be.

Women's Support Group

March 15 | 5:30 - 7 p.m.
• Location: Behavioral Health
• Contact: 989-775-4896

Gathering of Cultural Sharing

March 17 | 10 a.m.
• Location: Seventh Generation
• Contact: 989-775-4780
• Cultural artists wanted
• Tables: \$5 each. Set up at 9 a.m.

Housing Financial Workshop

March 17 | 12 p.m.
• Location: Housing Conference Room
• Contact: 989-775-4552

SCA Family Reading Night

March 17 | 5 - 7 p.m.
• Location: Saginaw Chippewa Academy
• Contact: 989-775-4453

Women to Women Group

March 18 | 12 - 3 p.m.
• Location: Nimkee Public Health Kitchen
• Contact: 989-775-4654

Hoop Life Tournament

March 19 | 10 a.m., registration begins at 9 a.m.
• Location: Mt. Pleasant High School
• To RSVP: 989-775-4149
• Three age groups: Middle school (grades 6-8), high school, and adult male/female.
• Pre-registration deadline: March 4, 2016.

Nimkee Healthy Start Blossoming Tea

March 22 | 5:30 - 8 p.m.
• Location: Soaring Eagle Waterpark and Hotel

Moccasin Making Class

March 25 | 5 - 8 p.m.
• Location: Seventh Generation
• Contact: 989-775-4780

Easter Unity
Good Friday Service
March 25 • Eagles Nest Tribal Gym
Doors open at 9 a.m. • All denominations welcome
For more information, contact Public Relations at 989.775.4096

Tuesday Night Skins
At Waabooz Run on April 26, 2016.
• 5:30 p.m. tee-off • No age limit
• \$20 per player plus green/cart fees
• All players use the blue tees.
For more information, please contact:
Bernard Sprague at 989.400.1838.

TRIBAL COMMUNITY CALENDAR | MARCH 2016

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT./SUN.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● SECR Payroll ● SCIT Per Capita ● SCIT Payroll ● Waste Collection* <small>*Bins must be curbside by 6:30 a.m.</small> 	<p>1</p> <p>Ogitchedaw Meeting Seniors Room 6 p.m.</p> <p>Euchre Andahwod 6 - 8 p.m.</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Open Gym Tribal Gym 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.</p> <p>Traditional Teaching Saganing 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.</p> <p>Youth Council Meeting Old Council Room 5 p.m.</p> <p>Parent Advisory Meeting SCA 5 - 6 p.m.</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Sacred Fire Lunch 7th Generation 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.</p> <p>Talking Circle 7th Generation 3 p.m. - 5 p.m.</p>	<p>4</p> <p>AA/NA Spirit Bear Meeting Andahwod Maple Lodge 7 p.m.</p> <p>New Spirit Moon Andahwod Conference 1 p.m.</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Talking Circle Andahwod 10 a.m.</p> <p>6</p> <p>New Spirit Support Group B. Health 4 p.m. - 5 p.m.</p>
<p>7</p> <p>Women's Traditions Society B. Health 5 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Euchre Andahwod 6 - 8 p.m.</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Open Gym Tribal Gym 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.</p> <p>Quill Earring Class 7th Generation 5 - 7 p.m.</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Jake and Mary Pine 7th Generation</p> <p>Sacred Fire Lunch 7th Generation 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.</p> <p>Talking Circle 7th Generation 3 p.m. - 5 p.m.</p> <p>Quill Earring Class 7th Generation 5 - 7 p.m.</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Jake and Mary Pine 7th Generation</p> <p>AA/NA Spirit Bear Meeting Andahwod Maple Lodge 7 p.m.</p> <p>New Spirit Moon Andahwod Conference 1 p.m.</p> <p>Saganing Soup Day Saganing Tribal Center 12-1 p.m.</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Talking Circle Andahwod 10 a.m.</p> <p>13</p> <p>New Spirit Support Group B. Health 4 p.m. - 5 p.m.</p>
<p>14</p> <p>Women's Traditions Society B. Health 5 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Euchre Andahwod 6 - 8 p.m.</p> <p>Saganing Bingo with Friends Saganing 10:30 a.m - 2 p.m.</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Tribal Observer Deadline 3 p.m.</p> <p>Open Gym Tribal Gym 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.</p> <p>Tribal Education Advisory Meeting Meeting 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.</p> <p>Youth Council Meeting Old Council Room 5 p.m.</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Sacred Fire Lunch 7th Generation 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.</p> <p>Talking Circle 7th Generation 3 p.m. - 5 p.m.</p>	<p>18</p> <p>AA/NA Spirit Bear Meeting Andahwod Maple Lodge 7 p.m.</p> <p>New Spirit Moon Andahwod Conference 1 p.m.</p> <p>Saganing Soup Day Saganing Tribal Center 12-1 p.m.</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Talking Circle Andahwod 10 a.m.</p> <p>20</p> <p>New Spirit Support Group B. Health 4 p.m. - 5 p.m.</p>
<p>21</p> <p>Women's Traditions Society B. Health 5 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Euchre Andahwod 6 - 8 p.m.</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Open Gym Tribal Gym 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Sacred Fire Lunch 7th Generation 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.</p> <p>Talking Circle 7th Generation 3 p.m. - 5 p.m.</p>	<p>25</p> <p>AA/NA Spirit Bear Meeting Andahwod Maple Lodge 7 p.m.</p> <p>New Spirit Moon Andahwod Conference 1 p.m.</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Talking Circle Andahwod 10 a.m.</p> <p>27</p> <p>New Spirit Support Group B. Health 4 p.m. - 5 p.m.</p>
<p>28</p> <p>Tribal Ops Closed Easter (Observed)</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Euchre Andahwod 6 - 8 p.m.</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Open Gym Tribal Gym 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.</p> <p>Youth Council Meeting Old Council Room 5 p.m.</p> <p>Youth Council Language Old Council Room 5:30 p.m.</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Sacred Fire Lunch 7th Generation 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.</p> <p>Talking Circle 7th Generation 3 p.m. - 5 p.m.</p>	<p>Talking Circle</p> <p>Wednesdays at 7 p.m. Andahwod Maple Room</p> <p>For more information, contact: Kim 989.289.3088, Roger 989.944.1937</p>	



Tribal Observer Classifieds

To place your ad, call the Tribal Observer at 989-775-4010, Email: observer@sagchip.org, visit our office in Tribal Operations or mail to Tribal Observer, Attn.: Classified, 7070 E. Broadway, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858. Please have all submissions and payment in by deadline. Classified rates are \$10 for 15 words or less, and 75 cents per additional word. Any thumbnail image costs an additional \$15. **Apply to job postings online at www.sagchip.org. * Job postings are subject to change daily.**

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

100 Employment

Tribal Operations

Police Officer FT

Open to the public. Must be a U.S. citizen. Must be at least 21 years of age. Must have a high school diploma or equivalent. Associates degree preferred. Must be able to pass departmental fitness evaluation. Must be MCOLES certified/certifiable or capable of meeting certifiable standards. Must be able to obtain and maintain a special law enforcement commission through the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Must have a valid Michigan driver's license, insurable under the Tribe's policy.

General Labor Pool

Tribal Member posting. Must be at least 18 years of age and possess a high school diploma or equivalent. Must be physically fit and be able to perform manual labor. Applicants must have a telephone contact number and be available on short notice for short term employment. May also be required to have a valid Michigan driver's license.

Dentist

Open to the public. Minimum requirements include DDS/DMD degree from an accredited school and a Michigan Dental License. Must complete a fingerprint/background check. Duties include the provision of dental services associated with a general dentistry clinic to patients served at the facility assigned, or to any other facility or program where the Tribe provides services in accordance with privileges granted. The staff dentist will be responsible for daily activities under the supervision of the chief dental officer.

Anishinabe Language Revitalization Director

Open to the public. Minimum five years specific demonstrated experience developing and working with Anishinabemowin programs/projects. Knowledge and certification in native language instruction or bachelor's degree or equivalent combination of education and Anishinabemowin-related experience. Applicant must demonstrate fluency and a strong working knowledge about Anishinabemowin. Person must possess experience developing new programs through research to successful implementation.

Journeyman Lineman

Open to the public. Candidate must have a high school diploma or equivalent. Candidate must have a Journeyman License with lineman experience or must have successfully completed the journeyman examination requirements as administered by an accredited Lineman Apprenticeship Training program or five years three phase high voltage experience with appropriate electrical license.

ACFS Director

Open to the public. Master's degree in social services or human services related field. Must have supervisory experience in social services or human services related field. Must be able to obtain and maintain a tribal driver's license. The Anishnaabeg Child and Family Services director will direct, establish, plan and coordinate all overall activities and segments included within ACFS. This includes prevention and outreach services, protective services, ICWA and licensing services. The Social Services director will assure protective services investigations, prevention, child and family service cases and open-active cases including descendants as outlined in the ICWA agreement between Michigan DHS and SCIT are responded to in a manner consistent with the Department's overall goal.

Strategic Grant Specialist

Open to the public. Bachelor's degree in related field of study or equivalent experience. Must have grant writing expertise, planning skills, and demonstrated ability to work with federal/state agencies. Three years experience in management and/or administration of federal grants and contracts and demonstrated experience in program development. Must have keen understanding of the reservation community and specific programmatic needs of the Tribal services. Must have reliable transportation and be free to travel if required. Have knowledge of desktop publishing, word processing, spreadsheets and the Internet.

Special Education Teacher

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

Teacher

Open to the public. Bachelor's degree in education. Must possess a valid State of Michigan Teaching Certification. Prefer minimum of two years teaching experience and working experience with Native Americans. Must complete a criminal records check in accordance with the State of Michigan. Knowledge of and/or experience with Ojibwe language preferred.

Sasiwanns Early Childhood Manager

Open to the public. Bachelor's degree in education field required. Candidate must possess a valid State of Michigan Early Childhood Certification and/or ZS Endorsement. Prefer two years of experience and/or combination of related experience and training in early childhood education.

Prefer knowledge of Anishinabemowin. Prefer supervisor management experience.

Anishinabe Language Apprentice

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

Energy Broker Buyer

Open to the public. Candidate must have a bachelor's degree in electrical technology, statistics, mathematics, or business. Master's degree preferred. A minimum of five years experience in the analysis, forecast, strategies, and/or purchasing of wholesale power through the de-regulated BES, as well as the tariffs and transportation as related.

Prevention Specialist

Open to the public. A bachelor's degree in public health education and promotion or other prevention-related studies preferred. CHES or MCBAP-approved prevention certification preferred. A minimum of a high school diploma along with a minimum of two years professional experience in an alcohol, tobacco, and other drug reduction field.

Seasonal Garden Worker Seventh Generation

Open to the public. Must have a high school diploma or equivalent. Applicant must have experience with all farming equipment including tractor, bush hog, rototiller, cultivator, plow and disk. Applicant must have the desire to work outside and withstand different climate changes. Green house experience a plus, but not required.

Clerical Pool

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

SECR

Steward PT

Open to the public. Must be at least 18 years of age. Must have a high school diploma or GED. Desire to work hard.

Security Officer PT

Open to the public. Must be at least 18 years of age and have a high school diploma or equivalent. Ability to handle irate, disorderly or intoxicated guests in a professional manner. May be required to perform their duties during hazardous conditions that could include severe weather and fire.

Inventory Control Warehouse Driver

Open to the public. High school diploma or equivalent. Must be able to obtain/maintain a gaming license. Must be able to obtain/maintain a tribal driver's license and maintain a CDL Class B license. One to three years experience in driving vehicles/rigs that require CDL designation.

Maintenance Supervisor Bedding

Open to the public. Must have a high school diploma or equivalent. Must have a minimum of two year college degree in related field or three years experience in horticulture gardening or landscaping environment. Previous supervisory experience preferred but not required.

Entertainment Usher (Seasonal)

Open to the public. Must be at least 18 years of age. Must have a high school diploma or GED. Must be able to stand for long periods of time. Must possess a friendly attitude and work well with the public. Ushering experience would be helpful but is not a requirement.

Carpet/Upholstery Cleaner FT

Open to the public. Some carpet and upholstery cleaning experience required. Knowledge of truck mount system a plus. Must pass training test on truck mount operation within 90-day probation period.

Lead Cook

Open to the public. Must be at least 18 years of age with a high school diploma or equivalent. Two years of restaurant cooking experience with increasing levels of responsibility, proven leadership, communication and teamwork skills. Formal education in the form of a culinary degree from an American Culinary Federation (ACF) accredited school may be accepted to satisfy part of the work experience requirement. Must have ability to comprehend house training and pass by 60 percent standardized written culinary competency test.

Lead Cook - Pastry

Open to the public. Must be at least 18 years of age with a high school diploma or equivalent. Two years of restaurant cooking experi-

ence with increasing levels of responsibility, proven leadership, communication and teamwork skills. Formal education in the form of a culinary degree from an American Culinary Federation (ACF) accredited school may be accepted to satisfy part of the work experience requirement. Must have ability to comprehend house training and pass by 60 percent standardized written culinary competency test.

Line Server PT

Open to the public. Must have a high school diploma or GED. Must be able to work weekends, holidays, and graveyard shifts. Must have be organized and thorough in work ethic and have a strong desire to provide service. Good physical ability for walking, standing, lifting, and bending. Must be able to lift 25-50 pounds regularly.

Host/Hostess PT

Open to the public. Must be at least 18 years of age with a high school diploma or equivalent. Must have good guest service skills and work well with others. Must be a team player and able to work flexible hours, including weekends, holidays and graveyard shifts. Six months to one year related food experience and/or the ability to successfully pass in house training. Native American preferred.

Guest Room Attendant PT

Open to the public. Must have a high school diploma or GED. Previous house-keeping experience preferred. Must be able to follow simple written and verbal instruction, and be willing to accomplish repetitive tasks.

Inventory Control Warehouse FT

Open to the public. High school diploma or equivalent. Must be able to obtain/maintain a gaming license. Must be able to obtain and maintain a tribal driver's an Industrial Truck Operator Permit. One to three years experience in receiving or warehousing. Computer experiences to include Microsoft Office or related programs. Must have experience on stand up or sit down fork lift or be able to be certified prior to 90 day probationary period is completed.

Accountant

Open to the public. Bachelor's degree in account-

ing or bachelor's degree in business with an accounting minor. Must have computer experience with spreadsheets and word processing. Working knowledge of GAAP principals. This position is an entry-level accounting position within the resort accounting department.

Cosmetologist PT

Open to the public. Must be at least 18 years or older upon employment. High school diploma or equivalent required. Must possess and maintain a Michigan state license in Cosmetology, with 1600 training hours, followed by completion of state license with two year renewal required. One year experience preferred. Must be able to work days, nights, weekends, and holidays.

Waitstaff PT - Casino Beverage

Open to the public. Must be at least 18 years of age. Must have a high school diploma or equivalent. Must have accurate math skills. Needs to be able to deal with the public under stressful situations.

SELC

Saganing Transit Driver PT

Open to the public. Must have a high school diploma or GED. Must be at least 21 years of age. Must have a valid Michigan Driver's License and must be able to obtain and maintain a Tribal Drivers License and qualify for coverage by our insurance carrier. Must have a valid CDL with passenger endorsements or a Chauffeur's License.

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Location, Location! Quiet subdivision just 2 min. from casino. 3 bed, 1 bath, ranch with 2 car garage. Back deck to large yard with wooded view. Natural Gas. Really a MUST SEE! Bailey McCaul, Realtor 989-506-7400 Coldwell Banker Mt. Pleasant Realty 304 E Broadway Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858 989-773-5972

Summons and Complaint Notices

NOTICE OF SUMMONS TO APPEAR IN THE MATTER OF MARILYN JOHNSON:

The Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Court 6954 East Broadway Road Mount Pleasant, MI 48858 (989) 775-4800 Case NO: 15-CI-0843 Plaintiff: VJD Inc. dba Cash Plus #148 515A North Mission St. Mount Pleasant, MI 48858 (989) 953-9700 Vs. Defendant: Marilyn Johnson 1204 Robert St. Mount Pleasant, MI 48858 Notice to defendant: 1. You are being sued in the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Court. 2. You have 21days after receiving this summons to file an answer with the court and to server a copy on the other party or take other lawful action. Please note that if you were served by certified mail or served outside of the reservation land to have 28 days to answer attached complaint. 3. Failure to file an answer or take other action within the time allowed may result in a default judgment being entered against you for the relief requested in Plaintiff's complaint. **This summons expires June 8, 2016.**



Women's hearts heard through Red Dress Fashion Show and Dinner

NATALIE SHATTUCK

Editor

Entering the Saginaw Ballroom in the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort Conference Center, the room was noticeably filled with guests wearing red.

On Wednesday, Feb. 17, the Nimkee Clinic presented the Red Dress Fashion Show and Dinner for heart disease awareness.

The “go red for women” 5:30 to 8 p.m. event cited heart disease is the number one killer of women (and men).

Emily Wiggins, former community health representative for Nimkee Clinic, provided a welcome address and introduced Tribal Elder Ellie Van Horn to bless the food and offer prayer.

“We had another wonderful turn out for the Red Dress Fashion Show,” Wiggins said. “The Soaring Eagle staff did a great job at the buffet dinner... We are very thankful for having one of the biggest crowds for a Red Dress Fashion Show that I can remember. It was awesome to see all the kids and families come together for this event... I hope we can have one just like this again next year!”

This year there were 114 participants including 39 fashion show models.

Nimkee Medical Clinic Director Margaret Steslicki introduced guest speaker Suzanne L. Cross, Ph.D, ASW, LMSW.



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

It was a family affair as Michelle George (right), her daughter Marcella Garcia and her grandson Phoenix Sopha walked the runway.

Cross is an associate professor and gerontologist teaching practice and policy courses in the undergraduate program of the School of Social Work at Michigan State University.

She is a Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe member and has worked extensively in collaboration with tribal nations.

Cross shared her own story of surviving heart disease, and also provided statistics and information to the audience.

“Heart disease kills one woman every 60 seconds,” Cross said. “In the past 30 years, more women than men have died from the disease.”

Cross emphasized symptoms can be subtle and/or different for everyone, but it’s important to make healthy lifestyle decisions.

“(At the time) I told the doctor, ‘I’m not much overweight, I exercise regularly, I don’t drink, I don’t smoke’ and the doctor said ‘if you did, you wouldn’t be here,’” Cross said.

Cross said in a study “of 866 American Indian women” who experienced a heart attack, “264 of them responded to severe chest pain by waiting until it passed.”

According to hearttruth.gov, risk factors for heart disease include individuals who: Have high cholesterol, high blood pressure, diabetes, are obese, smoke and are not physical active.



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

Three generations model their red dresses: Baby Aryl, Avianna (center) and Lee Ann Ruffino.



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

Many children had a blast on the runway for the Feb. 17 Red Dress Fashion Show.



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

Twila Schrot, LPN for the Nimkee Medical Clinic, “goes red for women” with Deja Belmarez.



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

Karmen Fox walks with her daughter Ella and son Emerson in honor of her grandmother Estella.



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

Emily Wiggins (right), who helped launch the Red Dress Fashion Show years ago, models with Tahlia Alonzo-Villanova.

Tribal Elder Joseph V. Sowmick served as the emcee.

“Models in the show this evening include Tribal elders, community members and various Tribal departmental employees and their families,” Sowmick said. “We thank them for their contribution. Thank you to the partnering departments of Nimkee Medical, Public Health, and Pharmacy.”

When it was time for the fashion show, models of all ages walked the runway in their red attire to raise awareness for heart disease or to honor a loved one affected.

“My heart is filled with gratitude,” said Anna Hon, healthy start child nurse for

Nimkee Clinic. “The Red Dress event was a success. Thanks to all who made this spectacular event happen.”

Nimkee provided numerous door prizes to many in attendance.

According to fda.gov/women-shearhealth, the signs of a heart attack can be different for women than they are for men.

Women’s symptoms may include: Heavy ache in chest or back between shoulder blades, sharp pain in upper body, shortness of breath, breaking out in a cold sweat, unusual or unexplained tiredness, feeling dizzy or lightheaded and feeling nauseas.



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

Kyven Rose, 5, models for the Nimkee Clinic event in the Soaring Eagle Saginaw Ballroom.



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

Anna Hon, healthy start child nurse, shows her support with her granddaughter Piper McHugh.



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

Event guest speaker and heart disease survivor Suzanne L. Cross also walked the runway in her red shawl.



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

Big brother Kadenn Rose carries his 5-month-old baby sister Kyleigh Koons on the runway.



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

Sharon Peters, administrative assistant for Nimkee Public Health Services, walked the fashion show in her red attire.