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# TRIBAL OBSERVER

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

## Features

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## New Tribal Council members take oath, officers appointed



Courtesy of Marcella Hadden

The 2017-2019 Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Council (left to right): Bill Federico, Theresa Jackson, Louanna Bruner, Sergeant-at-Arms Kenny Sprague, Treasurer Craig Graveratte, Sub-Chief Julius S. Peters, Chief Ronald F. Ekdahl, Secretary Frank J. Cloutier, Chaplain Diana Quigno-Grundahl, Lindy Hunt, Jennifer L. Wassegijig and Ron Nelson



**10**  
**Winter Baby Celebration**  
Seventh Generation event celebrates recently-born infants.

**NIKI HENRY**  
Photographer Journalist



**14**  
**'Shop with a Cop'**  
Children Christmas shop with area law enforcement representatives.

On the blustery morning of Dec. 5, the winds of change brought a new Tribal Council to the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe.

Just before 9 a.m., the Eagles Nest Tribal Gym began to fill with community members there to witness the appointment of the new members and the selection of officers for the 2017-2019 term.

The December Tribal Council regular session meeting was called to order at 9:04 a.m. by former Chief Frank J. Cloutier. After roll call and an invocation, Cloutier thanked the Council members who had served with him the past two years.

"We've done some good work and got some major projects started," Cloutier said. "I think each and every one of you should be very, very proud."

Cloutier continued by saying he appreciated them all very much and was honored

to serve as chief. He closed by thanking his family for their support and patience.

Former Tribal Council Treasurer Gayle Ruhl also addressed the council, thanking the members with whom she served and saying she was proud of what they accomplished together.

"It has been a true honor, and I am so blessed to call many of you friends now," Ruhl said. "I've really seen your heart and your compassion for this Tribe, and it has made me grow more

fond and more loving for everyone in this Tribal community."

The five outgoing Council members were then excused, and the six newly-elected members were invited to join the council at the table.

Judge Patrick Shannon then approached the table to administer the Oath of Office to members, who each pledged to support the Constitution of the United States, uphold the constitution, ordinances, titles and

Tribal Council | 5



**15**  
**Performance Circle**  
Anishinabe Performance Circle dancers are honored at graduation.

## Cocaine and heroin dealer sentenced to 12 years in prison

**JOSEPH V. SOWMICK**  
Healing to Wellness Coordinator

An ongoing investigation into heroin trafficking by the Tribal Police and BAYANET (Bay Area Narcotics Enforcement Team) resulted in the arrest and conviction of 28-year-old defendant Terrance "T.P." Markeith Peterson, a Saginaw resident.

Peterson was found guilty by Judge Thomas L. Ludington

in the U.S. Federal Eastern District Court in Bay City.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Roy Krantz provided prosecutorial evidence that Peterson was in possession of 23 grams of cocaine and 27 grams of heroin on the Isabella Reservation on Feb. 23, 2017, with the intent to distribute the controlled substances.

Peterson was sentenced to 151 months (12.7 years) in prison for possession with intent to distribute crack cocaine.

Judge Ludington also imposed three years of supervised probation after release as the result of dealing heroin on the boundaries of the Reservation.

When Peterson was asked by Ludington if he had anything to say in his defense, Peterson said, "I take responsibility for what I did, and I want to move forward with my life. In the past, I never wanted to change, but I now see the bigger picture and I have two kids I need to take care of."

Peterson originally pled guilty to the charges on July 28, 2017, in front of U.S. Federal Eastern District Court Magistrate Judge Patricia T. Morris.

Peterson was convicted of delivering marijuana in 2010 and the delivery of cocaine, heroin or another narcotic in 2013. Therefore, he was sentenced as a career offender.

Krantz said Peterson meets that criteria with his history

Dealer sentenced | 4



**28**  
**SCA Winter Program**  
Saginaw Chippewa Academy students present the "Gchi Grinch."

# State of the Tribe

Annual Meeting

**Sunday, Jan. 21, 2018 • SECR Entertainment Hall**

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

*\* Tribal ID required. \*\* Kids Quest at SECR will open at 9 a.m.*



## Richard Timothy "Moose" Quigno

April 26, 1951 – Dec. 10, 2017

Richard Timothy "Moose" Quigno, age 66, of Mount Pleasant passed away Sunday, Dec. 10, 2017, at his home.

Moose was born April 26, 1951, in Mt. Pleasant, the son of Benedict and Mary (Jackson) Quigno. He married Betty Jo Graham on June 3, 1982.

Moose was a proud member of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe. He worked for Consumers Energy for many years.

Moose loved to play golf and pool, participate in the Quigno family fireworks for more than 20 years and eat at The Diner.

Moose is survived by his wife Betty Jo; daughter Kelly Jo Yager Smith; grandchildren Arionna Jo (Noah) Crispin, Sedona Lee Mejia, Jonna Sage Mejia and Tommy Smith; siblings Janice (Jim) Hill, John Quigno and Brian Quigno; sister-in-law Cindy Quigno; and three cats, Sissy Girl, Zoey and Kiki.

Moose was preceded in death by his parents and siblings, Joe Mike Quigno, Karen Chippewa, Gary Quigno, Linda Jackson and Mary Lynne Chippewaw.

Funeral services were held in the Tribal Gym on Wednesday, Dec. 13, with Rev. Owen White-Pigeon officiating. Interment followed in the Chippewa Township Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to the family.



## Connie L. Jackson

Oct. 25, 1964 – Nov. 27, 2017

Connie L. Jackson passed away on Monday, Nov. 27, 2017, at 53 years of age. She was born on Oct. 25, 1964, in Howell, to Walter Andrew Slavik and Mabel Ann Slavik.

Connie was a resident of Saginaw and a proud member of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan. She attended Saginaw Public Schools.

Connie loved to travel, spend time with family and friends and take her grandchildren to family-fun places. Connie enjoyed her involvement with Native American projects, especially beadwork and other artwork.

Connie was a very outgoing and happy person who loved the Lord with all her heart. She attended Old Town Christian Outreach under the leadership of Pastor Don Dinninger.

Connie leaves two daughters, Evita Jackson and Ruth Ann-Bo Jackson; three sons, Lightfeather, Jeremiah and Fernando Jackson; five stepchildren, Fernando, Gilbert, Angie, Adam and Estralita Jackson; 14 grandchildren, Angela, Eli, Lucas, Jordan, Nayeli, Elias, Nikko, Neyamia, Fernando, Benjamin, Seqoyia, Jacob, Jade, Lilly and Syanna Jackson; six sisters, Glenda Slavik, Karen Siminski, Julia Hay, Sandra Barron, Joni Delacruz and Cynthia Cisneros; three brothers, Michael, Walter and Donald Slavik; many nieces and nephews; two aunts, Beatrice Seger and Wanda Smitter; three uncles, Theodore, Frederick and Russell Stevens; many cousins; mother-in-law Cruz Garcia Jackson; five sisters-in-law, Sofia Jackson, Andrea Torrez, Margi Trevino, Toni Ali and Rosalinda Marlo; many other relatives and friends; and special friends, Melinda Glenn and Alice Tyler.

Connie was preceded in death by her husband Fernando Jackson Jr., parents Walter and Mabel Slavik, brother Richard Slavik, father-in-law Fernando Jackson Sr. and brother-in-law Richard Jackson.

The family extends thanks to everyone for the many kind expressions of sympathy; special thanks to the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan, Ivan E. Phillips and the staff of Paradise Funeral Chapel.

## Bertha Collins

Nov. 23, 1933 – Dec. 16, 2017

Bertha Collins passed away Saturday, Dec. 16, 2017, at McLaren Bay Region at the age of 84 years.

At the request of Bertha, cremation has taken place and a memorial service will be held at a later date

### Youth Council

### MALE ADVISOR VACANCY

- Those who are interested in becoming a male advisor must be a Saginaw Chippewa Tribal member OR other Native American from the local community.
- Those interested will be required to submit letters of interest and pass a background check administered through the Tribe's Human Resources Department.

Advisors help facilitate meetings, offer guidance, assist the Youth Council Treasurer with transactions that involve funds, chaperone functions/activities and assist executive officers in fulfilling their responsibilities.

**Letters of interest must be submitted by Jan. 26, 2018.** Please include your contact information and a brief statement about why you would like to be a male advisor in your letter.

#### Letters may be sent to:

SCIT Youth Council  
7070 E. Broadway Rd  
Mt. Pleasant, Michigan 48858

#### For more information please email:

YouthCouncil2@sagchip.org

## Report Suspicious or Criminal Activity!

### Do Your Part to Stop Crime!

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

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



#### Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Police

Dispatch: 989-775-4700  
Tip Line: 989-775-4775

#### Bayanet (Narcotics Enforcement)

Tip Line: 989-779-9697

Anonymous and Confidential

## TRIBAL MEMBERS

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

### Saginaw Chippewa/Isabella County

## FAN

Families Against Narcotics

### Monthly Forum

Every third Thursday of the month

**Upcoming dates: Jan. 18, Feb. 15**

7 - 8:30 p.m. | Ziibiwing Cultural Center

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

### Support Groups

Every first Thursday of the month

**Upcoming dates: Jan. 4, Feb. 1**

7 - 8:30 p.m. | Tribal Operations Senior's Room

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

#### For more information, please contact

- Guadalupe Gonzalez at 989.775.4880
- Rosanna Martin at 989.775.4003

## Powwow Committee One Vacancy

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

#### Send letters of interest to

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

## Public Notice

### Unclaimed per capita disbursements for deceased Tribal Members

The following is a list of unclaimed per capita disbursements for deceased Tribal Members.

Any person who has been court-appointed as the Member's Personal Representative of the Estate can contact the Per Capita Office to claim the funds.

All monies must be claimed within two years from the date of death, or such monies will be forfeited and returned to the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe's Per Capita Trust.

Tribal Member Name	Date of Death
Bearden, David	2/25/2016
Bills, Martin	3/23/2017
Dennis, Joel	10/13/2016
Folts, Carolyn	8/13/2017
Macgregor, Ruth Ann	7/2/2017
Moggo, Gerald	8/15/2016
Orvis, Ronald	8/20/2016
Pashenee, Glenn	4/14/2016
Primavera, Julia	7/10/2017
Reynolds, James	11/16/2016
Schramm, Linda	7/22/2017
Sprague, Gary	4/7/2017
Zocher, David	9/9/2017
Zocher, Virginia	8/23/2017

## ATTENTION

Anishinabe Ogitchedaw  
Veteran & Warrior Society Members

Now Recruiting New Members



### Meetings Will be Held

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

## PLEASE REPORT ALL WILDLIFE VIOLATIONS

to the Saginaw Chippewa  
Tribal Police Department



Dispatch: 989.775.4700  
Tip Line: 989.775.4775



Check out the  
Tribal Observer  
**ONLINE**

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



## Tribal Council Regular Session Meetings

The Regular Council Sessions occur at 9 a.m. on the first Tuesday of each month in the Seniors Room of Tribal Operations, in accordance to the Tribal Constitution.

Meetings are open to Tribal Members.

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

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

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

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

### Regular Council Session Dates

- Jan. 2
- Feb. 6
- March 6
- April 3

## Assistance will be needed for the Tribal Action Plan (TAP) in the near future

### CAROL EMMENDORFER

Tribal Action Plan Development Coordinator

The Healing to Wellness (HTW) program is a new approach for the delivery of services to Tribal Members who are struggling with substance misuse, and assistance is being requested.

Tribal Council designated the Tribal Court to lead this change in 2014 with the creation of the Healing to Wellness Court Program.

A further commitment toward this end was made by Tribal Council on June 14, 2017, with the passage of Resolution 17-121 which made alcoholism, substance misuse prevention and treatment a priority issue that directed the Court to develop a Tribal Action Plan (aka TAP). The plan will incorporate key resources available along with Tribal service providers and non-Tribal entities.

In the brief three weeks that I have been a part of this team, I have witnessed the heroic efforts of the dedicated individuals who are working to make a difference in the lives of the participants who are enrolled in the program. This includes the Healing to Wellness leadership team with Judge Patrick Shannon at the helm, along with Magistrate Carol Jackson and HTW Coordinator Joseph V. Sownick and Case Manager Aubree Gross.

Complimenting this team are individuals involved in direct care, including parole officers, Nimkee Medical, Behavioral Health, Anishnaabeg Child and Family Services, Tribal Police, Tribal Prosecutor and elder Faith Carmona Pego, Tribal Council Member

Jennifer Wassegijig, community member Candace Benzinger and outside resource representatives. Most recently, I joined this team as Tribal Action Plan Development coordinator.

At its core, the program is a two-way coordinated effort between the individual and those resources necessary to help him/her become a healthy and productive member of the community. Individuals who qualify must be willing to meet the criteria and dedication of the program, and, when they do, the results are life-altering.

I have seen the affects already and the positive reinforcement and impacts it has made, not only in their lives but in the community as well.

Early in 2018, we will convene the coordinating team to assist in the development of the TAP. For the plan, the team will be conducting surveys within the community to get broad-based feedback from the Tribal Membership. We will be asking for your help and input to develop the plan for the community in the future months to come.

Once developed, the TAP will go further to bridge the gap between Tribal services and break down barriers (silos) that disconnected the programs from the community and also those who need it most. The TAP, along with the Bureau of Justice Assistance, will collaborate and will coordinate resources along with identify additional funding opportunities for the Tribe.

The future looks brighter when we put the needs of Members first because we are our strongest when we work together towards a comprehensive intervention and treatment plan to address Members' long-term needs.



**Happy 4<sup>th</sup> Birthday, Jensen**

From Mom, Dad and Sissy

*We love you to the moon and back!*



*Happy Anniversary!*

**Fred & Denise Cantu**

January 23



**Congratulations, Mom!**

Lou Bruner, Bachelor's of Science; Business Administration in General Management.



**Happy Belated Birthday**

Natalia & Kathy

January 14th & January 11th

Love, Your Fam

## Order Establishing SCIT 2018 Fishing Season

Per Tribal Ordinance 11, Section 107 subdivision 2(B), the 2018 Fishing Season shall begin Jan. 1, 2018, and will close Dec. 31, 2018, unless ordered otherwise.

Licenses and Permits are available at the Tribal Planning Department now. Please refer to Ordinance 11 on the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe website for rules and regulations.

### SCIT Ordinance 11 Fishing Seasons and Daily Bag Limits

Species	Seasons	Location	Limit	Min. Length
Trout	No closed	Inland streams and rivers	10 per day	10 inch
Salmon	No closed	Inland streams and rivers	10 per day	10 inch
Largemouth Bass	No closed	Inland streams and rivers	10 per day	12 inch
Smallmouth Bass	No closed	Inland streams and rivers	10 per day	12 inch
Northern Pike	No closed	Inland streams and rivers	10 per day	20 inch
Muskellunge	No closed	Inland streams and rivers	1 per day	42 inch
Sauger	No closed	Inland streams and rivers	10 per day	14 inch
Tiger Muskellunge	No closed	Inland streams and rivers	1 per day	42 inch
Walleye	No closed	Inland streams and rivers	20 per day	12 inch
Bluegill	No closed	Inland streams and rivers	50 per day	No min.
Sunfish	No closed	Inland streams and rivers	50 per day	No min.
Crappie	No closed	Inland streams and rivers	50 per day	No min.
Rock Bass	No closed	Inland streams and rivers	50 per day	No min.
Perch	No closed	Inland streams and rivers	100 per day	No min.
Lake Whitefish	No closed	Inland streams and rivers	10 per day	No min.
Menominee	No closed	Inland streams and rivers	10 per day	No min.
Catfish	No closed	Inland streams and rivers	10 per day	No min.
Stergeon	No open	Inland streams and rivers	0 per day	N/A

Give that Special Someone



**In the Tribal Observer**

Email to [Observer@sagchip.org](mailto:Observer@sagchip.org)

Deadline: Jan. 18, 2018 - \$10 each

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## Tribal Council

### Chief

**Ronald F. Ekdahl** | District One

### Sub-Chief

**Julius S. Peters** | District One

### Treasurer

**Craig Graveratte** | District One

### Secretary

**Frank J. Cloutier** | District Three

### Sergeant-at-Arms

**Kenny Sprague** | District One

### Chaplain

**Diana Quigno-Grundahl** | District One

### Council Member

**Louanna Bruner** | District One

### Council Member

**Bill Federico** | District One

### Council Member

**Lindy Hunt** | District One

### Council Member

**Theresa Jackson** | District One

### Council Member

**Jennifer L. Wassegijig** | District One

### Council Member

**Ron Nelson** | District Two



# MIGIZI

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CO.

## Attention Adult Tribal Members

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

**Letters of Intent will be accepted until Jan. 19, 2018 and should be mailed to:**

Migizi Economic Development Company, c/o Melanie Burger, 7070 E. Broadway Rd., Mt. Pleasant, MI, 48858

## Dealer sentenced

*continued from front page*

of home invasion, multiple juvenile offenses, family violence and the confirmed 2013 charge of controlled substance delivery while on parole.

Peterson's Michigan Department of Corrections status states he also has used the alias of Joseph Devante Perry, Joseph Devonta Perry and Terrance M. Peterson.

Tribal Court Judge Patrick Shannon commended the work of the Tribal Police department, BAYANET and other agencies involved in the case.

"Working with the Healing to Wellness team and seeing the devastation caused by the illegal trafficking of drugs by dealers like Peterson, I believe the message sent by the prosecution will resonate throughout the community," Shannon said. "Anyone dealing drugs on the Isabella Indian Reservation will be arrested, prosecuted and sentenced to the fullest extent of both Tribal and Federal law."

## 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.



## Tribal Court offering once-a-year motion fee for reduced payments

### TRIBAL COURT STAFF

Many times with changes in income, financial responsibilities can be taxing. People are hesitant to contact the Tribal Court and ask for their payments to be lowered, perhaps in fear about the legal wording, how to properly fill out a form or the process being confusing.

The Tribal Court is here to help. The Court is waiving a once-a-year motion fee for reduced payments, which will include child support.

To file a motion to request payments to be lowered, fill out the form, along with a case number.

File the motion with the Tribal Court clerk's office. A court date will be scheduled for you to appear for the matter to be placed on the record.

Bring in your financial documents for the court date.

If the court decision renders in your favor, it will be processed accordingly. It may take a couple of weeks to reflect the changes on your pay stub.

Please remember, when you decrease payments, it will take longer to pay off the debt incurred. There is a \$50 motion fee with filing after the first initial request that will take effect July 1, 2017.

The Tribal Court docket is available on the [www.sagchip.org](http://www.sagchip.org) website under Court.

## Tribal Observer

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



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

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

### Subscription rates are \$30 per year.

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

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

## Tribal Observer Advertising

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

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

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

## Tribal Observer Subscription Form

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code: \_\_\_\_\_

### Please mail form to:

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

### Contact Information:

Phone: 989-775-4010  
Email: [Observer@Sagchip.org](mailto:Observer@Sagchip.org)  
[www.Sagchip.org/TribalObserver](http://www.Sagchip.org/TribalObserver)



## Kenson Taylor and Jasmyne Jackson declared Youth Council co-presidents

**NATALIE SHATTUCK**

Editor

Each year, Saginaw Chippewa youth step up to make their voices heard within the community.

That tradition continued as the new Youth Council was sworn in on Monday, Dec. 11 in the Seniors Room of Tribal Operations.

Shortly after 4:30 p.m., Tribal Chief Ronald F. Ekdahl swore in the new members as a group.

Kenson Taylor was declared male co-president as there were no other nominees for that position.

Jasmyne Jackson received the most votes and was declared female co-president.

Madison Kennedy-Kequom was elected treasurer, and Migizi Wemigwans was selected as secretary.

Both Taylor and Jackson voted for a tiebreaker to declare the new social media director, won by Zaltana Hinmon, whom they both voted for.

General Representatives include Thomas Henry, Quincey Jackson, Tara Hunt, Aaliyah Montoya-Pego and Josiah Hernandez-Wemigwans.

Tribal Council and community members were in attendance to support the youth.

Per the new by-laws, the Youth Council members will serve until December 2018.

Youth Council is currently seeking a male advisor who must be a Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Member or a Native American from the local community.

Letters of interest must be submitted by Jan. 26 to Youth Council at 7070 E. Broadway Rd.

For more information, please email [YouthCouncil2@sagchip.org](mailto:YouthCouncil2@sagchip.org)



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

The 2017-2018 Youth Council was sworn in on Monday, Dec. 11 after 4:30 p.m. in the Seniors Room of Tribal Operations.

Back, left to right: Treasurer Madison Kennedy-Kequom, Co-President Jasmyne Jackson, Social Media Director Zaltana Hinmon, Co-President Kenson Taylor and Secretary Migizi Wemigwans

Front, left to right: General Representatives Tara Hunt, Quincey Jackson, Thomas Henry, Aaliyah Montoya-Pego and Josiah Hernandez-Pego

## Tribal Council

*continued from front page*

policies of the Tribe and faithfully discharge the duties of their office, according to the best of their abilities in the best interest of the Tribe and its Members.

Shannon then conducted the election for chief, opening nominations and receiving two: one for Ronald F. Ekdahl and one for Theresa Jackson.

Secret ballots were passed out by Council staff, collected and counted by the judge. Ekdahl received seven votes while Jackson received five.

Shannon then swore in Chief Ekdahl, who freely accepted the responsibility of the office.

Ekdahl turned to address the crowd, choking up a little as he thanked his family for their support and told community members how proud he is to serve them.

“It is truly an honor to be selected to serve as chief for the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal community,” Ekdahl said in a press release. “I will do everything in my power to ensure Tribal Council collectively

works for what is in the best interest of the Tribe and its Members.”

Ekdahl then opened nominations for sub-chief. Cloutier (District III Representative) was nominated along with Diana Quigno-Grundahl, Julius S. Peters and Kenny Sprague.

Secret ballots were again passed out, collected, counted and tallied. Peters received five votes, while the others nominated each received two.

Peters was then sworn in, and nominations were taken for treasurer. Craig Graveratte was nominated, as was Louanna Bruner and Quigno-Grundahl. Graveratte took the seat with seven votes to Bruner’s three and Quigno-Grundahl’s one.

After Graveratte was sworn in, nominations were opened for secretary, with Cloutier being elected with four votes over Jackson’s three, Jennifer L. Wassegijig’s two and one each for Quigno-Grundahl and Bruner.

Cloutier was sworn in, and the position of sergeant-at-arms was filled by Kenny Sprague, who received seven



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

Newly-elected Chief Ronald F. Ekdahl (right) is sworn in by Judge Patrick Shannon (left) during Tribal Council’s regular session on Tuesday, Dec. 5 in the Eagles Nest Tribal Gym.



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

Sub-Chief Julius S. Peters shakes Chief Ekdahl’s hand after being sworn in to his executive position.

votes to competing nominee District Two Representative Ron Nelson’s four.

The last position of chaplain saw a close vote between Quigno-Grundahl who received four votes, Wassegijig who received four votes and Jackson who received three. Ekdahl made his first tie-breaking vote, selecting Quigno-Grundahl to return to her former position and swearing her in.

Erik Rodriguez, public relations director, then officially introduced the new Tribal Council



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

The newly-elected Tribal Council and witnesses stand for an honor song following the swearing in and election of each executive officer.

to the public, and the Mino Ode drum group welcomed them.

The Council recessed at

9:48 a.m. and later reconvened in chambers to initiate business matters.

## Legal Department donates supplies to Isabella, Midland county animal shelters

**NATALIE SHATTUCK**

Editor

For some, the holiday season is a reminder to give back to those in need. As the Legal Department sees it, “those in need” does not only apply to the human race.

Last month, the department assisted homeless animals by collecting items for both the Humane Animal Treatment Society in Isabella County and the Humane Society of Midland County.

After noon on Dec. 15, Legal’s staff was spotted in the HATS lobby playing with and squealing about sweet cats and kittens in their cages after a stroll through the dog kennels.

The team was welcomed by HATS Executive Director Summer DuBois and her staff.

The previous evening, Dec. 14, the staff delivered the

Midland donations after the work day.

“We used the organizations’ online wish lists as a starting point for deciding what to collect,” said Sharon Avery, general counsel for Tribal Operations. “We ended up with pet beds, collars and leashes, cleaning supplies, office supplies, kitty litter and trays, treats and food.”

In late October, Legal began discussing donations in lieu of the department’s holiday party.

“Everyone was on board. One staff member circulated the wish lists. Then staff members began bringing the donations into the office,” Avery said. “One staff member bought the (Christmas-themed) hats and headbands for everyone to wear during the drop-offs.”

Avery explained that not everyone involved was able to travel to the animal shelters, but

she noted that the entire department helped with the project.

“It was a group effort,” she said.

Avery discussed the idea behind giving back to the animal shelters.

“One of the best things about this community is when it comes together to offer support,” she said. “Programs like the Angel Tree Program or Star Tree help build a sense of teamwork and community.

At its core, this is a very generous community. The Tribal Observer published a picture of the Nimkee Public Health’s donation to HATS, and this all, sort of, sparked the idea.”

“We are all pet lovers in the Legal Department. We love our dogs and our cats,” Avery said.



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

Legal Department staff members pose with adoptable cats and the items they gathered for the Humane Animal Treatment Society collection drop-off on Dec. 15 at noon.



Courtesy of Sharon Avery

On Dec. 14, Legal Department staff members drop off donations to the Humane Society of Midland County.

“This is a cause we could all get behind and support. We are already discussing what organizations we may want to focus on next year.”

Avery said, on behalf of Legal, they would like to challenge other departments to consider supporting a charitable organization in 2018.



# ZIIBIWING CENTER

## of Anishinabe Culture & Lifeways

6650 E. Broadway Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858 • Phone: 989.775.4750 • [www.sagchip.org/ziibiwing](http://www.sagchip.org/ziibiwing) • [www.nativedirect.com](http://www.nativedirect.com)

## Annual Report (October 2016 - September 2017)

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

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

In 2017, CMU's Clarke Historical Library awarded Ziibiwing's Curator, William Johnson, the John Cumming

Isabella County Historical Preservation Award. This award is named in honor of the Clarke Library's Director from 1961 until his retirement in 1982. It is given to honor individuals who have contributed to preserving the history of Isabella County. Ziibiwing's Assistant Director, Judy Pamp, received the award in 2016.

We hope that you find in this Annual Report a clear demonstration of the dedication and respect exemplified by our entire organization for the mission, work and growth of the Ziibiwing Cultural Society. We are extremely grateful for your continued support and trust in our very important work.

## Our Members

- American Indian Services, Inc.
- Avery, Adam
- Bonnema, Terri & Jim
- Brauker, Shirley
- Brodie, David
- Burke, Peggy & Charles
- Carpenter, Joan
- Chamberlain, Julie
- Christy, Dennis Sr.
- Coen, Pat
- Don Mirrieless
- Colthorp, James
- Cornejo, Viviana
- Cross, Dr. Suzanne
- Cummins, Charla

- Davis, Dustin & Jenna
- Day, Alexa
- Day, Angeliq
- Dolley, Diane
- Dorcey, Julie
- Douglas, Kenneth & Carol
- Douglas, Ronald & Sharon
- Douglas-Waugh, Kim
- Ederer, Eric
- Falcon, Ronald & Audrey
- Farrell, Patricia
- Gates, Pamela
- Gorecki, Liz
- Graverrate, Mary

- Grills, Gary & Susan Taylor
- Guerrero, James Jr.
- Hadden, Marcella
- Heard Museum
- Helms, Esther
- High, Roger
- Jackson, Angel
- Jackson, Delmar Jr.
- Katz, Marsha
- Kellner, Ralph & Dorothy
- Kennedy, Lisa
- Kequom, Phyllis
- Kimewon, Elizabeth
- King, Lisa
- Klymyshyn, Ulana
- Kucera, Ann
- Leaureaux, Sheila
- Leaureaux, Tonia
- Lenhart, Robbie

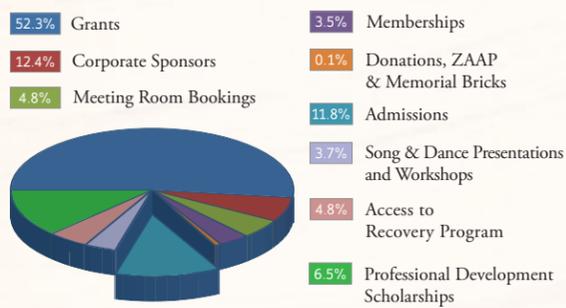
- Lewis, Jason & Amanda
- Listerman, Angela
- Martin, George & Sydney
- Martin, Shannon
- Meskill, Deborah
- Michener, David & Wil Strickland
- Mitchell, Autumn
- Montoya, Iliana
- Montoya, Tina
- Moore, Brian
- Pamp, Judy
- Paquette, Carol & Andrew
- Peters, Alstyn
- Peters, Angela
- Pitawanakwat, Alphonse
- Porter, Deb
- Powell, Malea

- Powell, Mark & Jane
- Queen, Elizabeth
- Quigno, Jason
- Raslich, Bill & Rose
- Raslich, Frank & Nicole
- Rentfro, Jenny
- Ricketts, Alice Jo
- Russell, Mary Ellen
- Saab, Ann
- Shananaquat, Dave
- Shawana, Joseph & Charmaine
- Sheperdigian, Barbara
- Shier, Quita
- Skene, Julie
- Slasinski, Mike
- Slifco, Daniel & Pamela
- Sova, Marlene

- Spencer, Bernard & Florence
- Spencer, Robin
- Sprague, Jeff
- Squanda, Clarence
- Stelmashenko, Victor & Shijing
- Stevens, Paul & Evonna
- Sumbler, Jim
- Thurston, James & Patricia
- Voges, Victoria
- Waless, Elizabeth
- Walker, Sally
- Waynee, Craig & Marlene
- Wickerham, Floyd & Sue
- Yates, Kathy
- Zaleski, Lanette
- Zocher, Virginia

## Financials

External Revenue Total: \$214,155



## Your Support

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

- Free admission to Ziibiwing Center exhibits for members of all North American Indian Tribes.
- Discounted admission to military personnel, school children, college students, and educators.
- Funding for outreach programs which take our teachings and collections into schools throughout Michigan.
- Preservation of our artifacts and collections, ensuring that our culture will be preserved for future generations.
- Maintenance and promotion of our exhibits so that our heritage and culture can be enjoyed by everyone.

## Accomplishments

- 24,865 visitors experienced all the Center has to offer - an additional 2,403 were provided educational services at 23 offsite bookings by the Ziibiwing Center staff.
- Implemented 310 special events and cultural programs for the Tribal community and general public.
- Research Center served 2,015 patrons.
- Maintained 8 Tribal cemeteries, in addition to the Ziibiwing Center's 3-acre lawn (14.41 acres per week).
- Provided 148 tours for 3,055 guests, 45 K-12 tours and 103 adult tours, including complimentary SCIT, Migizi, SECR and Retail Employees' Orientation tours.
- NativeFest, our annual 2-day celebration of American Indian culture, attracted 618 people.
- Continued to provide cultural and educational services two times per week to clients of the Tribe's Residential Treatment Center and Access to Recovery Program.
- Repatriated and reburied the physical remains of 51 Native American individuals from Alpena and St. Clair Counties from Harvard University's Peabody Museum of Archaeology & Ethnology on Nov. 12, 2016. The Peabody Museum did not return the associated funerary objects belonging to the individuals - the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan's Women of Traditions Society made gender and age appropriate gifts for the ancestors' burial bundles.
- Completed the Ziibiwing Center's Diba Jimooyung Multi-Media Enhancement Project which provided multi-media enhancements/upgrades for both the Creation and Identity Theatres - Ziibiwing's grant writing team was successful in capturing \$80,350 in grant funds (Cultural Resource Fund and Institute of Museum and Library Services) to offset the total replacement cost of \$170,665.
- Ziibiwing Commercial Services (ZCS) E-commerce sales broke 1 million dollars in fiscal year (FY)17 in July instead of September - 3 months earlier than in FY16.
- ZCS began working to improve profits with the new Loyalty Program - change of product, employee schedules, and new

procedures implemented to counter the decrease in projected sales. Concentrating on more products that will entice people to pay with cash or credit - a long process that will take most of FY18 to achieve.

- ZCS online FY17 net revenue sales up \$213,112 from FY16.
- ZCS continued to operate at 100% self-sufficiency and is currently subsidizing the wages of 4 Ziibiwing Center staff positions.
- ZCS began building a new 10,000 sq. foot warehouse for the Online Department - completion will be in FY18.
- ZCS entered into programming for the Walmart.com online store - go live will be in FY18.
- \$5.9 million in total net revenue for ZCS in FY17.
- 72 items were accepted into the Tribal Permanent Collection (books, photographs, baskets, moccasins, boarding school information, flint stone, Little Elk Powwow items, etc.)
- Ziibiwing Center hosted and mentored two Summer Youth Workers.
- Cultural Resource Management team completed 350 cultural resource reviews - these reviews are required under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and protect the cultural resources/traditional cultural properties of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan.
- 1,122,976 individual contacts were logged by our team, including physical visits, phone, email, E-Noodaagan newsletter and increased social media interaction with Facebook, Twitter, etc.
- Awarded 3 of 3 Federal grants submitted: NAGPRA Repatriation Grant, Historic Preservation Fund, and Institute of Museum and Library Services Grant for a total of \$112,045.
- ZCS continued to work on various software programs and upgrades to improve Amazon selling and enter into new selling channels - examples are Ship Gear and Channel Advisor.
- ZCS continued to implement new software enhancements (GP, E-Bridge, and Panatrak) to improve various processes.
- \$4.5 million projected FY18 budget in net revenue for ZCS, down \$1.4 million from FY17 due to the new Loyalty Program.
- ZCS charted a profit of \$228,828 for FY17, which is down by \$608,580 from FY16 due to the Loyalty Program.
- \$1.7 million projected for FY18 budget in net revenue for ZCS Online Department, which is up \$400,000 from FY17.

## 2018 Event Calendar

### January

- 1/20 | Anishinabe Games Day
- 1/30 | Performance Circle Sign-Up & Class  
(Classes every Tuesday until May 8 except Spring Break.)

### February

- 2/3 - 2/10 | Collection Showing
- 2/24 | Anishinabe Authors' Gathering & Book Fair

### March

- 3/19 - 3/23 | Baby Swing & Moss Bag Workshop
- 3/21 | Vendor Workshop

Performance Circle Spring Break: No Classes March 26-30

### April

- 4/21 | Sacred Seed Symposium
- 4/23 - 4/27 | Mother Earth Week
- 4/28 | New Changing Exhibit Opens

### May

- 5/3 & 5/4 | Ziibiwing's 14th Birthday Sale
- 5/8 | Performance Circle Graduation
- 5/12 | Bird Day Celebration
- 5/12 - 5/19 | Collection Showing
- 5/28 - 9/3 | Blue Star Museum

### June

- 6/6 | "Honoring, Healing & Remembering" (at the MIIBS\*)
- 6/23 | Community Cultural Teaching (at Sanilac Petroglyphs)

### July

- 7/7, 7/14 & 7/21 | American Indian Dance
- 7/23 - 7/28 | NativeFest - Collection Showing
- 7/24 | NativeFest - Car Bingo
- 7/25 | NativeFest - Music & Comedy Night
- 7/30 - 8/3 | Cradleboard Workshop

### August

- 8/2 - 8/31 | Art Walk
- 8/9 | World Indigenous People's Day

### September

- 9/8 | Grandparent's Day
- 9/11 | Performance Circle Sign-Up & Class  
(Classes every Tuesday until Dec. 11)
- 9/15 | Monarch Butterfly Celebration/Kids & Culture
- 8/22 | Museum Day Live!
- 9/29 | Changing Exhibit Closes

Heritage Special: September - November (Call for Details)

### October

- 10/17 | Eagle Feather Cleansing
- 10/18 & 10/19 | Eagle Feather Honoring
- 10/19 | Eagle Feather Feast

Heritage Special: September - November (Call for Details)

### November

- 11/1 | Spirit Feast
- 11/10 - 11/17 | Collection Showing
- 11/12 | Veteran's Day (observed)
- 11/15 | Artists' Business Training
- 11/15 - 11/17 | Circle of Indigenous Arts Competition & Market

Heritage Special: September - November (Call for Details)

### December

- 12/11 | Performance Circle Graduation
- 12/13 | Annual Appreciation Dinner (by invitation)
- 12/15 | Community Cultural Teaching/Kid's & Culture

\* Mt. Pleasant Indian Industrial Boarding School

- All events subject to change or cancellation.
- Visit [www.sagchip.org/ziibiwing](http://www.sagchip.org/ziibiwing) or call 989.775.4750 for current information.

## Ziibiwing Cultural Society Mission

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



## Tribe repatriates ancestral human remains from University of Michigan museum

**NATALIE SHATTUCK**

Editor

The public was invited to join the Ziiibwing Center of Anishinabe Culture & Lifeways and the Tribe for a Recommitment to the Earth Ceremony on Dec. 1 at the Nibokaan Ancestral Cemetery.

The Friday noon ceremony recommitted to the earth the ancestral human remains of 20 Native American individuals and 106 associated funerary objects from the University of Michigan's Museum of Anthropological Archaeology in Ann Arbor.

The Tribe, in cooperation with the Michigan Anishinaabek Cultural Preservation & Repatriation Alliance (MACPRA), Chippewa-Cree of the Rocky Boy's Reservation of Montana and the Mille Lacs Band of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, carried out the repatriation through a National Park Service NAGPRA Repatriation Grant.

The Ziiibwing Center has been working diligently and in cooperation with MACPRA to bring home ancestors and their associated funerary objects from the numerous museums, universities and institutions

across the country since the passage of the 1990 NAGPRA.

NAGPRA requires museums and federal agencies to inventory and identify Native American human remains and cultural items in their collections and to consult with federally-recognized Indian tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations regarding the return of these objects to descendants or tribes and organizations.

Elders and representatives from the tribes retrieved the ancestors and associated funerary objects at the University of Michigan on Thursday, Nov. 30 and brought them to the Ziiibwing Center to prepare for the reburial.

Elder Steve Pego led the final preparations and ceremonies for the ancestors at about 10 a.m.

Women, dressed in ceremonial skirts, and men carried the human remains and associated funerary objects in the cemetery, located at 7525 E. Tomah Rd.

A 1 p.m. Journey Feast at the Ziiibwing Center concluded the ancestral protocols.

The National NAGPRA Program is administered by the National Park Service.



Courtesy of Marcella Hadden

**The Tribal community and University of Michigan representatives participate in unity during the Recommitment to the Earth ceremonial protocols.**

“Respecting Native American history and culture is an important part of the National Park Service mission,” said Michael T. Reynolds, acting director for the National Park Service. “These grants support the dedicated efforts of museum and tribal professionals to collaborate, consult and respectfully return a significant part of our nation’s cultural heritage to Native American communities.”

Section 10 of NAGPRA authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to award grants to assist in implementing provisions of the act.

In 1970, human remains representing, at minimum, 20 individuals were removed from the Bugai

site (20SA215) in Saginaw County.

Contract workers encountered human remains while excavating sand from private property near Interstate-75 in Bridgeport Township. After workers completed removing the sand, amateur archaeologists Leo Purple and Arthur Graves conducted a salvage excavation at the site from late-winter through the fall of 1970.

Purple had surface-collected on the site for several years prior to the excavation.

Primary and secondary burials were noted at the site. The majority of the burials excavated were bundle burials, along with multiple objects.



Courtesy of Marcella Hadden

**Anishinabe Ogitchedaw Veteran and Warrior Society members David Perez and Larry Verga stand as sentries during the Dec. 1 repatriation at the Nibokaan Ancestral Cemetery on the Reservation.**

Purple and Graves divided the site collections, donating some to the University of Michigan’s museum in 1976 and some to the Chippewa Nature Center (CNC) in Midland in 1974.

In 2006, the CNC donated the ancestral human remains and associated funerary objects from the Bugai site to the University of Michigan’s museum.

The cemetery — located on the Reservation and behind the Tribal Campground — was established in 1995 for the explicit purpose of reburying repatriated Native American ancestral human remains and associated funerary objects.

## Comic book successfully depicts Tribal repatriation experiences

**NIKI HENRY**

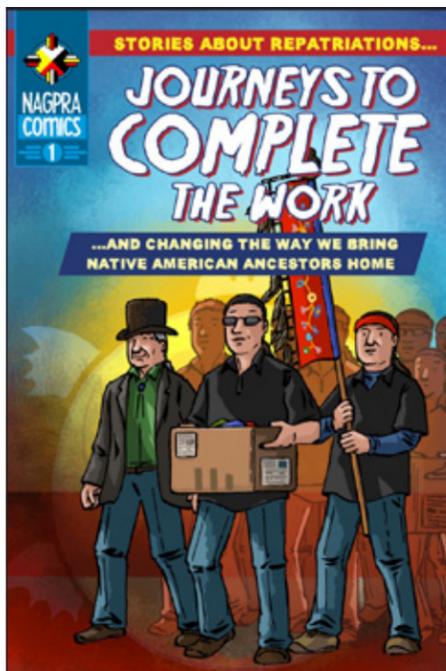
Photographer Journalist

“Journeys to Complete the Work... and Changing the Way We Bring Native American Ancestors Home,” is a recently-released comic book that explains the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) and shares two stories centered around the repatriation experiences of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe.

The comic was written by Sonya Atalay, archaeologist and University of Massachusetts, Amherst, professor of anthropology; Jen Shannon, anthropologist and Natural History Museum professor at the University of Colorado, Boulder; and archaeologist and illustrator John G. Swogger, who also illustrated it.

To produce the comic book, Atalay, Shannon and Swogger collaborated with Shannon Martin, director of the Ziiibwing Center of Anishinabe Culture & Lifeways; Ziiibwing Curator William Johnson and elders Sydney and George Martin.

According to Shannon Martin, Atalay developed the idea for the book several years ago because she wanted to provide a resource about NAGPRA law that was interesting, inspiring and truthful.



**The comic book "Journeys to Complete the Work..." shares stories of repatriations by the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe.**

“The other impetus for the project was to raise awareness about NAGPRA and to try to reach younger generations,” Shannon Martin said.

According to Johnson, the comic is effective in explaining the complexities of NAGPRA.

“The comic book format is a great resource for young readers to learn about repatriation activities and the law. I think it succeeds in those avenues,” Johnson said.

Martin agreed. “The graphic novel is already sort of going viral,” she said. “The PDF of it is free, and it’s being shared widely through different segments of academia and Indian country.”

We’ve already heard that there are a number of professors who are adding this to their syllabus, so it’s going to be part of coursework and teaching about the impact of NAGPRA on Indian country.”

It did not take long for the graphic novel to gain this widespread admiration and academic application.

“It debuted in November. We unveiled it at the Indigenous Comic Con in Albuquerque, N.M. on Nov. 10-12,” Martin said, noting that 500 copies were produced from the first printing and that 500 more will be shipped directly to Ziiibwing after the first of the year.

The project was funded by a grant that Atalay and Jen Shannon applied for, with all proceeds from the sale of the graphic novel going to the Michigan Anishinaabek

Cultural Preservation and Repatriation Alliance.

Atalay, who formerly served as a member of the National NAGPRA Review Committee, focused the comic on the experiences of the Tribe because she was part of several grant projects, working as a consultant to help the Tribe affect NAGPRA with the University of Michigan’s Museum of Anthropological Archaeology and Harvard University’s Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology.

“She had firsthand experience on these two cases that are highlighted in this comic book,” Martin said, explaining that Atalay used only primary sources for her writing, applying direct quotes from the consultation meetings that took place during each of the two-year-long repatriation projects she was involved with in the community.

Each member of the graphic novel team was dedicated to producing an exact account and an effective product.

“The editing process was long and arduous, especially in terms of making sure that the content was accurate,” Johnson said, explaining that he and Martin worked diligently on this part of the project. “The result is an amazing reflection of reality and the NAGPRA world.”

With the novel’s instant success and the continued

growth of the Tribe’s relationship with the University of Michigan, Martin said a second issue is already being considered and explained it would probably focus on the continuation of the Tribe’s journey with U of M., which will provide a variety of material for another issue.

“We’re discussing with the University of Michigan the co-creation of a changing exhibit and hosting classes from anthropology and museum studies departments,” she said. “We’re currently engaged with the repatriation and the rematriation of seeds from the university’s ethnographic collections that originated from Native communities.”

In spite of the occasionally uncomfortable recognition that being featured in the comic brings them, Martin and Johnson are proud of what the book is accomplishing and the work they have done on behalf of the ancestors and the Tribe.

Martin expressed that she thinks the comic accomplishes their goal of telling the truth of a difficult and complicated story in a new and engaging format that honors the tribal tradition of storytelling.

A digital copy of the graphic novel can be viewed at <https://blogs.umass.edu/satalay/repatriation-comic/>



## Tribal Councilman Cloutier selected as keynote speaker for CMU commencement

**NATALIE SHATTUCK**

Editor

The Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe's partnership with Central Michigan University endures. Tribal Council Secretary Frank J. Cloutier was selected as the CMU commencement speaker for the 1:30 p.m. ceremony on Dec. 16.

Cloutier received an honorary doctorate degree in public service.

"It is an incredible honor to be able to represent our communities, our people and our families," said Cloutier, former Tribal chief. "Public service is not something you take lightly, and, when recognized for it, it should be celebrated."

The ceremony, held in the McGuirk Arena of the John G. Kulhavi Events Center, was one of three that day — also held were 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. graduations.

The ceremonies combined August and December graduates, according to the press release. There were 872 August graduates and more than 1,800 December graduates.

Cloutier's speech is provided in its entirety below.

"Good afternoon to all you wonderful people. I would like to start off by thanking (CMU) President (George) Ross and his lovely wife Elisabeth for asking me to be a part of such an incredible event.

This is a first for me; being the keynote speaker for such an illustrious group of individuals.

When I was asked by President Ross if I would be willing to give this address, I asked him what he would like me to say and/or cover.

His response was, "Be yourself, and tell your story."

I wondered which one. I have many stories. But seriously, I was born into a large family of very hard-working parents who experienced the Great Depression. As the youngest of 18 children, I had to grow up very quickly and carve out a place for myself.

There was always an expectation in our house that everyone would take on responsibilities around the milk farm my family owned and operated. Both of my parents worked full-time off the farm as well.

*There was always enough work and chores to go around.*

*My dad gave very little direction and expected us all to be self-starters and deal with issues as they arose. That, in itself, was probably one of the best tools my father could have ever given me, and that was independence. That has followed me to this day.*

*Having such a large family with differing opinions around every corner, I really had to be on my toes and become skilled in the art of persuasion, diplomacy and advocacy.*

*With nine sisters and eight brothers thinking I was spoiled for being the youngest, and having our father's namesake, I had no choice but to negotiate and make deals.*

*I learned through books and records that there was always something interesting about history.*

*You need to know where you came from to know who you are going to be when you grow up. A reality I'm sure many of you share. It was from those early years I developed a keen interest in history and in the past history of my Native people.*

*I soon started identifying much of the history about the Native population in history was incorrect and not translated according to facts about our people. That was when I decided that history was what I was going to build my professional educational on.*

*It wasn't for many years, and a lot of differing experiences, that I set out on the path of political science — learning the processes and the analytical elements of history and how it came to be was too intriguing to pass up.*

*I have been an advocate for the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe for over 18 years now. In that time, I have been working to develop the policies and political position on behalf of our Tribal community. Doing what I can to make a difference and perhaps right some of the wrongs and misconceptions of our people.*

*Ladies and gentlemen, today you will be presented with your degree — the very document that identifies that you have earned your way through the technical aspect of your education.*

*Today you begin another journey — a journey to apply*



Courtesy of Steve Jessmore

**Tribal Council Secretary Frank J. Cloutier delivers the 1:30 p.m. Central Michigan University keynote address during the Dec. 15 commencement ceremony.**



Courtesy of Steve Jessmore

**CMU President George Ross (left) awards Cloutier an honorary doctorate degree in public service.**

*what you have learned in the real world, a tool much like the tool my father gave me in being independent. This will be your opportunity to take what you have learned and blend that with the experiences of life and new opportunities.*

*It is one thing to get a job and be part of something that matters; however, if you want to make a greater difference, you will need to get to the spot where you are a decision maker.*

*It is great to work for others and support their direction. It is quite another to be able to set the direction or be a part of a group of others who will do just that.*

*You will need to be problem solvers providing solutions. You will need to be able to cope with the day-to-day challenges of the workforce and rise to the top of where it is you want to strive to be and endeavor to do.*

*I just finished one of the most humbling and honorable experiences of my life to this point.*

*Two years ago I was elected to serve as Chief of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe. This is*

*one of the highest honors ever given to an elected official of the Tribal community. It was a surreal and rewarding experience with great times and measurable challenges.*

*In that time, we started initiatives that will span years of measurable accomplishments for our community. We changed ordinances that will provide better protection for our elders and greater security for our youth.*

*I would have never been given that opportunity to serve had I not strived to be at the table and become a decision maker. Each of you can if that is what you reach for.*

*My time with the Tribe has allowed me national exposure, and I have had the privilege of personally meeting with five sitting presidents, provided consultation in Congressional testimony many times as well as represented many other trade groups such as the Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes where I sit as president.*

*Each one of you has the opportunity to do great things within your chosen field. I encourage each one of you*

*to reach for that leadership opportunity. It does make a difference.*

*In closing, I would like to remind you that, after today, you will all be alumni of this respected institution, and with that brings responsibility to represent Central Michigan University with distinction and pride.*

*The Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe has a long-standing progressive relationship with Central Michigan University. Together we strive to celebrate the differences in each of our institutions and build on those differences as strengths. We have set an example of best practices for other institutions that are privileged enough to have a progressive relationship such as the Tribe and CMU.*

*Being a Chippewa to me means to be proud, competitive, team-oriented and inclusive. It is my hope it means the same to you.*

*Chi-miigwetch (thank you) for allowing me to address you today; it has been a privilege and an honor. Fire up Chips!"*

## Recreation hosts 2017 Christmas family bingo



Observer photos by Matthew Wright



**MATTHEW WRIGHT**

Staff Writer

The Eagles Nest Tribal Gym was jam-packed with players of all ages during the annual Christmas family bingo event on Dec. 18.

The fun-filled night was a collaborative effort between the Recreation and K-12 Education departments and Youth Council.



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[www.migiziedc.com](http://www.migiziedc.com)



## Editorial: Citizens must take control of opioid prevention, intervention, treatment strategies

### PATRICK SHANNON

Tribal Court Judge

Much of my time is spent working with people and legal issues surrounding the current opioid epidemic. For the past five years, I have been serving as a judge in a small community in the Lower Peninsula.

My Monday mornings are spent with the clients in our treatment court program. I witness, weekly, the utter distress caused by addiction to opioids and the resulting pain to the families of those addicted.

When I returned to the courtroom five years ago, I realized the entire criminal drug environment had changed. Thirty years ago, law enforcement pursued cocaine, marijuana and LSD. The current lexicon of drug misuse includes a

cornucopia of pharmaceuticals including Oxycontin, Fentanyl, Carfentanyl, Norco, Benzos and Kratom along with the marijuana and cocaine of prior years.

Much has changed in 25 years in our communities. I am approaching my 40th year as an attorney, and most of my professional career was served as a county, tribal and federal prosecuting attorney.

Along with being a judge, I serve as a member of the Michigan Prescription Drug and Opioid Abuse Commission and as a board member of the Michigan Association of Treatment Court Professionals along with participating in monthly meetings of the National Office of Drug Control Policy.

Whether one of my cases in court involves a mortgage foreclosure, child neglect or some



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

Tribal Court Judge  
Patrick Shannon

form of criminality, a common thread is opioid misuse.

We are now faced with an increasing death rate as a result of drug overdoses. Some estimates are as high as 65,000 deaths a year, nationally, related to opioid and illicit drug abuse.

In Michigan, estimates of yearly deaths due to drug overdoses are around 2,000.

Unfortunately, we do not know the exact number of these preventable deaths because we, as a nation and state, are reacting to this crisis.

I have learned in these past five years that one solution to the growing opioid epidemic is citizen action at the local level.

Local citizens through their organizations, politicians and policy makers must take control of the prevention, intervention and treatment strategies.

We cannot wait for direction from Lansing and Washington because too many friends and family members will die in the interim. Your voices will be heard through your action at the local level.

I urge citizen involvement in organizations such as Families Against Narcotics (FAN). This is a successful example of a

local, pure Michigan grassroots effort. Chippewa County has a very active chapter, and it can be found at [www.familiesagainstnarcotics.org/chippewa](http://www.familiesagainstnarcotics.org/chippewa).

Through these columns, I plan to share with our community some of the lessons I am learning about prevention, intervention and treatment strategies while serving as a judge and sitting on various boards and committees. If you see me around the Sault or elsewhere, engage me about the opioid abuse issue. I am confident some of you may have a solution that could save a life.

*(Editor's note: Tribal Court Judge Patrick Shannon, J.D., Ed.D., M.P.H., is a Sault Ste. Marie resident, and the article was originally published on Dec. 9, 2017, in the Sault Evening News).*

## Collaboration between tribal, state, federal courts that benefit Michigan families

### THE MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT

Michigan judicial leaders representing state, federal and tribal courts released a report on Nov. 14 highlighting their cooperative efforts to better meet the needs of Native American children and families.

The report, "Michigan's Judiciary Success Stories: How Tribal, State and Federal Courts Are Collaborating to Benefit Michigan Families" was released at a meeting of the Michigan Tribal State Federal Judicial Forum.

Priorities for the forum include addressing child welfare issues and ensuring that the respective court systems are meeting the needs of Native American children and families in a way that is culturally sensitive and appropriate.

In particular, the forum is focused on making certain that courts are trained in the federal Indian Child Welfare Act (1978) and the Michigan Indian Family Preservation Act (2012).

"I am so pleased to be able to share this useful resource, which is really a celebration of what our courts have accomplished and what we continue to address together," said Justice Bridget M. McCormack, who serves as the Supreme Court's liaison on tribal issues. "I encourage judges and courts across Michigan – tribal, state and federal – to use this new report as a tool to educate our citizens on what these courts do and how collaboration across courts is essential."

"By coming together, as we do through the forum, our courts are better able to think and act outside the box in addressing issues that affect our specific communities and

our state as a whole," said Allie Greenleaf Maldonado, forum co-chair and chief judge of the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians Tribal Court. "We can step back and take a global view on how to improve the application of justice, and we can also zoom in on what other local courts are doing to address issues that might be very specific to our region."

Forum Co-Chair Judge Timothy Connors of the Washtenaw Circuit Court, who presides in his county over a peacemaking court that was inspired by Native American courts, said, "Sharing perspectives, ideas and different methods of achieving justice helps to enhance all of our court systems. I believe it also facilitates a more cohesive and respectful application of justice in all of our courts."

The report features the following articles:

- "Michigan Tribal Judicial Forum Builds Trust and Spurs Cooperation on Child Support Issues in Southwest Michigan" by Chief Judge Michael Petoskey, Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians and the Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatomi Indians, and Chief Judge Susan Dobrich, Cass County Probate Court

- "Ripple Effects of Tribal and Federal Court Collaboration Are Felt Throughout Local Community" by Chief Judge Jocelyn Fabry, Sault Ste. Marie Chippewa Tribal Court, and Magistrate Judge Timothy Greeley, U.S. District Court for the Western District of Michigan, Marquette

- "Baby Steps: How Two Northern Michigan Courts Built an Enduring Partnership that Sets up Children to Succeed" by Chief Judge Allie Greenleaf Maldonado, Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians

Tribal Court, and Retired Judge Frederick Mulhauser, Emmet County Probate Court

- "Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Court Embraces Spirit of Collaboration Inside and Outside of the Tribal Community" by Judge Patrick Shannon, Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Court

- "Q-and-A about the Impact of Peacemaking Court" by Judge

Timothy Connors, Washtenaw County Circuit Court

- "Court, Tribe and State Agency: How These Entities Banded Together to Benefit Cheboygan Children" by Judge Robert John Butts, Cheboygan County Probate and Family Court

- "Pioneering Collaboration with Tribal Courts" by Retired

Justice Michael Cavanagh, Michigan Supreme Court

The forum is comprised of judges representing each of Michigan's 12 federally-recognized tribes and 12 state court judges along with federal judges and officials.

Find out more about the forum and tribal courts at [www.courts.mi.gov/tribalcourt](http://www.courts.mi.gov/tribalcourt).



What does it take

to become a wildland firefighter?

The Saginaw Chippewa Interagency Wild Land Division is a division of the Tribal Fire Department and is looking for interested men and women who are seeking seasonal employment on a Type Two "Initial Attack" hand crew.

The hand crew is a Bureau of Indian Affairs' Michigan agency that can be deployed nationwide including Alaska and also to Canada.

Wildland firefighting can be physically demanding for long periods of time. Fire assignments require firefighters to work under arduous and stressful conditions: working in heavy smoke and intense heats, climbing steep and rugged terrain, working with minimal sleep or rest, working and living in a dirty environment and carrying heavy packs and equipment.

Showers and hot meals are not generally available on a daily basis, and firefighters can be away from their "home forest" for weeks at a time. They are often required to be on call and must leave within two hours of being notified.

Sometimes the firefighters are also called on to "hurry up and wait," depending on what the fire is doing and if and where they are needed.

The firefighters need to be in shape to meet the rigors of the job and the stress.

### Position requirements:

- Deployments up to 21 days
- Up to 16 hour workdays
- Must be able to pass a work capacity test — a three-mile walk with a 45-pound weight vest in under 45 minutes
- Must be available during fire season
- Must have a current Michigan driver's license
- Must be able to obtain a DOI "Department of Interior" operator's license
- Must be at least 18 years of age
- Must pass a medical physical examination
- Must complete basic wildland fire fighter training

### Some training requirements:

- Course is broken into short, one-to-three hour modules, enabling students to complete courses at their own pace.
- Collectively, the two courses offer approximately 40 hours of training.

For more information, contact Tribal Fire Department at 989.775.4866

Fire Chief Fred Cantu | Sgt. Brian Kelly, Crew Boss | Ryan Chippewa, Crew Boss



## Baby celebration brings families together, reinforces bonds

**NIKI HENRY**

Photographer Journalist

The Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe recently celebrated its newest community members during the winter baby celebration that took place at Seventh Generation's Elijah Elk Cultural Center on Thursday, Dec. 7, beginning at 5:30 p.m.

Seventh Generation, Nimkee Public Health, Anishnaabeg Child and Family Services, Anishinaabe Outreach Specialist Isabelle Osawamick of the Anishinaabe Language Revitalization

Department and Sandy Smith of Behavioral Health work together twice a year to make this family event happen.

This year, Youth Council also stepped in to help with the celebration.

This semi-annual event began with welcomes from Seventh Generation's Cultural Manager Lee Ann Ruffino and Cultural Representative Daniel Jackson.

Osawamick provided a blessing for the meal before participants enjoyed a dinner of mac and cheese, ham, mashed potatoes, gravy, broccoli and cupcakes.

During the meal, newly-appointed Chief Ronald F. Ekdahl addressed those in attendance, speaking about his experiences of being a father to his two young sons and new daughter.

"My children are one of my greatest blessings in my life," Ekdahl said. "They are little miracles. All these little children are little miracles."

Ruffino concurred.

"I think we can all agree that babies are a precious gift, and any event that reinforces that idea is a good thing," Ruffino said after the event. "Having a baby is a miracle; being a parent is an honor. We need to always acknowledge new parents, and caregivers, because they are responsible for a tiny human, a precious life."

Ekdahl also spoke about how enriching being a parent is.

"You don't know how much you can love another person until you love a child," he said, explaining that parenting is a labor of love that comes with many sacrifices.

"The reality of it is that it's hard work," Ekdahl said, encouraging parents to form strong relationships with their children and rely on the love of their own parents.

Following Ekdahl at the event, Shuna Stevens, prevention coordinator, presented information about effective ways to communicate with a child. These included listening, setting a good example, encouraging choice and helping build their self-esteem.



Observer photo by Niki Henry

Young members of the Isaac family participate in the Dec. 7 winter baby celebration with friends, family and caregivers to welcome the newest children of the community.



Observer photo by Niki Henry

During the event, parents of children born since the last celebration gather together to pose for a photograph with their new babies.



Observer photo by Niki Henry

Nathan Isaac (left) wins the father's blanket that was hand made by Sandy Smith (right).



Observer photo by Niki Henry

Tonya Jackson (far left) holds her niece Belle, while her nephews Nodin (second from the right) and Gabe (far right) shower the baby with love and attention.



Observer photo by Niki Henry

Santa makes an appearance at the celebration, distributing hugs and attention as well as gifts to young Tribal Members.

Osawamick then led a sing-along in Anishinaabemowin with the help of Ruffino and Yvette Pitawanakwat, secondary language immersion specialist, before Santa visited and distributed gifts to all the children in attendance.

After the children received their presents, Ekdahl was honored at the event with a smudgebox presented by Cultural Representative Benedict Hinmon and a blanket crafted by Smith.

Before the evening ended with a closing/giveaway song by Jackson, raffle prizes were awarded and baby blankets were distributed to all the children born since the last celebration this past summer.

The blankets for each celebration are lovingly and generously made by Smith who also created both a mother's and a father's blanket, won through a raffle by Simone Sineway and Nathan Isaac.

"At the baby celebration, the parents and caregivers receive gifts for their newborns as well as themselves, because taking care of our babies means we have to take care of ourselves as well," said Ruffino.

According to Ruffino, the "Celebration of Babies" was a



Observer photo by Niki Henry

Kenson Taylor receives a look of adoration from one of the newest babies.

project idea proposed in 1992 to the Kellogg Foundation by the Family Resource Center, Milton "Beaver" Pelcher and Virginia Pigeon. Tribal leadership at that time, she said, believed there was a need in the community to foster events that reinforced family bonds between baby, parents, grandparents and caretakers.

"The baby celebration is a great inter-generational event; siblings, grandparents, uncles and aunties, cousins and community also attend this bi-annual celebration," Ruffino said. "Thank you to everyone that attended and made it a very special night."



## Construction Workers Needed

### Tribal Member preference:

SCIT Tribal Members, Descendants and Members of Other Tribes

The Saganing Eagles Landing Casino expansion has entered into its third phase of construction.

This phase includes footings and foundations, cast-in-place concrete, masonry, structural steel and metal framing.



### Hiring for the following positions:

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- General Laborers
- Cement Finishers
- Flooring Installers
- Iron Workers
- Block Layers
- Painters
- Electricians

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## WHERE on the REZ?



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Answer the puzzle correctly by Jan. 18.

Your name will go into a drawing, and one winner will receive two free announcements in the Tribal Observer.

### To submit your guess

Email [Observer@sagchip.org](mailto:Observer@sagchip.org) or call 989.775.4010



### LAST MONTH:

SECR Main Entrance

### December Winner:

Clinton Pelcher

## Casino Food & Beverage Department feeds Toys for Tots volunteers

### NIKI HENRY

Photographer Journalist

Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort's Food & Beverage Department generously donated meals for 150 Toys for Tots volunteers to keep them fueled up during the 30th annual toy distribution event that took place at Central Michigan University's Finch Fieldhouse on Dec. 23.

This year's menu was modeled after previous ones provided by the Food & Beverage

Department and included Pepsi products, a cheese tray, crudité, cold cuts, bread, fruit, brownies and cookies.

Volunteers for the Central Michigan Toys for Tots of Isabella and Clare County, coordinated by Lucinda Clark, picked up the graciously donated food items at 11 a.m. on the Saturday morning of the distribution.

In Clark's written request for the food donation, she said, "It takes so many good people to step up to donate and help to

make this program work year after year."

Clark said this project is personally fulfilling for her, as her late father Sgt. Richard A. Barz, a U.S. Marine and former Soaring Eagle security officer and bus driver, was passionate about the Toys for Tots program.

"He would get all excited to see all the parents who showed up to get toys for the thousands of needy children," she said in her letter. "Although he is not with us any longer, his spirit lives on in me and

in the hearts of the volunteers who followed his direction. He thought that needy children having a toy at Christmas was one of the most important gifts that could be given."

Marc Forrest, director of Food & Beverage, said the department was proud to help support such a worthy endeavor that provides Christmas gifts for children who would otherwise go without.

According to Clark, the Central Michigan Toys for Tots began in 1988, giving

toys to 50 children that year. It has since grown to being able to provide 7,200 toys to 1,900 children in 2016.

Marine Toys for Tots Foundation is an IRS recognized 501(c) (3) non-profit public charity, created at the behest of the U.S. Marine Corps. The Foundation has supported Toys for Tots since 1991, according to the Central Michigan Toys for Tots website at <https://mt-pleasant-mi.toysfortots.org/local-coordinator-sites/lco-sites/default.aspx>.

## Splash Away Hunger raises \$3,055 for soup kitchen



Courtesy of Melissa Mullard

Bonnie Sprague (left), general manager of the Soaring Eagle Waterpark and Hotel, and CEO of Migizi Corporate Robert Juckniess (right) present Kimberly Friedrich (center), executive director of the Isabella Community Soup Kitchen, with a check on Thursday, Dec. 7.

### NATALIE SHATTUCK

Editor

The Soaring Eagle Waterpark and Hotel hosted its annual Splash Away Hunger donation drive on Nov. 20 and 21.

With the guests' donations, the fundraiser raised \$3,055 for Isabella Community Soup Kitchen.

Day passes were \$5 per guest each day from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

# 2018

— Tribal Observer —

## BUCK POLE



Jason Barker  
9 Point

Aren Barker  
8 Point



Kelly Willis-Benally  
6 Point



Alicia Starkey  
11 Point

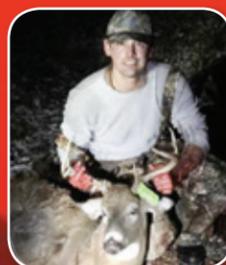


Anthony I Orange  
7 Point

Anthony C. Orange  
6 Point



Samuel Carl Anglin  
6 Point



Chase Stevens  
8 Point



Hunter Stevens  
10 Point



Thomas Henry  
Doe



## Faith-based unity service shares message of “Bringing Christ into Christmas”

**JOSEPH V. SOWMICK**

Contributing Writer

A “singspiration” of worship and song took place Dec. 19 in the Eagles Nest Tribal Gym with the community coming together for the 14th unity service “Bringing Christ into Christmas.”

Nearly 100 Tribal employees, community members and congregation members of the Saginaw Chippewa Community Church, Chippewa Indian United Methodist Church and the Faith Indian Church of the Nazarene joined the 90-minute service that was broadcast live on [www.sagchip.org](http://www.sagchip.org).

Chief Ronald F. Ekdahl provided opening remarks at the faith-based service.

“This unity service is an event that is highly supported by the Tribal Council, and I want to thank all of those who put the event together: our public relations department, community volunteer and service coordinator Joe Sowmick and our local area Native churches who came together to bring you this program,” Ekdahl said.

“I also wanted to thank everyone for sharing their words, songs and prayers with us. It’s a special time of year

to spend with family and to remember our loved ones who have walked on and to make lasting memories with those we call family and friends,” Ekdahl said. “I know today’s message will be filled with love and happiness, and I am honored to take this opportunity to say ‘Have a merry Christmas and happy holidays.’”

Fred Cantu Jr., elder of the Potter’s House Family Worship Center and United Tribes for Christ, opened the service with “The Calling of the Spirit.”

“The shofar (ram’s horn) is often used as an instrument of spiritual warfare... Numbers 10:9 also informs the shofar is used during worship at the tabernacle and temple and was regularly used as an instrument of praise in the Temple (Psalms 150:5),” Cantu said. “Blowing the shofar declares that the Lord God is the King of the universe, as it says in Psalms 98:6 — ‘With trumpets and the sound of the shofar, shout for joy before the King.’”

Cantu said, in regard to the unity service, “The



Observer photo by Niki Henry

(Left to right) Kevin Chamberlain, Charles Disel and Paul Pego perform together at the “Bringing Christ into Christmas” unity service that took place in the Eagles Nest Tribal Gym on Tuesday, Dec. 19.



Observer photo by Niki Henry

Saginaw Chippewa Community Church members sing several songs at the event and entertain the audience with their creative comedy.

shofar sounds it’s a time to come together as community to serve God and to honor Him that has blessed us with the prosperity that we have in Him.”

“It also is a time to be uplifted with a song of worship, praise and a message of hope and encouragement, as well as direction,” Cantu said. “It’s always a blessing to hear the message and to see fellow co-workers and community members coming together, worshiping God as one Lord, one faith, one baptism. (Ephesians 4:5).”

After the shofar ceremonial blast, Tribal Council Chaplain Diana Quigno-Grundahl shared the following opening prayer with the community:

“Heavenly Father, with praises we come to you this Christmas season to proclaim out loud we believe in Jesus Christ and in the Gospel begun in Bethlehem,” Quigno-Grundahl said. “We believe in the One who proclaimed the love of God to be

invincible. We believe in God who gives us the best of Himself. We believe in Jesus, the Son of the Living God, born in Bethlehem for us and for the world! We give thanks for those seated here today to hear the messages and songs about the First Gift... our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!”

Rev. Doyle Perry of Faith Indian Church shared a testimony and sang “Hark the Herald Angels Sing” with Charles Disel, accompanied by his wife Gloria on piano.

Julie Pego also joined Disel for several congregational songs.

Pego’s husband, Paul, performed with Disel and Kevin Chamberlain and also helped with the sound system throughout the unity service.

Members of the Saginaw Chippewa Community Church sang “Silent Night” in Ojibwe and shared a funny skit and song, “Nokomis Got Run Over by a Reindeer.”

Community Church Rev. Robert Pego shared a stirring

message of how Tribal families can be a light in their own homes by “bringing Christ into Christmas.”

Nathan Quigno shared the closing prayer and offered a blessing for the food.

After the service, Tribal Member Denise Cantu reflected on the importance of continuing the tradition of church services, which she learned from her mother, Rev. Carol Bennett.

“Continuing with the unity services for Christmas and Good Friday is necessary, and I have seen where it has reached the importance of tradition on our Reservation to many people,” Denise Cantu said. “As Anishinaabek, it acknowledges Christ playing an important role throughout the generations. This year’s unity service was full of good singing and encouraging words, and it brings an encouraging message of love and strength to our community.”

### Behavioral Health's holiday family dance



Observer photo by Niki Henry

Youth take to the floor for several group dances.



Observer photo by Niki Henry

DJ Lupe takes a break from spinning tunes to dance with a group of young attendees.

**NIKI HENRY**

Photographer Journalist

Behavioral Health’s holiday family dance took place Thursday, Dec. 15 in Seventh Generation’s Elijah Elk Cultural Center ceremonial building.

Event participants enjoyed dinner and games of “Family Feud” and danced to tunes spun by DJ Lupe, prevention specialist Guadalupe Gonzalez.



Observer photo by Niki Henry

Billie Jo Peterson shows off her dance moves.

## Tribal Observer submission guidelines

**NATALIE SHATTUCK**

Editor

Tribal Members, employees, departments and community members are always welcome to submit articles to the Tribal Observer.

The Tribal Observer staff suggests all submissions remain 600 words or less with content appropriate for the publication and its audience.

The managing editor bears the right to refuse the publishing of any articles or letters that are irrelevant or inappropriate.

Feel free to send submissions to [Observer@sagchip.org](mailto:Observer@sagchip.org). Questions about submissions can be answered by calling (989) 775-4010.

Along with article submissions, the Tribal Observer also accepts letters to the editor and guest columns.

**What is a letter to the editor?** Letters to the editor must be relevant to Tribal Observer coverage and should be in response to an article in a recent publication. Letters must address subject matter that in some way affects the Saginaw

Chippewa Indian Tribe, its members or local community. Letters can be authored by more than one person but must have a name ascribed to them. They are subjected to being edited into proper Associated Press (AP) style of writing for newspaper print.

**What is a guest column?** Guest columns can address a topic of the author’s choosing that is relevant to the Tribal Observer’s audience. Columns are subject to a thorough editing process. If the guest column is approved for publishing, authors are welcome to submit a headshot or stop by the Tribal Observer office to get a photograph taken.

**How long can article submissions be?** Articles should be a maximum of 600 words. The editor has the right to shorten submissions. Articles that are longer than 600 words are dealt with on a case-by-case basis and published at the discretion of the editor.

**Does the Tribal Observer edit the submissions?** We reserve the right to edit all submissions for clarity and AP style, as well as to fact-check

or shorten them to fit available space for print.

**How does the Tribal Observer choose which submissions to publish?** We make our best effort to publish all appropriate submissions that come in before the deadline and occasionally make arrangements to print those received after the deadline. Submission does not guarantee immediate publication.

**How do I make a submission to the Tribal Observer?** Again, submissions may be sent to [Observer@sagchip.org](mailto:Observer@sagchip.org), and the staff is available to answer questions at (989) 775-4010.

Submission deadlines are typically near the 15th of each month, so please turn in submissions around that day each month by 5 p.m. Exact deadline dates for each month are printed on the Tribal Community Calendar and in each edition of the Tribal Observer.

If you request a photo to be run with your submission, please include a suggested caption for the photo that provides details such as names, job titles if applicable, location, date the photo was taken, etc.



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**JAN**  
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**JAN**  
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**FEB**  
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**MAR**  
2



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**MAR**  
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Entertainment subject to cancellation. Management reserves all rights.



## Twenty-four local children ‘Shop with a Cop,’ purchase Christmas gifts on Dec. 12

**NATALIE SHATTUCK**

Editor

Tuesday evening, Dec. 12, Tribal Police Officers David Feger and Jeff Chaprnka were spotted shopping with 10-year-old Rease in Walmart. Rease was in search of the perfect fishing equipment to buy his father.

Along with Rease, 23 other children were selected to participate in the “Shop with a Cop” program, hosted by Walmart and in partnership with the Mt. Pleasant Police Department.



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

**Tribal Police Officer Shane Waskevich and his young shopper head to check out their items in Mount Pleasant’s Walmart.**

The children, including a few from the Tribal community, were selected by area schools to purchase Christmas gifts for their families. The schools were then contacted by MPPD Youth Services Officer Brandon Bliss.

“Each year, the Youth Services Unit contacts each elementary school in the county and asks for a couple of names of students who are deserving and could benefit from the event,” Bliss said.

Beginning at 6 p.m., a group of children shopped alongside officers from the Tribal Police Department, MPPD, the city’s State Police post, Shepherd Police Department, Central Michigan University Police, Isabella County Sheriff’s Office and Shepherd Police Department.

Another round of children arrived before 7 p.m. for their shopping opportunity.

Each child could spend up to \$200, funded by Walmart.

“The MPPD has helped Walmart organize the event for the last 15 years,” Bliss said. “Walmart is very generous and Teal — who organizes the event from Walmart — does a great job every year. It was a great event this year just like it has been in the past.”



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

**Tribal Police Officers David Feger (right) and Jeff Chaprnka (left) shop with 10-year-old Rease in Wal-Mart as part of the “Shop with a Cop” event on Dec. 12.**



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

**Isabella County Sheriff Michael Main looks at a game with one of the 24 young shoppers selected for the annual program.**

Once shopping was completed, the children and police officers had gifts wrapped by volunteers such as members of the Mt. Pleasant High School cheerleading squad and the Beal City High School student council.

A \$4,800 grant is collected from Walmart’s corporate office and from donations. The children and families also receive a box of food for a traditional holiday meal.

“The kids all have a great time, and seeing the smiles on their faces while they are shopping is contagious,” Bliss said.

The event also provides an opportunity for positive interactions between the youth and law enforcement personnel.

Officers Trent Vatter and Shane Waskevich of the Tribal Police Department also joined Feger and Chaprnka for the shopping event.

MPPD Public Information Officer Jeff Browne has been involved with the event for the past 10 years.

“I enjoy spending time with the children and helping them pick out gifts for their family members. We sometimes forget that some families do not have the means to get each other Christmas gifts, or even have a Christmas dinner,” Browne said. “One of the reasons I love this event is because it allows the family to have a nice Christmas dinner as well the opportunity to exchange gifts.”



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

**Gifts purchased were wrapped by members of the Mt. Pleasant High School cheerleading squad and the Beal City High School student council.**

## ACFS’ Star Tree Program benefits from Soaring Eagle Waterpark’s fundraiser

**NATALIE SHATTUCK**

Editor

The Anishnaabeg Child and Family Services Star Tree Program greatly benefited from another Tribal department’s generous donation.

As part of its “Giving & Swimming” fundraiser, the Soaring Eagle Waterpark and Hotel held the donation event on Dec. 18-19.

Waterpark patrons could bring in one toy donation — an unwrapped toy valued at a minimum of \$5 or a \$5 donation — in exchange for one waterpark day pass.

Toys donated included puzzles, Barbie dolls, cars with race tracks and baby toys.

Jason Luna, director of ACFS, said he and several ACFS staff members picked up the donations on Wednesday, Dec. 20.

“Bonnie Sprague (general manager for the Soaring Eagle Waterpark and Hotel) and her staff made the decision to help us out this year, and we’re putting their donation to good use already,” Luna said the day the donations were collected. “In addition to the toys, they also collected cash, which they have donated as well.”

Luna said the monetary donation will be used to

supplement the Star Tree program for the 2018 season.

“Those funds will ensure that children who may not get sponsored do not go without gifts during Christmas,” Luna said. “This year, all of the children were sponsored, and

we hope to repeat that again next year.”

The passes guests received from donating could be used on that day only from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

“The staff of ACFS is appreciative of the donation

and wishes to thank those who donated, as well as Bonnie Sprague and the staff at the Soaring Eagle Waterpark,” Luna said. “Their efforts, and the kindness of those who donated, speak to the generosity of the community.”



Courtesy of Jason Luna

**On Dec. 20, Anishnaabeg Child and Family Services staff members collect the Soaring Eagle Waterpark and Hotel’s donations for the ACFS Star Tree Program. The donations from guests and employees were raised through the waterpark’s “Giving & Swimming” fundraiser.**

# Adopt a Pet

**Shrek**



Hi, my name is Shrek, and I’m a male adult... mutt, possibly a Bulldog and Saint Bernard mix. Your guess is as good as mine as to what my ancestors were, but that doesn’t matter. What matters is I like to go for long walks, play, chase and fetch. I’m about 3 years old, and I would love to meet you.

**Macadamia**



Hello, I am Macadamia. I am about 2 years old. I am a female Domestic Shorthair mix. I’m a smaller cat with grey, orange and white markings. I have been with the wonderful HATS staff since June 2017. They are great, but I’m ready to go to my permanent, loving home.

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## Dancers of all ages graduate Anishinabe Performance Circle courses

**NIKI HENRY**

Photographer Journalist

The winter 2017 Anishinabe Performance Circle graduation took place Tuesday, Dec. 12 in the center of the Andahwod Continuing Care and Elder Services' building.

Just before 6 p.m., 11 of the 13 graduating dance students gathered together in regalia, ready to show family and community members what they learned this session from instructors Judy Pamp, assistant director of the Ziibiwing Center of Anishinabe Culture

& Lifeways, and Raymond Cadotte, visitor services representative.

After a brief welcome, the event began with a grand entry and introductions.

A men and boys traditional dance and boys grass dance was next, followed by graduating girls performing a jingle dress dance and a fancy dance.

Jade Green and Jorja Green ended the dance portion of the evening with a special hoop dance after the whole graduating class performed a hoop dance together.

Before being presented with their certificates of completion,

the class performed a boozhoo song for the audience.

This session's graduates were Charlotte Ford, Alexis Fox-Kimewon, Sherry Ayasha Gonzalez-Hawkins (absent from graduation), Jade Green, Jorja Green, Josilyn Green, Julian Green, Frederick Lekshe, Joshua Lekshe, Natalia "Hummingbird Girl" Martin, Payton Sopha, Phoenix Sopha and Mezziniis Wassegijig (also absent).

Ziibiwing Visitor Services youth workers Raymond Fisher and Shaylyn Sprague volunteered during this session's classes to help students and to assist Pamp and Cadotte.



Observer photo by Niki Henry

On Tuesday, Dec. 12, after performing and receiving certificates, graduates of the winter 2017 Anishinabe Performance Circle pose for a photo at Andahwod Continuing Care and Elder Services. Child graduates (front row, left to right) include Payton Sopha, Phoenix Sopha, Julian Green, Jade Green, Josilyn Green, Jorja Green, Natalia "Hummingbird" Martin and Charlotte Ford. Adult and teen graduates (back row, left to right) include Frederick Lekshe, Joshua Lekshe and Alexis Fox-Kimewon with instructor Judy Pamp.



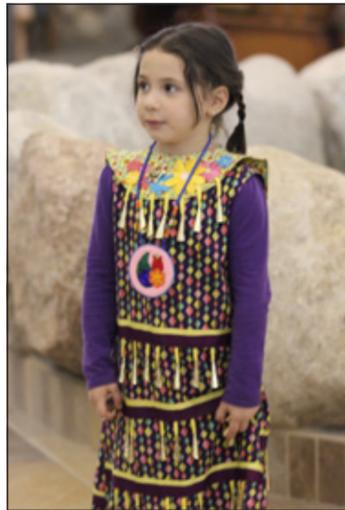
Observer photo by Niki Henry

**Natalia Martin smiles as she shows off her graduation certificate.**



Observer photo by Niki Henry

**Alexis Fox-Kimewon momentarily pauses during the group hoop dance.**



Observer photo by Niki Henry

**Josilyn Green attentively waits to receive her graduation certificate.**



Observer photo by Niki Henry

**Phoenix Sopha and Payton Sopha take a quick break during the performance circle graduation event.**



Observer photo by Niki Henry

**Julian Green marches proudly into line after receiving his diploma.**

## Ziibiwing celebrates the holidays and Mother Earth

**NIKI HENRY**

Photographer Journalist

The Christmas spirit was evident at the Ziibiwing Center of Anishinabe Culture & Lifeways on Saturday, Dec. 16, during the celebration of the winter

solstice and Art Reach's Kids and Culture event that took place from noon to 4 p.m.

The family-friendly event began with Ziibiwing's Assistant Director Judy Pamp welcoming the guests in attendance and Isabelle Osawamick, Anishinabe outreach specialist,

offering a prayer of thanksgiving in Anishinaabemowin.

Participants then partook in a feast of chicken and noodle soup, wild rice soup, red and green salads, cornbread muffins, chocolate cake and cookies.

When the luncheon portion of the event ended, Beatrice Menase Kwe Jackson provided an interactive cultural teaching of the Creation Story. She began by asking for volunteers, assigning parts and distributing props.

As Jackson told the story, she directed participants in their responses, having them act out the different roles they were assigned, such as sound, motion, the sun and moon, birds, animals and the first man.

As Jackson wrapped up her teaching, she distributed meaningful gifts to participants as a way to honor the late Dennis Banks, Native activist. Participants received copper cups, books, recordings and handmade crafts such as a First Man doll made with seal fur.

Jackson also led a sing-along, sharing and teaching several water songs and the Faith Song from Standing Rock.

Pamp then led a snowball game in which participants unrolled a large ball of plastic wrap to collect prizes.

The afternoon concluded with a raffle, cookie decorating, craft making and the opportunity to play a language game.



Observer photo by Niki Henry

**After the winter feast that took place Saturday, Dec. 16 at the Ziibiwing Center of Anishinabe Culture & Lifeways, Beatrice Menase Kwe Jackson (third from right) tells the Creation Story with the help of her audience.**



Observer photo by Niki Henry

**Area youth play the "snowball" game Ziibiwing's Assistant Director Judy Pamp introduced at the cultural event.**

## Ziibiwing Center hosts leather-studded belt workshop



Observer photos by Niki Henry

**NIKI HENRY**

Photographer Journalist

Participants at the leather-studded belt workshop with Artist-in-Resident Adam Avery work diligently throughout the five-day workshop that took place

Dec. 11-15 at the Ziibiwing Center of Anishinabe Culture & Lifeways.

Workshop attendees painted or stained the leather before designing a pattern, carefully applying the pattern to the leather and then studding their belts.



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## Editorial: Two suggested methods to prevent procrastination

**EARL D. PELCHER II**

SCTC freshman

Everyone has something they love to do – sports, video games or reading a book, but too much of a good thing can be bad; this is also true for Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College students.

Being a SCTC student is like having a job, but, instead of going to work, you attend college for a degree, and, at college, the students are assigned homework.



Courtesy of Nina Knight

**Phones, TV and video games are some of the many distractions that students face daily.**

With homework, if you fall too far behind, you will fail the course or have to drop the

class. Just like a job, if you miss too many days, you will be fired.

This is where procrastination comes into play. If a student has too many distractions, like games or wasting time on their phones, they could end up neglecting their homework. Before you know it, the homework has piled up and becomes too much to handle.

So, how does a SCTC student fix their procrastination problem? I use two methods.

First, and I think it is the best, is to get away from the distractions at home.

Pack up your books and papers, and get to the Tribal Library or the SCTC library to get a nice and quiet space to do your homework away from all the distractions.

The great thing about doing your homework at the Tribal College is the tutors and teachers close by if you need help.

The second method is for when a student cannot make it to SCTC to do their homework and they are surrounded by distractions. This method is called “eating your frogs first.”

Say the student is assigned homework before the end of

class and then heads home. Before the student does anything else, the student completes the assigned homework first!

If you buckle down and get the assignment out of the way, you will not have to worry about the homework and can enjoy your pleasures without the guilt that procrastination brings.

Procrastination is one thing that could fail a student, but, with time management, the right environment and eating your frogs first, any student can beat procrastination.

## Editorial: The family-friendly SCTC helps juggle school and home life

**SAMANTHA JACKSON**

SCTC freshman

In today's fast-paced world, juggling work, school and children can be stressful for parents. Managing time is the key to balance all three things.

You plan around soccer games, bath time and the five-page paper that was assigned yesterday and due tomorrow, all while attempting to work

on your career. This will really test your time management skills.

Being a mom, wife, employee and a student, you will find it difficult to give equal attention to every aspect of your life, including yourself.

At the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College, the campus is very family-oriented, and the college offers many family-related events. For example, on Feb. 8, 2016, SCTC

offered a Valentine's Day Craft Night sponsored by the film class.

Last semester, the STEM club offered a Native American Month family movie night.

With these events, it makes SCTC more inviting to people who have children. They strive to follow the Ojibwe way, where family is the utmost important thing.

The instructors and staff are very caring and understanding

of students with children and are accommodating when issues arise.

I have found myself in a situation where I was not able to make it to class on a test day due to my child being ill. Thankfully, this was not a big deal, and I was able to make up the test, giving me an opportunity to avoid excessive stress.

Experience has shown me managing stress can be difficult, but it has been a refreshing



Courtesy of Samantha Jackson

**Samantha Jackson**

experience working with a college that acknowledges that.

## Editorial: How furthering my education helped me maintain a sober life

**DAWN MORROW**

SCTC graduating senior

My name is Dawn Morrow, and I am a college student at the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribal College. I am also the mother of three children and in recovery.

I have been employed with the Tribe for nine years; I spent roughly five years working for the Human

Resource Department and four years for the Seventh Generation Program.

I never would have thought about going back to school if I had not chosen to seek help for my alcoholism and drug addictions.

Four years ago, I entered the Residential Treatment Center with Behavioral Health.

Recovery has brought so many new opportunities in

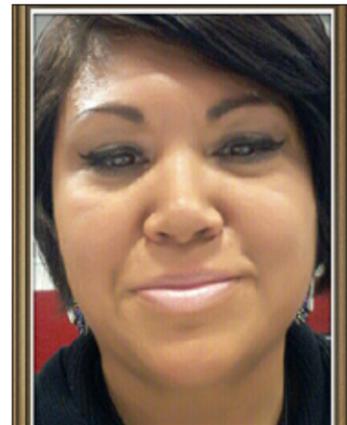
my life; it has given me the courage to finish goals that I set a long time ago.

Finishing my education was one of the important goals I wanted to fulfill, but, because of alcohol and drug addiction, many of my goals and dreams were thrown to the wayside.

I was scared at first to venture back, and, being in early recovery, I was hoping I was not taking on too much responsibility, especially with work and children at home.

SCTC offers summer classes, and that is where my journey began.

Now, I will be graduating in the spring. It has been a challenge, just like many things in my life, and the hardest



Courtesy of Dawn Morrow

**Dawn Morrow**

challenge of them all is being committed to my recovery.

I know without my recovery I would not be where I am at today. There are so many people in this community who have helped me in this

journey, encouraged me to set goals and taught me how to pursue them.

Many teachers at SCTC have given me strength. There is a community of understanding at SCTC, and, during the course of my education, I have felt understood, wanted and worth something.

I enjoy the small class sizes, the teachers who have more time for questions and feedback and the class discussions.

I am so very lucky and privileged to live here and be part of this community. What is offered to me by the grace of God is an understanding of myself and being brave enough to stand up and let others who struggle know that anything is possible.



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SCTC Board of Regents

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

**Deadline: Open Until Filled**

**Qualifications of Regents:**

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



## Brenda Lee lights up the Soaring Eagle concert stage to the delight of her audience

**NIKI HENRY**

Photographer Journalist

Brenda Lee may be 73 years old and only 4 feet 9 inches tall, but the pint-sized powerhouse can still pack a musical and comedic punch that leaves her audience smiling, as was evident when she commanded the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort's Entertainment Hall stage the evening of Dec. 17 and on Dec. 18 during a private 4 p.m. show.

Lee opened her Sunday concert with "Bring Me Sunshine," and, immediately afterward, she greeted two 11-year-old audience members who brought her bouquets and expressed their appreciation.

Lee graciously accepted the flowers and chatted with the girls, teasing them about their heights, as one was the same height as Lee and the other much taller.

When Lee finished talking with the girls, an audience member shouted, "Happy birthday," to which Lee cheekily replied, "I don't like you..."

Before singing her hit song "Sweet Nothin's," Lee proudly reminded the audience that she is the only woman to be elected into the Rock and Roll, Country and Rockabilly Halls of Fame.

Little Miss Dynamite next launched energetically into "Dum Dum" before slowing down a bit with a mash-up of chart toppers that included "Losing You," "Break It to Me Gently," "Fool #1," "As



Observer photo by Niki Henry

**With the help of her backup singers, Little Miss Dynamite, Brenda Lee (center), energetically entertains her audiences at the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort on Dec. 17 & 18.**

Usual" and "All Alone I Am."

When Lee, who was wearing a medical boot on her left foot, paused to take a breath, a concert-goer shouted, "What happened to your foot?"

"What foot?" Lee asked before laughing and saying, "You know, honestly, it's a fashion statement."

That was her sole answer before moving into a tale of hearing her mother singing beautiful songs to her when she was little. "I didn't know (the songs)," she said, "but they were good."

Lee said, when she was older, she asked her mother about the songs and learned they were sung by Hank Williams, so, at 10 years old, she bought her first record – a Hank Williams' composition of country and Cajun classics. Lee then paid tribute to the artist, singing "Jambalaya," the song that launched her career.

Next, Lee requested a chair be set center stage, and,

immediately upon sitting down, an audience member in the second row called out for her attention and began a discussion with Lee about her 5-year-old granddaughter, present at the concert, who is a huge fan and knows all of Lee's songs.

Lee addressed the child but did not receive a response.

"Are you asleep?" she asked with a giggle.

"Are you shy?" Lee then asked, receiving confirmation from the grandmother that she was.

"Are you tall?" Lee asked, sassily, before asking the child if she sings.

After speaking to the girl, another audience member came up to personally request a song for her husband.

"This is why I love to come here," Lee said. "You guys know all of my songs and request the obsolete ones. I just love it."

Lee continued, saying, "That is how folks like me got

somewhere, because of folks like you. And, I just want to say thank you for allowing me to have my career."

Lee said she has been able to perform in 86 countries and record in nine different languages. She then moved on to talk about her family, chatting openly and in detail about her two daughters Julie and Jolie and her grandchildren Taylor, Jordan and Charlie.

Lee then called 15-year-old Charlie to the stage, saying, "Boys are strange creatures," and also that Charlie had "christened" her often as a baby. She also teased him about his height and size 15 shoes.

Before Lee settled down and the band returned to the stage, she also cracked jokes about her age and height, mentioning that her husband of 54 years Ronnie Shacklett is 6 feet 4 inches tall.

"I ain't ever seen him," Lee said. "But, I can tell you about every belt buckle he ever wore."

Laughing, Lee said, "We give 'dancing cheek to cheek' new meaning."

Lee then had the chair removed from the stage so she could belt out "Personality," receiving a joyous response from the crowd.

After momentarily losing her train of thought, Lee rallied and introduced the members of her band, all Nashville session players she has worked with for many years. She also thanked the Soaring Eagle sound and light staff as well as

casino employees before recognizing the U.S. veterans in the house, paying special tribute to the Vietnam vets.

"You were not given the welcome you deserved when you came home, so let's give it to you now," Lee said after explaining she comes from an Army family and before bringing the audience to its feet and belting out "God Bless America."

Lee began closing the night by asking 10 to 12 audience members who are "really good singers" to join her on the stage. Though she was surprised that 15 people joined her, she took the time to greet each of them personally and introduce them to the crowd. Lee even invited one participant, who told Lee that she inspired her to become a singer, to sing a shortened version of "Dum Dum" for the audience.

She also asked a 15-year-old polka singer to perform his best song, and she danced and clapped while he sang "Roll out the Barrel."

After getting the onstage participants to move and groove, Lee shared the microphone with each of them, singing "Santa Claus Is Coming to Town" as a group effort.

Once again alone onstage with her band, Lee told the audience she was going to sing her no. 1 Billboard Pop Chart hit and first golden single "I'm Sorry," which "everybody and their brother" told her could not be done, especially by her.

Lee ended the evening with her Christmas classic "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree," then exited the stage smiling and waving.

## Terry Fator brings entertaining act, straight from the Las Vegas strip

**MATTHEW WRIGHT**

Staff Writer

The Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort hosted the Terry Fator: The VOICE of Entertainment show on Friday, Dec. 15.

Serving as the headliner for The Mirage Resort and Casino in Las Vegas, Fator has been

wowing audiences for years with his unique blend of singing ventriloquism, comedy and celebrity impressions.

Remarkably, Fator is able to deliver precise and expressive impersonations of a wide variety of musical genres and artists. This all comes directly through his ensemble of puppet

sidekicks while he displays a tight-lipped ventriloquist-style performance.

Fator rose to fame in 2007 after winning the second season of the popular TV show "America's Got Talent." Prior to this, he was working for his family's janitorial business.

"My father always wanted me to take over the family business," Fator said. "We were janitors."

He started practicing at a young age, hiding his vocals while at work by keeping his lips closed.

"So while I was cleaning and vacuuming, I would do impressions of singers and practice my singing and ventriloquism," he said. "It really helped me keep my spirits up when I was down in the dumps."

A highlight of the night was a duet of the classic Louis Armstrong song "What a Wonderful World" with puppet character Winston the Turtle. Fator played the part of Armstrong while the puppet impersonated Kermit the Frog.

Fator's act showcased a number of different puppet

characters. The cowboy puppet known as Walter T. Airedale performed the Garth Brooks hit "Friends in Low Places" and Toby Keith's "Red Solo Cup."

Through his puppet character, the soul singer Julius, Fator sang impersonations of Bruno Mars' "Uptown Funk," The Temptations' "My Girl" and Bill Wither's "Ain't No Sunshine."

Also making an appearance was puppet character Maynard Thompkins, the self-proclaimed "World's Most Famous Elvis Impersonator."

After Fator asked him to perform an Elvis song, it was hilariously revealed Thompkins did not know any.

"I don't know any Elvis songs," the puppet said.

"If you don't know any Elvis songs, why would you...?" Fator asked.

"I said we — you and me," Thompkins interrupted. "Let



Observer photo by Matthew Wright

**Terry Fator performs during his Dec. 15 show at the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort.**

me ask you, Mr. Ventriloquist, will you sing like Elvis and not move your lips?"

The audience was treated to a number of other characters including Emma Taylor, Monte Carlo and Duggie Scott Walker.

The puppets performed many more impression including Dean Martin, Aretha Franklin and Lady Gaga.

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## A cappella group Straight No Chaser delivers today's, classics, Christmas hits

**NATALIE SHATTUCK**

Editor

Straight No Chaser — the nine-man a cappella group—performed musing and humorous today's hits, classics, Christmas songs and choreographed routines during their sold-out Friday, Dec. 1 show and debut appearance at Soaring Eagle.

This tour celebrated the 20 years since they began as a group of friends who sang together at Indiana University.

The show celebrated their new record "I'll Have Another... Christmas Album" and began with a comedic narrator explaining the group's journey and how it all started.

Straight No Chaser grabbed the audience's attention by beginning their set with a "Sweet Dreams" and "Hand Clap" remix (Eurythmics and Fitz and the Tantrums covers).

After performing Sam Cooke's "Twistin' the Night Away," the group introduced the different voice parts: counter-tenor, tenor, baritone and bass.

"Tenors — what we call the easy parts," one member joked.

Several members took turns with lead vocals, but the majority of the songs were led by Jerome Collins, an



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

The nine-man a cappella group Straight No Chaser performs a variety of today's hits, classics and Christmas tunes on Friday, Dec. 1 during their debut Soaring Eagle appearance.

Allentown, Pa. native who has a powerful, soulful voice and sensual dance moves.

Harmonies were strong during the Cab Calloway cover "Hi-De-Ho."

"(That was) a real toe-tapper," one of the members joked after the somber delivery of Radiohead's "Creep," which was a goose bump-inducing performance.

The group then performed a medley of Disney tunes.

"...but we're going to ruin them by changing the lyrics," one of the members said.

Singing in style to "Aladdin's" "A Whole New World," the lyrics were changed to "I catfished a girl."

For the well-known "The Lion King" song introduction in

which the recording artist wails in the Zulu language, Straight No Chaser sang, "I have no idea; I have no idea," and proceeded to lift the lead singer as if he were a lion cub, simulating the opening of the movie.

Shifting from Disney to Beyoncé, the members sang "Crazy in Love" and "Single Ladies (Put a Ring on It)."

During a brief intermission, another amusing video played with the same witty narrator.

It was then time for the second set, which was full of Christmas songs including "The Christmas Can-Can," "Up on the Housetop," "Do You Hear What I Hear?" "You're a Mean One, Mr. Grinch," "Mary Did You Know?" "Carol of the Bells" and "Sing Me of Christmas."

"It's just not Christmas until we've been up here singing Christmas songs — 50 times," said a member, laughing.

The group then showed their appreciation for their fans and said that, after the show, they would be at the merchandise table in the Entertainment Hall to meet audience members.

"We didn't get here because we had a hit on the radio. We didn't win a TV show. We went out and did what we loved, and now it has led to this," said a grateful member after mentioning this performance was another sold-out show for them.

The group members — from throughout the U.S. — then introduced themselves to the crowd.

One member said his wife is an alumnus of Central Michigan University. Sargon "Seggie" David Isho said he is from Clinton Township and became emotional when he recognized his family in the audience.

As a way of saying "Thank you" to the audience, the members stepped away from their microphones and performed a raw version of "To Make You Feel My Love" with Collins, again, taking lead vocals.

The audience was silent the entire song and erupted in applause and a standing ovation when the performance was over.



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

Straight No Chaser vocalist Jerome Collins (center) takes the lead vocals as Mike Luginbill (left), tenor II, and Steve Morgan (right), tenor I, back him up.



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THUNDERBIRD STRIKE TOURNAMENT



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## Preschool students showcase their language skills at winter program

**NIKI HENRY**

Photographer Journalist

The Eagles Nest Tribal Gym filled with energy and Christmas spirit Thursday evening, Dec. 21, during the Sasiwaans Immersion School 2017 Winter Program.

The event began with a greeting from Misty Pelcher, interim early childhood manager, who welcomed students, their friends and families and spoke of how important it is for community Members to continually use words they know in their Native tongue.

“Be comfortable with what you know,” Pelcher said, explaining that even assimilating a handful of words into everyday speech will help make the



Observer photo by Niki Henry

**Megisiisag students sing with their teachers at the Sasiwaans Immersion School 2017 Winter Program in the Eagles Nest Tribal Gym on Thursday, Dec. 21.**



Observer photo by Niki Henry

**The Pichiinsag class perform an animal skit with the help of their teachers.**

use of the language more comfortable for them and more socially acceptable.

Pelcher also said Natives sometimes think there is a right and a wrong way to use the language and that they should not be embarrassed if they use the slang or shortened versions of words, because that is what happens in all languages.

“Clipping is part of a language’s development,” Pelcher said.

After her welcome, Pelcher asked the 2-year-old Megisiisag students to join her on the stage to sing

“Apiish Santa Claus” (“Where is Santa Claus”) and showcase their language skills.

The youngest Sasiwaans students were followed by the 3 year olds in the Pichiinsag class who performed an animal skit and also sang “Rudolph Wawaashkeshiinhs” (“Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer”) and “If You’re Happy and You Know It.”

Next onstage were the 4 year olds in the Maangoonsag class. These students each greeted the audience with a “Boozhoo” (hello) and performed “Five Days of Christmas,” showing off their counting skills.

Before Anishinaabe Outreach Specialist Isabelle Osawamick provided a

blessing for food prepared by Anishinaabe Language Revitalization Department cook Karen Bond, parents requested to come onto the stage to recognize the Sasiwaans teachers, gifting them each with a winter survival pack containing items such as cough drops and tea.

“On behalf of all the parents, miigwetch (thank you) for all you do,” said Melissa Isaac, tribal education director.

The teachers were then asked to sing a song for those gathered at the event, so they sang “Jingle Bells” in Anishinaabemowin.

The evening closed with a sloppy Joe dinner and with attendees admiring students’ artwork on display throughout the gymnasium.



Observer photo by Niki Henry

**Maangoonsag students vie for the microphone to show off their Native language.**

## Tribal Library selected for college and career readiness services project

**NATALIE SHATTUCK**

Editor

The Tribal Library has been selected to participate in the Future Ready with the Library project, in which it will work with a community partner to develop college and career readiness services for and with middle school students in the area.

The Tribal Library is one of 24 participants selected to participate in the second cohort of the project.

The project — hosted by the Young Adult Library Services Association

and Association for Rural and Small Libraries’ — will engage 80 library staff.

The staff will be separated into three cohorts over a three-year period.

“We are so excited to be participating in this project, which will allow us to connect with students during their middle grade years and work with community partners to engage them in college and career readiness planning and activities,” said Tribal Librarian Anne Heidemann.

The mission of the Young Adult Library Services Association is to support library staff in alleviating the challenges teens face and to put all teenagers — especially

those with the greatest needs — on the path to successful and fulfilling lives.

The Association for Rural & Small Libraries is dedicated to the positive growth and development of libraries. It recognizes the uniqueness of small and rural libraries and is committed to providing an environment that encourages excellence within this community of practice, supporting their goals of service and speaking on behalf of this important constituency.

The project is funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

The Tribal Library will also participate in a two-day orientation at a 2018 Midwinter Meeting in Denver on

Feb. 8-9 to take part in a virtual community of practice throughout the year, Heidemann said. Individuals interested in participating in the next group of cohorts can sign up to receive email notifications about the project by filling out a quick online form.

More information about the project is available on the Young Adult Library’s website.

To learn more about how the library will be serving middle school students through this project, please contact Erik Rodriguez, interim public relations director, at [erodriguez@sagchip.org](mailto:erodriguez@sagchip.org) or (989) 775-4076.

## Updates from the K-12/Higher Education Department

### K-12 EDUCATION

The Tribal Education Department welcomes Sharon Skutt as the new college/vocational recruitment and support specialist in the K-12/Higher Education office. Skutt can be reached at (989) 775-4505, [sskutt@sagchip.org](mailto:sskutt@sagchip.org)

or via U.S. Postal Service at 7070 E. Broadway, Mt. Pleasant, MI, 48858.

The K-12/Higher Education program offers a number of programs for Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Members enrolled in colleges, universities and vocational/technical schools. These programs include the Tribal scholarship, apprentice leadership and academic incentive award.

In addition, there is the Youth Leadership Program that allows high school juniors and seniors to enroll in up to six credit hours per semester while concurrently enrolled at their high schools. This allows them an opportunity to jumpstart their college education so they will be that much further ahead when they graduate from high school.

The Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe fully supports the education and advancement of its Tribal Members.

Please contact the office if interested in any of these programs or would like information regarding the Michigan Indian Tuition waiver and/or other funding opportunities.

Attention all higher education students: The deadline date for submitting fall 2017 grade reports and winter/spring 2018 class schedules is Feb. 15. Please check with the Higher Education office to ensure that your file is complete, as it will cause a delay in processing if it is not.

## K-12 Education and Behavioral Health remind students to smudge

**KATELYN PELCHER**

K-12 Education

During the Shepherd Elementary monthly Native American meeting, Kevin “Coach” Ricketts and Guadalupe Gonzalez of Behavioral Health presented a question to the young people: “Does anybody know the four sacred medicines we can use every day in our lives to live a better life?... If you said cedar, sage, tobacco and sweet grass, you’re right!”

We believe it is important for our students to start or end their day in a good way, and what better way to start (or end) the day than with a smudge?

The Tribal K-12 Education staff and the Prevention Team of Behavioral Health partnered together to get a total of 50 or more students actively participating in a smudge!



### Ganiard

**The following students earned perfect attendance for November:** David Bennett, Emiliano Garcia, Jaidyn Barnes, Leia Black, Isabella Jackson, Dehmin Kahgegab, Kollin Martin and Ethan Reed.

### Pullen

**The following students earned perfect attendance for November:** Alonso Mendez, Waaskones Pego, Aakodewin Prout, Alexis Rodriguez, Xavier Alvarez, Adalayah Ekdahl, Zachary Flaughner, Tru Quigno-Vaugh, Martin Garcia, Heath Jackson-Hofer, Caitlyn Loyd, Gnaajwi Pego, Brock Reed, Owen Seybert, AhLannah Dodd, Leticia Hawkins, Angelo Leureaux, Donovan Morrow, Armando Quiroz and Isaiah Perrin-Hawkins.

### Vowles

**The following students earned perfect attendance for November:** Aliana Lerma, Miles Davis, Caleb Howard, Kaden Kjolhede, Mingan Merrill, Isabell Lerma, Ava Mena, Cannon Thomason and Augga Gibbs.

### Renaissance

**The following students earned perfect attendance for November:** Jacob Delecruz, Michael Ekdahl, Emma Henry, Erica Hinmon, Novaly Hinmon, Jasmine Jackson, Wayne Jackson, Wenonah Jackson, David McClain, Richard McClain, Kayana Pope, Josclynn Shaw, Kenisynn Shaw, Ahsiniis Smith, Nixie Snyder, Tyler Snyder and Logan VanOrden.



## Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort construction upgrades on time, moving along well

**NATALIE SHATTUCK**

Editor

Per Joe Jordan of I-5 Design, the design company constructing the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort upgrades, the week of Dec. 11-15 brought many completions.

“We have been finalizing the LED displays for the Event Hall as well as the Ascend stage,” Jordan wrote in an email to Tribal Council. “For the Ascend stage, we have upgraded the original TV wall display which was planned to a large format LED panel display to provide a seamless viewing experience, as opposed to 16 separate TV displays. We have selected a 2.9mm resolution display, which is well beyond industry standard for this

viewing distance, to create an exceptional backdrop for live performances as well as sporting events.”

In the Entertainment Hall, I-5 Design has selected the upgrade of a 3.9mm resolution, compared to the existing 7.6mm resolution.

“The system also includes modular support frames so the system can be set up in a variety of configurations,” Jordan said. “The overall screen quantity will include over 550 square feet of panels. We are also purchasing the accompanying custom flight cases for storage and transport.”

On behalf of I-5 Design, Jordan said the team is ensuring that questions are answered promptly and that everything moves forward as quickly as possible.



Courtesy of I-5 Design

To provide higher impact, Cyber Quest will be moved to the front, allowing guests to walk through the space to access Kids Quest in the back half. The new entry has been centralized and features a new façade designed to create an action-oriented entrance experience.



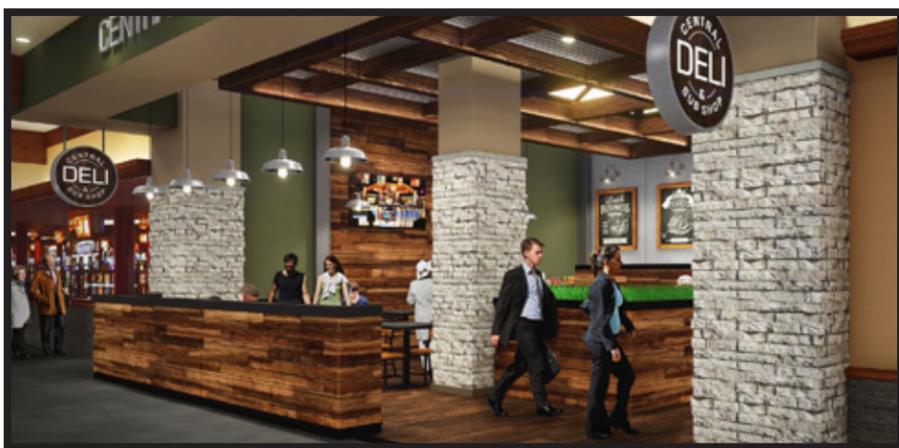
Courtesy of I-5 Design

The Ascend nightclub will contain a fully-controlled lighting system that can set in motion a stream of pre-programmed lighting effects, from slow fades to pulsating high-energy light shows. The light shows will produce a uniquely versatile entertainment venue and create a one-of-a-kind signature draw for the Soaring Eagle location.



Courtesy of I-5 Design

A re-designed VIP Lounge entry area provides a more dominant presence and a more compelling draw from the main floor. The design plan works around the existing architectural lines of the space, including the arched center section, while creating a more contemporary-styled space.



Courtesy of I-5 Design

The new design plan for the Central Deli and Sub Shop builds around the existing layout and flow, with additional seating and an improved entry area. The clean, contemporary-styled venue features fresh, natural colors and wood finishes to produce a balanced, welcoming venue.



Courtesy of I-5 Design

Wall features are just one part of the existing poker room’s transformation into a new high-limit gaming area. I-5 Design will remove the raised floor section to create a level gaming floor. Also planned for the high-limit section, the entry will be extended and re-designed, and a new VIP lounge will be created at its back. Restrooms servicing high-limit and VIP lounge guests will be upgraded, and the bar area adjacent to the high-limit section will be refreshed.



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## Healing to Wellness graduation displays success in clients battling addiction

### JOSEPH V. SOWMICK

Healing to Wellness  
Coordinator

On Dec. 14, approximately 100 family members and friends attended the 2017 Healing to Wellness celebration at the Ziibiwing Center to honor five clients who successfully completed the Tribal Court's 18-month diversion program.

Each Healing to Wellness Class of 2017 graduates received a custom-made cedar feather designed by the Soaring Eagle Woodshop, a beaded medallion and a certificate signed by Tribal Court Judge Patrick Shannon, Healing to Wellness Coordinator Joseph Sowmick and Case Manager Aubree Gross.

Honorees included Tribal Members Chey Kahgegab, Amber Flamand, Chelsea Bennett, Cheyenne Fallis and Bambi Pelcher.

Shannon shared their success not only results in a release from court-ordered probation but a start to a healthy life free from the effects of substance abuse.

"Treatment courts are one method of dealing with the opioid crisis in this state. However, one must first commit a crime to access the

opportunities available. The vast majority of those suffering from prescription and illicit opioid misuse never find their way into the courtroom," Shannon said.

"Prevention, intervention and treatment are major tenets for our work as a community to stem the tide of death resulting from opioid abuse as result of drug overdoses, and treatment courts provide one small resource," he said.

Shannon was deeply moved to see children, parents, aunts, uncles and friends of the honorees who attended in the winter weather conditions to show their support.

"This plague of addiction has not only killed thousands yearly (last estimate was 65,000 people nationally), it is devastating families, including the very young and the unborn," he said. "The cost to human life is astounding, and much of the blame is attributable to the pharmaceutical industry that manufactured and marketed these highly addictive drugs."

"Some states and cities are suing the pharmaceuticals, similar to the tobacco litigation of the 1990's. We cannot sue because Michigan's legislature eliminated drug company

product liability years ago," he said. "The result is a shift of cost and responsibility to state and local law enforcement, health providers and citizens."

Several Tribal Council members — Kenny Sprague, Lindy Hunt, Craig Graveratte and Theresa Jackson — came out for the celebration, and Tribal Council member and former probation officer Jennifer L. Wassegijig opened the night with a prayer.

Tribal Court Magistrate Carol Jackson served as the keynote speaker and shared a heartfelt message about losing her two daughters to addiction.

Jackson also spoke about how the pain and suffering that comes from addiction affects all community members.

Those present at the celebration witnessed hope, love and the commitment for the sanctity of life regardless age or addiction, Shannon said, explaining these are tools the government can never generate on behalf of its citizenry.

"Michigan is responding to the drug abuse crisis, and the Prescription Drug and Opioid Abuse Commission have made several recommendations to the governor and are working on more suggestions,"



Courtesy of Joseph Sowmick

(Left to right) Cheyenne Fallis, Bambi Pelcher and Chelsea Bennett are three of the five graduates to complete the 2017 Healing to Wellness program.

Shannon said. "One recommendation would require that funding for state court treatment programs would be contingent on the program's certification by the State Court administrator and that all judges operating a treatment court program be trained in addiction health."

Legislature also recently approved a series of laws that will limit pain medication prescriptions and increase the oversight of the prescribing practices of physicians, he said.

Cathy Matthews, probation officer, received a surprise migizi award recognizing her as the founding member of the Healing to Wellness program.

Matthews started the program with the Tribal Council and U.S. Department of Justice's support in 2013.

The Snowbird Singers — Daisy Kostus, Christa Gomez, Roxanne Sawade, Judy Scheuffle, Anita Hall, Danielle Sineway and Lois Dockery — presented an honor song to the award recipients and a traveling song.

Okima I David Perez Sr. of the Anishinabe Ogitchedaw Veterans Warrior Society brought the eagle staff to the celebration, and Family Against Narcotics Board member Cameron Kole offered smudge medicine for the celebration.

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- OR schedule a personal trainer session for the workout of the day!

**Goal of LIFE Based Fitness Class:**  
To build a healthier, fitter, stronger YOU! Ultimately we want to increase your ability to endure anything that may come at you in life. This can be done by performing a variety of functional movements at an intensity that challenges you to increase your fitness level.

**Follow and record your workout daily on the "LIFE Log":**  
[http://www.sagchip.org/news.aspx?DepartmentName=L.I.F.E.+log#.WjpvOVIU\\_OE](http://www.sagchip.org/news.aspx?DepartmentName=L.I.F.E.+log#.WjpvOVIU_OE)

**For more information:**  
**Jaden Harman, Fitness Coordinator**  
• Phone: 989.775.4694 • Email: JHarman@sagchip.org

### Nimkee Memorial Wellness Center Emergency Room Policy

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

#### Listed below are the IHS guidelines:

**Priority 1A:** All medical emergencies, eye (acute, painful or visually threatening conditions), dental (control bleeding, airway compromise, severe pain, fractures), mental health (immediate danger to self or others regardless of "voluntary or involuntary status," physical neglect/abuse, sexual assault).

**Priority 1B:** Acute illness, pre-natal/obstetrics, diagnostic and screening testing (contract lab, bone marrow biopsy, EEG, endoscopy, colonoscopy/sigmoidoscopy, radiologic testing — MRI, CT, ultrasound — health promotion/disease prevention, immunizations, diagnostic mammography, pap smears, GYN-colonoscopy, area of program specific objectives, non-emergency surgery for "high-risk categories," postpartum and high-risk tubal ligation, high-risk vasectomy).

#### Procedure

- The claim will be reviewed by a PRC Clerk.
- The PRC Clerk will verify the patient is eligible and followed policy.
- If Insurance paid based on the diagnosis code, the bill will be submitted for payment.
- If Insurance did not pay due to the diagnosis code:

- The bill will be denied.
- The PRC Clerk will send a denial letter in the mail.
- The patient will be able to appeal the decision to the Managed Care team, Health Board and Tribal Council.

### Nimkee Fitness Center Group Exercise Schedule January 2018

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8 a.m.	Aqua Fit Sharon		Aqua Fit Sharon		Aqua Fit Sharon
11 a.m.	L.I.F.E. Based Fitness - Jaden		L.I.F.E. Based Fitness - Jaden		
12:10 p.m.		L.I.F.E. Based Fitness - Jaden		Suspension Training - Jayme	L.I.F.E. Based Fitness - Jaden
1:10 p.m.			Turbo Kick Beth		
5:30 p.m.		Yoga Tammy		Yoga Tammy	



# Editorial: Tips for successfully maintaining healthy goals

**SALLY VAN CISE**

Nutritionist

Now is a good time to think ahead to when you have attained your goal(s) and to start planning how you can maintain their achievement! Here are some ideas:

**Enjoy the learning process:** Enjoy eating healthfully. Learn ways to cook so you like the food by taking a cooking class or watching a cooking show. Find ways to enjoy the process of preparing your foods.

Could you cook and/or eat with a friend who has similar goals? Educate yourself about nutrition to gain respect and appreciation for healthy foods. Learn about nutrients, food quality, environmental impacts, etc.

**Enjoy exercise/activity:** Explore ways to move your body that “speak” to you like dancing, hiking in the woods, taking the

kids sledding, taking a class in the Fitness Center.

**Continue to set new goals:** This is not about achieving a goal and then returning to old habits. Success is easier to maintain if you continue to grow, learn and change.

**Be open to new challenges:** Consider challenges with nutrition, your exercise or other arenas in your life.

**Surround yourself with like-minded people:** It is so much easier to live your new lifestyle if you have friends to call, check in with and share your new activities and values.

**Remind yourself of the benefits of achieving your goal:** What in your life is better now because you have achieved your goal? What are you able to do now that you could not do before?

**Strive to be positive:** A lot of success in health is a result of your mental outlook – you are what you think. While not a new

concept, “positive psychology,” the effects on our lives when thinking positively, is now an accredited area of study in universities around the world.

**Get enough sleep:** Lack of sleep is associated with health problems, low motivation, depression and excessive hunger. There are many suggestions about how to improve your sleep, such as daily mild exercise, relaxation and deep breathing techniques. Try to avoid drinking caffeinated coffee, tea and sodas after 3 p.m., and do not use alcohol as a sleep aid, as it causes restless sleep.

**Eat breakfast:** Eating breakfast is associated with

## Non-diet ways to improve insulin resistance

- Be physically active nearly every day
- Try not to sit for more than 30 minutes without getting up for a brief walk or stretch.
- Get enough sleep

many health benefits. It diminishes mid-morning hunger, elevates basal metabolic rate and results in less imbalanced, erratic or excessive eating the rest of the day. It can also encourage an improved consciousness about health.

**Maintain those habits** (sleep, laughter, exercise, etc.) that

helped you achieve your goal.

**Want help with any of this?:** Call Sally Van Cise at (989) 775-4615 for nutrition ideas and wellness coaching and Jayme Green or Jaden Harman at (989) 775-4696 for wellness coaching as well as help shaping up your fitness, in or outside of the Fitness Center.

## A flurry of snowflakes decorate Nimkee Medical

**NIKI HENRY**

Photographer Journalist

A blizzard of handmade snowflakes adorns the reception area and hallways of Nimkee Medical Clinic.

LPN Twila Schrot oversaw the snowstorm, sending out a request for the flakes at the beginning of December – a request that snowballed into a flurry of uniquely-crafted decorations.

Schrot is grateful to all the community members who helped beautify the clinic in such a fun and festive way, especially all the students from the handful of schools that participated.



Observer photo by Niki Henry

**Snowflakes created by community members fill the Nimkee Medical halls with festive cheer.**

The decorations will remain twirling in the air until March, and Schrot is

already busy thinking about what she could replace them with in the spring.

## Dental appointment information for minor patients

**LAURA LUND**

Chief Dental Officer

If anyone other than a parent or legal guardian brings in a minor patient (under the age of 18) for treatment, the parent/legal guardian must first complete a “Permission to Treat a Minor Without a Parent/Legal Guardian Present” form.

The form gives permission to another adult (18 years or older) to accompany the minor and make decisions about dental treatment. This form is valid for one year.

When a parent/legal guardian accompanies a minor child (under the age of 18) to a dental appointment, it is required that they remain in the dental waiting room or treatment room during the minor’s entire appointment.

If the parent/guardian is unable to stay for the minor’s entire appointment, the appointment will be rescheduled for a time that the parent/guardian can stay for the entire appointment.

Minors aged 16 and 17 years may come alone for certain dental appointments, such as teeth cleanings, fluoride applications, recall exam and radiographs and

sealants, provided a “Permission to Treat a Minor without a Parent/Legal Guardian Present” form has been submitted by a parent or legal guardian. This form is valid for one year.

All other dental treatments not listed above for minors aged 16 and 17 years will require a parent/legal guardian or assigned adult (via the form) to be present.

The form can be obtained at the Nimkee Dental Clinic. The link to the form can also be found on the Tribe’s website under Dental Services Appointment Information.



## Coaching You to Be Well

- **Why:** You just feel stuck, not able to be your best self.
- **Cost:** Free
- **Where:** We can meet in our offices or on the phone.
- **Who:** Sally can see anyone registered at Nimkee Clinic; Jayme can see anyone who is an employee with the Tribe or is a Nimkee patient.

## What is Wellness Coaching?

Wellness coaches help people reach their best health and wellbeing. They also help you make changes, even when difficult.

## What is peak wellness to you?

- Fit and strong
- Healthy eating
- Calm and balanced under stress
- Fully engaged and satisfied with life
- Positive and optimistic state of mind
- High energy
- Robust health

## What do you do that’s different?

- As a Dietitian or a Fitness Coordinator:**
- We give information and data about a health problem.
  - We talk and then make sure you understand that information.

- As Coaches:**
- We help you make the changes, even when making change is difficult.
  - We let you do most of the talking.

**Can we do both? Absolutely.**

## Contact information:

**Sally Van Cise** | MPH, RDN Nutritionist, Wellcoaches® Certified Health and Wellness Coach

• **Phone:** 989.775.4615 • **Email:** SVancise@sagchip.org

**Jayme Green** | BS, Fitness Coordinator, ACE Health Coach

• **Phone:** 989.775.4696 • **Email:** Jgreen@sagchip.org

## Member Needed

For the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Health Board

- 1.) Must be a member of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe
- 2.) Must be at least 18 years of age
- 3.) Must have strong interest in the health services provided and the health problems within the Saginaw Chippewa community

Meetings are held once a month, and a stipend is given for each meeting attended. Term of office is three years with three more years with Tribal Council approval.

**If you have any questions, please call Michelle at 989.775.4602**

### If interested:

Write a short letter stating why you feel you would make a good Health Board Member.

### Mail or bring to the Nimkee Clinic:

Attention: Michelle George  
2591 South Leaton Rd.  
Mt. Pleasant, MI. 48858

\*Please include your phone number or a contact person.

\*When the letters are received at the end of the time period, they are given to Tribal Council to make the final decision.

ALL NEW!

**KING & QUEEN DRAWINGS ARE BACK!**

**MYSTERY GRAB BAG!**

# SUPER SATURDAY

**BINGO**

**FREE POP CORN**

**MULTIPLE NEW WAYS TO WIN!**

## SATURDAY, JANUARY 6

Warm Ups - 12PM | Early Bird - 1:30PM | Main Session - 3PM | Late Owl - 8PM

FIRST SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH | 3PM SESSION

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

WITH 2nd and 3rd Chances!

**New lower price of only \$100 on all-inclusive machine for main session.**

Five lucky BINGO winners will spin our prize wheel for a chance to win:

- AN OVERNIGHT STAY • PAIR OF SOARING EAGLE CONCERT TICKETS
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**PLUS, 3 for \$1 raffle tickets for a chance to win a 49" LG 4K Smart TV!**  
**AND Special Grab Bag games | Table Share game | Paper Must WIN game!**

## PAPER-ONLY DAY!

### SATURDAY, JANUARY 20 | 3PM SESSION

Warm Ups - 12PM | Early Bird - 1:30PM | Main Session - 3PM | Late Owl - 8PM

First 100 to purchase the main session get free hand warmers and a logoed beany hat!

**PLUS, YOU COULD WIN UP TO \$500 PLAYING MUG OF MONEY!**

**SNOWBLOWER RAFFLE**  
3 tickets for \$5

**MAIN SESSION PAYING OUT OVER \$10,000**  
**PLAY FOR ONLY \$25.00!**

**FREE BOWL OF SOUP!**

*Soaring Eagle*  
**BINGO**





## Andahwod November Employee of the Month

### ANDAHWOD STAFF

Andahwod's November Employee of the Month was Keenan Davis!

Keenan is part of the Maintenance team and has been working at Andahwod since February 2016. He first started at Andahwod as the Meals on Wheels delivery person and transferred into Maintenance this past summer.

Prior to working at Andahwod, Davis worked in Guest Services at the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort.

When he was asked what he enjoys most about working at Andahwod, he said the great atmosphere of people and that

it is always a good time talking with residents.

Family is important to Davis, and he has great memories of his grandparents. One of his favorite memories is his grandpa Kermit always making sure he ate bologna and cheese. Also, Davis remembers his grandma Yvonne teaching him cooking skills.

In his free time, Davis enjoys being active, playing basketball and playing Frisbee with his dog, and, although he is a meat-and-potatoes-type of guy, he knows the importance of exercise to help manage his diabetes.

He is also a family man who will always teach his kids life lessons, especially that Bigfoot will be found soon! Regardless of Bigfoot's location,



Courtesy of Andahwod

**Andahwod maintenance worker Keenan Davis was selected as the November Employee of the Month.**

Andahwod residents know where they can find Davis and that he is always available to help them when he can.

Miigwetch, Keenan, for your hard work!

## Andahwod staff member leads CMU's adopt-a-grandparent program

### ANDAHWOD STAFF

Tomarrah Green, elder Community activity assistant for Andahwod CCC & ES, was invited to speak at Central Michigan University's Mary Ellen Brandell Volunteer Center on Friday, Dec. 8.

Green is an alumna of the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College and Central Michigan University, and she led the December training for the 50 student participants in the volunteer center's adopt-a-grandparent program.

Students in the program form co-mentorships with elders in local resident care facilities, including Andahwod.

Residents and students each fill out a questionnaire with information about their



Courtesy of Tomarrah Green

**Tomarrah Green, elder Community activity assistant speaks at Central Michigan University on Dec. 8.**

personality and special interests. They are then matched with a compatible co-mentor.

Pairs are committed to spending one hour a week

together for a minimum of one year. Many meaningful intergenerational relationships are formed from this pairing, as both parties benefit from spending time together.

In the training, Green taught the students how to introduce themselves in Anishnaabemowin, how the culture of Andahwod distinguishes it from other assisted living centers, the seven grandfather teachings and seven prophecies, Anishnaabe history, the boarding school era and the impact it has on elders and families today.

After the training, students said they knew about the boarding schools but were shocked that there was one in Mount Pleasant. The students left desiring to be better allies and advocates for elders and the Native American community.

## Andahwod Christmas Brunch



Courtesy of Sheligh Jackson

**Andahwod spreads holiday cheer during the Dec. 20 annual Christmas brunch. (Left to right: Bernice Nelson, Sandra Compau, Lena Stempek, Rebecca Rittmaier, Anita Henry and LeEtta Hansen)**



Courtesy of Sheligh Jackson

**Judy Banister shows off her prize.**



Courtesy of Sheligh Jackson

**Dorothy Netmop (left) and Mary Floyd pose for a photo.**

## JANUARY 2018 Tribal Elder Birthdays

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 Wendy McGregor, William Smith Jr.   | 18 Byron Bird, Audrey Falcon, Anthony Jackson, Richard Ritter, Iva Chimoski      |
| 2 Meletta Trepanier, Robyn Henry, James Pashenee  | 19 Sue Durfee, Scott Moses   |
| 3 Angela Trofatter  | 20 Robin Bonnau, Nicki Perez   |
| 5 Lorne Jackson   | 22 Barbara Arzola, Orin Fallis, Richard Nahgahgwon Jr., Traci Town-Smith         |
| 6 Alan Henry  | 23 Michelle George, Vicki Brown, Joseph Kequom, Michael Ziehmer                  |
| 7 Samuel Pego, Warren Stone   | 24 Eva Jackson, Norma Rapp, Tweedie Vancise, Jacqueline Cyr, Christopher Johnson |
| 8 Ronda Jones, Alstyn Peters  | 25 Scott McLellan, Tonia Town  |
| 9 Charmaine Shawana, Ronald Defoy   | 26 Darlene Highley, Jeffrey Reed, Goldie Stanton                                 |
| 10 Susan Kequom, Barbara McMullen, Ronald Battice, Brenda Brouder, Martin Francis, Mary Green, Donald Slavik, Susan Sturock | 27 Jeffrey Jackson, Renee Anderson, Paul Robinson, Ricky Shawano                 |
| 11 Philemon Bird, Esther Helms, Kathy Martin  | 28 Alex Ritter Sr., Gloria King  |
| 12 Norman Davenport   | 29 Jacquelyne Meir Jr., Vincent Gallegos, Robin High, Becky McLennon             |
| 13 Paul Hawk, Sandra Barron, Lyle Collins, Pamela Slifco  | 31 Nancy Funnell, Gerald Cloutier, Vicki Sandlin, Mary Walker, Delores Watson    |
| 14 Lillian Olson, Zack Sawmick  |  |
| 15 Jayne Keating, Lisa Slattery, Michael Zygmunt  |  |
| 16 Joann Clark, Jodi Friend   |  |
| 17 Terri Darling  |  |

## January 2018 Andahwod events

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <b>Euchre &amp; Potluck</b><br>Mondays   6 p.m. | <b>Elders Breakfast</b><br>Jan. 10   9 a.m.   | <b>White Elephant Bingo</b><br>Jan. 17   1 p.m. |
| <b>Language Bingo</b><br>Jan. 4   1 p.m.        | <b>Water Ceremony &amp; Presentation</b><br>Jan. 10   10 a.m.   | <b>Elders Breakfast</b><br>Jan. 24   9 a.m.     |
| <b>Elvis Birthday Party</b><br>Jan. 8   1 p.m.  | <i>**Activities and events are subject to change. For more information, please call 989.775.4300.</i> |   |

## Attention all cooks!

- ★ Are you always asked to bring your salad to the family cookout?
- ★ Are your cookies gone immediately at functions?
- ★ Does your chili sell out at fundraisers?
- ★ What is your favorite recipe to make?

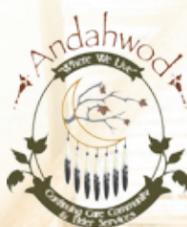
**Here is your chance to showcase the recipe that everyone is always asking you to make or you just enjoy cooking and eating!**

Elder Services is asking community members/employees to lend us recipes for a cookbook we are creating. This cookbook will also be sold as a fundraiser for elder activities and events. Sorry, no royalties for your recipes, just bragging rights!

**Please help us create the SCIT Community Cookbook!** Elder Services will have a drawing only for those who submit a recipe. Also a drawing will be held to name the cookbook.

**To submit recipes, photos and cookbook name suggestions, please contact:**

**Sheligh Jackson** • Phone: 989.775.4307  
Assistant Elders Advocate • Email: shjackson@sagchip.org





## JANUARY 2018 EVENT PLANNER

### Free Auricular (Ear) Acupuncture

Jan. 4, 11, 18, 25 | 4 - 6 p.m.

- Location: Behavioral Health
- Contact: 989.775.4895

Jan. 3, 17 | 11:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

- Location: Saganing Tribal Center
- Contact: 989.775.4895 or 989.775.5810

### Seventh Generation Talking Circle

Jan. 4, 11, 18, 25 | 3 - 5 p.m.

- Location: Seventh Generation
- Contact: 989.775.4780

### Drums Out: Singing for Fun

Jan. 4, 11, 18, 25 | 6 - 8 p.m.

- Location: Seventh Generation Blue House
- Contact: 989.775.4780

### Families Against Narcotics Support Group

Jan. 4 | 7 - 9 p.m.

- Location: Tribal Operations Seniors Room
- Contact: 989.775.4880

### Donnie Dowd: Traditional Healer

Jan. 4 | 9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

- Location: Behavioral Health
- Call for an appointment: 989.775.4850
- For more information: 989.775.4879

### Traditional Sweat Lodge

Jan. 5 | Teachings and fire lighting at 5 p.m.

- Location: Behavioral Health
- Contact: 989.775.4879

### Employee Appreciation Banquet

Jan. 5 | 7 p.m.

- Location: SECR Ballroom

### Elvis Birthday Party

Jan. 8 | 1 p.m.

- Location: Andahwod
- Contact: 989.775.4300

### Water Ceremony & Presentation

Jan. 10 | 10 a.m.

- Location: Andahwod
- Contact: 989.775.4162

### Elders Breakfast

Jan. 10, 24 | 9 - 10 a.m.

- Location: Andahwod
- Contact: 989.775.4300

### Anishinaabemowin & Sacred Fire Lunches

Jan. 11, 25 | 12 - 1 p.m.

- Location: Seventh Generation
- Contact: 989.775.4110
- Learn the basics of Ojibwe language with Anishinabe Outreach Specialist Isabelle Osawamick

### Crystal Mountain Family Ski Trip

Jan. 15 | Time: TBD

- Location: Crystal Mountain, 12500 Crystal Mountain Dr., Thompsonville, MI 49683
- Contact: 989.775.4115
- Registration: Wednesday, Jan. 3, 2018, at 8 a.m. in the Tribal Operations main entrance
- Space is limited. Open to Tribal Members and their families on a first-come first-serve basis.
- You must register on this day in order for you to get the \$25 per person group rate.
- \$15 non-refundable deposit
- The Recreation Department will cover the cost of the all-lift tickets and the equipment rental if needed at the \$25 per person group rate.

### White Elephant Bingo

Jan. 17 | 1 p.m.

- Location: Andahwod
- Contact: 989.775.4300
- Bring a new "don't want, don't like, don't need" Christmas gift to be a prize for bingo.

### Saganing Talking Circle

Jan. 17 | 5 - 6:30 p.m.

- Location: Saganing Tribal Center
- Contact: 989.775.4879

### Cedar Box Workshop

Jan. 17, 18 | 5 - 8 p.m.

- Location: Seventh Generation
- Contact: 989.775.4780

### Families Against Narcotics Monthly Forum

Jan. 18 | 7 - 9 p.m.

- Location: Eagles Nest Tribal Gym
- Contact: 989.775.4880

### Bowling Clinic

Jan. 21 | 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., with a noon lunch

- Two sessions: youth and adult
- Youth session: 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
- Adult session: 1 to 4 p.m.
- Location: Riverwood Resort, Mt. Pleasant
- Pre-registration: [Recreation@Sagchip.org](mailto:Recreation@Sagchip.org) or 989.775.4149
- Open to first 20 Tribal Members per session
- With pro bowler and PGA champion Tom Smallwood

### Lacrosse Workshop

Jan. 23, 24, 25 | 5 - 8 p.m.

- Location: Seventh Generation
- Contact: 989.775.4780

## TRIBAL COMMUNITY CALENDAR | JANUARY 2018

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT./SUN.
<b>1</b> <b>Drop-in Group</b> B. Health   5 - 7 p.m. <b>Women's Traditions Society</b> B. Health   5 - 6:30 p.m. <b>Euchre and Potluck</b> Andahwod   6 - 8 p.m.	<b>2</b> <b>Ogitchedaw Meeting</b> Seniors Room   6 p.m. <b>Substance Abuse Meeting</b> B. Health Lodge   5 - 7 p.m.	<b>3</b> <b>Traditional Teachings</b> Saganing   11 a.m. <b>Open Gym</b> Tribal Gym   6 - 9 p.m. <b>Youth Council Meeting</b> Tribal Ops   5 p.m. <b>Crafting</b> 7th Generation   3-5 p.m.	<b>4</b> <b>Language Bingo</b> Andahwod   1 p.m. <b>Talking Circle</b> 7th Generation   3 - 5 p.m. <b>12-Step Meditation Group</b> B. Health   7 - 9 p.m.	<b>5</b> <b>Drop-in Group</b> B. Health   11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. <b>Active Parenting Now</b> ACFS   10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.	<b>6</b> <b>7</b> <b>New Spirit Support Group</b> B. Health   4 - 6 p.m.
<b>8</b> <b>Drop-in Group</b> B. Health   5 - 7 p.m. <b>Women's Traditions Society</b> B. Health   5 - 6:30 p.m. <b>Euchre and Potluck</b> Andahwod   6 - 8 p.m.	<b>9</b> <b>Substance Abuse Meeting</b> B. Health Lodge   5 - 7 p.m.	<b>10</b> <b>Open Gym</b> Tribal Gym   6 - 9 p.m. <b>Crafting</b> 7th Generation   3-5 p.m.	<b>11</b> <b>Anishinaabemowin Sacred Fire Lunch</b> 7th Generation   12 - 1 p.m. <b>Talking Circle</b> 7th Generation   3 - 5 p.m. <b>12-Step Meditation Group</b> B. Health   7 - 9 p.m.	<b>12</b> <b>Drop-in Group</b> B. Health   11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. <b>Active Parenting Now</b> ACFS   10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.	<b>13</b> <b>14</b> <b>New Spirit Support Group</b> B. Health   4 - 6 p.m.
<b>15</b> <b>Drop-in Group</b> B. Health   5 - 7 p.m. <b>Women's Traditions Society</b> B. Health   5 - 6:30 p.m. <b>Euchre and Potluck</b> Andahwod   6 - 8 p.m.	<b>16</b> <b>Substance Abuse Meeting</b> B. Health Lodge   5 - 7 p.m. <b>Bingo with Friends</b> Saganing   10:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.	<b>17</b> <b>Tribal Education Advisory Meeting</b>   9 a.m. <b>Open Gym</b> Tribal Gym   6 - 9 p.m. <b>Crafting</b> 7th Generation   3-5 p.m. <b>Youth Council Meeting</b> Tribal Ops   5 p.m.	<b>18</b> <b>Tribal Observer Deadline</b>   5 p.m. <b>Talking Circle</b> 7th Generation   3 - 5 p.m. <b>12-Step Meditation Group</b> B. Health   7 - 9 p.m.	<b>19</b> <b>Drop-in Group</b> B. Health   11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. <b>Active Parenting Now</b> ACFS   10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.	<b>20</b> <b>Anishinabe Games Day</b> Ziiibiwing   1 - 5 p.m. <b>21</b> <b>New Spirit Support Group</b> B. Health   4 - 6 p.m.
<b>22</b> <b>Drop-in Group</b> B. Health   5 - 7 p.m. <b>Women's Traditions Society</b> B. Health   5 - 6:30 p.m. <b>Euchre and Potluck</b> Andahwod   6 - 8 p.m.	<b>23</b> <b>Substance Abuse Meeting</b> B. Health Lodge   5 - 7 p.m.	<b>24</b> <b>Open Gym</b> Tribal Gym   6 - 9 p.m. <b>Crafting</b> 7th Generation   3-5 p.m.	<b>25</b> <b>Talking Circle</b> 7th Generation   3 - 5 p.m. <b>12-Step Meditation Group</b> B. Health   7 - 9 p.m. <b>Anishinaabemowin Sacred Fire Lunch</b> 7th Generation   12 - 1 p.m. <b>Language Bingo</b> 7th Generation   6 - 8 p.m.	<b>26</b> <b>Drop-in Group</b> B. Health   11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. <b>Active Parenting Now</b> ACFS   10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.	<b>27</b> <b>28</b> <b>New Spirit Support Group</b> B. Health   4 - 6 p.m.
<b>29</b> <b>Drop-in Group</b> B. Health   5 - 7 p.m. <b>Women's Traditions Society</b> B. Health   5 - 6:30 p.m. <b>Euchre and Potluck</b> Andahwod   6 - 8 p.m.	<b>30</b> <b>Substance Abuse Meeting</b> B. Health Lodge   5 - 7 p.m.	<b>31</b> <b>Open Gym</b> Tribal Gym   6 - 9 p.m. <b>Crafting</b> 7th Generation   3-5 p.m. <b>Youth Council Meeting</b> Tribal Ops   5 p.m.			

- 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](mailto:observer@sagchip.org), visit our office in Tribal Operations or mail to Tribal Observer, Attn.: Classified, 7070 E. Broadway, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858. Please have all submissions and payment in by deadline. Classified rates are \$10 for 15 words or less and 75 cents per additional word. Any thumbnail image costs an additional \$15. **Apply to job postings online at [www.sagchip.org](http://www.sagchip.org). \* Job postings are subject to change daily.**

100 Employment	125 Miigwetch
105 Lost and Found	130 Services
110 For Rent	135 Events
115 For Sale	140 Giveaways
120 Announcements	145 Miscellaneous

### 100 Employment

#### Tribal Operations

##### Family Resource and Support Center Coordinator

Open to the public. Bachelor's degree in social work, human services or related field. Three years of practical field experience with two years in a supervisory capacity, or a total of five years field experience required. Consultation and/or team leader roles may be considered as substitute for supervisory experience. Three years case management experience in a human/social services agency; two years experience while working directly with children and families. Crisis intervention experience preferred. Experience with Native American communities preferred. Must be able to effectively communicate and have good computer skills. Must be able to pass background check to meet the employment eligibility requirements as they pertain to the position. License, certification or special requirements: Obtain HIPAA certification within five business days of hire. Must have a valid Michigan Driver's License and must be able to obtain and maintain a Tribal Driver's License and qualify for coverage by SCIT auto liability insurance carrier.

##### Youth Program Coordinator

Open to the public. Bachelor's degree in education, social work, psychology, public health, public administration or related field. Three years of related experience required. Experience working with youth. Experience with strategic planning and coordinating collaborative projects preferred. Experience with Native American communities. Must be able to effectively communicate and have good computer skills. Must be able to pass background check to meet the employment eligibility requirements as they pertain to the position. License, certification or special requirements: Obtain HIPAA certification within five business days of hire. Must have a valid Michigan Driver's License and must be able to obtain and maintain a Tribal Driver's License and qualify for coverage by SCIT auto liability insurance carrier. Tribal preference and Native American preference shall apply to all positions.

##### SCTC Tutor Mathematics

Open to the public. At least 60 completed credits towards a college degree in mathematics or significant course work towards a degree emphasizing mathematical skills. A completed degree in Mathematics or related field is preferred. Tutor for students attending Tribal College with an emphasis on tutoring mathematics, subjects ranging from basic mathematic skills through calculus and statistics. The position emphasizes the ability to teach lower-level mathematics to assist students in reaching college-level skills. Holds regular hours in the Katy denHeeten Student Services Center at Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College. Performs outreach activities to inform students of related services through the Katy denHeeten Student Services Center. Creates and implements structured activities and workshops to develop student confidence and mastery of mathematical concepts, functions and use. Functions as part of a team emphasizing student performance. Provides supplemental instruction and spends time in the classroom to compliment coursework being taught by instructors. Maintains a log of student contacts and tutoring subjects.

## Summons and Complaint Notices

### Summons and Complaint to Appear in the Matter of Reyna A. Wemigwans

The Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Court 6954 E. Broadway Rd. Mount Pleasant, Mich., 48858 (989) 775-4800 Case no. 17-CI-0522. Plaintiff: Gateway Financial Solutions P.O. Box 3257 Saginaw, Mich., 48605 (989) 791-2505. Plaintiff's attorney: Scott Schisler (P48832) P.O. Box 3257 Saginaw, Mich., 48605 (989) 791-2505 Vs. Reyna A. Wemigwans 1240 E. Broomfield Rd. Apt. R-4 Mount Pleasant, Mich., 48858. 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 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 Feb. 10, 2018.**

### Summons and Complaint to Appear in the Matter of Taylor Trepanier

The Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Court 6954 E. Broadway Rd. Mount Pleasant, Mich., 48858 (989) 775-4800 Case no. 17-CI-0617. Plaintiff: Gateway Financial Solutions P.O. Box 3257 Saginaw, Mich., 48605 (989) 791-2505. Plaintiff's attorney: Scott Schisler (P48832) P.O. Box 3257 Saginaw, Mich., 48605 (989) 791-2505 Vs. Taylor Trepanier 7340 Ogemaw Drive Mount Pleasant, Mich., 48858. 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 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 March 19, 2018.**

### Summons and Complaint to Appear in the Matter of Bruno J. Wemigwans

The Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Court 6954 E. Broadway Rd. Mount Pleasant, Mich., 48858 (989) 775-4800 Case no. 17-CI-0620. Plaintiff: Gateway Financial Solutions P.O. Box 3257 Saginaw, Mich., 48605 (989) 791-2505. Plaintiff's attorney: Scott Schisler (P48832) P.O. Box 3257 Saginaw, Mich., 48605 (989) 791-2505 Vs. Bruno J. Wemigwans 3753 Moccasin Lane Mount Pleasant, Mich., 48858. 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 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 March 19, 2018.**

### Notice in the Matter of Augustine Lee Floyd 05-20-1989

The Tribal Court for the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians 2605 North West Bay Shore Drive, Peshawbestown, Mich., (231) 534-7050: Case no. 2017-2820-CV-CV. Petitioner: Kaylyn Rose Raphael and Zachariah Augustine Raphael 2202 Nishnabwah Mikun, Peshawbestown, Mich., 49682. Attorney: Cameron A. Fraser (P71403) 814 South Garfield Avenue, Suite A Traverse City, Mich., 49686 (231) 947-0122. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS, including but not limited to Augustine Lee Floyd and Santana Perez, whose last address is unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following: PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on **Feb. 5, 2018, at 9 a.m.** in the Grand Traverse Band Tribal Court located at 2605 North West Bay Shore Drive in Peshawbestown, Mich., 49682 trial will be heard to establish the location of the accident or disaster, the cause of death, date of the presumed decedent's death and, if possible, the time of death.



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The Tribal Observer is the monthly publication of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan.

The Observer is available to Tribal Members of the Saginaw Chippewa Tribe, reaching approximately 3,000 members. The Observer is also distributed via break rooms of the Saginaw Chippewa Businesses and is available to 4,000 associates. The Observer is distributed in each of the hotel rooms in the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort. Display boxes are located at Sagamok Shell (Mount Pleasant and Saganing), Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort Saganing Eagles, Landing Casino and the Ziiibiwing Center Gift shops.

The Observer can also be viewed exclusively online at [www.sagchip.org/TribalObserver](http://www.sagchip.org/TribalObserver).

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<b>F</b>	<b>4.917" wide by 8" tall</b>
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## SCA 'Boozhoos' take the stage, steal hearts with their performance

**NIKI HENRY**

Photographer Journalist

At 6 p.m. on Dec. 6, the Entertainment Hall stage at the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort was transformed into the town of Boozhooville and taken over by Saginaw Chippewa Academy students and staff who had morphed into "Boozhoos" for the 2017 SCA Winter Program: Gchi Grinch 2, a story created by the SCA cultural team.

Gchi Grinch 2 is a continuation of the story that SCA students performed in 2015.

Tribal Education Director Melissa Isaac opened the evening with SCA Principal Kara Hotchkiss and gave a short synopsis of the 2015 story in which Gchi Grinch tried to ruin the winter feast and celebration of Wiikoonge.

"Gchi Grinch did not like the winter season; he did not like our Wiikoonge," Isaac said. "He didn't like our drums, our rattles, our moccasins, our shawls; he did not like any of it, and he went out of his way to take all of that away from the Boozhoos at Boozhooville. So, he stole it all, and he was sitting on the top of Mt. Peezy."

From Gchi Grinch's perch, Isaac said Gchi Grinch waited and watched for tears and disappointment only to find out that the Boozhoos did not need anything to help them celebrate their culture and heritage or the winter feast because the spirit of Wiikoonge lived inside all of them.

After Isaac's recap, Gchi Grinch, played by culture and language teacher Joe Syrette and voiced by culture and language teacher Matthew J. Sprague, entered the stage with SCA third graders for their portion of the production and the song "Boozhoo Life."

Pre-K students continued the story and sang "Santa is Coming" and "Wish You a Merry Wiikoonge" before the sixth grade class presented their material along with the song "You're a Mean One, Chi'Nik Grinch."

Helping tell the story through acting and song, kindergarten students performed "The Birth of Nanaboozhoo" and "It's the Best Time of the Year," the fifth graders offered "I'm Dreaming of a Boozhoo Wiikoonge" and "HoHo the Boozhoo Tree," first grade students sang "Just Like Kookom Used to Do" and "Come with Me Weneboozhoo" and the fourth grade sang "I'll Be Coming Down Mt. Peezy."

The musical wrapped up with second graders performing "Welcome to Boozhooville" and "Blessings All Around" and the afterschool singing program providing "SCA Morning Song" and "Celebration Song."

The students and staff did a professional and enthusiastic job of producing and presenting Gchi Grinch 2 which focuses on the issues tribal nations are currently facing in connection to the threat of oil pipelines crossing their traditional lands.

Nathan Isaac, event script writer and culture and



Observer photo by Niki Henry

On Dec. 6, Saginaw Chippewa Academy kindergarten students, dressed as Boozhoos, sing two songs on the Soaring Eagle Performance Entertainment Hall stage during the SCA Winter Program: Gchi Grinch 2.



Observer photo by Niki Henry

SCA Principal Kara Hotchkiss (right) greets the audience before Tribal Education Director Melissa Isaac (left) provides a recap of Gchi Grinch 1, which SCA students performed in 2015.

language teacher, provided the following synopsis of the second part of the story that was performed that evening:

"Gchi Grinch has been living amongst the Boozhoos, and they are all preparing for Wiikoonge. He still struggles to have mino odeh (a good heart) but... gets into the spirit of the season. He shares teachings with the younger Boozhoos of what Wiikoonge is about. Little does the town of Boozhooville know... Chi'Nik Grinch is working hard to construct a tube that will transfer Lio... a resource pumped from the ground that is use to make dirty fuels... Once it is finished, he will begin to sell this resource, and it will make him wealthy. The construction plans show the Lio Tube going through the town of Boozhooville.

"Gchi Grinch hears a clatter and rushes outside to see. He finds his cousin Chi'Nik Grinch has reached Boozhooville with the Lio Tube and wakes the Boozhoos. Chi'Nik Grinch offers the Boozhoos money so he can build on their land, but Gchi Grinch informs them of the risks. The Boozhoos decide this is not good and run Chi'Nik Grinch out of town. The Boozhoos rejoice and continue to celebrate Wiikoonge."

The story of Gchi Grinch 2 was created by the SCA Anishnaabe Bimaadziwin Team. Culture and language teacher Aaron Chivis played Chi'Nik Grinch 1 and voiced both Chi'Nik Grinch 1 and 2; he was supported by culture



Observer photo by Niki Henry

Students from the afterschool singing program act out the Boozhoos' celebration of Wiikoonge with teachers from the cultural team.

and language teacher James Day who played Chi'Nik Grinch 2 onstage.

Day worked on the pre-recorded narration with fellow teacher Cory Jones, and culture and language teacher Cecilia Stevens provided the voices of all the Boozhoos.

Nathan Isaac produced the audio, graphics and video for

the production, and the entire SCA culture and language team worked together to design and build the remarkable sets.

Courtesy of the IT department, community members who missed out on the fun of the performance can view a recording of it at <https://youtu.be/mVmPxc-qnxQ>



Observer photo by Niki Henry

Pre-K students take the stage to help tell the story and sing two songs.



Observer photo by Niki Henry

Fourth grade students pose as workers in charge of constructing the tube that will transport Lio through the town of Boozhooville.



Observer photo by Niki Henry

Gchi Grinch, played by culture and language teacher Joe Syrette (right), tells his story to the Boozhoos.



Observer photo by Niki Henry

First graders present their portion of the program and sing two songs.



Observer photo by Niki Henry

Second graders command the stage to help tell the story of how the Boozhoos and Gchi Grinch saved the town of Boozhooville from the evil Chi'Nik Grinch.