

\$1.00



May 2016 VOLUME 27 ISSUE 5
Zaagibagaan-Giiizis (Moon When Buds Come Out)

TRIBAL OBSERVER

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

CHECK THESE OUT

- 11 Fun and Games
- 16 Tribal College
- 18 Tribal Education
- 19 Entertainment
- 22 Tribal Health
- 25 Tribal Elders
- 26 Tribal Calendar
- 27 Tribal Classifieds



5

Lacrosse dedication
CMU women's lacrosse team receives traditional blessing from SCIT.



8

Thirty-five years of gaming
Tribal Council and patrons celebrate SCIT's 35th gaming anniversary.



15

Annual SCIT Water Report
Utility Authority Consumer Confidence and annual Drinking Water Report.



BACK

Annual Spring Feast
Seventh Generation hosts community feast featuring guest speaker Joe Syrette.

Copyright © 2016 Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan
All rights reserved

Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort reported all clear after 2,500 evacuated following April 21 bomb threats

JOSEPH V. SOWMICK
Photojournalist

On April 21, the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort received two bomb threats. The first threat was received at 10:15 p.m., and another call followed shortly after from a female caller.

Following emergency protocol, the hotel, casino, slot palace and employees (approximately 2,500) were evacuated as a precautionary measure to ensure safety for all.

At 5:30 a.m., the investigation was officially complete and all sites were cleared.

The Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Police were cited in a press release issued at 8:26 a.m. on behalf of the Tribe by Interim Public Relations Director Erik Rodriguez.

"The Tribal Police have indicated that a person of interest has been identified, however, due to the ongoing investigation, no further details are available," Rodriguez said. "Both the government and business interests have

emergency preparedness procedures in place, and... we followed the protocol and notified the necessary agencies for their assistance."

Joining the Tribal Police and Tribal Fire in the evacuation and bomb search were the Shepherd Police Department, Mount Pleasant City Police, Michigan State Police Bomb Squad and K-9 Unit, Isabella County Sheriff's Department, Central Michigan University Police, Mobile Medical Response (MMR), Emergency Management Center, Clare City Police Department, Isabella County Dispatch and Midland K-9 Bomb Dogs.

"We appreciate the multi-jurisdictional technical support and value the collaborative efforts by all agencies," Rodriguez said. "Our primary goal was to assure a safe and orderly evacuation of the property and let the law enforcement agencies begin their systematic search of the casino and resort areas."

Tribal Chief Frank J. Cloutier was immediately

notified by Rodriguez of the incident and was kept informed of developments as they occurred.

The Tribal Council received a debriefing about the incident and commended the agencies involved for their quick response.

"Our guests and employees will always remain a top priority and everything was done to ensure their safety," Cloutier said. "To reopen the casino after an incident of this magnitude takes strategic planning from casino and hotel management."

Bonnie Sprague, general manager for the Soaring Eagle Waterpark and Hotel, said the waterpark personnel assisted with providing lodging to the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort guests after they had been evacuated.

"The Soaring Eagle Waterpark and Hotel sold out at 3:16 a.m. and we were short staffed to begin with so (Bernard Sprague, director of hotel operations for SECR) sent over three

associates to help check in guests," Bonnie Sprague said. "Front Office Manager Norma Castellon scanned over a list of their guests in-house so we could verify that they were guests at the resort. Some guests were unable to get rooms so they slept in the lobby and teen room areas and many went to other hotels in the area. SECR Food and Beverage also sent associates to help out with our snack shop."

Bonnie Sprague praised both teams for pulling together to provide the best customer service under the unfavorable circumstances.

"I was able to speak with some of the guests..." Bonnie Sprague said. "They were very appreciative and thanked us for keeping them safe. One couple from Troy, Mich. informed me that they have no grandchildren so they really never had intentions of staying with us at the waterpark. They were pleased with their accommodations and stated that they may come back to stay again."

Tribal Police thorough investigation declares Sasiwaans child abuse allegations unsubstantiated

NATALIE SHATTUCK
Editor

In January 2016, child abuse allegations occurring within the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe's Sasiwaans Immersion School were brought to the attention of local media outlets by a former employee and parent of a student.

The Tribal Police Department has completed an investigation regarding the allegations.

A thorough investigation was turned over to the Tribal prosecutor and the U.S. Attorney's Office who agreed the allegations were unsubstantiated and declined prosecution, according to Interim Public Relations Director Erik Rodriguez.

"The Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan takes allegations of abuse involving our Tribal youth very

seriously," said Chief Frank Cloutier. "Appropriate steps have been followed to ensure the safety of our children."

Sasiwaans, as part of the Anishinaabe Language Revitalization Department, serves children from 18 months to four years old, and has been operating for six years without any previous incidents.

Each Sasiwaans classroom has live cameras available



where parents may view the school and hear what is being said, according to Rodriguez.

The school is fully funded through Tribal allocations, and it is the only Ojibwe immersion language school in Michigan.

The Anishinabe Language Revitalization Department works in conjunction with Sasiwaans, and both offer a place where Anishinabe is accepted as a comfortable place where children can learn their language and cultural heritage.

PER CAPITA NOTICE TO TRIBAL MEMBERS

As of May 1, 2016, the Per Capita Department will no longer mail Direct Deposit/advice statements. This effort is to cut cost and go green. An advice statement will be available immediately at NO charge as requested.

You may choose to continue to receive advice statements each pay period by a phone call, or a written request to this department. This option will incur a \$5 cost to you if a duplicate is needed in the future.

Thank you for understanding and the help to go green. We are working to meet the needs of the Tribe and membership!

All questions may be directed to the Per Capita Department.

Have a great spring! Bah mah!
Per Capita Department Staff

Public Notices



Tribal Observer | May 2016

Page 2 | Niizh

Louis Leksche Jr.

Aug. 24, 1935 – April 15, 2016

Louis Leksche Jr., age 80, of Mount Pleasant, Mich., passed away Friday, April 15, 2016 at the McLaren Central Michigan in Mt. Pleasant.

Louis was born Aug. 24, 1935 in Livonia, Mich., the son of Louis Sr. and Orie (Wheaton) Leksche. Louis was a proud member of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan. He married Marie T. Griffin as a young man. They had six children together.



Louis later married Vivalene Sparks on Nov. 30, 1974 in Brooklyn, Mich. He loved fishing, collecting old things, and enjoyed spending time with his family.

Louis is survived by his children, Lou Ann (Dan) Loiselle, Susan Leksche, Diane Leksche, William Leksche, and Frederick (Kelly) Leksche; Vivalene's children, Rita Cooper and Danny Dew; and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Louis was preceded in death by his wife Vivalene on Nov. 28, 2013; son, Louie Leksche III; and parents.

Funeral services for Louis were held at Clark Family Funeral Chapel on Saturday, April 23, 2016.

Elders Homecoming Powwow Trip

Lodging choices include:

- Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort
- Soaring Eagle Waterpark and Hotel

*Limited rooms available at SEWPH. First come, first serve basis.

For more information, please contact:

At-Large/Member Services at 989.775.4944

PLEASE REPORT ALL WILDLIFE VIOLATIONS

To the Saginaw Chippewa
Tribal Police Department



Dispatch: 989.775.4700
Tip Line: 989.775.4775

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

Tribal Child Welfare Affidavits

Due May 6, 2016 by 5 p.m.

- The Tribal Clerk's Office will be open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Sorry, no post-marked mail accepted.

Adult 2016 Annual Reports

Due May 4, 2016 by 5 p.m.

- Sorry, no post-marked mail accepted.



Check out the
Tribal Observer
ONLINE

www.sagchip.org/tribalobserver

David Bearden

Nov. 4, 1959 – Feb. 25, 2016

David Bearden, age 56, of Mabelton, Ga., formerly of Mount Pleasant, Mich., passed away Thursday, Feb. 25, 2016 at his home.

David was born Nov. 4, 1959 in Carson City, Mich., the son of Aaron L. and Lucy Jane (Williams) Bearden. He was a member of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe, and was a brickmason most of his career. David loved his family and grandchildren.

David is survived by his children Aaron Bearden of Olivet, Mich., Allen (Geraldine) Bearden of Charlotte, Mich., and Cricket (Kevin) Manthei of Springport, Mich.; 13 grandchildren, brothers Michael (Loretta) Bearden of Sumner, Mich., Larry Bearden of Elm Hall, Mich., and Eugene Bearden; and one sister Laura Yoder of Lake, Mich. He was preceded in death by his parents, two brothers Daniel and Lloyd, a sister Nancy, and his grandparents Ada Vallance and Pete Williams.

Funeral services for David were held at Clark Family Funeral Chapel on Tuesday, April 5, 2016.

Memorial contributions may be made to the family.



Save the Date!

June 18 & 19, 2016



Vendor Registration

- The vendor booth cost is \$25
- Location provides electric and water hook-ups.

For more information, please call
Mikki Marcotte at 989-775-4905



Saginaw Chippewa Conservation Committee

2016 Regular Meeting Schedule

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

Report Suspicious or Criminal Activity!

Do Your Part In Stopping Crime!

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

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



Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Police

Dispatch: 989-775-4700

Tip Line: 989-775-4775

Bayonet (Narcotics Enforcement)

Tip Line: 989-779-9697

Anonymous and Confidential

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.

Public Notice

Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Police provide law enforcement services under 638 Contract with the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). In compliance with said contract; The Bureau of Indian Affairs reserves the right for "First Right of Refusal" pertaining to any complaints against the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Police Department and/or its Officer's.

As result of this contractual procedure; ALL complaints against the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Police Department and/or its Officer's must first be directed to:

Bureau of Indian Affairs
Internal Affairs Division

Albuquerque Office
1.505.563.3880

**Attention: Tribal Clerk/Enrollment Hours**

Tribal Clerk's/Enrollment office is 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.

Waabooz Run, Eagle Bay Marina and RV Park are now open**FREDRICK KUHLMAN**

Marketing Manager Migizi

The change of season has awakened some of the Migizi EDC businesses from their slumber. Eagle Bay Marina, Waabooz Run Golf Course, and Soaring Eagle Hideaway R.V. Park are all now open for the season and already welcoming boaters, players and guests.

The 2015 Migizi Economic Development Company Annual Report is available on the membership webpage at your convenience.

Waabooz Run Golf Operations Manager Steve Norbury said the Tribe's golf course is in excellent condition to begin the year.

Waabooz Run is a sand-based course which allows for excellent drainage even in extremely wet conditions such as we have had this spring across mid-Michigan.

Grounds superintendent Tory Fletcher has been working to make certain Waabooz Run was ready for play as soon as the areas golfers were ready to dust off their clubs.

Staff and management would like to extend heartfelt congratulations to Tory as he was presented the award for Seasonal Operator of the Year during the Pure Michigan Governors Conference on Tourism.

Tory is truly one of the most dedicated, hardest working members of the Migizi team.

**MIGIZI**
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CO.

year which will allow the bigger boats easy access to the marina.

Eagle Bay will host its own walleye tournament again this year, be watching for details on date and time.

Those in Mount Pleasant have surely seen the changes that are ongoing at the former Isabella Sagamok Shell, now Sagamok Express Mobil. New paint has been applied, pumps are being installed the first two weeks of this month, the canopy and lights will also be changed and upgrades will continue throughout the summer and fall.

Migizi and Sagamok employees are excited about the renovation and looking forward to providing new offerings and great service to all customers.

As always, those of us at Migizi are here to serve you and welcome your comments and feedback.



Promoting Healthy Food and Native Art

Every Tuesday

June 7 - Oct. 18, 2016

Where: Farmers Market Pavilion
Corner of Broadway and Leaton roads

Time: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Items for Sale

- Wild Rice
- Baked Goods
- Jam & Jellies
- Maple Syrup
- Fresh Seasonal Produce

For more information, please contact:
SCIT Public Relations Department at 989.775.4059

Now seeking produce and Native American art vendors.

Please contact Marcella Hadden:
989.775.4059 or mahadden@sagchip.org

- There is no charge to be a vendor.
- You do not need to be a Native American to sell produce.
- You must be a Native American to sell Native Art.

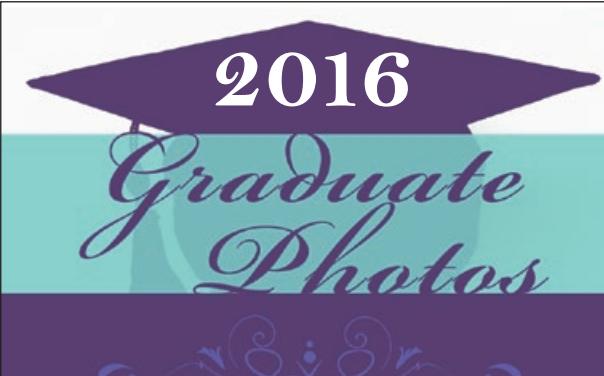
Attention Tribal Members

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



For more information, please contact:

Sherrill Kennedy at 989-775-4552 or SKennedy@sagchip.org

**High School**

Name of Graduate
Name of School

College

Name of Graduate
Field of Study
Name of School

Submit Information to:
observer@sagchip.org

Due by May 16, 2016



Happy Birthday Mom

Love, Michelle



Happy 75th Birthday DAD!

May 23rd.

*We Love You!
~ Love, Your Family!*



Anne Patricia Carol

Happy Birthday!

Seventh Generation Revitalization of
People's Traditional Powwow

Sept. 10 & 11, 2016

Calling all community artists or families that would like to donate any kind of gift home made or bought for the giveaway. Family or Individual sponsored spot dances. Dance specials.

Jackson Family sponsored Hand Drum Contest!

Vendors

- Vendor sign is by donation
- Give a gift for the blanket, or sponsor a spot dance, monetary donations excepted as well.

Watch for Raffles

Raffles will include:



- Renowned Tribal Sculpture (Donated by Jason Quigno)
- Bunkie Echohawk painting

If you have any questions or would like to help out in any way, please contact Seventh Generation at 989-775-4780. Miigwetch.

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.





Tribal Council

Chief

Frank J. Cloutier, District 3

Sub-Chief

Brent D. Jackson, District 1

Treasurer

Gayle Ruhl, District 1

Secretary

Michelle R. Colwell, District 1

Sergeant At-Arms

Ronald F. Ekdahl, District 1

Tribal Chaplain

Diana Quigno-Grundahl, District 1

Council Member

Candace B. Benzinger, District 1

Council Member

Tim J. Davis, District 1

Council Member

Lindy Hunt, District 1

Council Member

Amanda Oldman, District 1

Council Member

Kenneth Sprague, District 1

Council Member

Ron Nelson, District 2

Seven Grandfather Teachings

Nbookaawin ~ Wisdom

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

Zaagidowin ~ Love

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

Minaadendamoowin ~ Respect

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

Zoongide'ewin ~ Bravery

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

Gwekwadiziwin ~ Honesty

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

Dibaadendiziwin ~ Humility

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

Debwewin ~ Truth

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

Editorial: Lansing Waverly student Zachary Zakora proves one person can make a difference

KRISSINDA AYLING

Contributing Writer

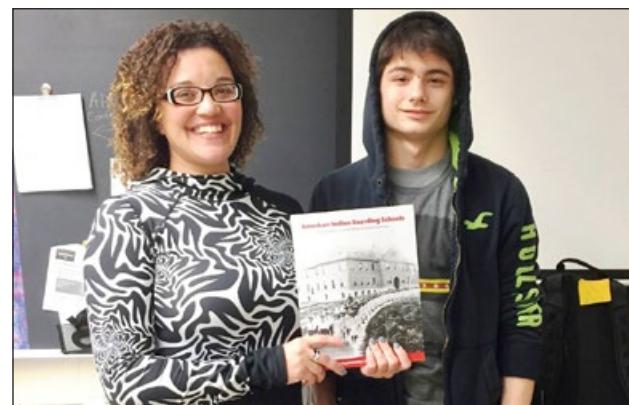
(Editor's note: The following article is provided by Krissinda Ayling from Lansing, Mich., who wanted to share how her son Zachary Zakora made a systemic change within his Lansing Waverly High School class by using the SCIT Tribal history book Diba Jimoooyung [telling our story].)

My son Zachary Zakora is a senior who attends Lansing Waverly High School and his U.S. Government class was recently having a discussion on genocide. In the classroom discussion, Zachary was surprised there was no mention of Native Americans. Zachary said to his teacher Ms. (Renee) Sarafin "what the U.S. Government did to the Native American people was genocide."

The next day, he brought the class information on the siege of Fort Pitt (June and July, 1763) where Native Americans were given blankets infected with smallpox. Zachary also shared other stories he found in the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe history book Diba Jimoooyung (telling our story).

Zachary told the class about his great-great-great grandmother Joshua and a story published in the Tuscola County Advertiser about a year before her death in May 1914. Zachary shared pamphlets on the Mount Pleasant Indian Industrial Boarding School which he got on the "Journey for Forgiveness" walk with his grandmother, mother, uncle and brother.

He was proud to tell his class about his Native American heritage and that he is a direct descendant



Courtesy of Krissinda Ayling

Lansing Waverly senior Zachary Zakora shares the history of the American Indian Boarding Schools with his government teacher Renee Sarafin.

of Chief Penaysewawbe and Chief Kawgagezhick (both signers of the Saginaw Chippewa, Swan Creek, Black River Band Treaty of 1855).

Because of the materials Zachary brought to class, Ms. Sarafin now teaches a unit on Native Americans and has her students reading Diba Jimoooyung and the pamphlet about the Mount Pleasant Indian Industrial Boarding School.

Ms. Sarafin thanked Zachary, whose Spirit name is Mushkeeki Mukwa (medicine bear), for the information he made her aware of.

Zachary and his family gives a chi miigwetch to Ms. Sarafin for embracing and sharing with her students our Native American history and culture.

Water Program seeking input from the Tribal Community

The Planning Department's Water Program staff is seeking input from the Tribal community. We would like to take you out for coffee to discuss your concerns, memories, priorities, etc. related to water resources.

If you are interested in telling us your stories, sharing your opinions, or learning more about the Water Program please contact us. Thank you.

Your Stories are Needed

The Water Quality program wants to gather first hand stories regarding the water in this area to get a historical aspect of the Chippewa, Coldwater and Pine Rivers within Isabella County. They would also like stories of the Saganing River in Arenac County.

If you are a Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Member or a member of another tribe, please identify that in your submission as well.

Aiman Shahpurwala

Water Resource Technician | 989.775.4081

Carey Pauquette

Water Quality Specialist | 989.775.4016

Taylor Hollis

Watershed Outreach Coordinator | 989.775.4162

You can mail your submissions to:

Carey Pauquette
SCIT Planning Department
7070 E. Broadway,
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858.

You can also email your submissions to:

CPauquette@sagchip.org.

We look forward to reviewing your submissions!

Planning Department/Water Quality Program Staff

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

CMU women's lacrosse team honored by SCIT at special field dedication ceremony

JOSEPH V. SOWMICK

Photojournalist

The Central Michigan University women's lacrosse team celebrated its inaugural season of Division I competition on April 15 in historic fashion, with a traditional blessing and special field dedication ceremony.

Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Chief Frank Cloutier and Tribal Council members joined Interim Public Relations Director Erik Rodriguez and CMU senior athletic administrative personnel at the center of the field in a pre-game ceremony.

"With lacrosse being a traditional Anishinaabe Native American sport, the university reached out to us and thought it was imperative for a dedication like this that the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe should be involved," Rodriguez said. "We are happy and excited to be here today and share some of our cultural teachings with the players, students and fans."

Rodriguez said to continue the SCIT and CMU partnership, the Tribe jumped at the chance to be on campus with Athletic Director Dave Heeke and his staff.

"This is a relationship that is based on honor, dignity and respect and we wanted to do our part to dedicate the new lacrosse field in a traditional way," Rodriguez said.

Heeke said having lacrosse as a major sport at CMU brought the Tribe and university closer together.

"We have strong cultural traditions aligned with Native



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

Former CMU football player and current Red Swamp Lacrosse Coach Ronnie Ekdahl greets the CMU women's lacrosse team during the pre-game field dedication.

Americans, and the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe has been right there with us every step of the way," Heeke said. "We're going to be working hard in growing the game here at the university and locally as well."

Heeke was joined by Head Football Coach John Bonamego, Associate Athletic Director of External Operations Craig Willey and other coaches and student athletes at the dedication.

"We are proud and honored to wear the Chippewa name and we are truly honored to have Chief Cloutier and Council here along with the other Tribal community members," Heeke said. "This is a celebration and I'm proud to have the Tribe as a part of our CMU family."

The Jacksonville Dolphins, a powerhouse from the Atlantic Sun Conference that came in sporting a 9-4 season, watched in amazement as they knew their

team was witnessing something truly special.

"The direct origin of the game is hard to trace back to any one Tribe but we do know that many Tribes in North and South America have competed in variations of lacrosse for centuries," Rodriguez said. "A lot of our community members and youth are striving to bring the sport back and Council member Ronnie Ekdahl and our recreation department have been a driving factor in making that happen."

Rodriguez said the lacrosse team is willing to work with the Red Swamp Tribal youth lacrosse team and to demonstrate what it takes to play on the collegiate level.

"Anytime you have a Division I school like CMU willing to bring their student athletes on the Reservation and to share their skills and fundamentals, it's encouraging to see a commitment like that right here in our community," Rodriguez said.

The Saginaw Chippewa Academy Anishinaabe Biimaaziwin team members Joe Syrette and Aaron Chivis walked around the field with the medicine and returned to the drum in the center of the field where they were thanked by Cloutier and Tribal Council along with CMU administrators, faculty and staff.

The Mino Ode Singers including Syrette, Chivis, James Day, Nathan Isaac, Matthew J. Sprague with songbird Cecilia Stevens and drummer Jason George sitting in, offered an honor song for the dedication.



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

The Mino Ode Singers offer an honor song for the April 15 CMU lacrosse field dedication.

Rodriguez said smudging is used to purify the field and it cleanses the spirit (body, mind and soul).

"Everyone that is on the field and in the stadium is taking part in embracing this teaching of sacred medicines," Rodriguez said. "It was great to hear the stadium announcer make the explanation of what the sage

is used for to foster a cultural understanding for those fans in the stands. Having the drum present, considered the heartbeat of our nation, makes this dedication truly special for everyone and shows the positive relationship the Tribe and university has."

Cloutier and former CMU football player Ekdahl presented a special gift from the Tribe during the ceremony that visibly moved Coach Sara Tisdale for women's lacrosse and her two team captains – a beaded lacrosse stick and a traditional made lacrosse stick.



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

Tribal Chief Frank J. Cloutier shares a moment after presenting Coach Sara Tisdale a beaded lacrosse stick made by Tribal Member Glenna Genereaux.

"The ceremonial blessing felt to me like the connection between our program and the SCIT grew deeper and stronger right before our eyes," Tisdale said. "The young women in our program wear the Chippewa name with a great deal of pride and respect. The ceremony and blessing made the bond between our program and the SCIT very, very real. You could feel the emotion, passion, and power. Everyone that was in attendance for the ceremony will remember that for a very long time."

Humane Animal Treatment Society offers low cost spay/neuter services and vaccinations

NATALIE SHATTUCK

Editor

In every U.S. state, there are a countless number of homeless animals. In the U.S., there are an estimated six to eight million homeless animals entering animal shelters every year, according to the Humane Society of the United States. Millions of these unwanted pets are euthanized each year.

The Humane Treatment Animal Society of Isabella County is doing its part to help reduce the number of homeless animals by offering low cost spay and neuter services.

"Spay and neuter is essential to controlling the pet population and reducing unnecessary euthanasia caused by pet overpopulation," said Summer Dubois, executive director for HATS.

Since opening in 2013, the HATS Health Clinic's state-of-the-art facility provides high-volume spay and neuter services for individuals with limited financial resources.

According to its website, HATS Health Clinic has helped save community members thousands of dollars, and helped prevent countless unplanned litters. Since its opening, shelter euthanasia in Isabella County

has been effectively reduced by 50 percent.

Spay prices include: \$85 for dogs less than 85 pounds, \$150 for dogs more than 85 pounds and \$35 for cats (must be more than two pounds or 10 weeks old.)

"All cat spays and neuters come with free rabies vaccinations," Dubois said.

Neuter prices include: \$60 for dogs less than 85 pounds, \$100 for dogs more than 85 pounds and \$35 for cats (must be more than two pounds or 10 weeks old.)

For more information on the spaying/neutering program through HATS, call 989-775-0830, the toll-free number 844-775-4287 or visit hatsweb.org

Pre-operation instructions are available at www.hatsweb.org/health-clinic/

Adopt a Pet

Tiki

Tiki is a 2-year-old female Australian Shepherd / Retriever mix. She has already been spayed and has been with the Humane Animal Treatment Society since December 2015. Her animal ID number is 30493424. Visit her today!



Rowland

Rowland is a 2-year-old male Domestic Shorthair mix. He has already been neutered and has been with HATS since Dec. 19, 2015. His animal ID number is 30450569. This handsome boy is looking for his "FURever" home now!



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

Positions Now Available!

Apply today at

www.migiziedc.com



MIGIZI
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CO.



Tribal RX Drug Drop off to provide proper disposal of medications on May 12

JOSEPH V. SOWMICK

Photojournalist

Almost every home has a medicine cabinet where prescriptions are kept but have you ever wondered how many of those prescriptions are expired and how to dispose of them?

The third Community RX Drug Drop Off program on May 12 will provide a proper way to dispose of expired or unnecessary medications.

The event will also address the problem of proper disposal. Many people do not know how to dispose of prescription medications and often times flush them down the toilet. Flushing medications carry the risk of possible soil and groundwater contamination.

Jennifer Crawford, prevention coordinator for Behavioral Health, said the drug drop off has been a collaborative effort between the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe, Migizi, and local community law enforcement agencies.

"Through the first two prescription drug drop offs, we collected 66 pounds of prescription medications," Crawford said. "That is 66



Jeff Browne (left), public information officer for the Mount Pleasant Police, and Saginaw Chippewa Police Sgt. Scott Bailey offer assistance during the 2015 Tribal RX Drug Drop Off.

pounds of drugs that are not going to make their way to the street or in the hands of youth in the community. Activities such as this are a wonderful means of preventing misuse, abuse, and possible deaths in the community. We are very proud to be a part of it."

Jeff Browne, public information officer for the Mount Pleasant Police, said this is an important time to dispose of medications in a proper environmentally-safe fashion.

"(A drug drop off) also helps prevent prescription drug abuse, as most

prescription drugs are obtained from a family relative," Browne said.

Tribal Senior Judge Patrick Shannon said he sees a lot of court cases dealing with a combination of heroin and prescription drug abuse and firmly believes the "war on drugs" was wrongly named.

"Instead of government waging a war on drugs, we as individuals, parents,

families and communities must reject our dependence on drugs," Shannon said. "We can't wait for government to fix this plague; we need to do it ourselves."

Throughout the years, Shannon said addiction in the country has been facilitated by the drug companies through the proliferation and widespread availability of powerful pain medications.

"I don't believe we were prepared for the commercialization of prescription drugs and their influence on our families," Shannon said. "I

have spoken with many other judges and other court officials involved with this epidemic. All of us in the courts at all levels in this state and country are grappling with these huge issues."

Tribal Court Prosecutor Graham Leach believes the drug drop off program is a great tool in the fight against addiction and the growing drug abuse problem in the community.

"Studies show that addiction, particularly heroin addiction, begins with abuse of prescription drugs," Leach said.

"By disposing of unnecessary and left-over prescriptions; the opportunity for abuse, theft and access to these drugs is reduced, which in turn helps reduce the crimes committed and addictions associated with these substances."

Ten16 Recovery Network Representative Pam Milhisler works closely with SCIT Behavioral Health and their prevention team and informs 75 percent of the people coming in to the network detox facility started with prescription drugs.

Milhisler said more than 50 percent of prescription drug users ended up using heroin.

"The Ten16 Recovery Network Prevention team

has worked diligently for the past five years on spreading the word about the dangers of prescription drug abuse," Milhisler said. "We are continuing to address this problem in our community through educating our youth in schools and the public through our many speaking engagements."

Milhisler said the prescription drop off box at the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Police Station is an asset for the community.

Kevin "Coach" Ricketts, prevention specialist for Behavioral Health, said because of the success of the 2014 event, the occasion continues to draw interest from businesses wanting to assist.

This year, the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort Marketing Department will be offering a \$10 premium play coupon for anyone 18 and older that drops off a prescription drug.

The event will also have free Koegel hot dogs (while supplies last), free coffee from Nbakade Restaurant, and the Sagamok Shell will be offering 49 cent fountain drinks while Cardinal Pharmacy will offer 30 percent off gift purchases.

There will also be several door prizes.

Great Service: Before and After the Sale!

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



2010 Mercury Milan
Hybrid, FWD, 51k Miles, Cruise, 2.5L Gas/Electric I4, MP3. #GU032
60 mos/\$239/\$12,950



2009 Dodge Journey
Auto, 78k Miles, SXT FWD, Gas V6 3.5L, Cruise, MP3, Security. #GU028
60 mos/\$216/\$11,695



2014 Chevrolet Cruze
Auto, 19k Miles, 1LT FWD, Turbo Gas 14 1.4L, Cruise, Security. #GT248A
72 mos/\$254/\$15,975



2013 Dodge Avenger
SXT, FWD, Auto, 57k Miles, Gas I4 2.4L, MP3, Cruise, Security. #FT469C
72 mos/\$235/\$14,795



2012 Ford Focus SEL
Auto, FWD, 62k Miles, Gas I4 2.0L, MP3, Cruise, MP3, Security. #ET472A
72 mos/\$198/\$12,500



2010 Ford Edge SE
Auto, FWD, 131k Miles, Gas V6 3.5L, Cruise, MP3, 1-Owner. #FT408A
60 mos/\$179/\$9,640



2012 Chevy Equinox
Auto, 60k Miles, Gas/Eth. I4 2.4L, LT w 1LT, FWD, Cruise. #GU050
72 mos/\$262/\$16,475



2014 Ford Mustang
Auto, RWD, 21k Miles, V6 3.7L, Cruise, MP3, FP6 Appearance Pkg. #GP018
72 mos/\$332/\$20,850



2011 Ford Escape
Auto, Limited 4WD, 58k Miles, 3.0L Gas/Eth. V6, Cruise, MP3. #GU026
66 mos/\$302/\$17,688



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



2014 Ford Fusion SE
Auto, Certified, FWD, 29k Miles, 2.5L I4, Cruise, Power, MP3. #GP011
72 mos/\$285/\$17,975



2012 Chevy Camaro
Auto, 1LT RWD, 23k Miles, V6 3.6L, Cruise, Premium Sound. #FU178
72 mos/\$364/\$22,800



2014 Chrysler Town & Country Touring-L
Auto, 24k Miles, V6 3.6L. #GU046
72 mos/\$405/\$25,450



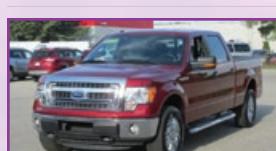
2013 Nissan Titan SV
Auto, Crew Cab 4WD, 20k Miles, Gas V8 5.6L, Cruise, Security. #FU200
72 mos/\$469/\$29,400



2010 Buick LaCrosse
Auto, CXL FWD, Certified, 49k Miles, Gas V6 3.0L, Cruise, Security. #GU008A
60 mos/\$268/\$14,450



2012 Ford Flex SEL
Auto, SEL FWD, Certified, 49k Miles, Gas V6 3.5L, MP3, Cruise. #GU036
72 mos/\$334/\$20,995



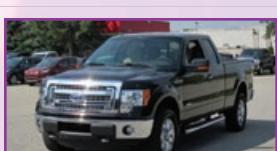
2013 Ford F-150 4WD
Auto, 4D SuperCrew, 36k Miles, 5.0L Gas/Eth. V8, Security. #FP052
72 mos/\$542/\$33,900



2012 Ford Explorer
Auto, Certified, XLT FWD, 50k Miles, Gas V6 3.5L, 3rd Row Seat. #GU051
72 mos/\$396/\$24,800



2013 Ford F-250 XLT
Auto, Ext. Cab 4WD, 34k Miles, 6.2L Gas/Eth. V8, Security. #FU201
72 mos/\$639/\$39,900



2013 Ford F-150 4X4
4x4 SuperCab - 163 Ext. Cab, Auto, 34k Miles, Turbo Gas V6. #FP067
72 mos/\$503/\$31,499

JUST ARRIVED!

2011 Ford Ranger Supercab 4x2 Sport \$19,495
4 Door, V6 4.0L, Auto, Air, CD Player, Alloy Wheels, Bedliner, Tailor Tow Pkg., Medium Red Metallic, 17k Miles.

2016 Ford Fusion 4 Door AWD \$25,400
Certified, Black with Tan Leather, Dual Power Seats, Moon Roof, Navigation, Aluminum Wheels, Keyless Entry, 6,700 Miles.

2013 Ford F-150 Short Box Reg. Cab \$25,495
Certified, 4x4 STX, 5.0L, Auto, Air, Cruise, Stereo CD, Tailor Tow Pkg., Alloy Wheels, Bedliner, White with Gray Cloth, 26k Miles.

2014 Ford Focus 4 Door SE \$14,398
Certified, 4 Cyl., Auto, Air, Cruise, Black with Gray Cloth, 37k Miles.

2015 GMC 3/4 Ton Savana Cargo Van \$26,495
V8, 4.8L, Auto, Running Boards, Only 9,400 Miles, Cruise, Power.

2006 Mercury Mariner 4 Door 4WD \$8,995
6 Cyl., Auto, Full Power, 1-Owner, 63k Miles, Green Metallic. #GT028A

KRAPOH'L'S

1-800-772-5974 | Mt. Pleasant • 1 Block East of Meijer

Price & Payment \$0 Down plus Tax, Title and Doc. Financing 4.9% fixed rate with approved credit. Down payment on trade equity will lower payment. All vehicles subject to Prior Sale, see dealer for details.

WE BUY
Clean Cars, Trucks & SUV's

Visit our website
WWW.KRAPOHL.COM
for our entire inventory!

**65 YEARS
STRONG**



Pathways to Leadership graduates honored for commitment to professional development

JOSEPH V. SOWMICK

Photojournalist

On March 23, the SCIT Training and Development Department was on location at Isabella's fine dining restaurant as they recognized eight Pathways to Leadership graduates.

SCIT Training and Development Instructor Steven Urbani said Pathways to Leadership is a training series that the Human Resources department has been offering for five years to leaders throughout the Tribe and the graduates demonstrate a commitment to professional development.

The celebration honored the 2016 graduates who each made the commitment to attend 12 out of the 14 monthly classes, and passed a final exam.

"All of our graduates have shown their desire to keep learning and improving their leadership skills," Urbani said. "I would like to thank our CEO Bob Van Wert for sponsoring this event and his overall support and commitment to leadership training in our



Pathways to Leadership Instructor Steven Urbani addresses the 2016 graduating class in the Isabella's Restraunt Private dining room.

organization. Interim Human Resources Director Louanna Brunner also deserves special recognition for spreading the word and encouraging leaders to take advantage of these leadership trainings."

The classes went in depth into four areas: Providing caring guest service, crucial management skills, emotional intelligence in the workplace,

and coaching associates for improved performance.

The 2016 Pathways to Leadership graduating class included: Gina Borushko, sales and marketing specialist; Karen Buckner, slot supervisor; Joseph Edinborough, finance supervisor; Jeremy French, finance supervisor; Tonia Kequom, administrative assistant III; Krysta Carabelli, slot shift manager; Jessi Maddox, front desk lead; and Kayla Sklender, slot supervisor.

Bruner said Maddox and Carabelli recently received promotions.

Director of Slot Operations Chris Bailey had three graduates from the Slot department: Sklener, Buckner and Carabelli.

"The Pathways to Leadership program helps our business and it's important to acknowledge our associates accomplishments," Bailey said. "These three are natural leaders on the floor and are going to keep us moving forward."

Director of Cage and Count Maynard Kahgegab was extremely proud of



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

The 2016 Pathways to Leadership graduating class.
(Front row, left to right) Karen Buckner, Gina Borushko, Tonia Kequom and Jessi Maddox. (Back row) Jeremy French, Krysta Carabelli and Joseph Edinborough.
(Not pictured: Kayla Sklener.)

his finance supervisors Edinborough and French.

"Both are exceptional supervisors. They always look to resolve any issues to find a positive solution," Kahgegab said. "That's the kind of leaders I'm looking for in the finance department."

Bruner said Urbani is an outstanding training instructor who came to Human Resources five years ago from the slot department.

"From being on the floor with guests and associates, Steven has the ability to relate to all of our associates and leaders to provide professional coaching," Bruner said. "I am impressed with the eight graduates... I find it amazing that long-term employees such as Karen Buckner continue to seek professional development. Many of them attended classes outside of their

scheduled hours, which shows a huge commitment."

Urbani wished to thank the graduation's keynote speaker and SECR Guest Service Development Specialist Tim McCullough.

"McCullough shared many of the positive experiences our guests have due to the caring and professional service they receive while at Soaring Eagle properties," Urbani said.

Bruner said many more trainings are available through the department including Conducting Effective Performance Evaluations, Accountability, Coaching and Communication.

Any associate wanting to participate in classes are welcome to stop by the Human Resources department located in the Black Elk building or call to schedule a class at 989-775-5600.

Saginaw Chippewa Community Church hosts cross walk on Good Friday

JOSEPH V. SOWMICK

Photojournalist

As a demonstration of faith and reverence for the season, the Saginaw Chippewa Community Church conducted a 9 a.m. cross walk on Good Friday on March 25.

Rev. Robert Pego and his congregation were joined by members of other Native churches including the Chippewa Indian United Methodist Church, Faith Indian Church of the Nazarene and special guests who made the journey from Sarnia, First Nations Ontario.

The idea for the cross walk was scriptural and is found in Luke 9:23, "And He said to them all, if any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me."



Layman Ron Johansen carries the cross made by Seventh Generation.



The multi church congregation representatives gathered at the SCIT Housing pavillion and walked to the site of the Good Friday Unity Service in the Eagles Nest Tribal Gym.



Rev. Robert Pego gives an explanation about following the way of the cross.

Pego said the walk was a way to honor the cross and elders who wished to celebrate the Lord on Good Friday.

"As we gathered together and prayed, we thought of the strong elders of the church and how they would appreciate seeing us do as a Good Friday remembrance on the (Reservation)," Pego said. "Geneva and Sam Mackety, Russell and Geraldine Jackson, Jim and Lena Strong, Nancy Owl and my mom and dad (Grace and Buddy Pego) were examples of faith in our community. Every day is an opportunity where we can show our faith also."

Pego expressed a miigwetch to Ben Hinmon, woodshop coordinator and cultural

representative for Seventh Generation, and his staff for building the 7-foot cross.

Pego hopes the cross walk can become an annual demonstration of faith.

"If anyone would like to see the cross, we have it here every Sunday morning at 11 a.m. at the Saginaw Chippewa Community Church at the corner of M-20 and Loomis Road in Mount Pleasant," he said.

Tribal Community



5.17.16

Tuesday May. 17, 2016

10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Human Resources

Black Elk Building

7500 Soaring Eagle Blvd.,

Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

Soaring Eagle
CASINO & RESORT

JOB FAIR

Positions Available:

(Job descriptions available
at www.sagchip.org)

- Steward Part-Time | \$9.47
- Line Server Part-Time | \$9.47
- Seasonal Ent. Usher | \$8.50
- Seasonal Ent. Security Officer | \$9.47

Tipped Positions

- Bartender Part-Time | \$6.57
- Waitstaff Part-Time | \$4.00

5.17.16

Tuesday May. 17, 2016

10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Human Resources

Black Elk Building

7500 Soaring Eagle Blvd.,

Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858



Candidates please bring:

- High School diploma or transcript / GED
- Resumes
- Driver License/State ID

On the spot interviewing

- Same day job offers
- Drug screening and TB testing required at no cost



For more information, please call 989.775.5600



SCIT's 35th gaming operations anniversary has its roots in bingo memories

JOSEPH V. SOWMICK

Photojournalist

Anyone who has grown up on the Reservation or in Isabella County back in the seventies may remember the bingo memories that brought on the 35th anniversary celebration of the Saginaw Chippewa gaming operations.

Bonnie Sprague, general manager for the Soaring Eagle Waterpark and Hotel, had a front row seat in Tribal history and has lived a life full of bingo memories.

"I'm actually the last one alive from the original team that traveled to Hollywood, Fla., it was Josephine Jackson, Ben Quigno, Gary Franks, Eleanor Starkweather and I who went to meet with the Seminole Tribe, their Tribal attorney and management team to learn about logistics of bingo and the legal ramifications," Sprague said. "I was the Tribe's bookkeeper back in the day and I have a lot of pictures of our bingo workers throughout the years. Many of them have passed away and I will be posting some of these pictures for our patrons and community to see during our anniversary week."

Jackson was widely considered "the mother of SCIT gaming" and her bingo memories started back in 1975 with car

bingo. Back then, it was considered a social event for the community which was held on "the hill" where the Chippewa Indian United Methodist Church and the Saginaw Chippewa Campground is now located.

Sprague fondly remembered when the first bingo hall opened at the main Tribal Operations building on April 25, 1981.

"Our small bingo operation originally opened with only 500 seats," Sprague said. "It was the success of our bingo operation that forced management to utilize every space within the Tribal gym."

Sprague said additional seats were added in the current Tribal library space and the front offices of the Tribal gym resulting with 777 bingo seats.

"I always thought that was a cool part of our gaming history... 777 seats even before we had slot machines," she said.

The first card room facility opened on Feb. 11, 1987 and was located in a small room within the bingo hall at the Tribal gym.

Sprague recalled gaming opened with 10 blackjack tables and three poker tables.

"Our small table games operation was very successful and the crowds were near capacity every night," she said. "Our table games were open back then from 6 p.m.

to 1 a.m. Wednesdays through Saturdays. In the fall of 1987, the operation was moved into the old wood products plant (now the home of Saginaw Chippewa Academy). We opened our new card room with 32 blackjack tables and six poker tables. Soon a money wheel was added to the card room."

Soaring Eagle Casino made its debut in gaming history with the Slot Palace creation.

This was also the year Tribal Chief Ron Falcon signed an official State Gaming Compact with Gov. John Engler and the State of Michigan on Aug. 23, 1993.

Sprague also remembers the casino's opening on Dec. 6, 1996.

"I'll never forget this date," she said. "One of the goals of many Tribal Councils and SCIT Gaming Administration was to bring all aspects of the gaming industry under one roof. We not only accomplished that but we were able to build a four diamond resort hotel complete with a conference center and entertainment hall for a world class touch."

Many Tribal Councils have voiced their opposition to off reservation gaming and expansion on the Saginaw Indian Reservation in Standish, Mich. was always another part of the vision.



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

Tribal Council celebrates the 35th Anniversary of SCIT gaming with former Tribal Chief Gail George and SECR Marketing staff. (Pictured left to right: Marketing/PR Manager Kristina Griffus, Council members Michelle R. Colwell, Ronald F. Ekdahl, Candace B. Benzinger, PR Director Erik Rodriguez, Council members Amanda Oldman and Gayle Ruhl, George, Marketing Director Raul Venegas and Tribal Chief Frank J. Cloutier.)

In October 2007, the Saganing Eagles Landing Casino offered a sneak peak for Tribal Members of the facility that looked similar to the Saganing Outreach Center. SELC's grand opening occurred on Dec. 31, 2007.

The next Tribal business expansion did not involve gaming but it did have its roots in hospitality and entertainment.

Two other dates essential to the properties was on May 21, 2012 when the Soaring Eagle Waterpark and Hotel opened. Another integral piece of expanding hospitality to tourist travel was on July 29, 2012 when Soaring Eagle Hideaway RV Park made its debut.

A necessary component that allowed the expansion of SEWPH and the Hideaway RV Park was the purchase of the Holiday Greens Golf Course.

"This property was purchased by the Tribe on Aug. 8, 2007," Sprague said. "We never officially had a grand opening since it was part of the former Holiday Inn. It was renamed Waabooz Run Golf Course by our Tribal Chief Dennis Kequom and Council

during the time of our waterpark and hotel opening."

Tribal Chief Frank J. Cloutier continues to be amazed at how the Tribe and its business interests have grown and firmly believes the best is yet to come.

"Just like any Fortune 500 company, we will continue to work at expanding our role in the marketplace," Cloutier said. "The Tribal Council remains driven on the expansion plans for Saganing Eagles Landing Casino and our substation venture there. We will be doing our ongoing renovations with existing business properties and pledge to pursue other avenues to boost our market share through Migizi properties and other business opportunities as they present themselves. With the great support we have from the membership and our employees, we will remain engaged and have a positive vision for the future of our Tribe."

Sprague said, "I honestly believe that we, the Tribal members in management, met the goal of the Tribe. We all had the same vision and our work was done from within our hearts."



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

Pastry Sous Chef Holly Stevens, Department Chef Soo Bradley, Marketing Manager Tanya Bardy and Executive Sous Chef Shaun McGee share a moment with the 35th Anniversary cake creation.



Soaring Eagle patrons were treated to special cupcakes designed by the SECR Food & Beverage staff.

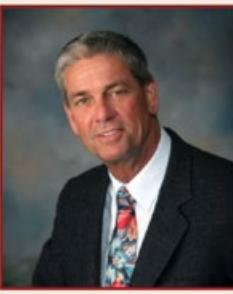
Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

Aggressively Defending Your Rights...

DWIGHT R. CARPENTER

ATTORNEY

Criminal Defense Only • Statewide



Criminal Defense - All Courts
Tribal Court - Defense
Statewide Referrals for Civil Law Suits

Over 1,500 Licenses Restored!

FREE CONSULTATION

Notary and Power of Attorney Services available
Bi-weekly per cap assignments can be done in my office

We have more Native American clients than any other attorney in the area because we care!!

We now accept credit cards.

989-386-4114
2339 E. Ludington Dr. • Clare



Now Hiring Summer Youth Workers & Crew Leaders!

- Must be a SCIT Member between the ages of 14 and 18 years old at the time of application.
- Must complete an employment application.

For assistance in filling out an application, please contact:
Stacy Mandoka, interim anishnabe workforce developer at 989.775.5735

Look for more information in the near future about:

- Resumé building
- Mock interview trainings



Michigan State Trooper Michael White presents marijuana legalization discussion

NATALIE SHATTUCK

Editor

Today's marijuana is not the same cannabis that the public and lawmakers remember from "the old days." The THC levels continue to increase, said Trooper Michael White of the Michigan State Police.

THC levels were a topic of concern during White's presentation "Marijuana Legalization: Lessons Learned from Colorado" during Behavioral Health's Family Dinner Night hosted at Seventh Generation on April 13.

THC, or tetrahydrocannabinol, is the chemical responsible for most of marijuana's psychological effects, according to the National Institute on Drug Abuse. The higher the THC, the stronger the cannabis.

White reported the average THC levels in 1980 were 1.5 percent. From 1999 to 2011, THC levels increased 144 percent (4.67 percent to 11.42 percent).

On Jan. 1, 2014, recreational marijuana sales became legal in Colorado to anyone age 21 and older.

The last four years in Colorado, THC levels increased 155 percent to 28 percent THC. (Return on



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck
Trooper Michael White of the Michigan State Police presents facts on Colorado's marijuana legalization to a room full of 75 attendees on April 13.

investment/increase market share equals a more potent drug.) There are no studies on marijuana with these high THC levels, White said.

White reported 32 hash oil-producing Colorado homes exploded in 2014.

"As a police officer... we fight so hard against addiction," White said. "Do we really need another mind-altering substance in our communities, whether legal or illegal? Absolutely not."

Alice Jo Ricketts, prevention specialist for Behavioral Health, said the Tribal community needs to know allowing legal marijuana would open doors to a lot of unnecessary problems.

"Many of our people do not believe it's dangerous but it is," Ricketts said. "It's not like it used to be a few decades ago... THC levels are skyrocketing and causing psychotic overdoses. Our community will be in danger if (legalization) is voted on and approved."

White said adolescent brains are more susceptible to THC, and marijuana dispensaries often use colorful cartoons or graphics in print advertisement which grab the attention of youth.

"(Appealing to youth) that's as low as you can go... (Advertisers) are attacking my babies with this nonsense," White said of a print advertisement of Santa carrying marijuana leaves in his sleigh.

Whatever happened to teaching our kids to be natural, to be sober? White said.

"What we are teaching our kids is that they need something (a high) to get going," he said. "That's insanity."

Dispensaries and companies are also putting marijuana edibles into sodas, cookies, chocolate bars and gummy bears.

"A child takes one bite and it could be deadly," Ricketts said.

A representative from Ten16 Recovery Network said "the biggest marijuana myth today is that children believe marijuana is going to cure cancer."

According to the American Cancer Society on cancer.org, "a number of small studies of smoked marijuana found that it can be helpful in treating nausea and vomiting from cancer chemotherapy."

Cancer.org also states "scientists reported that THC and other cannabinoids slow the growth and/or cause death in certain types of cancer cells growing in laboratory dishes. Some animal students also suggest certain cannabinoids may slow growth and reduce spread of some forms of cancer."

The American Cancer Society also reports there have been some early clinical trials of treatment cancer patients with cannabinoids and more research is planned. So far, "studies have shown cannabinoids to be safe in treating cancer, they do not show they help control or cure the disease."

Kevin "Coach" Ricketts, prevention specialist for Behavioral Health, was pleased with the Wednesday night turn out.

"I was expecting around 20 attendees due to such a debatable topic, but to have 75 mixed adults and youth; it shows some are seeking education about marijuana," Coach said. "I would never try to persuade people (on their views of legalizing marijuana)... but what I will say is research and educate yourself, and then research some more so that you make a good, healthy decision."

White also said his intentions were not to debate on the topic.

"Please just think about the facts," White said. "Please be informed and research for yourself."

Coach said Trooper White is "a community officer with a huge heart" and appreciated his presentation.

"Trooper White is a gentleman that fights for the safety of everyone in the community," Coach said. "The marijuana presentation was awesome and the way he presents is from his heart. He is very emotional, and I think that really shows he truly cares."

TRIBAL FOOD VENDORS WANTED



RESERVE YOUR SPOT NOW!

Vendor spaces fill up fast so make sure you reserve your spot before **May 13th**. Spaces are filled on a first-come, first-serve basis.

REQUIREMENTS

- Must attend mandatory **Vendor Meeting** on **May 16th**. Will be held at SECR.
- Vendor must be registered with SCIT regulation and tax department.
- Vendor business owned by SCIT Tribal member.
- At least one Serve Safe certified worker present at vendor's booth at all times.
- Vendor is responsible for all costs associated with obtaining Serve Safe certification.
- Vendor must obtain liability insurance prior to first outdoor concert (**June 16th**).
- Vendor must present the certificate of insurance to SCIT prior to start of each concert.
- Only 8 vendors will be allowed per show.

SERVE SAFE CLASSES ARE AVAILABLE

- 2 Serve Safe Classes will be scheduled at SECR.
Date to be determined.

Reserve your spot by contacting Consuelo Gonzalez
by phone: **989.775.0096** or email: **CGonzalez@sagchip.org**



Tribal Members make history with personal bowling tournament records

JOSEPH V. SOWMICK

Photojournalist

There are a lot of ways athletes can distinguish themselves from the rest of the field.

Throwing a no-hitter in baseball, getting a hole-in-one in golf or bowling a 300 game are normally a "once in a lifetime" experience.

SCIT Tribal Member Lucas Sprague finds himself on a roll after bowling another 300 game at the Chippewa Lanes bowling alley. Sprague's place in SCIT bowling history is secured with five 300 games in April 2016, February 2016, March 2015, January 2015 and January 2010.

League Chairman Dave Lewis said the 76th annual Mount Pleasant USBC City Tournament was held Feb. 19 with teams playing at Chippewa Lanes and doubles and singles action at Riverwood.

"I've been the tournament manager and have competed in each annual city tournament in the association since 1980," Lewis said. "During that time, Lucas has bowled in the last 10 city tournaments, and... in the final squad of the city tournament doubles event in February, Lucas posted his fourth 300 game."

Sprague bowled his fifth 300 game on April 12 and posted an 832 series, the highest total this season for a Mount Pleasant league bowler.

"Each time it happens there is a certain amount of pressure to it, but it's nice to know it's a special time where everyone can share in the excitement," Sprague said. "We got a lot of good competition in the city tournaments and in league bowling. Dave has been keeping the records of Tribal bowling in league play and there's plenty other good bowlers in our Tribe we can be proud of."

That standard of perfection abounds within the SCIT bowling community where Dennis "Vinnie" Kequom rolled a 300 game in 1999 and in a 2003 city tournament.

Tribal Member Jeff Reed also has multiple 300 games in February 2002 and November 2011.

Other 300 game bowlers include Dustin Davis (2000), Wallace Chatfield (2001), Jose Reyes Sr. (2002), Fred R. Quiroga Jr. (2004), L.E. Reed Jr. (2005), Leon S. Reed (2005) and Lester "Goober" Chippeway Jr. (2010).

In other February 2016 city tournament action, Tribal Members Carla Bennett and

Darcy Mandoka were in championship form taking the women's doubles trophy.

Lewis was in agreement with Sprague that many Tribal bowlers have a rich history in the sport.

"(SCIT Tribal member) Karen Naganashe is in a league by herself and has the only women 800-plus series in Mount Pleasant bowling history," Lewis said. "(Tribal Elder and former Council member) Julius Peters also had an excellent career and was elected to the Mount Pleasant Bowlers Hall of Fame in 2014."

"Practice is how you get better and if you're matched up with good friends, it's like a fun day to play and catch up with your girlfriends once a week," Naganashe said.

Lewis said "The Lucky Ladies" team throughout the years have been very successful both during league and tournament competition. Members of the team, throughout the years, include mainstays Naganashe, Val Raphael, Louanna Bruner, Sheila Leaureaux and Diana Quigno-Grundahl.

"Karen and Val have many city tournament doubles titles to their credit too," Lewis said.

This year, Karen's son, Basil Naganashe, has had an impact



Courtesy of Lucas Sprague

City Tournament Organizer Dave Lewis (left) congratulates bowler and Tribal Member Lucas Sprague during Chippewa Lanes' league night on April 5.

on the Mount Pleasant High School boys bowling team.

"(Basil) bowled a 300 game in a sanctioned tournament when he was 13 years old," Bruner said. "He stole his mom's dream of a 300 game, but she was right there witnessing her son's 300 game."

Bruner said it "isn't a far stretch to say that Karen is the best bowler in Isabella County."

"It is not uncommon for people to recognize her even when outside of Mount Pleasant," Bruner said. "Karen has been an inspiration to me and the team and I think Basil will carry on the family tradition."

Karen said she wishes there were more Native girls involved, but she's proud of her son.

"I remember when Basil bowled his strikes, I was shaking like I was (the one) bowling and when he bowled his last ball, tears came to my eyes," Karen said. "All I could think is (that) I (wished) my dad was alive to see this. It was great pleasure to see my son accomplish something I had not and I have been bowling longer than he has. I have been by his side throughout his bowling and this was by far the best thing I have seen my son do so well."

Experience the fascinating history and rich culture of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan at the Midwest's Premier American Indian Museum



6650 E. Broadway, Mt. Pleasant, MI, 48858 • 989.775.4750 • www.sagchip.org/ziiwing

BIRD DAY AT ZIIWING!

Where are you going in that costume?
...but it's not a costume.
It's regalia.

Bineshiyag n'ganawaabmaanaan!
(We watch the birds!)

SAT. MAY 14 2016

1PM to 5PM

- 1:00 pm Welcome and Eagle Dance
- 3:00 pm Birds of Prey Presentation:
Rebecca Lessard, Wings of Wonder

PLUS:

- Bird Banding: Mike Bishop, Alma College
- Owl Pellet Dissection Station
- Information/Activities by:
CMU Museum of Cultural and Natural History
MSU Extension Office, Isabella County
Mt. Pleasant Discovery Museum
- Give-Aways and Door Prizes
- Cookie Decorating & Crafts
- Self-guided tour of "Ozhaawashko Bineshiin Miikan" (Bluebird Trail)

NEW!!

Co-Sponsored by the Isabella Conservation District, the Chippewa Valley Audubon Club and the Ziiwing Center.

FREE & OPEN to the PUBLIC

It's fun, educational and cheap...cheap.

INVITE YOUR FRIENDS!

ZIIWING CHI MOCS

Co-Sponsored by:
The Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe's Housing Department and Ziiwing Center

JUNE EVENTS:

| | |
|---|---------|
| Mt Pleasant Indian Industrial Boarding School "Honoring, Healing & Remembering" | June 6 |
| Community Cultural Teaching at the Sanilac Petroglyphs | June 25 |



ZIIWING CENTER

OPEN MONDAY-SATURDAY 10am-6pm

ANISHINABE PERFORMANCE CIRCLE SPRING GRADUATION

Tuesday, May 3, 2016 6pm

Reception follows graduation

BROADWAY THEATRE
216 E. BROADWAY
MT. PLEASANT, MI

BIRTHDAY SALE!
MAY 12-13

UP TO 80% OFF!
DOOR BUSTERS & PRIZES!

DOOR BUSTERS & PRIZES!

Free & Open to the Public

HONORING WARRIOR & THEIR FAMILIES

FREE ADMISSION

to permanent and changing exhibits

Memorial Day to Labor Day*

(May 30 - Sept. 5, 2016)

Note: The Ziiwing Center will be closed on Memorial Day and Labor Day

Active duty military plus five family members with valid identification

Blue Star Museums

arts.gov/bluestarmuseums

*Visit www.arts.gov/bluestarmuseums for more information

Porcupine Quillwork

by James Bailey Sr., Jane & Virginia Pangowish and Henrietta Toulouse

Saturday, May 14, 2016 10am - 3pm

COLLECTION SHOWING

Porcupine quillwork is unique to North America and directly associated with the Eastern Woodland and Plains Tribes.

It is an art form of textile & utilitarian object embellishment using the dyed quills of the porcupine in elaborate designs and utilizing the techniques of braiding, plaiting, sewing and wrapping.

Quillwork continues to be recognized as a living art form that is being revitalized throughout tribal communities and practiced by many.

On May 14th, join William Johnson, Curator of the Ziiwing Center, for this special exhibit.

Objects remain on display through May 21, 2016.



Fun & Games



| | |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| bikwaakwad | ball |
| bakitejii'iganaak | baseball bat |
| niisiwe - minjikaawan | glove |
| gizhiibato | run |
| zhooshkon | slide |
| endaad | home |
| nitam | first |
| eko-miizing | second |
| eko-nising | third |
| mizhodam | hit |
| bakite'w | strike |
| debibizh | catch |
| bakitejii'ige | baseball |
| gabenaage | score |
| wajepii | fast |
| jaagin | out |
| aawekaazh | recognize |
| minwaabamewiizi | respected |
| nimaamaa | Mother |
| zaagichigaade | loved |

ANISHINAABEMOWIN WORD SEARCH



MNO GASHI GIIZHIGAD! HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!

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

WHERE ON THE REZ?



Bi

Do you know where this is?
Answer the puzzle correctly by May 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:



Tribal Police, Fire
and Court Sign

Last Month's Winner:
Mikayla Cyphert

Detroit Tigers Trivia

From the Opening Day Event at Andahwod

1. Who was voted the MVP of the 1984 World Series?

- a.) Alan Trammell b.) Kirk Gibson c.) Norm Cash d.) Justin Verlander

2. During the 1901 and 1902 season, the Tigers could not play baseball on which day of the week?

- a.) Sunday b.) Tuesday c.) Thursday d.) Friday

3. What year did the Tigers win their first World Series?

- a.) 1915 b.) 1925 c.) 1935 d.) 1954

4. How many MVP awards did Tigers Hall of Famer Ty Cobb win?

- a.) 1 b.) 3 c.) 4 d.) 5

5. What is the name of the stadium where the Tigers play their home games?

- a.) The Big House b.) The Joe c.) Ford Field d.) Comerica Park

6. Before it was renamed Tiger Stadium, what was the Tigers ballpark called?

- a.) The Palace b.) Camden Yards c.) Briggs Stadium d.) The Tigers Den

7. What is the Tigers mascot's name?

- a.) Tigger b.) Paws c.) Stripes d.) Growl

8. Who was the last Tiger to win the league MVP?

- a.) Miguel Cabrera b.) Prince Fielder c.) Justin Verlander d.) Gates Brown

9. What is the name of the Detroit Tigers minor league AAA team?

- a.) Whitecaps b.) Mud Hens c.) Lugnuts d.) Loons

10. Who is the Tigers current manager?

- a.) Jim Leyland b.) Sparky Anderson c.) Billy Martin d.) Brad Ausmus

Bonus Question: What SCIT Tribal Member was scouted by the Detroit Tigers?

Answers: 1.a, 2.a, 3.c, 4.a, 5.d, 6.c, 7.b, 8.a, 9.b, 10.d Bonus answer: Mt. Pleasant Oilers Hall of Fame pitcher, Tim Davis

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 was at the post office and an elderly woman noticed my beaded hair barrette. I did not follow my cultural teachings of giving away something that is admired. I feel sad about it now as it would have made her very happy. As a Native dealing with a non-Native, what is the protocol for giving things away? **Gift Giver**

Dear Giver: There is never anything wrong with gifting someone. However, it may be perceived as odd or strange from a different culture if done out of the blue. You could mention it is our custom to give items to a person who so admires it but you may be met with opposition. That opposition could be perceived as an insult. This is because other cultures/costumes may think that perhaps you don't think of yourself as worthy or don't value beautiful things. Neither of which are true, of course. Be aware of what is appropriate to other cultures and keep same culture values together. If the person admiring the item was Native, you would have known instantly what to do. Next time, ask if she would like one and let her know where she can purchase one. An item from your hair may be too personal from a stranger's view.

Dear WW: My significant other and I are in a long-distance relationship. He wants me to move in with him but I am not sure if that would be a wise decision. There was a time when I would have moved to the moon if he asked me to. I love my job and was thinking of re-financing my house. I'm afraid if I don't move, I will lose him but I am not ready. I don't want to lose everything if it doesn't work out but am losing sleep over this. What should I do? **Long Distance**

Dear Long Distance: I suspect that you are in a long-distance relationship due to being uncommitted on some level. You are having doubts because you have a lot to give up in order to move. A house and a job are not easily replaced. Why aren't you willing to move to the moon now if you were before? If there was more of a commitment like a proposal of marriage, I would suggest doing what has to be done in order to be a loving partner. If that level of commitment is not there and you have the doubts that you do, I would not recommend it until you are 100 percent positive it is something you are willing to do. In the meantime, trust that little voice. It's there for a reason.

Dear WW: Sometimes I feel like I'm the parent and my parents are my kids. However, enough is enough. Most days I don't even want to talk to them. No matter how much advice I give, they don't seem to take it. I love my parents so much that if something was to ever happen to them it would crush my world but I need them to understand that I have my own life to live. What is the best way to tell my parents they need to grow up? **Daughter Parent**

Dear Daughter: You don't have to say one word. What you need to do is quit giving advice. Are they really asking for advice or are they just venting? You could give short answers to let them know you are listening like "I see" or maybe a head nod. It may feel odd at first but eventually they will get the picture. If they are directly asking for advice, you can give it but don't expect them to follow it. It's unfortunate that the roles are reversed but remember that people grow up when they are expected to do so.



Seventh Generation feather box workshop blends traditions with craftsmanship

JOSEPH V. SOWMICK

Photojournalist

Tribal elders, youth and families gathered to participate in a Seventh Generation feather box workshop that blended sacred traditions with hands-on craftsmanship. The Feb. 17 and 18 workshop was held at the Elijah Elk Conference Center and the Seventh Generation wood shop.

Cultural Representative Ben Hinmon operates the wood shop where most of the finishing activity took place, and shared teaching on why feather boxes are an important method of storing the Migizi Miigwans (Eagle Feathers).

"I made my first feather box about 25 years ago when I was on the powwow trail with a friend," Hinmon said. "He invited me over to his workshop and he showed me the proper way to do it and I've been making them ever since. The designs have changed over the years where I used to use nails and screws to assemble the cedar boxes. The boxes we



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

Tribal Council Executive Secretary Ruth Straus and Administrative Assistant III Misty Wolfgang apply some finishing touches to their feather boxes.

make today are 100 percent without nails and 100 percent glued and it makes for a light but sturdy box."

Hinmon shared with workshop participants that the migizi miigwans are sacred objects, and cedar is one of the sacred medicines and feathers should be treated with the proper reverence when storing them.

"Cedar is widely known by the Anishinaabe as a protection medicine and it is also used for purification," Hinmon said. "One of the most common problems that people have when storing feathers are dust mites... and dust mites sure love feathers. When the feathers are in the cedar boxes, mites don't care about the cedar in particular. I like to look at this workshop where people were making medicine boxes because they will keep other sacred objects in the boxes besides just feathers."

Hinmon said one of the objectives of the Seventh Generation program is to offer hands-on teachings.

"It is a primary focus of what we do at Seventh Gen," Hinmon said. "The people here are making something that has deep significance and cultural meaning. We talked about that at the beginning of the two-day workshop. There is also a tremendous sense of accomplishment by completing a project like this. I imagine these teachings will be a part of their family now."



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

Tribal Members Lisa Ayling and AJ Leaureaux get some advice from Workshop Instructor Ben Hinmon.

Jonathan Ayling enjoyed the opportunity to make his first feather box at Seventh Generation.

"I like coming here and learning from people like Ben and the Seventh Generation staff," Ayling said. "It's great to see the community come together and it's an opportunity to make new friends and meet new people."

A sacred fire was available along with smudge medicine to purify the boxes in a good way.

The participants, staff and community enjoyed a feast in

honor and respect of the new feather boxes. The workshop sold out quickly with only 15 openings but Seventh Generation will be holding another popular feather box workshop on May 4.

Other offerings slated for May include the popular drum making workshop and one on medicine wheel teachings.

For more information on workshops and other programs offered through Seventh Generation, please call 989-775-4780.

Indigenous agriculture embraced through seed bank and greenhouse

JOSEPH V. SOWMICK

Photojournalist

As the old adage goes, "April showers bring May flowers," but what other projects are promoting growth on the Reservation?

The warmer temperatures find indigenous agriculture in full bloom as two employees share what is happening at the Seventh Generation seed bank and greenhouse.

Jim Bob Falcon, greenhouse gardener, reported the 2016 planting season offers a lot of variety.

"We have tomatoes, green peppers, Indian corn just to name a few," Falcon said. "We grow everything in an organic way at Seventh Generation and it will be an awesome garden this year. We are actually making our own compost soil

out of coffee grounds, leaves and cow manure."

Falcon said one of the best parts of working for the greenhouse and planting the annual community garden is being able to share the bounty with Tribal families.

"We are really getting into this and we are able to start a seed bank to ensure the garden will continue for years to come," Falcon said. "We use a lot of what we grow here for the ceremonial feasts, and the sage and tobacco we do every year provides medicine throughout the year."

Seventh Generation Maintenance worker Lacey Mandoka is proud of the commitment their staff has made to preserve indigenous agriculture.

"We started doing a seed bank so we have some good organic seeds available to the

community and to keep our greenhouse and garden growing without chemicals and other additives," Mandoka said. "We have a little of everything in our seed bank like spinach and different kinds of greens along with corn. We have pinto beans and navy beans, popcorn and many different herbs."

Part of the indigenous agriculture initiative is focused on the preservation of sacred medicine.

"We have tobacco and sage

that reseeds itself every year and we have cedar on the property as well," Mandoka said. "As we start to grow in our seed bank efforts, we hope to be able to expand in other areas as well."



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

Seventh Generation Maintenance worker Lacey Mandoka proudly displays a jar of ninsemeea tobacco seeds.



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

Seventh Generation Gardener Jim Bob Falcon applies the medicine water to the 2016 crop of greenhouse plants.

Editorial: Everyday should be Earth Day

AIMAN SHAHPURWALA

Water Resource Technician

Just because Earth Day has passed, that doesn't mean that we ebb our consciousness of Mother Earth.

In the midst of climate change, air pollution, water crises and many other environmental issues, now, more than ever before, is the time to make every day Earth Day. We can do this by being environmentally mindful with every decision we make.

Our natural resources are invaluable to the health and well-being of human society as well as all life on this planet. Protecting and preserving what Mother Earth has given us is a good way to ensure great quality of life in the long run. Although it may be cliché to say "reduce, reuse, recycle," this principle is actually a very

effective way of making positive environmental changes.

Reducing consumption of water, fossil fuels, and material goods is one of the simplest ways to not only be environmentally friendly but also to help save money.

The fewer items we buy, the less demand there would be for manufacturing products, which takes a huge amount of fossil fuels, water, and other natural resources.

Reusing the things that we already have and repurposing them is a great way to reduce the amount of items that end up in the landfill.

Next time you go to throw something in the trash maybe think how could this object be used for other purposes? Could you maybe repurpose it, donate it, or give it to a crafty friend who may find use for it?

By reusing what we already have, we can save money by reducing the amount of new materials that we purchase.

Recycling helps to keep things out of the landfill. Landfills take up a lot of space, release greenhouse gases and harmful chemicals. The more we can keep out of landfills the better.

Recycling reduces the need for raw materials which decreases the demand for logging and mining.

Making products out of recycled materials requires way less energy than making them out of raw materials.

So this year, don't let Mother Earth slip away from the forefront of your conscious. Make every day Earth Day by making environmentally conscious lifestyle changes that you carry into the future.

WANTED
ATTORNEY AT LAW

William L. Antrobius

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

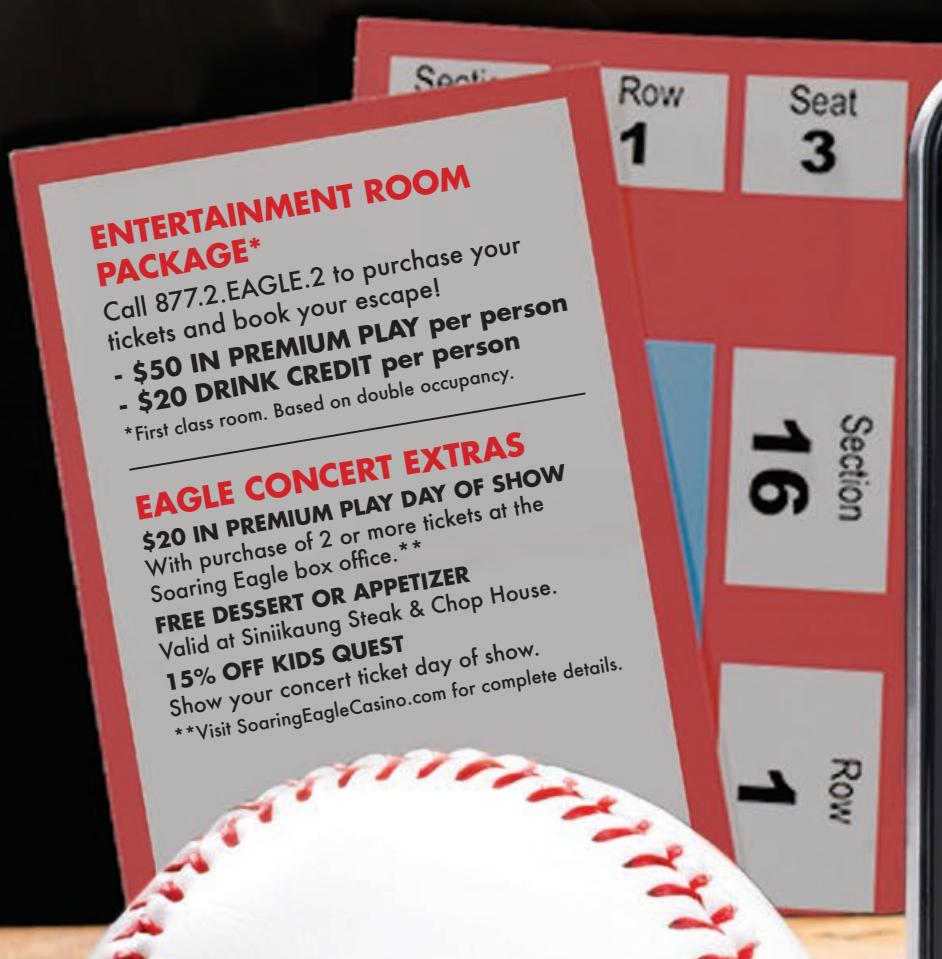
Experience: Former Prosecuting Attorney Saginaw Chippewa
Indian Tribe of Michigan, and Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the
Flathead Indian Reservation; Former Public Defender Assiniboine
Sioux Tribe; Criminal Defense Attorney

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

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

WELCOME TO THE BIG SHOWS

TAKE ME OUT TO THE BEST LIVE ENTERTAINMENT



Get the scoop. Follow us on Facebook and Twitter to keep up with the latest entertainment, promotions and giveaways!
Get your tickets at the Soaring Eagle box office, etix.com, or call 1.800.514.ETIX.

RIDE OFF ON 1 OF 4 HARLEY FAT BOYS!



SATURDAYS IN MAY
HOURLY DRAWINGS 7PM – 10PM
GRAND PRIZE DRAWINGS 11PM



Soaring Eagle
CASINO & RESORT®

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



REEL IN A NEW LUND FISHING BOAT!



FRIDAYS IN MAY
HOURLY DRAWINGS 5PM – 8PM
GRAND PRIZE DRAWING:
MAY 27 @ 9PM



*Saganing
Eagles Landing
Casino®*

Standish, MI • 1.888.7.EAGLE.7 • Saganing-EaglesLanding.com



Mother's Day Bingo

SUNDAY, MAY 8
1:30PM SESSION

10 grand prize winners will get: an overnight stay at Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort, \$100 for Soaring Eagle Spa & Salon and \$50 in Bingo play.

PLUS the first 400 players to purchase the session get a free spa gift set!



MEMORIAL DAY BINGO

MONDAY, MAY 30
1:30PM SESSION

You could be 1 of 12 lucky winners! We're giving away grills, lawn chairs and patio furniture sets.

PLUS the first 300 players to purchase the session get a free hot dog and chips!





SCIT Utility Authority Consumer Confidence Report and annual Drinking Water Report

(Editor's Note: The following report was submitted by Water Operator Supervisor Joe Johnson.)

Is My Water Safe? During 2015, your tap water met all U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) drinking water safety standards. Your Tribal employees vigilantly safeguard your water and supplies and we are proud to report that your water system had no violations of maximum contaminant levels or any other drinking water quality standards this past year. This report will give you even more information about the safety of your water supply. Please read on for additional information. Informed customers are our best allies.

Do I need to take special precautions? Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immune-comprised persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The EPA/Centers of Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (**1-800-426-4791**).

Where does my water come from? Water for consumer use can come from a variety of sources including rivers, lakes and other surface waters. Your Tribal supply comes from underground aquifers as groundwater to your wells. A benefit of ground water is it is naturally filtered through rocks and soil. Our tribe has four wells. Well #3 is located off of Little Elk Road. Well #4 is located west of Shepherd Road. Well #5 is located north of Remus Road and Well #6 is located north of Ogemaw. The water softening plant was put into operation on April 5, 2000. Please consider not using your home water softener for the following reasons: your water will have an increase in the sodium (salt) content and your water could become corrosive. The plant was designed and is operated to provide the tribal homes and businesses with water that is balanced and softened. Re-softening can create a tinny taste and cause you to use extra water to remove soap residues. The water plant does add fluoride to the water. If you have an aquarium with tropical fish, check with your local pet store for proper treatment of the water to avoid harmful effects on your fish.

Source water assessment and its availability: The tribe has worked with the U.S. EPA to conduct a source water assessment. This assessment consists of identifying the area(s) around

the well(s), which need to be protected from contaminations, identifying potential sources of contamination, and determining the susceptibility of the wells to contamination. The assessment also gives us information we need as a tribal community to make sure our drinking water is safe now and in the future. We have a copy available at the water plant for review to anyone who wishes to read it. This was updated in 2009.

Vulnerability Study and Emergency Response Plan: We are required to do a vulnerability study and file it with the EPA. This has been completed as well as the Emergency Response Plan. These are available for review at the water plant.

Why are contaminants in drinking water? Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (**1-800-426-4791**).

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and in some cases radioactive material. It can also pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or human activity.

Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, may come

from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.

Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.

Organic chemical contaminants including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by products of industrial processes and petroleum production, can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff and septic systems.

Radioactive contaminants which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to insure that the tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulations, which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water that is provided by a public water system.

How to identify Utility staff employees: All Employees of the Utility Department of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe wear shirts that have the tribal logo on them, have a tribal employee badge and should be arriving at a residence in a company vehicle.

If you ever have a question about someone being at your residence and you are not sure if they are an employee, please call us at **989-775-5141** to verify that they are who they claim to be.

How can I become involved in the safety of my drinking water? If you would like to become involved with your water safety, please call us at **989-775-5141**.

Non-Gaming Commercial

Flat Fee (Per Quarter):

5/8" Meter: \$15 1" Meter: \$38.85 2" Meter: \$124.20

Over 2" Meter and up to 4" Meter: \$400

Over 4" Meter: As determined on an individual basis by the Authority

Monthly Variable

Rate: \$2.42 per 1,000 gallons Sewer Rate: \$2.52 per 1,000 gallons
(gallons charged are based on 80% of water usage)

Miscellaneous Fees

\$15 to tag for a shutoff

\$15 for non-emergency shutoff

\$30 for non-payment shutoff

\$25 for meter removal (snowbird)

\$25 to reinstall meter (snowbird)

\$50 for reconnection after shutoff

Water Quality Data Table

The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report.

Terms and Abbreviations Used to the Right:

MCLG: Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG's allow for a margin of safety.

MCL: Maximum Contaminant Level: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to the MCLG's as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

AL: Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant, which if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

(See table to the right for values.)

All water samples tested for bacteria content were negative for the test results. Due to excellent results on previous testing the following was requested: A Synthetic Organic Contaminants (SOC) waiver was requested in 2009. A Dioxin waiver was requested in 2009. Lead and Copper testing is required every three years. The test results were given to the individual homeowners. The results listed are the 90th percentile results. The required VOC testing was done in October of 2011 and except for the Total Trihalomethanes

Michigan Department of Environmental Quality Drinking Water Laboratory

Official Laboratory Report

| Sample Number: LF78725 | | | Sample Point: Hydrant Leaton | | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------|-------------|------------------------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------|
| Analyte Name | Result (mg/L) | Date Tested | RL (mg/L) | MCL(AL (mg/L) | Method | CAS# |
| Bromoacetic acid | Not detected | 8/20/15 | 0.001 | | EPA 552.1/552.2 | 79-08-3 |
| Bromochloroacetic acid | Not detected | 8/20/15 | 0.001 | | EPA 552.1/552.2 | 5589-96-3 |
| Chloroacetic acid | Not detected | 8/20/15 | 0.002 | | EPA 552.1/552.2 | 79-11-8 |
| Dalapon | Not detected | 8/20/15 | 0.001 | 0.2 | EPA 552.1/552.2 | 75-99-0 |
| Dibromoacetic acid | 0.001 | 8/20/15 | 0.001 | | EPA 552.1/552.2 | 631-64-1 |
| Dichloroacetic acid | Not detected | 8/20/15 | 0.001 | | EPA 552.1/552.2 | 79-43-6 |
| Total Haloacetic Acids (five) | 0.001 | 8/20/15 | NA | 0.06 | EPA 552.1/552.2 | THA-00-C |
| Trichloroacetic acid | Not detected | 8/20/15 | 0.001 | | EPA 552.1/552.2 | 76-03-9 |
| Total Trihalomethanes | | | | | | |
| Bromodichloromethane | 0.0027 | 8/19/15 | 0.0005 | 0.08 | EPA 524.2 | 75-27-4 |
| Bromoform | 0.0049 | 8/19/15 | 0.0005 | 0.08 | EPA 524.2 | 75-25-2 |
| Chlorodibromomethane | 0.0052 | 8/19/15 | 0.0005 | 0.08 | EPA 524.2 | 124-48-1 |
| Chloroform | 0.0011 | 8/19/15 | 0.0005 | 0.08 | EPA 524.2 | 67-66-3 |
| Total Trihalomethanes | 0.0139 | 8/19/15 | 0.0005 | 0.08 | EPA 524.2 | THM-00-C |

| Sample Number: LF78724 | | | Sample Point: Hydrant Makwa | | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------|-------------|-----------------------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------|
| Analyte Name | Result (mg/L) | Date Tested | RL (mg/L) | MCL(AL (mg/L) | Method | CAS# |
| Bromoacetic acid | Not detected | 8/20/15 | 0.001 | | EPA 552.1/552.2 | 79-08-3 |
| Bromochloroacetic acid | 0.001 | 8/20/15 | 0.001 | | EPA 552.1/552.2 | 5589-96-3 |
| Chloroacetic acid | Not detected | 8/20/15 | 0.002 | | EPA 552.1/552.2 | 79-11-8 |
| Dalapon | Not detected | 8/20/15 | 0.001 | 0.2 | EPA 552.1/552.2 | 75-99-0 |
| Dibromoacetic acid | 0.003 | 8/20/15 | 0.001 | | EPA 552.1/552.2 | 631-64-1 |
| Dichloroacetic acid | Not detected | 8/20/15 | 0.001 | | EPA 552.1/552.2 | 79-43-6 |
| Total Haloacetic Acids (five) | 0.003 | 8/20/15 | NA | 0.06 | EPA 552.1/552.2 | THA-00-C |
| Trichloroacetic acid | Not detected | 8/20/15 | 0.001 | | EPA 552.1/552.2 | 76-03-9 |
| Total Trihalomethanes | | | | | | |
| Bromodichloromethane | 0.0084 | 8/19/15 | 0.0005 | 0.08 | EPA 524.2 | 75-27-4 |
| Bromoform | 0.0098 | 8/19/15 | 0.0005 | 0.08 | EPA 524.2 | 75-25-2 |
| Chlorodibromomethane | 0.014 | 8/19/15 | 0.0005 | 0.08 | EPA 524.2 | 124-48-1 |
| Chloroform | 0.0031 | 8/19/15 | 0.0005 | 0.08 | EPA 524.2 | 67-66-3 |
| Total Trihalomethanes | 0.0353 | 8/19/15 | 0.0005 | 0.08 | EPA 524.2 | THM-00-C |

| Sample Number: LF78726 | | | Sample Point: Entry to Distribution Plant | | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------|-------------|---|---------------|---------------|------------|
| Analyte Name | Result (mg/L) | Date Tested | RL (mg/L) | MCL(AL (mg/L) | Method | CAS# |
| Chloride | 31 | 8/19/15 | 4 | | SM 4500-Cl E | 7647-14-5 |
| Flouride | 0.63 | 8/19/15 | 0.1 | 4 | SM 4500 FC | 16984-48-8 |
| Hardness as CaCO ₃ | 125 | 8/19/15 | 20 | | SM 2340 C | HARD-00-C |
| Iron (automated) | Not detected | 8/19/15 | 0.1 | | SM 3500 FeB | 7439-89-6 |
| Nitrate as N | Not detected | 8/19/15 | 0.4 | 10 | 10-107-04-2-B | 1497-55-8 |
| Nitrite as N | Not detected | 8/19/15 | 0.05 | 1 | 10-107-04-2-B | 1497-65-0 |
| Sodium (automated) | 107 | 8/19/15 | 5 | | SM 3500 NaB | 7440-23-5 |
| Sulfate | 180 | 8/19/15 | 10 | | SM 4500 SO4E | 14808-79-8 |

This analysis performed by the MDEQ Water Laboratory were conducted using methods approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in accordance with the Safe Drinking Water Act, 40 CFR parts 141-143, and other regulatory agencies as appropriate. Your local health department has detailed information about the quality of drinking water in your area. If you have concerns about the health risks related to the test results of your sample, please contact the Environmental Health Section through the address and telephone number listed below:

Central Michigan District Health Dept. | 2012 East Preston, Mount Pleasant, MI 48858 | 989-773-5921

Test Report: Determine of Asbestos Structures >10



Tribal students learn importance of planning at SCTC Career Opportunity Day

JOSEPH V. SOWMICK

Photojournalist

The Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College is committed to maintaining a nurturing environment which inspires all people to attain a higher level of personal and academic success. Part of that vision was present on April 12 when Tribal students learned the importance of planning at SCTC Career Opportunity Day.

SCTC President Carla Sineway has always viewed the 1998 land grant institution as a place to start, a place to build self-confidence and become self-empowered.

"Our SCTC Career Day is a valuable opportunity for students to begin conversations

with representatives from four year institutions or look towards employment," Sineway said. "We encourage our students to use their SCTC experience as the momentum for their future success."

Kathy Hart, STEM recruiter and director for the USDA Equity Project, said this is the third year providing Career Opportunity Day, and the program was started so SCTC students could see what kind of opportunities are available to them.

"The first year started where SCTC invited four year universities, Tribal departments with job openings, government organizations and agencies with scholarship, internship, and career information," Hart said. "After the first year holding the event, we thought it would be a good recruitment tool."

For the second year, SCTC sent out invites to local area high schools students to attend.

"This would bring them on campus in hopes they would see what SCTC has to offer them," Hart said. "We also added workshops such as resume building, dress for success,



MSU Admissions Counselor Richard Aufderheide gives SCTC student Rachel Bailey insight on how to transfer to a four-year institution.



CMU Career Services Assistant Director Heather Masters offers SCTC students examples of how to develop an impactful resume.

interview tips with mock interviews and a Briggs Myers personality test that matches the student up with careers that they would like doing."

Participating universities and agencies included Central Michigan University, CMU NAISO/STEP Program, Michigan State University, Oakland University, Grand Valley State University, Saginaw Valley State University, University of Michigan, U.S. Coast Guard, Environmental Protection Agency and the Natural Resource Conservation Service.

SCIT representation included Human Resources Anishinaabe workforce coordinator, SCIT Higher Education coordinator, Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort representative, Soaring Eagle Waterpark and Hotel

representative and the SCIT Water Resource team.

Stacy Mandoka has attended several Tribal workshops in the past and enjoys being able to bring a personal touch to her efforts in increasing employment of Tribal members.

"My role as the Anishinaabe workforce developer is to inform students of employment and potential career paths that they can obtain with the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe and its enterprises," Mandoka said. "I found the students to be well informed and asked knowledgeable questions pertaining to career opportunities within the Tribe."

Colleen Green, director for CMU's Native American Programs, is entering her fifth year of service to the SCTC

Board of Regents and commended the outreach the annual event brings.

"The Career Opportunity Day provides students the ability to network and interview professionals from various institutions and employment agencies," Green said. "Hosting the event at the Tribal College also gives the professionals a welcoming environment to connect with the future leaders of our community."

SCTC is an accredited community college with the lowest tuition in the region offering three associate degrees in Native American studies, liberal arts, and business.

To contact SCTC about admissions and what they have to offer, please call 989-775-4123 or email sctcinfo@sagchip.edu.



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

Anishinaabe Workforce Developer Stacy Mandoka shares some practical advice with SCTC student Steven Wassegijig on how to access SCIT job openings.

FINANCING AVAILABLE FOR ALL TRIBAL MEMBERS NO MONEY DOWN!

If you've had repo's, bankruptcy, foreclosures, etc. we can still help!

\$4 million of inventory cars, trucks, vans & SUVs!

Call John Weiss and drive today.
989.497.5280
or apply online at: www.garberbuick.com

Garber Buick 5925 State Street Saginaw, MI 48609
www.garberbuick.com

4th Annual SCTC Golf Outing Thursday, June 09, 2016 - Bucks Run Golf Club

Check-in: 8:00am - Shotgun start: 9:00am

- Two person teams;
- Two flights awarded - more flights possible based on number of participants;
- Contests, prizes, and cash payouts;
- Contest holes for men, ladies and novice golfers;
- Optional skins game available, skins game will be segmented by flight.

Cost: pre-registration \$85 per person (**deadline May 31st**), on-site registration \$95 per person:

| | | |
|-----------------------------|---|---|
| • 18 holes with cart | • box lunch at the turn | • 1 raffle ticket |
| • 2 non-alcoholic beverages | • \$15 Soaring Eagle Casino and Resort Premium Play | • SCTC Embroidered Polo shirt (<i>if registered before May 31st, 2016</i>) |

- Proceeds will be used for student attendance at the AIHEC 2017 Student Conference -

Registration is complete only when SCTC has received your form and payment.
For registration forms or additional information contact:
Nathan Lamberton nlamberton@sagchip.org or call (989) 775-4123

2015 winners

Flight A: \$500 winners
Chase Owl and Erik Rodriguez
Score: 63 (-9)

Flight B: \$500 winners
Gary Reed and Jim Anderson
Score: 86 (+14)

Copyright © 2016 Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College • 2274 Enterprise Drive Mount Pleasant, MI 48858 (989) 775-4123 www.sagchip.edu all rights reserved

Editorial: What do you think of when you think higher/better education?

JORDAN CLOUTIER

Contributing Writer

(Editor's note: The following article was written by Jordan Cloutier in August 2015 for Nina Knight's Composition I class at the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College. Cloutier successfully completed his course work at SCTC and has moved on to Mid Michigan Community College where he is studying for his degree in Criminal Justice. Cloutier is currently working as a correctional officer for Gratiot County.)

What do you think of when you think about higher or better education? You probably think of a great curriculum, more options for a degree, higher paid teachers, which in turn, teach better and you also probably think of a school with better rates in which students find jobs after graduation.

Well, you would be right to think this, but what if I told you that there is more to consider when picking out a college for further education? What if told you even the environment in which the students are learning and studying could and will affect his or her education?

As I'm writing this paper, there is a group of dedicated



Courtesy of Nina Knight

Jordan Cloutier

Tribal employees that are trying to set in motion a college that will not only benefit the students, but it will greatly impact the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan, and more importantly, it will affect the environment.

Ryan Hannah, student at Western Michigan University, studied the effects of the classroom on students.

"The classroom is where they will gain an understanding of their place in the world and the gifts that they have to offer it," Hannah wrote. "It is where the student develops what they want their future to look like, as well as knowledge of the skills needed to reach that goal. With the classroom being such an important place in the growth of a child, it is important to understand

the ways in which to affect this environment in order to receive maximum effectiveness in instruction."

Hannah also wrote, "If not approached correctly, a classroom can be set up in a way that stifles creativity or does not promote a positive learning environment."

With this said, I believe the environment in which college students go to study can greatly affect their learning and more importantly; their GPA.

This group of members developed a building that not only enriches the earth around it, but also gives back from what has been taken, all while giving these students a better learning environment. It is called "The Living Building Challenge."

The Living Building Challenge is a building that is developed to not only be a net-zero building, it only takes what is used, but it gives back to the environment by developing its own sources.

This building is planned to be developed in the vacant field behind the assisted living building by the pond. Before developing, the plans are to recreate that land as to make it look like what it should have looked like years ago before any developing in that area.

They came up with a recreation of the land by using geological mapping and research of the area. By doing so, they feel like the building can fit better into a natural state. I feel like this fits into the love category of the Seven Grandfather teachings.

Just by developing this building, it would show bravery. There are many challenges to this building to try to keep with the guidelines of the Challenge; that is why they call it a challenge. With strength and the belief that this is possible, we can overcome those obstacles and become the first commercial built building in the world to be constructed.

To be humble is to accept yourself as a sacred part of creation, and to recognize the balance in life. The way the building is designed, it would not only create its own energy through solar panels, but it would also create its own

Tribal College



ahead. With all of this, it would bring about truth. By implying the seven grandfather teachings, it would show the meaning of nature's beauty and what the Creator has created.

Not only does the Challenge building uphold the seven grandfather teachings, but I believe it would have a great impact on the Tribal community and the community around it.

If this building was set in motion, and if it was completed with all the guidelines met, set by the Challenge itself, this would be the first commercial building in the world.

Think of all the publicity the Tribe would receive. Think of all the architects, building contractors and government officials that would come to see this building and to see how it works.

Think of how much money this building would generate for our community. Not only would we be paying less for energy, water and sewage, but consumers would pay us for the energy used. From the foods that are grown in the building, we would generate money from the profit.

The team has also planned to build a few meeting and conference rooms as well. Who would not want to have a meeting in this building? There is money to be made in that as well.

This building is very achievable. Unfortunately, it would upwards of \$30 million to build it. That is a big hunk of change, but to look at it in the long run and in the future aspect, why would you not want to?

It is projected in 13 to 15 years this building will have generated enough profit to pay for itself. That, to me, is very impressive. So I hope that you will all take the time to think about this Challenge and consider both sides of the argument.

"The Living Building Challenge is the toughest green standard out there, but it is seriously gaining traction as people get to understand it," said Lloyd Alter.

Just because it is difficult and costs money, doesn't mean it is not achievable. It would be beneficial in the long run.



**Register
For Classes
Today!**

HUM 230: Star Wars

When: Fall 2016, Tuesdays & Thursdays

Where: SCTC East Building

Class Description: A survey of the popular culture phenomenon: Star Wars. This course will analyze the films, books, music, and fans to discover why this series quickly achieved world-wide recognition and whether that popularity is justified. The course will cover the impact and merit of the original franchise and research the impact of the buyout by Disney. Whether you're a hardcore Star Wars fan or someone discovering the series for the first time, this class will offer an entertaining look at how a galaxy far, far away has shaped our modern society.

CHIPPEWA CAB **24/7/365**
989-779-2227

Available for All of Your Central & Northern Michigan Needs!
 No Distance Too Far! | Enjoy Our Wine & Micro Brew Tours In Traverse City!

Need A Ride?
 We Can Help!! Lift Van Available

In Vehicle Electronic Credit Card Processing
 For All Major Credit Cards

- Casino Runs
- Seniors
- Work
- Lift Vans
- Golf Courses
- Weddings
- Party Vans
- Bar Runs
- Ski Resorts
- Airport Pickup and Drop Off
Airline Vouchers Accepted
- Corporate Accounts Welcomed
Available with Direct Billing
- Medical Transportation Services
With Direct Insurance Billing

Facebook Us @ Chippewacab www.chippewacab.com

They follow your example

not your advice

Education is a gift to yourself, your family, and your community.



Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College is an **accredited** public community college that provides educational opportunities reflecting Anishnaabe values.

SCTC confers associate degrees in:
 -Business
 -Liberal Arts
 -Native American Studies

- ◊ Lowest tuition in the region
- ◊ Student-centered learning
- ◊ Small class sizes of 25 students or less
- ◊ Free Tutoring
- ◊ Financial Aid assistance
- ◊ Caring instructors, friendly campus



2274 Enterprise Drive Mount Pleasant, MI 48858

www.sagchip.edu





Teacher Assistant Laurie Barber 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 Laurie Barber for being selected as the April Educator of the Month! The following is a questionnaire completed by Barber:

Which program do you work for? The Saginaw Chippewa Academy.

What is your title? I'm a teacher's assistant.

How long have you worked for the Education Department? Fifteen years.

What is your favorite part of working in this department? Having the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of the students and watching them succeed.

Do you have any pets? Yes, two dogs.

What is the one thing that you love to do? Why? Spend time with my grandchildren. There's never a dull moment with little ones around, everything is an adventure.

What is your favorite Disney movie? "Hocus Pocus."

What is your favorite vacation spot and why? Anywhere that I can go camping with family and friends.

What is one of your favorite quotes? I don't have a favorite quote. I have one word that I use often: "Niishin." Whether spoken to a student or an adult it's a word that brings a smile to all.

What is your favorite candy/snack? Peanut butter brownies with peanut butter frosting.

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



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

Teacher Assistant Laurie Barber receives her award. (Left to right: Tribal Education Director Melissa Montoya, Barber, and Curriculum Instructional Coordinator Kelli Cassaday.)

SCA Anishinaabe Biimaadziwin Team gets a PEAK at Ganiard afterschool program

JOSEPH V. SOWMICK

Photojournalist

The Saginaw Chippewa Academy's Anishinaabe Biimaadziwin Team ventured into the Partners Empowering All Kids (PEAK) afterschool program at Ganiard Elementary on April 8.

SCA AB teachers Aaron Chivis, James Day, Joe Syrette, Matthew J. Sprague, Nathan Isaac and Cecilia Stevens offered the Mount Pleasant students an opportunity to learn about Native traditions and the drum.

Chivis said sharing the culture will help break down stereotypes and give others understanding that they may not otherwise share.

"As for the songs shared, they were songs that we share with our student drum group: easy songs that are fun to learn, and somewhat memorable," Chivis said. "Our drum group, Mino Ode', has been singing together roughly five years. As our name states, we try to do everything with a good heart, and the best way we know how."

Day said the communities are so close, yet there is a lack of Native knowledge.

"Our main focus was to introduce (the students) to our dewe'igan (drum) and how important our drums and songs are to everything we do as



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

SCA AB team teacher Aaron Chivis gives an explanation why the drum is important to the Anishinaabe and our traditions.

Anishinaabeg," Day said. "We shared that there are many different types of drums as well as many different uses for them. To get the students involved, I shared a call and response song that the students were able to participate and sing along. The song itself talks about building up your courage to not be shy."

PEAK is a partnership between the City of Mount Pleasant and Mount Pleasant Public Schools. The program has been operating since 2001.

Ryan Longoria, director of recreation and sports for the City of Mount Pleasant, greeted the drummers and Interim Public Relations Director Erik Rodriguez to explain the connection between the city and PEAK.

"Tribal participation in collaborative programming was the impetus behind reaching out to Erik in regards

to getting Tribal involvement in some of our cultural enrichment programming," Longoria said. "I think this is a great way to educate PEAK program participants on the rich and unique aspects of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe."

Longoria is hopeful that was the first of many Tribal and city collaborative efforts.

"I thought the presentation by the drummers was awesome," Longoria said. "I personally learned a lot and the presentation was exactly what I hoped it would be. It was fun, interactive and most importantly, educational. To be able to educate the kids on the SCIT culture in such a lively and entertaining way was a great addition to the PEAK afterschool program."

PEAK Coordinator Spencer McKellar said the Mine Ode' drummers' effort and engagement with the children was appreciated.



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

The Ganiard gators are ready to hear the Mino Ode Singers perform at their PEAK afterschool program.

"Bringing the Anishinaabe culture to the children in our program helps build community awareness and understanding," McKellar said. "We would like to continue working together to provide a more comprehensive understanding and cultural awareness. We hope to partner with the SCA/SCIT to provide additional opportunities like this for our other afterschool sites and possibly during the summer months for our full day PEAK camps."

McKellar said throughout the school year, PEAK provides 26,730 hours of academic enrichment, 40,095 hours of recreational enrichment and up to another 40,095 hours of social and physical enrichment.

"PEAK is the largest and most consistent out-of-school time provider in Mount Pleasant," McKellar said. "There are 150 to 200 children who participate daily after school and over 300 enrolled for our summer camps."

Pullen

The following students earned perfect attendance for March: Deja Belmarez, Abraham Graverette, Emma Hinmon, Micha Wagner, Angelo Leaureaux, Arilynn Peters, Caleb Burger, Miikawadizi Prout, Isaiah Rodriguez, Kaya Rose, Hope Stevens, Alex Taylor, Cruz Vaquera, Bailey Burger, Ryan Flaugher, Andrew Kequom and Jayden Taylor.

McGuire

The following students earned perfect attendance for March: Tavia Agosto, Arianna Altman, Kasina Laughlin, Mackena Porter, Emily Stevens, Alexis Taylor, La'Anna Trudeau, Mackenzie Burger, Tayden Davis, Isaiah Harris, Kayden Weekley-Dean, Aaron Graveratte, Anthony Green, Bird Hendrickson, Hunter Letts, Gizhig Martell, Taliyah Poolaw, Destiny Shawano, John Stevens, Makayla Stevens and Mgizi Wemigwans.

Shepherd

The following high school students earned perfect attendance for the second trimester: Jarek Chamberlain, Leo Bennett, Cypi Escamilla, Kaila Garcia, Kira Fox and Alicia Raphael. Middle school: Jarrad Johnson, Olivia Lawson, Damien Martinez, Andee Raphael, Camron Scarrott-Pelcher, Toby Pamp. The following high school students are being recognized for their GPA in the second trimester: Jarek Chamberlain, Haley Cogswell, Kira Fox, Tristin Jackson, Arionna Mejia, Dia Niegoda, Michael Pelcher, Taylor Seagraves, Alyssa Shawboose, Abbey Sura and Scott Sura. Middle school: Christina Benz, Miah Chatfield, Sienna Chatfield, Quincey Jackson, Jarrad Johnson, Olivia Lawson, Andee Raphael, Adam Saboo, Camron Scarrott-Pelcher, Matt Smith and Emma VanHorn.

Saginaw Chippewa Academy

The following students earned perfect attendance for March: Gabriel Quigno, Alaina Starky, Sadie Disel, Aaron Jaso, Alayna Disel, Gus Hinmon, Dakota McQueen, Robert Saunders, Zoey Disel, Angela Hawkins-Gonzalez, Felicia Saunders, Ariel Hinmon, Annie Lada, Foster Crampton and Akiveo Gonzalez-Hawkins.

Renaissance

The following students earned perfect attendance for March: Emma Henry, Erica Hinmon, Nixie Snyder, Kyla Henry, Josalynn Shaw, Tyler Snyder, Logan VanOrden, Cordelia McDaniel, Kayana Pope, Kathryn Dunn-Anderson and Makayla Jackson.

West Intermediate

The following students made the Honor Roll for the second trimester: Quinnlan Burger, Phoebe Defeyter, Azaryah Dye, Lucas Dye, Cory Gaskill, Caleb Kequom, Walker Jackson-Pelcher, Treasure Jones, Lauren Lindstrom, Mason Peterson, Hazen Shinos, Isaiah Teswood and Kyra Trofatter. The following students earned perfect attendance for the second trimester: Chris Bartow, Phoebe Defeyter, Thomas Henry, Gabe Jackson, Caleb Kequom, Andre Leaureaux, James Montoya-Pego, Walker Jackson-Pelcher, Tyrone Rios and Hazen Shinos.

Notice to Tribal Member Youth Parents:

- Did you know that your Tribal youth is required to use a TI 84 calculator for school?
- This calculator costs about \$105 a piece or sometimes the school will allow you to rent one, on the condition you pay the replacement cost if your child loses it.
- The calculator will help your child through high school and continue to help them in their higher education goals. It is an investment into their future.
- The At Large/Member Services department believes in the future of all the Tribal member youth and has started a grant for your child to apply for and receive one TI 84.
- Call Colleen Maki, youth coordinator, at 1-800-884-6271 or 989-775-4933 for an application. The guidelines are:

Qualifications:

1. Must be an enrolled member of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe ages 13 through 17.
2. Must provide proof of school being attended and curriculum requiring the TI 84.
3. Must apply to the program for a TI 84 calculator.

Frequency of Service:

A grant will be offered on one-time basis.

Amount of Aid:

Total allocated per Tribal Member youth will be one TI 84 calculator per lifetime.



Concert review: The Band Perry proves to be ‘in it together’

NATALIE SHATTUCK

Editor

When I first heard the Band Perry's debut single "Hip to My Heart" on the radio in 2010, I was instantly impressed with Kimberly Perry's chops for vocals and figured this had to be just the beginning of the band's success.

Shortly after, I checked out the band at The Intersection in Grand Rapids, Mich. before they really became breakout artists.

Now, watching the Band Perry at the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort on April 16, 2015, I see how much the band has grown.

Kimberly Perry's stage presence alone is enough to keep fans watching. Throw in head-nodding country pop music, an impressive light show, spot on harmonies and catchy lyrics, and you have one remarkable show.

Beginning the show in dimmed black and white lighting; the Band Perry began with a drum sequence with both brothers, Reid and Neil, banging on huge drums to create the ambiance for "Better Dig Two."

The band then performed "Chainsaw" and "You Lie," and then slowing the tempo with ballad "All Your Life" and "Don't Let Me Be Lonely."

As the show progressed, the Band Perry showcased

their respect for other artists with covers of Justin Bieber's "Love Yourself," Queen's "Fat Bottomed Girls" and a blend of Eurythmics' "Sweet Dreams," Gnarls Barkley's "Crazy" and Justin Timberlake's "Sexy Back."

After their energetic mash up, Kimberly asked the audience, "did anybody else just get their cardio (work out) in for the week?"

When playing "Hip to My Heart," the band added a fresh, new twist to it.

"Thank you all for all that you've ever done for our family," Kimberly said to the audience. "Our first show was in our parents' living room. Both of them showed up... it was a sold-out show."

Kimberly mentioned they were only on their second weekend of their new tour during the Soaring Eagle stop.

"We've given every moment of our lives to live this dream," she said.

Along with the new tour, the Band Perry had new songs to add including "In It Together."

Stepping a bit away from traditional

country music, they seem to be heading to more of a pop music destination.

"You (the fans) are an inspiration for this new song," Kimberly said of "In It Together." "You guys are so much more than our fans and you are so much more than our friends. You are like family."

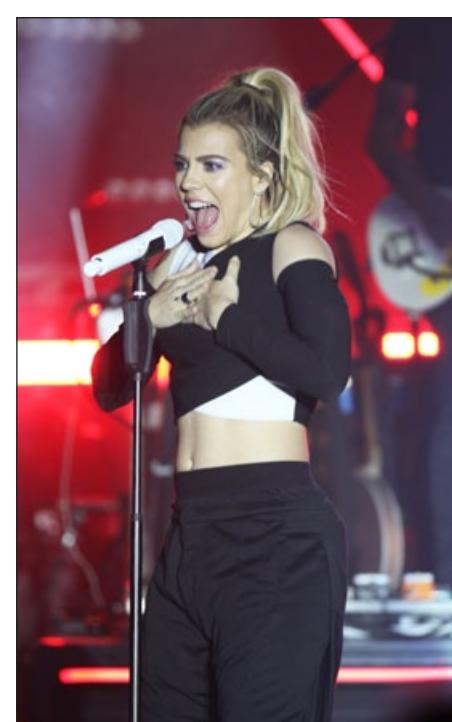
"No matter what you're going through, our best days are directly in front of us," Kimberly said. "We just have to make it to the light."

Their hit "If I Die Young," written by Kimberly, was performed with all three siblings sharing the same vintage microphone.

When the backing band was introduced, it was discovered one of the guitarists was born in Traverse City, Mich. The two guitarists showcased their skills during a "Beat It" solo.

The extremely talented violinist performed a "Paint It Black" solo.

The encore included not one, but three songs including:



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

Kimberly Perry, lead singer of the Band Perry, performs their hit "Chainsaw" during their Saturday, April 26 Soaring Eagle show.

"The Best One Yet," their new single "Live Forever" and well-known hit "DONE."

In their six years in the entertainment industry, it is apparent the Band Perry has built a massive fan following. It was a top quality production through and through, and the band can only continue to grow from here.



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

Siblings Neil, Kimberly and Reid Perry of the Band Perry perform one of their number one hit singles, "Better Dig Two."

COMING SOON!

Mobil

FUEL TECHNOLOGY Synergy

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS!

- May 2nd-13th - Replacement of pumps begins (three pumps open at all times)
- In May, changes will also be made in current payment options. The discount for cash payment will end as we embrace the Mobil Plenti Rewards program. Customers will find a wide array of benefits to those who participate in Plenti which can be used at all Mobil locations. Look for important rewards information in-store soon.



Isabella Sagamok Shell

MAY 1- MAY 27

ENTER TO WIN!

DETROIT TIGERS TICKETS

\$10 purchase required to enter

**WINNERS TO BE DRAWN ON:
5/6 • 5/13 • 5/20 • 5/27**

**June 4 - Tigers
vs. White Sox**

**July 16 - Tigers
vs. Royals**

Each winner receives one pair of tickets. Must be 18 to enter. Employees of Migizi Corporate and Sagamok Express are ineligible to enter. Winner must pick up tickets seven days after drawing or a new winner will be drawn.



Concert review: Adam Lambert was ‘here for your entertainment’

NATALIE SHATTUCK

Editor

One of the most impressive things about Adam Lambert, other than his massive voice, is the diverse audience he brings to each of his shows. Sitting on the sidelines in the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort Entertainment Hall watching Lambert's March 26 show, I noticed fans of all ages, genders and ethnicities.

In a nation currently struggling with too much animosity, it was uplifting to see one artist bring this diverse crowd together. Even Lambert recognized his distinct fan base.

"When I go on tour every night, there are so many different types of people in front of me," Lambert said. "Every night is special."

Lambert said he is thrilled to have so many fans as he called himself "not a normal dude" and just "a big dork."

"I'm not left-center with some of my lifestyle choices,


Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

Adam Lambert commands the stage and performs "Evil in the Night" on March 26 in the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort Entertainment Hall.

but music brings us all together," he said. "That's what I love about touring the world: My fans and music."

With his impressively powerful rock voice and stage presence, Lambert commanded the stage.

He delivered an ideal mix of his most well-known hits with several songs from his newest album "The Original High" (June 2015).

The latest songs he performed included his most recent single "Ghost Town," along with "Evil in the Night," "Underground," "Lucy," "After Hours," "Another Lonely Night" and "The Light."

Since finishing as the runner-up on the eighth season of "American Idol," Lambert has scored a Grammy nomination, sold more than 2.5 million records, completed two tours with rock group Queen and landed a role on the musical TV show "Glee."

The 34-year-old sang his most well-known hits "Whataya Want From Me" and "For Your Entertainment."

He also offered a few cover songs including Avicii's "Lay Me Down," which Lambert co-wrote, Tears for Fears'

"Mad World," which he performed on "Idol" and gave tribute to the late David Bowie with "Let's Dance."

Lambert ended his incredible show with his hit song "If I Had You."

Opening for Lambert was Alex Newell, American actor and singer. Newell is known for playing the transgendered student Wade "Unique" Adams on "Glee."

Newell's powerhouse vocals and range captivated

the audience throughout his 30-minute set.

Newell performed a mix of dance or techno-styled songs and ballads including "Nobody to Love," "This Ain't Over" and "Basically Over You."

"I'm Beyoncé Knowles' long-lost sibling," Newell said laughing. "The family abandoned me. Guess I was too fierce for her."

With a vocal range like that, I wouldn't be surprised if Newell really was Beyoncé's or Mariah Carey's long-lost relative.


Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

Singer and actor Alex Newell, most well-known for his role on "Glee," opened for Adam Lambert during the March 26 show.

Styx 'light up' entertainment hall in Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort

NATALIE SHATTUCK

Editor

It was 1970 in Chicago when American hard rock band Styx formed. Although they began as an artsy progressive rock band, Styx transformed rock in the late '70s and early '80s

with atypical rock style delivering power ballads and elements of musical theater with hard rock guitar riffs.

Today, Styx is made up of original member James "JY" Young (guitar and vocals), Tommy Shaw (guitar and vocals), Ricky Philips (bass

and vocals), Lawrence Gowan (keyboards and vocals) and Todd Sucherman (drums).

Styx kicked off their Friday, April 8 Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort show with the upbeat hit "The Grand Illusion", followed by "Too Much Time On My Hands" and "Fooling Yourself (The Angry Man)."

Shaw welcomed the crowd and thanked them for their support throughout the past four and a half decades.

"Always a celebration, so let's celebrate tonight, what do you say," Young said of their Soaring Eagle return. The band last played at SECR in April 2014.

Gowan's first few piano notes were recognized to be the ever popular "Lady" and the crowd roared. Young, Shaw and Philips worked the crowd and met center stage for the perfect photo opportunity for fans.

Styx asked the audience to get out their cell phone lights for "Light Up."

Throughout the performances, Gowan performed on his spinning piano and often turned to face the audience, playing the piano backwards.

Shaw brought out his acoustic guitar and paid his respects to the recently deceased David Bowie with a "Space Oddity" cover.

Continuing on with his acoustic guitar, Shaw began "Crystal Ball" and the band delivered a buildup, joining at the chorus.

"One of the last times we were (at Soaring Eagle), I got to see two legends Chuck Berry and the king of piano, Little Richard," Gowan said. "Little Richard taught me so many things about eyeliner and the piano. So I want to play a little tribute to him."

Gowan performed Richard's "Good Golly Miss Molly." Additional cover songs included The Beatles' "I Am

the Walrus," and Gowan provided a tribute of his own to Bowie with "Changes" and Keith Emerson's "Hoedown."

"We have probably not done this song in 10 years in the state of Michigan," Young said about "Snowblind," the soulful, bluesy rock song.

Shaw told everyone in the audience they better stand up for "Blue Collar Man (Long Nights)."

Styx closed their set with "Come Sail Away," during which at one point Gowan was balancing with one foot his stool and the other foot on his elevated keyboard.

The audience hollered for more and after a brief moment, Styx reappeared on stage ready to rock some more.

Confetti shot out from both sides of the stage during "Rockin' the Paradise" and the show came to a close with the 1978 smash hit "Renegade."


Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

(Left to right) Ricky Phillips, James "JY" Young and Tommy Shaw, of the rock band Styx, perform their hit "Too Much Time On My Hands" during the April 8 sold-out concert.

Comedian Jay Leno returns to SECR with late night-esque humor

MATTHEW WRIGHT

Staff Writer

The Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort hosted Emmy award winning late night personality Jay Leno on Saturday,

April 9. Comedy fans filled the Entertainment Hall, ready to take in his wry, witty monologues.

Leno crafted the art of joke telling while zinging one-liners on air in front of millions as the host of NBC's "The Tonight

Show." He became the full-time host of the show in 1992, taking over for the legendary Johnny Carson.

After hosting his last episode on Feb. 6, 2014, the 63-year-old handed over the reins to the up-and-coming comedian Jimmy Fallon.

Leno has now gone back to his roots performing stand up after spending 22 successful years behind his talk show desk.

The comic shared wisecracks and quips ranging from current news headlines, politics and pop culture, to everyday life and personal stories.

"They say Hillary Clinton is now trying to dig up dirt on Bernie Sanders," Leno said. "You know

what you call someone who tries to dig up dirt on Bernie Sanders? An archeologist."

Leno thrilled audience members with his tongue-in-cheek humor. With his approachable every man persona, he created humor which was warm, playful and relatable.

"According to a recent survey, men say the first thing they notice about women is their eyes," he said. "And women say the first thing they notice about men is they're a bunch of liars."

Fans of "The Tonight Show" were treated to a live taste of the upbeat, rapid monologues he grew famous for delivering.


Observer photo by Matthew Wright

Jay Leno takes to the Entertainment Hall stage to share one of his many hilarious punch lines.

Now serving our Tribal community

at the Mt. Pleasant Art Van Store

Home Furnishing Specialist and SCIT direct descendant Merissa Cummins

Book an appointment today!

Store: 989.772.2914
Email: merissa.artvan@gmail.com



John Mellencamp and Carlene Carter twin bill rocks another sold-out venue

JOSEPH V. SOWMICK

Photojournalist

Musician, artist and songwriter John Mellencamp and his opening act Carlene Carter gave the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort a twin bill for the April 15 sold-out crowd.

Mellencamp has been on the road promoting his sold out "Plain Spoken" tour since January 2015 and Carlene has been an excellent complement on stage where they have mixed his rock and roll with her downhome country sound.

The Grammy nominated singer-songwriter Carlene is the daughter of country music legends June Carter and Carl Smith, stepdaughter of Johnny Cash.

Carlene paid homage to her family as she brought the crowd to their feet with a toe-tapping version of Johnny Cash's, "Ring of Fire."

Robin Mosher made the drive up from Marion, Mich. with her friends Pattie and Tim Wardwell and was impressed with Carter's musical style and elegance.

"Carlene Carter (was) an excellent opening act," Mosher said. "Her voice is so reminiscent of her mother's... that husky throaty sound that makes you feel every word she



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

Country music sensation

Carlene Carter gives a dedication to her mother June Carter Cash and step-father Johnny Cash as she performs "Ring of Fire."

sings. I loved her line that 'if you were there to see her navel or for her to do cartwheels, you would be disappointed.' From one almost 60-year-old grandma to another, she rocked the crowd with her music."

Mellencamp is widely considered the voice of America's heartland and is ever faithful to his Seymour, Ind. roots. Mellencamp has used his visibility and influence to advocate as one of the founding members of Farm Aid with Willie Nelson and Neil Young.

Farm Aid is an organization that began in 1985 to raise awareness about the loss of family farm.

Throughout the years, Mellencamp, through the Farm Aid concerts, has raised more than \$45 million to promote the family farm system of agriculture, according to farmaid.org.

Mellencamp's music career has spanned more than 35 years, from pop star to one of the most highly regarded songwriters of a generation. His new album "Plain Spoken" is his 22nd full length album.

Mellencamp took the stage and wasted no time in launching right into material from his latest release with "Lawless Times." Mellencamp also offered some of his more introspective work with "Minutes to Memories," "Full Catastrophe of Life," and the poignant "Rain on the Scarecrow," from his "Rough Harvest" album.

The audience cheered as he went into his anthem for rural America, "Small Town." The crowd was also pleasantly surprised and appreciated his soulful rendition of the Robert Johnson standard "Stones in My Passway."

Other hits he included in his live performance was "Check It Out," "Jack and Diane," "Paper in Fire," "(The Walls Come) Crumbling Down," "The Authority Song," "Pink Houses" and "Cherry Bomb."

Mosher has seen Mellencamp before and mentions his energetic performance evoked so many good thoughts and memories.

"His music had me up and dancing throughout most of the concert," Mosher said. "It was great to sing along about Jack and Diane, and those little pink houses, and fighting authority. Like the song says, 'oh yeah, life does go on!'"

Throughout the years, Mellencamp has garnered many platinum albums and chart-topping

singles to his credit. Iconic songs like "I Need a Lover," "R.O.C.K. in the U.S.A." and "Hurts So Good" are a part of a string of greatest hits that dominated the airwaves during the '80s and '90s classic rock scene.

Carlene made a return appearance on stage with Mellencamp as they shared two duets. "Indigo Sunset" and "My Soul's Got Wings" from their upcoming album "Sad Clowns and Hillbillies." Mellencamp and Carlene have



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

John Mellencamp belts out "The Authority Song" to another sold out audience at Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort.

also worked together on the recent collaborative musical "Ghost Brothers of Darkland County." Mellencamp co-wrote the musical with famous horror fiction writer Stephen King.

Mellencamp has enjoyed a run of more than 100 sold-out shows, and at an April 27 performance on ABC network's late night show "Jimmy Kimmel Live," he announced the seventh and final leg of the Plain Spoken tour with Carlene Carter starting in October.

The Temptations and Four Tops bring Motown "Hitsville USA" sound to life

JOSEPH V. SOWMICK

Photojournalist

Two super groups who crafted the Motown sound for "Hitsville USA" appeared at Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort on April 23. The magic music experience envisioned by Berry Gordy in the motor city would not have been possible without the legendary music groups The Temptations and the Four Tops.

Either one of these super groups, who sport a catalogue of hits starting from 1953, could have headlined the star-studded Saturday night Motown show, but the Four Tops received the honor of taking the stage first in their silver sequined tuxedos.

As a full orchestra replete with a classic brass section took their seats, a somber moment took over the crowd as the Four Tops began their show with a moment of silence for their fellow Rock and Rock Hall of Fame alumnus Prince

who passed away a few days prior on April 21.

The Tops started their performance with "The Show Must Go On," followed by their first 1964 hit "Baby, I Need Your Loving."

The Tops continued by churning out Motown staples "Standing in the Shadows of Love," "It's the Same Old Song," "Bernadette" and a cover of Marvin Gaye's "What's Going On."

By the time the Tops launched into their seminal chart-topping encore, "I Can't Help Myself (Sugar Pie Honey Bunch)" in 1965 and "(Reach Out) I'll Be There" in 1966, the band had the audience singing and dancing in the aisle and on the main floor in front of the stage.

The Four Tops lead singer Levi Stubbs and fellow musicians Abdul "Duke" Fakir, Renaldo "Obie" Benson and Lawrence Payton personify longevity for a band, having gone

from 1953 until 1997 without a change in personnel.

Fakir was joined by fellow Tops Ronnie McNeir, Lawrence Payton Jr. and Harold Bonhart.

With an ample wall of sound behind them, the Tops showcased some of their signature dance steps as their twin bill counterparts The Temptations watched backstage.

The 1965 original members of The Temptations included Otis Williams, David Ruffin, Melvin Franklin, Paul Williams and Eddie Kendricks. Founding member Williams led the current Temps lineup of fellow singers Ron Tyson, Terry Weeks, Larry Braggs and Willie Green.

The Temptations were stylish in matching two-toned sky blue and white suits and demonstrating gyrations and rich harmonies to their classic Motown hits. Right from the opening notes of their 1965 breakthrough chart topper "Get Ready," The Temptations kept rolling with their 1966 standards "The Way You Do the Things You Do," "(I Know) I'm Losing You" and "Ain't Too Proud to Beg."

The Temptations closed the show with a double encore of "Treat Her Like a Lady" and their timeless ballad "My Girl."

For the true music lover of the Motown genre, Soaring Eagle was a soulful experience not to be missed. For those that did, don't miss your opportunity to see this slice of history while you can.



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

The Four Tops looked stunning in their silver sequined attire as they performed "Baby, I Need Your Loving."



The Temptations showed they are as sharp as ever as they prepared to do their opening number, "Get Ready."



Attention Tribal Members: Outdoor Concert Staff Needed

Seasonal opportunities for Tribal Members to work for the Outdoor Concert Series and Fourth of July events.

- Entertainment Ushers
- Entertainment Security Guards
- Waitstaff

Over 70 positions available

Please call Stacy Mandoka, Interim Anishinabe Workforce Developer at 989.775.5735, or apply online at www.sagchip.org. Tribal Members will receive priority!



Indian Outreach Program fosters collaboration at Nimkee Memorial Wellness Center

JOSEPH V. SOWMICK

Photojournalist

The Indian Outreach Program has been in place for several years and is a shining example of how a collaborative effort between the Isabella County Department of Health and Human Services and the Nimkee Memorial Wellness Center can have a positive impact on Native health care.

Indian Outreach worker Brandi Bills has been working once a week on Wednesdays during Nimkee business hours for more than a year now.

Karmen Fox, executive health director for Nimkee, said Bills has been able to help several Tribal Members, members of other tribes and descendants becoming enrolled in Medicaid.

"Brandi is very personable," Fox said. "She came right into Nimkee and has fit in perfectly. She's easy to

get along with, respects our patients and our patients feel right at home. We feel very fortunate to be able to provide our patients with this service in house. It's one more way, Nimkee Clinic is able to help our community."

Bills has been working in the Indian Outreach Program since April 2015 and was previously employed for two years with Anishnaabeg Child and Family Services as a social services caseworker. She said she has had positive interactions with all clients she has been fortunate enough to work with through the Indian Outreach Program.

"The clients I have worked with have said they are pleased that they have a resource to assist them with different issues they may be working through, whether it be a task to complete for an MDHHS case or a personal matter," Bills said. "Additionally, I am able to spend one full day per week

at Nimkee Memorial Wellness and have been treated with warmth and kindness by everyone I have met."

Fox said even though Nimkee is a Tribal facility, they are able to provide health care for Native Americans enrolled in a federally-recognized tribe within a designated five county service area. And similar to other health care organizations, they can't provide everything.

"If a patient comes in without insurance, any lab work that has to be sent out (X-ray, a referral to a specialist, etc.) will be paid out of the patient's pocket," Fox said. "Contract Health, now known as Purchased Referred Care, is the payer of last resort. Without being enrolled with some type of health coverage the patient will be billed at 100 percent."

Bob Wheaton, public information officer for Michigan Department of

Health and Human Services Manager of Communications, said MDHHS established the Indian Outreach Worker position in 1975.

"The program started as an initial response to a report published by the Native American Task Force under the direction of Family Independence Agency (FIA) Director Pat Babcock," Wheaton said. "FIA later became the Department of Human Services, which is now the Department of Health and Human Services."

There are 12 Indian Outreach worker positions throughout Michigan. Each county utilizes Indian Outreach Services differently based upon community need and tribal-state consultation.

Indian Outreach workers may provide child welfare or direct services based upon



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

Indian Outreach worker Brandi Bills shares information with Eligibility and Insurance Regulations Specialist Paula Quigno.

request and need of the client, Tribe or agency.

Wheaton said MDHHS Central Office Administration includes Lorna Elliott-Egan as the Tribal liaison for MDHHS Medicaid programs and Stacey Tadgerson serves as the director of Native American Affairs under the MDHHS Children Services Agency; and is the Tribal liaison for Indian Child Welfare and Indian Outreach Services in Michigan.

Starting a walking plan:

JUDY DAVIS

Nimkee Public Health

A study from the VA Boston Healthcare System found that adults who took about 10,000

Turn walking into a regular habit

steps or more per day, performed better on memory tests than those who walked less (and we can all certainly use that, can't we?)

There is a link between exercise and an area of the brain that is

connected to tasks like remembering events and facial recognition.

Now that we might finally see some spring-like weather (we will keep our fingers crossed,) here are some tips for starting a walking plan.

Create a plan that you can follow and it will eventually become a habit. For example, walking up the block and back; do this daily and extend your distance a little each time. Build up to 3,000 steps a day throughout two walks. By six weeks, walk up to 10,000 steps a day.

If you would like to listen to music while walking, three songs equal 2,000 steps. Every step counts.

To make a walk more enjoyable, grab a friend or family member to walk with you. You are more likely to keep the routine if you know someone else is depending upon you. Or if you have a dog, they can also be a perfect walking partner.

Keep sneakers in the trunk of your car and you will always have the "right shoes" handy for a quick walk. If you are just starting a walking routine, get a good pair of shoes with the right fit so you don't risk injury.

Remember, walking is something you can do at any age and it is never too late to start.

As a reminder, we continue to have free walking at Morey Courts thanks to our Public Health 4x4 Grant.

We will again be participating in the Blue Cross Blue Shield Tribe to Tribe Activity Challenge.

Last year the Saginaw Chippewa Tribe took first place and has been able to make progress on a proposed outdoor fitness center with the winning monetary prize.

We hope that even more community members and employees will sign up this year. The Challenge begins May 7 and ends July 1. Watch for a detailed flyer coming soon.

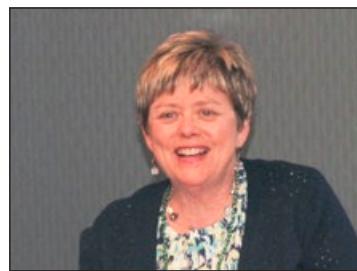
Nimkee hosts annual Blossoming Tea

NATALIE SHATTUCK

Editor

Expectant mothers and guests came together during the annual Blossoming Tea on March 22.

The event was held in the Soaring Eagle Waterpark and Hotel's Bezhik/Niish room and presented by the Nimkee Memorial Wellness Center's Healthy Start Program.



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

Guest speaker Pat Luetkemier, RN, BSN, MS, ANP, presented "Contraception: Not Your Mother's Birth Control."



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

Isabelle Osawamick taught the expectant mothers Anishinaabemowin terms for newborn babies and toddlers.

Nimkee Fitness Center Group Exercise Schedule May 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 | |
| 5:10 p.m. | Beginners Running Jayme | | Beginners Running Jayme | | |
| 5:30 p.m. | | Yoga Tammy | Belly Dance Deanna | Yoga Tammy | |

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.



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

Environmental Nutrition

(Editor's note: The following article is written by Kaley Todd, MS, RDN, and previously printed in the April 2016 Environmental Nutrition. This article is reprinted with permission, and submitted by Nimkee Public Health Nutritionist Sally Van Cise, MPH, RDN.)

The folklore. A harbinger of spring, the name asparagus (asparagaceae) comes from an old Greek word meaning "stalk or shoot." The plant is a member of the lily family, which originated in the eastern Mediterranean where it still grows wild.

Asparagus was used in traditional medicine to treat all manner of conditions, such as heart ailments, dropsy, toothaches, skin conditions, bee stings, fertility, and even hangovers.

The facts. Asparagus was brought to America by early colonists, who referred to the vegetable as "sparrow grass." Today, California produces 60 percent of the commercial asparagus in the U.S.; New Jersey, Washington and Massachusetts also are major contributors.

Asparagus, comprised of 93 percent water, is naturally low in calories and sodium. Yet the spears are potent in several nutrients, such as folate, fiber, iron, and vitamins A, C, and K, as well as rutin, a flavonoid thought to contain anti-inflammatory properties, and the antioxidant glutathione.

The findings. Asparagus is notorious for its unusual side effect on urine odor, a result of the body metabolizing a sulfur-containing compound called asparagusic acid into a relative of the skunk spray essence called methanethiol.

According to recent findings, due to genetic differences, most people do indeed produce methanethiol after consuming asparagus. However, asparagus has its share of pleasant side effects, too.

Research suggests that eating asparagus may help promote heart health, prevent kidney stones, reduce the risk of neural tube defects, act as a diuretic, and aid in diabetes.

A 2006 study published in the British Journal of Nutrition reported that an extract of asparagus helped control blood

presents "A is for Asparagus"

glucose levels, which may offer benefits in managing diabetes.

The finer points. Tenderness is the key element when selecting asparagus. Look for tight, compact buds and fresh, firm stalks that break with a crisp snap.

Asparagus is extremely perishable, so use it quickly after purchase. To maintain its freshness, wrap the ends with damp paper towels before placing in the refrigerator.

To prepare, snap off the woody end of each stalk at the point where it will break easily. These elegant spears are extremely versatile and can be blanched, roasted, grilled, or sautéed.

Asparagus is delicious prepared simply with fresh lemon juice or herbs, wrapped in prosciutto, or topped with a poached egg. You also can add pureed asparagus to soups or sauces, or mix cooked asparagus into casseroles or salads.

The surest way to find wild asparagus is to know where it grew last year. Since it's a perennial vegetable, short of disaster, it will grow in the same location from year to year.

Creamy Tarragon Asparagus Soup

Makes four Servings. Nutritional Stats Per Serving: 100 calories, 3g fat, 14g carbohydrates, 8g protein, 5g dietary fiber, 500mg sodium.

Ingredients:

- 3 cups low sodium chicken broth
- Salt and pepper to taste (optional)
- 1/4 cups fresh tarragon leaves
- 1/2 cups low fat milk
- 1 clove garlic (minced)

Instructions:

1. Heat oil in a pot over medium heat. Add onions and cook until soft. Add garlic and cook an additional 30 seconds.
2. Add Asparagus and broth and bring to a boil. Reduce heat to medium-low, add tarragon, milk, salt and pepper and cook until the asparagus is tender.
3. Remove from heat and cool slightly
4. Purée mixture in blender until smooth and creamy. Return to pot and bring to a simmer.



Recipe courtesy Kaley Todd, MS, RDN

of several bunches that grow out in the middle of fields, so just keep your eyes peeled.

In the wild, asparagus can grow thick or thin. They are equally tasty (although I prefer the fattest ones). As long as the heads are still tightly closed when picked, the asparagus will be good to eat.

Tribe to Tribe Activity Challenge

JUDY DAVIS

Nimkee Public Health

Nimkee Public Health is happy to announce that the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe will again be participating in the Blue Cross/Blue Shield Tribe to Tribe Activity Challenge.

"We were so excited to take first place in the Challenge last year," said Robyn Grinzing, health educator for SCIT, and one of the coordinators of the program. "We hope to beat our Tribal record of last year, which provided us monies to enhance our fitness activities at Nimkee."

Shelley Dufort from Blue Cross/Blue Shield said there are 10 teams competing this year.

The Challenge begins Saturday, May 7 this year and ends on Friday, July 1. The ending celebration will again occur at the Michigan Indian Family Olympics July 22.

The Tribe to Tribe youth marathon initiated last year will be held concurrently.

New this year is the addition of a mobile app, which syncs devices, such as smartphone trackers and fitbits, directly to the Walking Works website to record your activity.

You can contact us at any time to help with the recording of your activity and we can actually set up your account and do your weekly count for you if you wish. Please contact Robyn at **989-775-4649** or Judy at **989-775-4629**.

Editorial: Commit to increase your daily activity

TONI SMITH

Wellness Coordinator

May is Health Fitness Month, and it is recommended that you should get in at least 150 min per week of cardio exercise or continuous exercise of moderate intensity.

You can walk, jog, or bicycle for cardio exercise for 30 minutes per day on five days per week. If you want to really reap the benefits of cardio exercise, you should try doing cardio exercise for at least 60 minutes or more five times a week.

It is also recommended to do resistance or strength training exercises two to three times per week that target the big muscles in the body. It is suggested to also do flexibility exercises two to three times a week to improve range of motion.

What are the benefits of exercise?

1. You will feel better because your body releases "feel good" endorphins in your body.
2. Exercise can help you lose weight or maintain your current weight.
3. You will have more energy.
4. Exercise can ward off depression.
5. Exercise promotes better sleep at night.
6. Exercise helps manage disease and chronic conditions.

For more information on physical activity guidelines, go to www.acsm.org

Local Community Fitness Events

- May 7: Alma, Mich. | Child Advocacy Superhero 5K.
- May 13: Coleman, Mich. | Second annual Glow Run/Walk.
- May 14: Midland, Mich. | Arc Stroll, Roll, & 5K Run/Walk.
- May 21: Clare, Mich. | Joshua's House 5K Run 4 Life.
- May 21: Midland, Mich. | Greater Midland Community Center Dow Run/Walk.
- May 28: Coleman, Mich. | Summer Kickoff 5K/10K.

Thank you for voting us

#1

- Minor In Possession
- Retail Fraud
- Drunk Driving

- Drunk & Disorderly
- Assault & Battery
- Open Intoxicants

BARBERI LAW
EVERY CASE WE TAKE,
WE TAKE PERSONALLY.TM



VOTED #1 LAWYER IN MT. PLEASANT BY THE READERS OF CENTRAL MICHIGAN LIFE
JOSEPH BARBERI & SON DAVID BARBERI ARE BOTH CMU ALUMNI
(989) 773-3423 • 2305 Hawthorn Dr., Suite C. Mt. Pleasant

Member Business Loans

Think of us next time
you need money for
your business!



iccu
Isabella Community Credit Union

989.773.5927 • ICCUonline.com

2400 Isabella Rd • 102 E Broadway • 2100 E Remus, Mt Pleasant



Honoring traditional tobacco serves as motivation for Native Americans to quit smoking

MALLORY BLACK

Native Health News Alliance

SAN DIEGO — More than a year ago, Pernell-Thomas Begay made a New Year's resolution to stop smoking cigarettes.

"I was 29 at the time and I thought, 'Wow, I'm going to be 30,' so definitely, it was kind of an age factor and knowing full well that (smoking) was bad for you," he said.

Begay, a Navajo college student who lives in Albuquerque, N.M., began smoking nine years ago after a friend offered him a cigarette.

After one previous attempt to quit, he decided it was time to talk with his dad about his habit; that conversation put things into perspective for him.

"He just talked to me about how tobacco is sacred for the Navajo and that it's abused nowadays, and we were just talking about how it was used as medicine, (for) ceremonial purposes and how it was used as payment to tribal medicine men," Begay said. "Taking that point of view — that mindset — seeing the tobacco as sacred and something that shouldn't be abused, it kind of helped me more not to smoke cigarettes."

For generations, Native Americans have grown and used traditional tobacco for medicinal, religious and ceremonial purposes. An old Lakota tradition says the spirits enjoy the smell of traditional tobacco smoke. Another Blackfeet story says tobacco calms the spirit and brings peace, health and unity.

Kathy Wilcutts is a Lakota sacred pipe cultural educator with the Southern California American Indian Resource Center (SCAIR). She said the connection Native Americans have with tobacco is the same connection they have to Mother Earth — and one of the biggest reasons tobacco has played a part of ceremonies for so long.

"To me, (traditional tobacco) is energy — energy that we can utilize when we use those sacred plants," Wilcutts said.

But throughout the years, traditional tobacco has become harder to come by in parts of Indian Country, especially for those living in urban areas, according to Dana Kingfisher, tobacco program coordinator at the Missoula Urban Indian Health Center and a member of the Blackfeet Nation.

She said this lack of access forces some Native

Americans to substitute with commercial cigarettes.

This switch-up is sending mixed signals about the dangers of commercial tobacco to Native communities, said Diana Bigby, another member of the Blackfeet Nation and program manager of the Tobacco Use Prevention Program in Montana's Fort Belknap Indian Community.

"There's a specific purpose for traditional tobacco — it's for prayers, for offerings, to honor somebody and positive things like that," Bigby said. "Then there's commercial tobacco, where there's a lot of negative effects on your health, the environment, so be conscious of the differences between the two."

'It's never too late'

Commercial tobacco use isn't anything new in Indian Country.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, American Indians and Alaskan Natives have the highest prevalence of cigarette smoking compared to all other U.S. groups, but more than half say they want to quit.

Judy Krejce, an Ojibwe from Minnesota's White Earth Reservation, had her first cigarette when she was

12 years old. Both of her parents smoked, as well as most of her siblings.

Krejce attempted to quit smoking cigarettes 25 years ago, but eventually she gave in to the temptation to continue the habit.

Determined, she quit again last summer. Like Begay, she wanted to respect the spiritual connection with tobacco and something else: herself.

"I wanted to quit because I was starting to get worried about my health," said Krejce, now 62 and smoke-free. "I didn't want to go end up on oxygen."

It's no secret that commercial tobacco can lead to severe respiratory problems like asthma and lung disease, but it can also lead to heart disease, cancer, and increased risk and complications of diabetes and stroke.

From health to spirituality, to family and respect, there are many motivators inspiring Native people to kick the habit. But despite the increased awareness of the health impact of smoking cigarettes, commercial tobacco use continues to be one of the leading factors in health problems facing Native Americans today.

Krejce said the first key to quitting smoking is the

smoker acknowledging they are mentally ready to overcome the temptation and then allowing that knowledge to keep them motivated.

As a former high school cross country athlete, Begay said he started running again after he quit. He said that keeps him motivated to stay smoke-free.

"Here in Albuquerque, I've ran three or four 5K races, so it's just looking at my next race and improving my time for the next 5K, and (I do) simple exercises when I get a craving," Begay said.

Bigby said running and other exercises can help recent smokers stay motivated. She also suggests smelling cinnamon sticks — not using e-cigarettes — to help stave off cravings.

Research by the University of California, San Francisco showed electronic cigarettes are not effective in helping adults to quit smoking. In fact, the study found smokers were 28 percent less likely to stop smoking when using e-cigarettes as an alternative.

Chewing gum, eating hard candy or exercising to get a boost of feel-good adrenaline can all be effective in place of smoking commercial tobacco or e-cigarettes.

Your Mother's Day Gift-Giving Headquarters

Pre-Made or
Made-to-Order
Gift Baskets



Many Items to Choose From!

Candles • Wine • Chocolate • Jewelry

Essential Oils • Beanie Babies

Gourmet Foods • Native Crafts

Balloons • Love that Soap & Much More!



**CARDINAL
PHARMACY**

30% OFF TOTAL GIFT PURCHASE

Expires 5/31/16. Must present coupon at time of purchase. Not valid with other offers, discounts or coupons.
No copies or duplicates will be accepted. Restrictions may apply. See cashier for further details.

T0-5.16

2410 S. Leaton Rd., Ste. 8 | Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

989.317.3700

Share Your Support for
Tribal Businesses.



Pharmacy Hours:

Monday - Friday 9 am - 7 pm
Saturday 9 am - 3 pm | Closed Sunday

Retail Hours:

Monday - Saturday 9 am - 9 pm



Andahwod provides a Comerica Park feel for Elders on Detroit Tigers opening day

JOSEPH V. SOWMICK

Photojournalist

The freezing rain and snow at Andahwod Continuing Care & Elder Services facility on April 8 did little to force an error on the Detroit Tigers opening day festivities.

Interim Senior Assisted Living Administrator Rosalie Maloney and her staff gave the facility an "at home at the ball park" feel where hot dogs, popcorn, peanuts and Tigers gear could be found all around.

Damon Cornett, dietary lead cook, said what food was provided for the old ballpark theme, "take me out to the ball game."

"...We (had) hot dogs with all the toppings (ketchup, mustard, onions and relish)

with sides of potato salad, sun chips, and a cookie," Cornett said. "We also had popcorn, caramel corn, pretzels, and shelled peanuts along with a punch bowl."

Elders Activity Assistant Katherine Reid was on hand with Elders Community Activities Assistant Elisa Schleider to coordinate several Tigers opening day festivities.

"There were several elders that came to participate in the games," Reid said. "We had a word search game along with a Detroit Tigers trivia contest. My favorite game by far was 'pin the hat on the tiger' and the elders seemed to enjoy it as well."

Schleider appreciates the teamwork the Andahwod staff put in events.



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

Die-hard Tigers fan and Andahwod resident Tweedie Van Cise watches the game with her favorite mascot, Paws.



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

Elders Activities Assistants Katherine Reid and Elisa Schleider lead a blind-folded Flossie Sprague in the "pin the cap on the Tiger" game.

"There's a certain sense of anticipation where the residents and staff know that game day is here," Schleider said. "Katherine just started working with the Elders and our team last month and it's great to have her on board. We had a good turnout and I think many Elders stayed around just to see if the Tigers were going to win another opening day game."

The Tigers took down their division rivals, beating the Yankees 4-0 to keep their opening day winning streak alive at eight games.

Tribal Elders and Andahwod residents Tweedie Van Cise, Dolly Rueckert and

Marilyn Bailey seemed more interested in the game than the contests as they cheered newly acquired all-star Tiger pitcher Jordan Zimmerman to a two-hit, seven-inning win.

Lindsey Sprague, organized sports specialist for Recreation Department, announced via email the department is having its annual Detroit Tigers trip on June 4 this year.

"This year it's the Detroit Tigers versus Chicago White Sox," Sprague said. "We are proud to announce seating

this year is closer than ever. Located in the left outfield box, we will have visual of the Detroit Tigers' dugout and bullpen. The game starts at 4:10 p.m. and transportation is limited and available to youth and elders who are unable to transport themselves. We will be departing from the Eagles Nest Tribal Gym at 11 a.m. on June 4 in hopes to beat most of the traffic and have enough time for families to check out Comerica Park and enjoy a nice meal before the game."



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

Tribal Council and Public Relations showed the Andahwod Tigers Opening Day spirit by wearing their baseball gear.

Give your aviary support wings

ROSALIE MALONEY

Senior Assisted Living Administrator

The snow is done, trees are budding, and the migrating birds are back and nesting. It's springtime!

The Andahwod elders have been bird watching all winter long thanks to our mini homestead bird aviary. Our oak-constructed aviary houses several finches and doves and can be viewed from three sides of Plexiglas windows.

In 2014, the residents of Andahwod raised nearly \$7,000 to purchase their very own aviary. But now they need the support of their community to help them collect enough funds to cover the ongoing maintenance fees.

We are asking for your support now. We are offering three levels: Robins level of \$50, Hawks level of \$100, or the Eagles level of \$150.

If you donate at the Robins or the Hawks level, your name

will be listed in the Elder Services newsletter.

Those donating at the Eagles level; your name, a family name, or a loved one's name will be engraved on a beautiful wood plaque mounted on the wall near the aviary.

Everyone that comes to visit or watch the birds will be able to see all the support that keeps the aviary going. So please consider giving to this wonderful project the elders have enjoyed and will enjoy for years to come!

To donate, please complete the form below and mail back to Andahwod along with your check: 2910 S. Leaton Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858



Andahwod is asking for support fo the bird aviary and its maintenance fees.

Complete form below and mail back to Andahwod along with your check: 2910 S. Leaton Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

Donor name: _____ Phone: _____

Name on Plaque: _____

Donation level (check one):

Robins Pichiik: \$50 Eagles Migiziik: \$150
 Hawks Gegikook: \$100 Other

Andahwod CCC & ES Events - May 2016

Euchre

Mondays | 6 p.m.

• Contact: 989.775.4300

Elders Financial Workshop

May 2 | 3 p.m.

• Contact: 989.775.4306

**Activities and events are subject to change.

Language Bingo

May 5 | 1 p.m.

• Contact: 989.775.4307

Elders Breakfast

May 11 & 25 | 9 a.m.

• Contact: 989.775.4300

Bingo with Friends

May 18 | 1 p.m.

• Contact: 989.775.4307

Saganing Bingo with Friends

May 17 | 1 p.m.

• Contact: 989.775.4307

• Leaving at 9 a.m.

• Limited space, must sign up.

MAY 2016 Tribal Elder Birthdays

- | | |
|----|---|
| 1 | Steven Pego, Phillip Peters Sr., Leo Bennett Sr. |
| 2 | Robin Francis, Henry Sprague, Gerald Ice, Marlene Sova |
| 3 | Jacqueline Wemigwans, Mary Fender, Phillip Shenoskey |
| 4 | Brian Chippeway, William Federico, William Cloutier |
| 6 | Tony Starkey, Steve Collins, Darrell Coon, David Cyr, Debbie Gose, Kathryn Shanks |
| 7 | Carol Shanks, Frances Cuellar, Marie Wicks |
| 8 | Susan Brooks, Marjorie Wehner |
| 9 | Steven Godbey |
| 10 | Lawrence Smith, Julie Allred, Bonnie Klatt, Judy Potter, Harvey Wright, Susan Yamry |
| 11 | Samuel DeFoy, Diane Pego, Kimberly Gerard, Troy Hart |
| 12 | Bonnie Glover, Elaine Shawnoo |
| 13 | Duane Pelcher Sr., Frederick Bailey Sr., Gary Henry, MaryAnn Reis, Frank Romer |
| 15 | Deborah Grills |
| 16 | Orville Jackson, Linda Cook, Carolyn Estill, David Jackson, Allan Slater Jr., Lena Stempel, Sheila Villarreal |
| 20 | Robert Bennett, Bonnie Cantu |
| 21 | April Borton, Angel Jackson, Rose Wassegiijig, Bobbie Brown, Damian Fisher, Rita Stambaugh, Julie Whitepigeon |
| 22 | Volinda Morsey, James Walker, Yvonne Dyer |
| 23 | Larry Pelcher, Richard Smith Sr., Claudia Spalding, Linda Staples, Steven Wayne, |
| 24 | Marlene Garlick, David Rhodes |
| 25 | Steven Martin, Gary Davis, Shirley Houle, Murdock Raslich, James Sprague, Carolyn Stoltz, Johnny Walker |
| 26 | Toni Leaureaux |
| 27 | Frank Davis, Joseph Garlick, Lester Solomon |
| 28 | Gail George, Harold Gould, Elijah Jackson |
| 29 | Anne Peters, Patricia Peters, Connie Frieburger, Rosalie Berry, Robert Fallis |
| 30 | Richard Moggo, Paul Schramm Jr. |
| 31 | Karen Siminski |



MAY 2016 EVENT PLANNER

Class: Reduced Income, Now What

May 2 | 3 p.m.

- Location: Andahwod
- Contact: 989-775-4595

Medicine Wheel Teaching

May 4 | 5 - 7 p.m.

- Location: 7th Generation
- Contact: 989-775-4780

ACFS Breakfast Burrito Fundraiser

May 5 | 9 - 11 a.m.

- Location: Eagles Nest Tribal Gym
- Contact: 989-775-4906

Jake and Mary Pine: Traditional Practitioner

May 5, 6 | 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

- Location: Seventh Generation
- To make appointment: 989-775-4787

Train-the-Trainer Lacrosse Clinic

May 6 - 8 | Time: TBD

- Location: CMU Lacrosse Field
- Contact: 989-775-4115
- \$50 for adults, \$25 for youth

Menopause & Beyond

May 6 | 12 - 3 p.m.

- Location: Nimkee Public Health Kitchen
- Contact: 989-775-4654
- Speaker: Anna Hon, RN
- Topic: Stress Management & Laugh Yoga

Monday Night Masters

May 2 - August (14 weeks) | Tee time: 5:30 - 6:15 p.m.

- Location: Maple Creek Golf Club (Shepherd, Mich.)
- Contact: 989-775-4149

Love & Logic Parenting Classes

May 10, 17, 24, 31 | 5 - 7 p.m.

- Location: Nimkee Memorial Wellness Center
- Contact: 989-775-4616
- Tuesday Evenings starting May 10
- For caregivers of children from 5 years old to teenagers.

Red Swamp Lacrosse Bingo Fundraiser

May 13 | 5 - 7 p.m.

- Location: Eagles Nest Tribal Gym
- Contact: 989-775-4115

ACFS Family 2 Family Sale

May 14 | 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

- Location: Eagles Nest Tribal Gym
- Contact: 989-775-4906
- ACFS Foster Care Fundraiser
- \$25 per space including an 8-foot table.
- Advance payment required.

Women's Support Group

May 17 | 5:30 - 7 p.m.

- Location: Behavioral Health
- Contact: 989-775-4896

Wellness Champions Meeting

May 17 | 1 p.m.

- Location: Human Resources
- Contact: 989-775-5624

Painting with Families

May 18 | 5 - 8 p.m.

- Location: Eagles Nest Tribal Gym
- Contact: 989-775-4506
- Painted Turtle will be doing 8-foot tiles with hand prints to paint.
- Only 70 spots available. Register by May 13 at 5 p.m.

Tuesday Night Giigohn Fishing

May 31 - August 23 | Tuesday nights: 6 - 9 p.m.

- All day outings: 7 a.m. - 3 p.m.
- Fishermans Meeting on May 24 at 5:30 p.m.
- Contact: 989-775-4115
- May 31: Stevenson Lake
- June 7: Budd Lake
- June 14: Long Lake
- June 21: Sanford (all day outing)
- June 28: Stevenson Lake
- July 5: Crooked Lake
- July 12: Five Lakes
- \$15 per person, per night. Youth 16 and under fish free.

Hand Drum Workshop

May 25, 26 | 5 - 7 p.m.

- Location: Seventh Generation
- Contact: 989-775-4780

Breastfeeding Support Walk

May 26 | 12 p.m.

- Location: Starting at Farmers Market Pavilion
- Contact: 989-775-4616
- Snack and water supplied.

Survival Saganing: Youth Challenge

June 10 | 11 a.m.

- Location: Saganing Tribal Center
- Contact: 989-775-5810
- Prizes, lunch and survivor challenges.

Nimkee Health Fair

June 14 | 4 - 6 p.m.

- Location: Andahwod
- Contact: 989-775-4629
- Sponsored by Nimkee Women's Health
- Door prizes, food, and informational booths

TRIBAL COMMUNITY CALENDAR | MAY 2016

| MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SAT./SUN. |
|--|---|--|---|--|--|
| 2 Women's Traditions Society B. Health 5 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. | 3 Lacrosse Practice 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Ogitchedaw Meeting Seniors Room 6 p.m. Substance Abuse Meeting B. Health Lodge 7 p.m. | 4 Open Gym Tribal Gym 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. Traditional Teaching Saganing 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Youth Council Meeting Tribal Gym 3:30 - 5 p.m. Talking Circle Andahwod 7 p.m. | 5 Sacred Fire Lunch 7th Generation 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. D. Dowd Tradition Healing B. Health 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Talking Circle 7th Generation 3 p.m. - 5 p.m. Lacrosse Practice 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. | 6 New Spirit Moon Andahwod Conference 1 p.m. Donnie Dowd Sweat Lodge B. Health 5 - 10 p.m. AA/NA Spirit Bear Meeting Andahwod Maple Lodge 7 p.m. | 7 Talking Circle Andahwod 10 a.m. |
| 9 Women's Traditions Society B. Health 5 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. | 10 Lacrosse Practice 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Substance Abuse Meeting B. Health Lodge 7 p.m. | 11 Open Gym Tribal Gym 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. Talking Circle Andahwod 7 p.m. Youth Council Meeting Seniors Room 4 - 5 p.m. | 12 Talking Circle 7th Generation 3 p.m. - 5 p.m. Lacrosse Practice 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. | 13 New Spirit Moon Andahwod Conference 1 p.m. AA/NA Spirit Bear Meeting Andahwod Maple Lodge 7 p.m. | 14 Talking Circle Andahwod 10 a.m. |
| 16 Tribal Observer Deadline 3 p.m. Women's Traditions Society B. Health 5 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. | 17 Lacrosse Practice 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Substance Abuse Meeting B. Health Lodge 7 p.m. | 18 Open Gym Tribal Gym 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. Tribal Education Advisory Meeting 9 a.m. Youth Council Meeting Seniors Room 3:30 - 5 p.m. Talking Circle Andahwod 7 p.m. | 19 Sacred Fire Lunch 7th Generation 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Financial Workshop Housing 12 p.m. Talking Circle 7th Generation 3 p.m. - 5 p.m. Lacrosse Practice 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. | 20 New Spirit Moon Andahwod Conference 1 p.m. AA/NA Spirit Bear Meeting Andahwod Maple Lodge 7 p.m. | 21 Talking Circle Andahwod 10 a.m. |
| 23 Women's Traditions Society B. Health 5 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. | 24 Lacrosse Practice 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Fisherman's Meeting Tribal Gym 5:30 p.m. Substance Abuse Meeting B. Health Lodge 7 p.m. | 25 Open Gym Tribal Gym 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. Youth Council Meeting Seniors Room 4 - 5 p.m. Talking Circle Andahwod 7 p.m. | 26 Sacred Fire Lunch 7th Generation 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Talking Circle 7th Generation 3 p.m. - 5 p.m. Lacrosse Practice 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. | 27 New Spirit Moon Andahwod Conference 1 p.m. AA/NA Spirit Bear Meeting Andahwod Maple Lodge 7 p.m. | 28 Talking Circle Andahwod 10 a.m. |
| 30 Tribal Ops Closed Memorial Day | 31 Lacrosse Practice 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Substance Abuse Meeting B. Health Lodge 7 p.m. | — Struggling or need support? — Behavioral Health is now offering drop-in relapse prevention groups twice a week. Mondays: 5:30 to 7 p.m. and Fridays: 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● SECR Payroll ● SCIT Per Capita ● SCIT Payroll ● Waste Collection* *Bins must be curbside by 6:30 a.m. | | | | | |



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

Tribal Operations

Dentist

Open to the public. Minimum requirements include DDS/DMD degree from an accredited school and a Michigan Dental License.

Sasiwaans 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. Two years of experience and/or combination of related experience and training in early childhood education preferred.

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.

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.

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.

Special Education Teacher

Open to the public. Bachelor's degree in special education or valid Michigan Elementary Teaching Certificate with special education endorsement.

Senior Associate General Counsel

Open to the public. Licensed as active member in good standing by the State Bar of Michigan or must become licensed following the next available bar exam; four or more years experience as a practicing attorney. Minimum three years experience working for an Indian tribe or Indian organization.

Medical Assistant

Open to the public. Must have knowledge of medical terminology and computer skills. Successful completion of an approved certified medical assistant program.

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.

Anishinabe Language Revitalization Director

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.

Treasury Analyst Senior

Open to the public. Five or more years' experience in treasury, investments, accounting, financial analysis and operations. Bachelor's degree in finance, accounting, business administration or equivalent field required. Master's degree in finance, accounting, business administration or equivalent field strongly preferred. CPA or CTP designation a plus.

Economic Development Analyst

Open to the public. Bachelor's degree in business or related field required, with two years of economic development analytical experience. Must possess excellent computer skills, presentation skills, and statistical analysis skills and have a record of successfully working on extremely confidential projects.

Secondary Language Immersion Specialist

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

Family Nurse Practitioner

Open to the public. Requires State of Michigan licensure and Controlled Substance Registration Certificate through the Drug Enforcement Administration in the State of Michigan/or be eligible to become licensed and certified Master of Science degree in nursing is required.

Water Quality Assistant PT

Open to the public. Must have a minimum of an associates degree, or actively pursuing a BS/BA in environmental, biology, chemistry, geology and or natural science. One year experience working with technical, biological, natural science, or other related field with practical experience preferred.

Water Quality Assistant Training

Open to the public. Must be at least 18 years old. Interest in the environmental field including biology, chemistry, geology, etc. is preferred.

Interim Administrative Assistant III

Open to the public. Must have a bachelor's degree with three years of increasingly responsible administrative work or have an associate degree or a professional secretarial certificate with five years of increasingly responsible adminis-

trative work or high school diploma (or equivalent) with eight years of increasingly responsible administrative work.

Maintenance Worker FT- Public Works

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

Support Services Tech I

Open to the public. Two or more years IT help desk experience or four year IT-related degree. Must be capable of undergoing and passing the background investigation for gaming license.

Dean of Instruction

Open to the public. Master's degree in student personnel administration or related field required. Doctorate preferred. Must have a minimum of five years administration experience in a college setting, ideally as an academic dean or student services dean.

Treasury Portfolio Manager

Open to the public. Five to seven years minimum of investment experience, specifically with discretionary managed money and/or asset management experience required. Bachelor's degree in finance, accounting, business administration or an equivalent relatable field required. MBA or MS in business, finance, economics or related field strongly preferred. CFA designation (or candidate) a plus.

SECR

Line Server PT

Open to the public. Must have a high school diploma or GED. Must be organized and thorough in work ethic and have a strong desire to provide service.

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.

Entertainment Usher (Seasonal)

Open to the public. Must be at least 18 years of age. Must have a high school diploma or GED. Must possess a friendly attitude and work well with the public.

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.

Carpet/Upholstery Cleaner FT

Open to the public. Some carpet and upholstery cleaning experience required. Knowledge of truck mount system a plus.

Server Assistant PT

Open to the public. Must be at least 18 years of age and have a high school diploma or equivalent. Six months to one year prior related food experience

and/or the ability to successfully pass in-house training.

Inventory Control Warehouse PT

Open to Tribal Members only. Must have a high school diploma or GED. One to three years experience in receiving or warehousing.

Line Cook

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

Inventory Control Warehouse PT

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

100 Employment

105 Lost and Found

110 For Rent

115 For Sale

120 Announcements

125 Miigwetch

130 Services

135 Events

140 Giveaways

145 Miscellaneous

with two years related experience in count (finance/gaming) operations. Must be at least 18 years of age.

Guest Room Attendant

Open to the public. Must have a high school diploma or GED. Previous housekeeping experience preferred.

Bartender PT

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

SELC

Players Club Guest Service Rep

Open to the public. High school diploma or equivalent. Must have good customer relations skills and possess strong communication skills.

Waitstaff (level 1) PT

Open to the public. High school diploma or equivalent. Needs to be able to deal with the public under stressful situations.

Line Cook PT

Open to the public. High school diploma or equivalent. One years of restaurant cooking experience with increasing levels of responsibility.

Support Services Tech II

Open to the public. Two or more years IT help desk experience or four year IT-related degree. Must be capable of undergoing and passing the background investigation for gaming license.

Summons and Complaint Notices

SUMMONS AND COMPLAINT IN THE MATTER OF MARIA JOYCE HERNANDEZ:

The Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Court 6954 East Broadway Road Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858 (989) 775-4800 Case no. 16-CI-0108 Plaintiff: TNT Financial Inc. P.O. Box 5767 Saginaw MI 48603-0767 (989) 921-0406 Plaintiff's Attorney: James N. Meinecke (P40510) P.O. Box 5767 P.O. Box 5767 Saginaw, MI 48603-0767 (989) 921-0406 Defendant: Maria Joyce Hernandez 576 Liberty St. SW Grand Rapids, MI 49503. Notice to the Defendant: 1. You are being sued in the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Court. 2. You have 21 days after receiving this summons to file an answer with the court and to serve a copy on the other party or take other lawful action. Please note that if you were served by certified mail or served outside of the reservation land you have 28 days to answer attached complaint. 3. Failure to file an answer or take other action within the time allowed may result in a default judgment being entered against you for the relief requested in Plaintiff's complaint. **This summons expires Aug. 9, 2016.**

SUMMONS AND COMPLAINT IN THE MATTER OF JONATHAN HAWKINS:

The Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Court 6954 East Broadway Rd. Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858 (989) 775-4800 Summons and Complaint Case No. 16-CI-0037 Plaintiff: Gateway Financial Services Inc. P.O. Box 3257 Saginaw, MI 48605(989) 791-2505 Plaintiff's Attorney: Scott Schisler (P48832) P.O. Box 3257 Saginaw, MI 48605 (989) 791-2505 Vs. Defendant: Jonathan Hawkins 402 Larry Place Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858. Notice to defendant: 1. You are being sued. 2. You have 21 days after receiving this summons to file an answer with the court and to serve a copy on the other party or to take other lawful action. Please note that if you were served by certified mail or served outside of the reservation land you have 28 days to answer attached complaint. 3. Failure to file an answer or take other action within the time allowed may result in a default judgment being entered against you for the relief requested in plaintiff's complaint. **This summons expires July 12, 2016.**

SUMMONS AND COMPLAINT IN THE MATTER OF MARY GONZALEZ:

The Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Court 6954 East Broadway Rd. Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858 (989) 775-4800 Summons and Complaint Case No. 16-CI-0029 Plaintiff: Gateway Financial Services Inc. P.O. Box 3257 Saginaw, MI 48605(989) 791-2505 Plaintiff's Attorney: Scott Schisler (P48832) P.O. Box 3257 Saginaw, MI 48605 (989) 791-2505 Vs. Defendant: Mary Gonzalez 1114 E. Broadway Rd. Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858. Notice to defendant: 1. You are being sued. 2. You have 21 days after receiving this summons to file an answer with the court and to serve a copy on the other party or to take other lawful action. Please note that if you were served by certified mail or served outside of the reservation land you have 28 days to answer attached complaint. 3. Failure to file an answer or take other action within the time allowed may result in a default judgment being entered against you for the relief requested in plaintiff's complaint. **This summons expires July 11, 2016.**



Mnookmi Maamwi Wiisining offers community teachings of renewal and inspiration

JOSEPH V. SOWMICK

Photojournalist

The community was blessed when cultural teachings of renewal and inspiration were shared at the 2016 Seventh Generation Mnookmi Maamwi Wiisining (Spring Feast).

The April 6 seasonal feast took place at the Elijah Elk Conference Center Ceremonial Building as Cultural Representative Ben Hinmon served as the emcee for the event.

The evening began with a welcoming song followed by Hinmon introducing Batchewana First Nation of Ojibwe, Amik "Beaver" Nidizhnikaaz Achichak "Crane" Dodem speaker Joe Syrette.

Syrette is a fourth grade teacher who has worked at the Saginaw Chippewa Academy for five years and is a part of the Anishinaabe Biimaadziwin team.

Isabella Osawamick, Anishinaabe outreach specialist and Ojibwe Pichi (Robin) Clan elder, offered a heartfelt message that included Anishnaabemowin blessings for the Mnookmi Maamwi Wiisining and teachings about the Spirit Plate.

Osawamick said it is important to have prayer to welcome the season in a good way.

"Prayer encompasses saying thank you to all aspects of life," Osawamick said. "We need heat, as fire is important for all life on



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

The spirit plate is respectfully placed in the ceremonial fire before the community begins to enjoy the spring feast.



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

Spring feast speaker Joe Syrette shares teachings how ceremonial feasts are done in Batchewana and Garden River First Nations, Canada.

earth. Fire from the sun gives heat. We need water, therefore quenching the thirst with water for growth is important for all life on earth. We need air, as pure oxygen is important for all life on earth. Lastly, we need the earth as it is where air, water and fire exist to sustain life. Each is reliant on each other."

Osawamick said spring is a time of rejuvenation.

"When we eat together through a ceremony called a Mnookmi Maamwi Wiisining accompanied by prayer through which we acknowledge all these aspects of life," Osawamick said. "Anishinaabe people believe in thanking the spirit of all things through the power of prayer."



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

Seventh Generation Cultural Representative Dawn Morrow readies the cedar medicine in a good way before the feast.



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

The greenhouse was open for tours where the community could see the ninssemaa (tobacco) medicine is already sprouting.



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

ALRD teacher and elder Isabelle Osawamick holds the spirit plate as she offers a blessing in Anishinaabemowin.

Syrette shared a teaching, and said wiikoongewinan feasts consisted of having shkaabewis helpers serving everyone who is in attendance.

"Everyone who is there for the wiikoonge feast usually brings their own feast bundles," Syrette said. "Anishnaabeg have lots similarities to the Neheyowak Cree People out in Alberta. During their traditional wiikoogewinan, the food is placed on the floor then smudged from the shkaabewis, they are usually the men who then serve everyone who is taking part in the feast."

No one can taste the food until an Elder or someone is passed tobacco or an opawagan "pipe" and blesses the food and everyone who is in attendance, Syrette said.

Syrette also shared Anishinaabe have traditional teachings that explain everything starts or renews in ziigwan "spring."

"Once the binesiwag 'thunderbirds' sound, this is the time to feast our spiritual items and give thanks for the renewal of life," Syrette said. "It is also our own new year. During this time of ziigwan, all life is awakened from the binisewag, such animals like omakakii "frogs" miikinaakwag "snapping turtles" makwag "bears". During this time all of these beings are awakened and you will start to hear the frogs, see the turtles and bears roaming around."

Syrette said it is important for Anishinaabe to understand their language and traditional ways of living.

"So, having a traditional wiikoonge, we make offerings to every spiritual being that we are connected with to keep a healthy balance in living a mino biimaadiziwin (a good life)," Syrette said. "Today many of our Anishinaabe struggle with lack of identity and have too many differences in beliefs. We must come together and seek and live the traditional teachings of our ancestors to keep a healthy balance for the existence of our future generations. Let us not forget our ancestors



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

Hand drummers Daniel Jackson, Joe Syrette, Aaron Chivis and Anthony Genia share a warrior song.



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

Tribal Biinoojin Avianna Tree Ruffino has much to watch and learn from at her first spring feast.



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

Seventh Generation chefs Jose Gonzalez and Bert Hunt prepare the buffalo meat.

people together to celebrate the seasonal times," Morrow said.

Morrow said their program accepts all beliefs as a mixed community and everyone is welcome.

Administrative Assistant II Lee Ann Ruffino said the seasonal cultural feasts are a true team effort between Seventh Generation staff and the community.

"We would like to say miigwetch to Bert Hunt, his daughter Amanda, and her son Jaden (three generations) for helping with food preparation," Ruffino said. "A big miigwetch goes out to Joe Syrette for the beautiful teachings and his brothers Aaron Chivis, Anthony Genia and Dan Jackson for the beautiful hand drum honor song."

Ruffino also offered a chimiigwetch to all of the community that came out to share in the spring teachings, sacred fire and delicious feast foods of buffalo, frybread, wild rice and berries.



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

Tribal mom Amanda Bennett prepares a mountain of organically grown mashed potatoes for the spring feast.



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

Spring feast emcee Ben Hinmon does some introductory remarks about the main speaker Joe Syrette.



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

Tribal Elder Milton "Beaver" Pelcher assists the Tribal youth in preparing their plates for the spring feast.