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Makwa-Giizis (Bear Moon)

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# TRIBAL OBSERVER

THE SAGINAW CHIPPEWA INDIAN TRIBE... “Working Together for Our Future”

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## Chief Ekdahl delivers State of the Tribe Address

(Editor's note: The following text is Chief Ronald F. Ekdahl's speech from the Jan. 21 State of the Tribe Address presented that morning in the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort's Entertainment Hall.)

“Aani, mino giizhep. Good morning to all of you.

Before I get into the State of the Tribe Address, I want to take a moment to recognize some brave first responders we have in our community.

Our Tribal Fire and Tribal Police Department faithfully serve our community. A lot of times it is a thankless job, so I want to recognize their efforts this morning. Please join me in applauding their efforts.

I want to say welcome and miigwetch for being here and for listening and watching.

I want to take a moment to give thanks and to express my gratitude and humility for the opportunity to address you as the Tribal chief.

I am a goal setter, and this has been a goal I have been working towards for some years now. This was a long-term goal for me, and the fact that the community has faith in me to lead the Tribe inspires and motivates me moving forward. I take this responsibility very seriously, and I understand that this is my time to make a mark on the history of our Tribe.

I will give my best efforts to lead the Tribe and our community towards success.

I want to also take this time to tell you what motivates me. I am motivated by the youth, by my children, by my community and by its leaders – not just the Council members up



Courtesy of Joseph Sowmick

**Chief Ronald F. Ekdahl delivers the Jan. 21 State of the Tribe Address.**

here with me but by the leaders of the past and those who lead our people and our programs every day.

I'm motivated by our youth leaders, and, at this time, I want to introduce you to the newly-elected Youth Council. I would ask you all to stand and be recognized so our community can praise and honor you.

I want to speak to the importance of our future leaders. While they are children, young men and young women today, these young people will grow up.

When they do, what kind of community members will they be? What kind of neighbors? What kind of colleagues? The opportunities they are getting now are so important for their future development. They serve as role models to their fellow youth. They are the voices of their generation, and they are representatives of our great Tribal Nation.

We, as a Tribe, need to give them every opportunity to develop and grow into the

future leaders that they are meant to be.

We have many upcoming and ongoing projects both in the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort and Saganing Eagles Landing Casino.

Casino CEO Ray Brenny is here to talk with you later about these projects and the strengths of our gaming properties here in Mount Pleasant and over in Saganing.

The Council continues to support the efforts to improve and remain a top-gaming destination within our market.

As some of you may have noticed, construction on the gaming floor has begun. Those efforts kicked off on Monday, Jan. 15.

First up, you will see changes to the poker room and the Kid's Quest and Cyber Quest areas. There are six other phases that will continue throughout the spring and summer, with a completion date projected to be in September of this year.

The Saganing expansion is also underway, and construction continues on the new hotel and the expanded gaming floor.

I want to take time to recognize the efforts of the past leaders who helped to pave the way for these projects. Tribal Councils of the past have started and ensured that progress continued on this work. Now it is our privilege to continue it and to see it to completion. I think at times we can forget those efforts of past leaders, and I want to take this time to say, Miigwetch.

It is important to provide you, the Membership, with an update on government affairs

issues happening within the state legislature. There are several areas of interest that I would like to speak on. Please refer to the handouts on your tables provided by public affairs associates for further details.

The first issue is advanced deposit wagering. This bill would allow people to gamble online on live horse races around the country. Tribal Council and our partners continue to argue this is an expansion of gaming and a violation of Proposal 1 of 2004.

In the event this legislation is passed into law, Tribal Council will take the necessary steps to protect our sovereignty and continue to fight for what's best in all of Indian Country.

Another area of interest is the bills surrounding online gaming. These bills would allow all brick and mortar casinos in the state to host online gaming through digital platforms or gaming websites. This becomes complicated, as there is a question on how Native American tribes will be regulated, but we remain committed to ensuring the state recognizes our sovereignty. This legislation has been debated for more than a year, and we are making progress to identify which position the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe should take in the future.

Finally, ongoing legislation on nudge master machines is being closely monitored, and our local State Representative Roger Hauck is close to introducing the revised version of this legislation.

State of the Tribe | 6

## Hepatitis A rumors addressed, vaccination clinics offered

**NATALIE SHATTUCK**

Editor

On Jan. 16, rumors were quickly spreading that there was a hepatitis A outbreak circulating throughout the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort.

The SCIT Public Relations department was quick to respond, stating the rumors were false.

“There is a social media rumor circulating about an outbreak of hepatitis A at the Soaring Eagle

Casino & Resort, and the rumors simply are untrue,” the statement read. “The information shared below is factual and should help clear up any misinformation and comes directly from the Central Michigan District Health Department.”

That same day, the Central Michigan District Health Department reported the following:

“Isabella County continues to experience a hepatitis A outbreak and is considered part of

the Southeastern Michigan outbreak. Central Michigan District Health Department would like to confirm that the outbreak is not associated with the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe or the Tribal enterprises. No hepatitis A cases associated with this outbreak have occurred in the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe or the Tribal enterprises.”

CMDHD said more information on the outbreak is available at [www.michigan.gov/hepatitisaoutbreak](http://www.michigan.gov/hepatitisaoutbreak).

“The Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe took preventative measures to ensure the safety of all of their associates,” said Erik Rodriguez, public relations director. “This is a health care benefit provided by the SCIT at no cost to associates or Tribal Members who are concerned for their own well-being. Vaccines were made available to all associates and are not mandatory.”

Hepatitis A | 4

### Allan Leonard Wassegijig

Dec. 28, 1976 – Dec. 23, 2017

Allan Leonard Wassegijig, age 40, of Mount Pleasant passed away unexpectedly on Saturday, Dec. 23, 2017. Al was born on Dec. 28, 1976, in Mt. Pleasant, the son of Alvin Wassegijig and Rose (Leaureaux) Wassegijig. Al was a proud member of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe. He loved spending time with his grandchildren, nieces and nephews. He enjoyed playing golf and working out.



Al is survived by his wife Jennifer (Vasquez) Wassegijig; children Alex (Monica) Leaureaux, Lauryn Leaureaux and Nevaeh Badger; grandchildren Carter Allan and Ava Rose; mother Rose Wassegijig; siblings Valarie (Andrew) Raphael and Steven Wassegijig; special cousin Christina "Gig" Flamand; and many aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins and in-laws.

Al was preceded in death by his father Alvin Wassegijig, grandparents, brother Makis Leaureaux, aunt Cora Leaureaux, and close family friend Timothy "Bernard" Gardner.

Funeral services for Al were held at Clark Family Funeral Chapel on Friday, Dec. 29, at 1 p.m., with Pastor Doyle Perry officiating.

Interment will take place in Denver Township Cemetery at a later date.

Memorial contributions may be made to the family.

### Goldie Mae Collins Stanton

Jan. 26, 1929 – Jan. 3, 2018

Goldie Mae Collins Stanton, 88, was born in Clare on Jan. 26, 1929, to the late Mary Jane and Israel Collins. Goldie passed away Jan. 3, 2018. She was preceded by her daughter Tamara Stanton; son Alan Stanton; husband Robert Stanton; brother Harry Collins; sisters Mary Ann Collins French, Jennie Collins Phelps, Elizabeth Collins Davenport and, taking her journey just weeks before on Dec. 16, her baby sister Bertha Collins.



Goldie was a resident of Plymouth, Calif., and came to settle in the west in 1947. She married on May 27, 1948, in Washoe County, Nev.

Goldie is survived by sons and daughters Bobby Stanton, Donna Weeks and Brenda Stanton, of Plymouth, Calif., and Selene and Roger Moore, of Coleman; 12 grandchildren; 24 great-grandchildren; and 10 great-great-grandchildren.

Goldie loved her friends, family and everyone who was part of her life. She was always delighted when she came back to Mount Pleasant for powwows, to visit relatives and to frequent the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort.

Roger and Donna are partners of her children and also lived with Goldie throughout her lifetime. She adored and loved them ever so dearly, as if they were her own.

Goldie took care of her community and its members, which is why she is so honored and respected within it. Your baby was her baby, and she would never turn you away.

Zahgidiwin (love) is something she always taught and practiced. "Love with all your might," she would say. "It keeps you alive."

Bapeewug (laughter) is another trait our dear Goldie always kept about her. Her sense of humor lit everyone up, and she was always ready to smile and make light of a matter with her quick wit and sweet laughter.

Goldie, a full-blooded Ojibwe woman, spoke the language and was proud to be born on her native land.

She was enriched, pure and strong. Enshrined as a legend, we will always adore her and revere her on the highest pedestal. She is loved, honored and cherished as our sacred matriarch and treasured by everyone whose lives she touched. Our golden sunshine, give us light each day.

She is always remembered and never forgotten for an amazing life where she had brilliance and longevity. Baamaapii, until we meet again.

### Deborah Kay Porter

May 17, 1951 – Jan. 11, 2018

Deborah Kay Porter, age 66, passed away Thursday, Jan. 11, 2018, at McLaren Bay Region after a sudden illness. She was born May 17, 1951, in Flint to the late McKinley W. and Margaret (Kalf) Foster.



Deborah was a talented artist and loved to share her imagination with several paintings she did throughout the years. Deborah enjoyed being with people and had a lot of wonderful friends in the Native American community in Mount Pleasant and was a supporter of the Ziibiwing Center.

Surviving are two daughters, Rebecca (fiancé, David) Porter and Sunny Porter; their father Robert Porter; one sister Dawn; and two brothers, Jerry and Bob.

Per Deborah's wishes, cremation took place. In honor of Deborah's life, a memorial service was held Jan. 21 at 6 p.m. at Seventh Generation.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Ziibiwing Center.

Deborah's family would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all the staff at McLaren Bay Region for their kind and compassionate care of Mom and her family as well.

### Loretta May Smith

1935 – Jan. 5, 2018

Loretta May Smith, 82, of Long Beach, Miss., passed away very peacefully surrounded by love and with her children in attendance on Jan. 5, 2018.



Loretta was born and raised in Lansing. She spent the summer in Long Beach after she graduated from high school to live and work with her best friend.

Loretta met and began a two-year courtship through letters with the man who would become her husband, Billy Ray Smith. She followed him around the world during his Naval career while raising their growing family, finally settling down in Long Beach.

Loretta raised her seven children by herself after the sudden passing of her husband. Her strength of character and love for her children kept the family together and closely bonded. She taught her children compassion, responsibility, the value of hard work, generosity and caring for others.

"You kids stick together and watch out for each other," "You can do it," "Good job" and "One for All and All for One" were frequently heard around the house.

Her heritage as a member of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe was reflected in her love of birds, plants and music. But, mostly, she loved seeing her family happy, healthy and together.

She was preceded in death by her parents Robert and Florence Jackson; siblings Bobby Jr., Donald, Jackie and Eleanor; her husband Billy Ray Smith; and her son Brian.

She is survived by her siblings Ronald, Roland, Betty Loraine and Roger; her children Marie Wicks (Dale), Beverly Morse (Tim), Bill (Carol), Patrick (Amanda), James (Rose) and Carolyn Crawford (Michael); grandchildren Matthew Wicks (Farra), William Wicks (Jasmine), Sarah Wicks, Eva Smith, Sofia Smith, Brian Smith, Hailey Smith, Kristin Smith, Marissa Crawford, Marly Crawford, Emily Crawford and Jackson Crawford; and her great-grandchildren William and Pearl Wicks, Lillian and Charlotte Wicks.

The funeral service was held on Wednesday, Jan. 10. Interment followed at Allen Cemetery in Long Beach, Miss.

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

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 their date of death, or such monies will be forfeited and returned to the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe's Per Capita Trust.

| Tribal Member Name  | Date of Death |
|---------------------|---------------|
| Davis, William      | 10/5/2017     |
| Dennis, Joel        | 10/13/2016    |
| Folts, Carolyn      | 8/13/2017     |
| Hendrickson, Ruth   | 11/20/2017    |
| Jackson Sr, Garth   | 10/5/2017     |
| Macgregor, Ruth Ann | 7/2/2017      |
| Pashenee, Glenn     | 4/14/2016     |
| Primavera, Julia    | 7/10/2017     |
| Schramm, Linda      | 7/22/2017     |
| Sprague, Gary       | 4/7/2017      |
| Zocher, Virginia    | 8/23/2017     |
| Zocher, David       | 9/9/2017      |

Thank you from the Redbird & Osage Family

Dear Family and Friends,

The Redbird & Osage family would like to thank everyone involved with the fundraiser here in Michigan. It is truly appreciated how much time, love and prayers that were sent from everyone here. We would like to thank everyone that volunteered time and donated towards the fundraiser.

This is just the beginning, and we ask for continued prayers in our time of healing. Also would like to give a great big thank you to Aunt Diane!!


The family of Allan Wassegijig

The family of Allan Wassegijig would like to express a heartfelt appreciation for the love, support and comfort given during our time of loss.

A special thank you goes out to the firekeepers and those who brought wood, food, drinks and hugs.

We appreciate those who traveled near and far, shared memories, offered prayers and sent their condolences.

The love from our community gives us strength during our difficult days as we so greatly miss a wonderful husband, dad, grampy, son, brother and uncle who fought a good fight of faith.





TRIBAL MEMBERS

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

March Tribal Child Welfare Affidavits Deadline

Feb. 2, 2018, by 5 p.m.

(No postdates accepted.)

The Clerk's office will be open 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. on Feb. 2, 2018.

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 Feb. 15, 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, MI 48858

For more information, please email:  
YouthCouncil2@sagchip.org



# 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

• Feb. 6 • March 6 • April 3 • May 1



Happy Blessed  
**Birthday!**

LOVE  
MOM



*Happy 16<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary*

Rick & Marcia  
Kelsall

## Conservation Committee Seats

The Planning Department is currently soliciting letters of interest for adult SCIT Members to fill **two vacant seats** on the Conservation Committee for the remaining year of two year terms (ending November 2018) per Ordinance 11, section 102, subdivision 2 and the approved Ordinance 11 Conservation Committee By-Laws.

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

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

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

## Happy Birthday

*to my lovely wife*

**Bonnie Marie Sprague**

(2/1/18)

-Bernard Sprague



**Happy  
Birthday  
Jewels!**

Wishing you loads of  
love, laughter, and cake!

*In memory of  
our golden  
girlfriend*

**Deborah Porter,**  
*from Daisy and Shirley*



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

Carter Allan  
Leaureaux

(Feb 20th)

We love you so much!

## Saginaw Chippewa/Isabella County



**FAN**

Families Against Narcotics

## Monthly Forum

Every third Thursday of the month

**Upcoming dates:** Feb. 15, March 15

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

Monthly Forums are 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:** Feb. 1, March 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

*Mino Ode  
Giizhigad*

to our babies

Mom and Dad love you  
the whole wide world!



*Mino Ode  
Giizhigad*

to my hubby

I love you the whole wide  
world! Gizaagin babe.



**Happy  
Valentine's Day!**

Bret Jon Shomin  
*I Love You!! Sara*

*Happy  
Valentine's Day*

We love you  
so much!

Love Mom & Dad



## Happy Birthday!

Willie (Bill) Bailey II  
February 26

Willie (Will) Bailey III  
February 28

From your family  
We love you both



With each year I'll love you more,

**Happy Belated  
Birthday 01/05/18**

*Daniel Bennett*  
Always your B.C.



I always love you my sons, daughter  
and grandchildren!

Pane gzaaginim ngwisak, ndaanis  
miinwaa noshenhiki!

*You mean everything to me.*

**Happy  
Valentine's Day!**

*Daniel Bennett, always your B.C*



Check out the  
**Tribal Observer**  
**ONLINE**

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



## 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

## Attention: We need your help!

### CAROL EMMENDORFER

Tribal Action Plan Development Coordinator

Your participation is vital to us as we develop the Tribal Action Plan (TAP).

What is the TAP? It is a comprehensive prevention, intervention, treatment and aftercare plan to address alcohol and other substance misuse in a holistic and supportive manner.

The plan facilitates a connected community of resources in a way that has not been accomplished in the past by breaking down the walls (silos) between various service providers to focus on the needs of each individual.

The true measurement of success will be that no Tribal Member will lose a life from these addictions.



## TAP Survey

We ask that you fill out this survey by checking only one box for each question.

**Completed surveys may be dropped off at the Tribal Court or mailed to:**

Tribal Court  
Attn: Carol Emmendorfer  
6954 E. Broadway  
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

**For more information, please call:**

Carol Emmendorfer at 989.775.4843.  
Monday-Wednesday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Thank you for your input.

**Are you aware of the substance abuse and opioid epidemic?**

☐ YES ☐ NO

**Has it touched your life directly or indirectly?**

☐ YES ☐ NO

**Are you aware of all the resources available through the Tribe?**

☐ YES ☐ NO

**What can the Tribe do better to address this epidemic?**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*\*You may attach an additional piece of paper with your comments if needed.*

## 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.



## Hepatitis A

*continued from front page*

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported “Hepatitis means inflammation of the liver. Hepatitis is most often caused by a virus. In the U.S., the most common types of viral hepatitis are hepatitis A, hepatitis B and hepatitis C.”

The CDC also reported, “Hepatitis A is spread when an infected person does not wash his/her hands properly after using the bathroom and then touches objects/food, a caregiver does not properly wash his/her hands after changing diapers or cleaning up the stool of an infected person or someone engages in sexual activities with an infected person.”

Hepatitis may also be spread through contaminated food or water.

“Heavy alcohol use, toxins, some medications and certain medical conditions can also cause hepatitis,” the CDC said.

Symptoms typically appear two to six weeks after infection and may include fever, fatigue, loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, dark urine, grey-colored stools, joint pain and jaundice ([www.cdc.gov/hepatitis](http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis)).

Due to the outbreak in Isabella County, additional vaccination clinics were held throughout January.

“The vaccines were free of charge, and just taking one is 90 percent protective against hepatitis A,” Rodriguez said. “If you don’t know if you have had one, the nurses can look it up on the Michigan Immunization Registry.”

Rodriguez said the vaccination was not mandatory; however, it is strongly suggested any associates working in healthcare, food and beverage or housekeeping get the vaccine.

On Jan. 16, Sue Sowmick, RN, of the Nimkee Clinic said 187 individuals received a vaccine by the end of the clinic that day.

Sowmick said more vaccines will be made available including on Thursday, Feb. 1 at Soaring Eagle for employees.

“All employees are welcome (to the clinic); no insurance is needed,” Sowmick said. “There have now been eight hepatitis A cases in the county, but none at the Tribe or any of its enterprises. That is why we are working so hard to prevent cases here. Thank you to the Tribe for supporting this very proactive effort to protect our community.”

Additional information regarding hepatitis A is available at [www.cmdhd.org](http://www.cmdhd.org).

Further questions can also be addressed by Sue Sowmick at (989) 775-4699 or Karmen Fox at (989) 775-4631.

## 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)



## George Ross stepping down as Central Michigan University president

**NATALIE SHATTUCK**

Editor

Central Michigan University President George E. Ross recently announced he will be retiring, effective July 31, 2018.

The announcement was made on Jan. 22 in a press release from CMU University Communications.

Ross said he made the decision to step down in December when his first grandchild was born.

“This collective spirit has inspired me to serve CMU for more than 13 years. That said, I have decided it is time to step down from the presidency,” Ross said in his statement. “This announcement comes with confidence that CMU is an incredible position of strength because of the determination

and care with which all of you service students.”

Ross continuously worked to make the relationship between CMU and the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe the strongest ever.

Tribal Council Secretary Frank J. Cloutier reflected on the time he has spent collaborating with Ross.

“I have worked for many years to bring about a strong and sustainable cultural exchange between Central Michigan University and the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe. President George Ross did not hesitate to assist with that effort at every turn,” Cloutier said. “One point he made very clear, upon our initial introductory meeting over eight years ago, was his sincere interest and commitment to make the relationship between CMU and the Tribe a model to be followed.”

Ross served as CMU’s 14th president.

“President Ross has been one of the most progressive individuals in leadership from CMU that has extended a genuine hand in friendship and collaboration during my career with the Tribe thus far,” Cloutier said. “I feel privileged to have had the opportunity to collaborate with him and his leadership.”

In the release, Ross addressed accomplishments CMU made in his time as president, including creating the College of Medicine, increasing the number of students receiving financial aid and the amount they receive, growing the number of online programs and completing the Biosciences Building.

“I have done much soul-searching about the right time

to make this transition – the right time for CMU, which will forever hold a special place in my and (my wife) Elizabeth’s hearts,” Ross wrote. “The decision came closer as I realized there is no perfect time for leadership change, because a vibrant, successful university always will be pursuing major initiatives.”

Ross stated much important work will continue through the next six months as CMU breaks ground on the new Center for Integrated Health Studies, completes its search for chief diversity officer, makes decisions with recommendations from the



Courtesy of Steve Jessmore

**George E. Ross (left), president of Central Michigan University, is photographed with Tribal Council Secretary Frank J. Cloutier (right) during the Dec. 15 1:30 p.m. CMU commencement at which Cloutier received an honorary doctorate degree in public service.**

organization review committee and celebrates the launch of the second and largest capital campaign in CMU history.

## Waterpark’s Festival of Trees auction a success

**NICOLE FALK**

Promotions Lead

The Soaring Eagle Waterpark and Hotel’s Festival of Trees auction was a great success this year.

The event included an ideal turnout, great food and many beautifully decorated trees.

The amount of time invested and the vision behind the trees this year was absolutely amazing!

The Soaring Eagle Waterpark and Hotel would like to thank all who participated in both the decorating and the silent auction.

A total of \$1,086 was raised for Andahwod Continuing

Care and Elders Services.

“This donation means so much for the elders who participate in the many activities we offer,” said Gayle Ruhl, senior assisted living administrator for Andahwod. “Activities are important for elders who may have family that work or attend school and cannot visit due to busy schedules. Getting together and socializing with others adds to a person’s quality of life and overall wellbeing.”

The winning decorator was chosen based on who received the highest bid for their decorated tree. However, this year there were two winners!

• Karmyn Revord, Explore Chiropractic

• Sena Hutcheson and Heather Kalil of the sales team for the Soaring Eagle Waterpark and Hotel

Both trees raised \$75.

“Migizi participates in numerous charitable events every year. We are delighted to have earmarked the proceeds from the second annual Festival of Trees for the benefit of Andahwod,” said Migizi



Courtesy of Angelina Davidson

**The Soaring Eagle Waterpark and Hotel’s Festival of Trees donation is delivered to Andahwod on Jan. 24.**

**(Photographed left to right: Gayle Ruhl, assisted living administrator for Andahwod; Migizi CEO Bob Juckniess; Elders Advisory Board Members Carole Tally, Flossie Sprague, Marie Kequom, Barb Sprague, Cynthia Floyd, Kathy Hart and Joseph Sowmick; and Bonnie Sprague, general manager for the Soaring Eagle Waterpark and Hotel.)**

CEO Robert Juckniess. “This worthwhile cause is especially important to Migizi because it is a facility that benefits members of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe.”

Once again, the waterpark said chi-miigwetch for the contribution to this event.

“The Soaring Eagle Waterpark and Hotel is very

passionate about giving back to our own community,” said Bonnie Sprague, general manager for SEWPH. “No matter how great or small the need is, making a donation of any kind puts us in the position to continue our acts of kindness. It’s fulfilling to be able to contribute to our Tribal elders’ program at Andahwod.”



**Mt. Pleasant Indian Industrial Boarding School**

## Committee Vacancies

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

### Committee Meetings

**10 a.m. - 12 p.m. | Ziibiwing**

*Meetings are held every other Wednesday.*



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

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

Email:  
SMcCreery@sagchip.org

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

**Interested committee members need to**

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

**For more information, please contact:**

Sandy McCreery at 989.775.4096 or SMcCreery@sagchip.org



### CALL TO SAGINAW CHIPPEWA ARTISTS:

**Please consider loaning your work to Ziibiwing’s next exhibition with the working title:**

**miikawaadendaagwad (it is beautiful):**

**Artistic Expressions of the Saginaw Chippewa**

**Your artwork will be on display from April 28, 2018 to September 30, 2018.**

**We are seeking contemporary or traditional art, diversified art forms, mixed media, photography, video, writing/prose, etc.**

**DEADLINE TO HAVE YOUR ARTWORK TO THE ZIIBIWING CENTER IS FRIDAY, APRIL 13, 2018**

**For more information, contact Ziibiwing’s Curator William Johnson at (989) 775-4730 or email wjohnson@sagchip.org**



**ZIIBIWING CENTER**  
*of Anishinabe Culture & Lifeways*

THE MIDWEST’S PREMIER AMERICAN INDIAN MUSEUM  
6650 East Broadway, Mt. Pleasant, Michigan 48858  
989.775.4750 • www.sagchip.org/ziibiwing



## State of the Tribe

*continued from front page*

This bill is in reference to nudge machines, or what are viewed as illegal slot machines, that use an exemption in state law to operate in bars, restaurants and veterans halls throughout the state. They are small casino-like businesses that have popped up throughout the state, and our goal is to give authority to the gaming control board to regulate these machines.

We will continue to monitor all on-going state legislation and look to you, the Membership, for support and influence to help us ensure that both our gaming interests are protected and our sovereignty is recognized.

Similar to those issues being monitored at the state level, there are numerous issues that affect all of Indian Country at a national level due to a turnover in federal administration. A handout with in-depth detail on a number of issues is also located on your tables, provided to us from Spirit Rock Consulting.

Key issues include tax reform, health care reform, federal budget and appropriations and the Tribal Labor Sovereignty Act.

Late last year, tax reform was passed through the Senate, but a different version than what was passed in the House. This is important to note as the National Congress of American Indians and the Native American Finance Officers Association are working towards getting tribal provisions included. These provisions include nine different areas that aim to treat tribal governments fairly under the tax code.

In reference to health care reform, we highlight that any bill introduced should preserve the Indian Healthcare Improvement Act or any other tribal provisions of the Affordable Care Act that would have major or direct impacts on the Indian Healthcare System.

Federal budget and appropriations are currently being negotiated, and Congress has yet to pass a fiscal year 2018 federal budget. This is troublesome because there are a number of programs in Indian Country that need to be updated and would be heavily affected if the appropriate attention is not given.

Tribal Labor Sovereignty Act passed the House and is on its way to the Senate. This act regulates labor relations between

employees and private employers. As Indian tribes are sovereign governments, the act was never intended to regulate government employment, and all governments are exempt from the act.

We need support from all of Indian Country and from all of you. Take the time to call a senator and show your support for our Tribal sovereignty. Please contact the Public Relations office if you need assistance or to find out who to contact.

We have several community development projects that are coming up to enhance our Reservation's community.

There is a community pool and campground project in the works. Barry Skutt, director of Utilities, will fill you in on some more details and provide the conceptual designs approved by the previous Council.

The old pool at the hill was in such bad shape but enjoyed a long and memory-filled life.

Tribal Council recognized the pool has been such a valued asset to the community, so they supported the construction of a new pool that will be available to the community for many years to come.

The school and recreation center project is ongoing and is very important to the Tribal Council. This is an investment

into our youth for their education and healthy wellbeing. The facility will also have positive effects on the community as a whole.

The Black Elk expansion, or government complex project, is also continuing to move forward. This new area will bring all of the Tribe's government departments under one roof. The goal is to make those departments, which Tribal Members frequent, more accessible and easier to navigate between.

Our current Tribal Center is badly in need of an update, and this building will provide a much-needed remedy to ongoing infrastructure issues. All of these projects are an investment into our community's wellbeing and an investment into our future generations.

As reported during the previous administration, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan overcharged the Tribe for insurance claims and fees throughout a period of more than 10 years.

The Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe was not the only victim of BCBS. They also defrauded many other entities including other Michigan tribes.

Our Tribe filed a lawsuit in federal court against BCBS seeking return of the funds wrongly charged. The Tribe prevailed in part and received a judgment from the federal district court of \$8.4 million.

The court dismissed the Tribe's remaining claims, so we filed an appeal of that decision with the Federal Court of Appeals. That litigation is still pending, and our Council will continue this fight for the remaining damages caused by BCBS.

The Tribe is also continuing its fight for justice and restitution against Gopi Vungarala and PKS.

As previously reported, Gopi and PKS illegally steered the Tribe's funds to investments not appropriate for the Tribe but for their own personal gain.

The agency responsible for licensing and regulating investors has found that PKS and Gopi's actions violated industry regulations and ordered the return by PKS of \$3 million.

Gopi was also ordered to repay the Tribe for millions of dollars and was banned from trading by the regulatory authority.

The Tribe's lawsuit against Gopi and PKS also continues, and we expect a hearing to be held in the Tribe's case this year. The Council fully supports these litigation efforts.

The fraudulent actions by Gopi and PKS have cost the



Courtesy of Joseph Sowmick

**Youth Council members (left to right) Co-President Kenson Taylor, General Representative Tara Hunt, Treasurer Madison Kennedy-Kequom and Secretary Migizi Wemigwans attend the Jan. 21 State of the Tribe Address.**

Tribe millions, and we will continue to do all we can to hold them accountable.

Dominic Ortiz, chief financial officer, is here and will talk to you about some of the opportunities and challenges the Tribe faces in our finances.

As you all are aware, the Tribe faces significant challenges to our trust funds. We have operated in a deficit for almost a decade.

While we have made changes to our Per Cap distributions, health care costs continue to be a major issue. The Tribal Council is tasked with having to decide on difficult discussions and ultimately making decisions that have impacts on all of us.

We are at a critical crossroad in how our financial future will look. The goal remains to sustain our trusts and make necessary changes to our spending to do so.

The Tribal Council needs your input on how we are going to best navigate these challenges. While we will be tasked with implementing these changes, it is very important that we get Member feedback through out this process.

Before I wrap this up, I want to make a statement about the Tribe's employment opportunities.

The Tribal Council is taking a proactive approach in making sure we hire our own Tribal Members and Tribal preference candidates.

We understand the challenges Members have faced in the past seeking employment with the Tribe, and we want to make a consistent effort to ensure we support our Members going forward.

In closing, I want to take the time to once again say chi-miig-wetch. The opportunity to serve on the Tribal Council has and will remain one of the highest accomplishments of my professional career and in my life.

I want to assure you, the Tribal Membership, you remain the Tribal Council's biggest priority. We have many challenges facing us, but I truly believe that, working together as a collective group, we can attain greatness. It is this Council's privilege to serve you, and we will do our best to make informed decisions for the future of all."



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



## AB Team performs, shares Anishinabe culture for PEAK Afterschool Program

**NATALIE SHATTUCK**

Editor

The Anishnaabe Bimaadziwin (AB) team of the Saginaw Chippewa Academy visited the PEAK Afterschool Program at Pullen Elementary on Tuesday, Jan. 23 and Vowles Elementary on Thursday, Jan. 25 to perform drum songs and teach the young children Anishinabe culture.

The occasion was the result of a request to integrate cultural teachings into the PEAK program from Ryan Longoria, director of recreation and sports for the City of Mt. Pleasant.

“(Longoria) feels it is important to showcase diverse cultures here in mid-Michigan and give all PEAK students the opportunity to learn and ask questions,” said Erik Rodriguez, interim public relations director.



Courtesy of Molli Ferency

**On Jan. 25, the Anishnaabe Bimaadziwin (AB) Team of the Saginaw Chippewa Academy visit the PEAK Afterschool Program at Vowles Elementary, perform songs and teach the Anishinabe culture.**



Courtesy of Molli Ferency

**Nathan Isaac, Ojibwe language teacher at SCA, speaks to the young children at Vowles Elementary on Thursday, Jan. 25.**

## Behavioral Health campaigns to shatter drug and alcohol myths

**NIKI HENRY**

Photographer Journalist

Jan. 22-28 was National Drugs and Alcohol Facts Week, a week that focuses on awareness and exposes the community to science-based facts for the purpose of dispelling myths about the effects of drugs and alcohol.

Behavior Health Programs led the annual campaign

locally through a partnership with Tim Hortons and Sagamok Shell.

Tim Hortons agreed to offer informative coffee sleeves to customers, and Sagamok Shell placed educational stickers on drink cups.

According to Catherine Bouchard, prevention specialist for Behavioral Health, several years ago the Behavioral Health Domestic Violence

team formatted stickers to help raise awareness during Domestic Violence Month.

“So, we had already established a working relationship with Tim Hortons, as they are wonderful supporters of issues that matter,” Bouchard said.

Bouchard described the stickers that were used this year during the facts week, which were similar to the Tim Hortons sleeves.

“The stickers simply have basic statistical information that surround myths and facts in regard to drugs and alcohol,” Bouchard said. “For example, some believe that taking a cold shower or drinking coffee can reverse an alcohol overdose.”

These actions do not work in that way, and Behavioral Health wants to help correct these types of misconceptions.



Courtesy of Carrie Carabell

**An informational sticker provided by Behavioral Health.**

## A guide to submitting articles and letters to the Tribal Observer

**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 via e-mail or 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.



## 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.

### Seeking the following skilled tradesmen:

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

**\*\*Skilled and unskilled labor**



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### Submit a resume to:

**Chip Neyome**  
*Anishinabe Workforce Developer*

- **Email:** [chneyome@sagchip.org](mailto:chneyome@sagchip.org)
- **Phone:** 989.775.0053
- **Fax:** 989.775.5601



**Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan**  
*“Working Together for Our Future”*

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Mount Pleasant, MI 48858  
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[www.sagchip.org](http://www.sagchip.org)

## Recreation Bowling Clinic



Observer photo by Niki Henry

**Angelo Leareaux, age 8, releases his ball during the morning session.**



Observer photo by Niki Henry

**Professional bowler Tom Smallwood (left) offers tips to adult participants before they take to the lanes.**

A bowling clinic was hosted by the Recreation Department at the Riverwood Resort bowling alley on Sunday, Jan. 21. Several youth participated in the morning session, and a large number of adults attended a session later that afternoon.

Pro bowler and PGA champion Tom Smallwood and bowling coach Brian Waliczek were present to offer tips and instruction.



## Editorial: Anishinabe Games Day a fun success at Ziibiwing Center

**ESTHER HELMS**

Graphic Designer

The Ziibiwing Center's first-ever Anishinabe Games Day was held Saturday, Jan. 20 and was both entertaining and enlightening.

In a single room, there was a spectrum of ages, ways of learning and methods of enjoyment. An all-encompassing ribbon of tradition was woven through it all, making the games, the fun and the afternoon uniquely Anishinabe.

Shannon Martin, director for the Ziibiwing Center, spoke about the afternoon of fun that was also a day to inspire creativity.

Martin expressed the importance of protecting the sacred water that surrounds us from environmental harm and disaster.

In introducing Dr. Elizabeth LaPensée, Ph.D., Martin also applauded the use of illustrative ways, such as the game "Thunderbird Strike," to tell the Anishinabe story.

It was a thrill and a pleasure to have Dr. LaPensée (affectionately and respectfully, Dr. Beth) attend and introduce the game.



Courtesy of Esther Helms

(Left to right) Ziibiwing Center Director Shannon Martin, a "Thunderbird Strike" game prize winner Whisper Mandoka and Dr. Elizabeth LaPensée pose for a photo on Saturday, Jan. 20.

LaPensée is an award-winning designer, writer, artist and researcher as well as assistant professor of media and information and writing, rhetoric and American culture at Michigan State University.

While this was not the first video game LaPensée has worked on, it is the first she directed. She was the artist, writer and designer of the game, which was the end product of a two-year labor of love.

In this game, the player directs the movement of a thunderbird as it flies above pipelines and construction sites while shooting lightning bolts at oil company machinery and an oil pipeline. The game included inspiration from cultural stories she heard from her mom and from the community about the very important thunderbird.

While the game takes aim at the environmental threat of oil pipelines, LaPensée says it is not a game about destruction, as some have charged. The bolts

of lightning in the game are also used to bring life and healing to the people and animals while paying respect to the culturally-honored thunderbird.

The game also focuses on raising awareness about the oil industry, advocates for the removal of the Enbridge Line 5 pipeline in the Great Lakes and encourages the support of Mother Earth's health.

LaPensée's 9-year-old son Malcolm was also in attendance. He was the game's first tester and graciously demonstrated how to play the game, which was being shown on large screens at the front of the room.

Cat, LaPensée's daughter, also came along and, despite feeling a little shy at first, was anxious to take her turn to play.

The game was well received by both experienced and new gamers.

Scores ranged from tens of thousands to hundreds of thousands with Whisper Mandoka and Alyx Cadotte taking top score prizes.

The game takes about 15 minutes and can be downloaded free of charge on a smart phone, tablet or pc at [www.thunderbirdstrike.com/about](http://www.thunderbirdstrike.com/about).

The game is a perfect fit for playing while waiting in the grocery line, said LaPensée, who not only designs games but also teaches students how to make them. She plans to have a workshop in East Lansing this spring to do just that.

"Cards Against Colonialism" was also enjoyed as a part of the Anishinabe Games Day. This fun and spirited game was created by Avery Old Coyote, lead game developer at Native Teaching Aids.



Courtesy of Esther Helms

Jason George leads the Moccasin Games during the Ziibiwing Center's Anishinabe Games Day.

Old Coyote designed the game after playing "Cards Against Humanity," which is played roughly the same way. The cards in this game, however, are aimed towards the Indigenous community and utilizes words and actions that previously may have been used in stereotypical or derogatory ways to discuss the North American Indian community and its members.

The hope and intention of the game is to dull the sting from their use by putting them on the table to be looked at, talked about and, hopefully, laughed at.

Last, but not least, Moccasin Games were also played.

Jason George led the game and said he has played for approximately 30 years. This game has long been a part of Anishinabe tradition and is part luck, finesse and psychology.

Despite a fresh ski injury, Gayle Ruhl was there helping explain the game and offering assistance.



Courtesy of Esther Helms

LaPensée's game, "Thunderbird Strike," is shown on the big screen at the Ziibiwing Center.

Domingus Lhano, a foreign exchange student, had no knowledge of the game but was a quick learner, thoroughly enjoying the event and taking home a prize.

In February, look for a collection of artwork by E.I. Couse from Ziibiwing's collections and an Anishinabe Authors' Gathering & Book Fair with featured author, Elizabeth Hoover.

Meet Hoover and hear about her writings and important activities in Indian Country and academia. Both events are free and open to the public. Call (989) 775-4750 or visit [www.sagchip.org/ziibiwing](http://www.sagchip.org/ziibiwing) for more information.



Courtesy of Esther Helms

Young participants play "Thunderbird Strike."

## Editorial: Migizi EDC saw much success in 2017

**FREDRICK KUHLMAN**

Migizi Marketing Manager

At the start of the New Year, Migizi Economic Development Company would like to provide a performance update about its businesses for the Tribal Membership.

Migizi experienced its best year since beginning operation in 2008, with

considerable growth throughout the organization.

The Soaring Eagle Waterpark and Hotel was at the forefront of the growth; however, other Migizi businesses such as Sagamok Mobil Express, Eagle Bay Marina, Waabooz Run Golf Course and Cardinal Pharmacy each saw significant improvement.

CEO Robert Juckniess reported that in 2017, Migizi experienced growth of 769

percent earnings before taxes in comparison to 2016.

Total revenues for the company saw an increase of 6 percent, outpacing the national and local averages in like sectors.

Juckniess said this increase in performance was due to several factors, including real organic growth in operations. The businesses attracted more customers and made more money.

Cost-saving measures were also instituted at all businesses to ensure the operations were run as efficiently as possible, with staffing at appropriate levels and the elimination of waste.

There are still adjustments to be made in attaining the correct level of staffing at each location, and upgrades to equipment and properties will aid in long-term profitability of the operations, Juckniess said.

He went on to say that emphasis on customer service and satisfaction aided in the growth of the businesses and will continue to be a focal point of the organization.

Throughout 2017, upgrades and improvements were made to many properties, with an emphasis on cost controls.

The interior and exterior of Soaring Eagle Waterpark and Hotel received attention, Soaring Eagle Hideaway RV Park saw the addition of basketball and volleyball courts, Saganing Sagamok was rebranded to a Mobil location - which brought a more-favorable distributor agreement - and the road leading to the Eagle Bay Marina and its parking lot was paved.

During 2017, Migizi also focused on the development of Aking Holding LLC by acquiring more residential and agricultural properties and increasing its capacity to perform property services.

Juckniess is concentrating on giving Aking the ability to offer low-cost, affordable housing to Members and employees. For this reason, the acquisition of properties has primarily occurred in the area surrounding the Reservation and in Isabella County. This trend will continue, as Aking is currently developing plans and proposals to increase the number of affordable housing units available.

While Migizi Economic Development Company is pleased with the results of the past year, there is still much work to be done, and opportunities exist for continued growth in each of the operations.

The current year holds many challenges for the company, some out of its control, but confidence is high that 2018 will see Migizi continue in a positive direction.



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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CO.

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# SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3

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

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SATURDAY**

**BINGO**

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**1:30PM & 7PM SESSIONS**

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**DRAWING EACH SESSION**

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## Tribal Police and Fire first responders honored for bravery, quick-thinking

### JOSEPH V. SOWMICK

Healing to Wellness  
Coordinator

Saginaw Chippewa Tribal police officers and Tribal Fire Department personnel were honored for their quick thinking and bravery when responding to emergency situations.

Chief Ronald F. Ekdahl and his fellow Council members honored those first responders in front of more than 400 Tribal Members attending the annual State of the Tribe Address.

On Sunday, Jan. 21 in the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort's Entertainment Hall, Chief Ekdahl took the podium.

Firstly, Ekdahl shared how Officer Jeff Chaprnka and Officer Quinn Yurack began 2018 on New Year's Day by responding to a report of a house fire.

"Once Officer Chaprnka and Officer Yurack were on the scene (of the fire), the officers made contact with Tribal Fire personnel who advised them there was an individual inside the house that they have not been able to get out," Ekdahl said. "Officer Chaprnka and Officer Yurack, without hesitation, offered to enter the burning residence with Tribal Fire to assist in getting the individual out of the home."

Ekdahl continued, "Both officers selflessly entered the residence and assisted in getting the individual out to safety. On behalf of our entire community, we are very proud of these officers and their life-saving actions."

Tribal Police Officer Killian Frisch was also awarded for his bravery during a separate emergency.

Ekdahl presented Frisch with the recognition of National Native American Law Enforcement Association 2017 Officer of the Year.

On Dec. 9, 2016, Frisch was conducting business in the Black Elk (HR) building. As he was leaving the building, an



Courtesy of Joseph Sowmick

**Tribal Fire Chief Fred Cantu (far left) stands with fellow firefighters Brian Kelly, Ryan Chippeway and Alex Cook (pictured left to right) as they are honored during the Jan. 21 State of the Tribe Address.**

employee flagged him down and said there was another employee on the floor and not breathing.

"Officer Frisch arrived to the location and found the employee in full cardiac arrest with another employee rendering medical aid," Ekdahl said. "Officer Frisch performed CPR and called for additional medical assistance. Officer Frisch assisted Tribal Fire in providing medical assistance as well as going with the employee in the ambulance to provide additional assistance to MMR (Mobile Medical Response)."

Ekdahl said Frisch is also a licensed EMT.

"Officer Frisch executed his duties as a police officer in an honorable way to assist in saving the life of another individual," Ekdahl said. "For his actions, Officer Frisch was awarded the National Native American Law Enforcement Association 2017 Officer of the Year. We are very proud to present Officer Frisch with this national award at the State of the Tribe Address."

Frisch said he was honored to receive the national award.

"I happened to be in the right place at the right time; I am just thankful that the person who had the medical emergency was able to make a full recovery," Frisch said. "It was definitely a team effort with Tribal Fire, MMR and other Tribal police officers. Working as a team definitely helped save the person's life."

Frisch said he has been a Tribal police officer for one and a half years, and, prior to becoming a police officer, he worked for MMR for approximately three years.

Donielle Bannon, chief of police for the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Police, said the officers have all remained humble regarding their awards.

"They all have made mention that, although they are much honored to receive their awards, they feel they were just doing what they do to keep the community safe. Each one of the officers expressed gratitude for the recognition," Bannon said. "I am very proud of them. Each and every day these officers and many others, put on a Tribal Police uniform and go out to protect the community, often putting others safety above their own."

Bannon said she was grateful to Ekdahl and Tribal Council for taking the time to recognize the officers and that it was "a very special occasion."

Ekdahl also recognized on the morning of Jan. 1, 2018, Fire Sgt. Brian Kelly and firefighters Ryan Chippewa and Alex Cook who responded to a structure fire on Ogemaw Drive.

"With smoke coming from the residence, it was reported to Sgt. Kelly that one subject was still in the residence. At that time, Sgt. Kelly made entry into the structure to assist the subject out of the structure but was unsuccessful with the first attempt," Ekdahl said. "Without an air pack on, Sgt. Kelly had to leave the structure due to the smoke-filled environment.



Courtesy of Joseph Sowmick

**(Left to right) Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Police Officers Quinn Yurack, Jeff Chaprnka and Killian Frisch receive recognition awards and are joined by Chief of Police Donielle Bannon.**

On the second attempt, Sgt. Kelly, with the assistance of two Tribal police officers and Firefighter Cook, re-entered the structure and successfully removed the subject out the front doors of the structure."

Ekdahl applauded the acts of courage the first responders performed when entering the burning structure.

"They acted out of bravery, with no regards to their own lives, to save the life of another, and we thank them today for this courageous act," Ekdahl said. "There are times that being a firefighter is a thankless job, but, when the alarms go out, there is no hesitation on their part to go and get the job done and to help the community that they serve."

Kelly thanked the Tribal Council and Tribal Members in attendance for the recognition.

"It is an honor to serve the Tribe and community as a firefighter," Kelly said. "Becoming a firefighter is something that I had wanted to do ever since I was a child. Growing up, my dad was a firefighter for our local community (Hermansville, Mich.), and our fire department was across the street from my house. When the fire alarm would go off, I would rush to the window to see the fire trucks go out; and, when they had training, I would go just to ride in the fire trucks."

Kelly said when he was 16 years old he became a member of Meyer Township Fire Department and was able to go on fires when he was not in school. That is when his career began.

When Kelly turned 18 years old, he left his

community to move to Mount Pleasant in 1987.

"In 1991, after several years being off the fire department, I joined Shepherd Tri-Township Fire Department as a paid on-call firefighter. I was on there several years until I got the opportunity in 1997 to become a full-time firefighter for the Tribe, and 20 years later I am still working here," Kelly said. "Being a firefighter is a great honor, and there is nothing more in the world I would want to do, and that is to help people out in the time of need."

Tribal Fire Chief Fred Cantu commended the bravery shown.

"It is with great admiration to know that this community has such brave men and women that would be willing to sacrifice their own personnel safety for the lives of others in our community," Cantu said. "As firefighters, you hear or read articles of acts of bravery from other agencies within the State of Michigan or from other parts of the United States and think, 'What would I do if I was placed in a situation?'" Cantu said this is why firefighters train and continue training for situations such as this.

"We never know what each incident will bring, and so we train our personnel that not every emergency scene is the same, and, at moment's notice, you may be putting your life on the line to save another that you don't even know," Cantu said. "I believe the uniqueness of being a firefighter is knowing that your actions can and will make a difference in the people we interact with in the community periodically."

### Attention SCIT college students

Please follow the link below to access some amazing scholarship opportunities. We encourage you to apply for as many as possible!

**[www.cmich.edu/office\\_provost/OID/NAP/Pages/Scholarships.aspx](http://www.cmich.edu/office_provost/OID/NAP/Pages/Scholarships.aspx)**

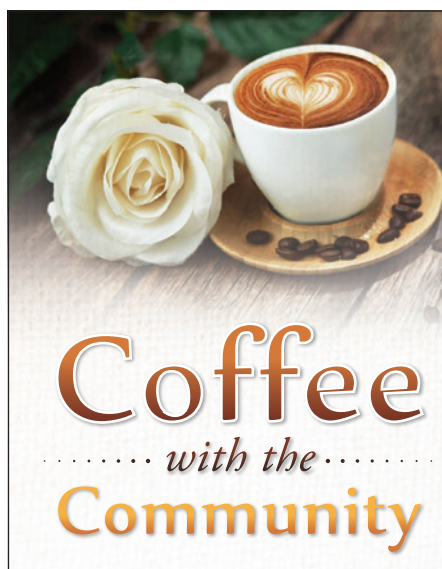
- Native American Scholastic Award deadline: March 1
- Native American Advancement Award deadline: May 1

**For more information, please contact:**

**Sharon Skutt**

989.775.4505 or [SSkutt@sagchip.org](mailto:sskutt@sagchip.org)

Please let us know if you have any questions, need assistance with the applications or if you would like information regarding any of the Saginaw Chippewa Higher Education Programs.



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

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

**Free Offer**

**To schedule your session:**

**Taylor Brook**

- Phone: 989.775.4162
- E-mail: [TBrook@sagchip.org](mailto:TBrook@sagchip.org)

**Kellie Henige**

- Phone: 989.775.4065
- E-mail: [KHenige@sagchip.org](mailto:KHenige@sagchip.org)

**Planning Department**

2451 Nish Na Be Anong, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858



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| flower      | waabigan         |
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Anishinaabemowin

WORD SEARCH

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WHERE on the REZ?

Do you know where this is?

Answer the puzzle correctly by Feb. 15.

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 or call 989.775.4010.

LAST MONTH:

Tribal Operations

January winner:

No winner

Art Reach of Mid Michigan calls for artist submissions

Art Reach of Mid Michigan currently has two calls for artist submissions.

First, the Festival of Banners, in its 10th year, has the theme of “It All Starts with Art.”

All artists over the age of 8 are invited to submit a banner proposal.

The banners will be displayed throughout Isabella County this year from June to November. Youth under the age of 18 and seniors over age 65 are not required to pay a fee to participate.

The deadline for submissions is Feb. 13.

Art Reach will host a juried climate change exhibit and competition April 4-28.

Art Reach will be collaborating with area organizations to feature poetry readings, events and exhibits about the mounting issue of climate change and other related topics.

The deadline for submissions is Feb. 16.

Complete details about the Festival of Banners and the Climate Change exhibit are available at [www.artreachcenter.org](http://www.artreachcenter.org) or through visiting Art Reach at 111 E. Broadway.

“The Festival of Banners is a truly collaborative program, involving over 150 school-aged children every year,” said Amy C. Powell, executive director.

“We’re proud to offer this opportunity to all artists, and especially for the youth. In regards to the Climate Change exhibit, we’re excited to give artists a way to showcase climate change through various mediums and hopefully effect change.”

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

Founded in 1981, Art Reach of Mid Michigan is dedicated to fostering the arts and bringing better understanding and enjoyment of them to the mid-Michigan community.

Art Reach activities are supported, in part, by the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts and the community.

Concessions - 50/50 - Raffles - Dancing & World Class Singing

2018

SAGINAW CHIPPEWA ROUND DANCE

March 9th & 10th

Emcee:

Daryl Wright

Rocky Boy, MT

Stickman:

Joe Syrette

Batchewana, ON

This is the 11th Annual Saginaw Chippewa Round Dance and it promises to be one of the best yet! World Class singers from across Turtle Island will bring their gift of song to uplift your spirits and get you on the dance floor!

EVERYONE WELCOME

FREE ADMISSION

ALL SINGERS ACKNOWLEDGED

Ribbon Skirts/Shirts and moccasins encouraged

For more info:

Sag. Chip. Academy

(989)775-4453

Call Mon-Fri, 8am-5pm

Location:

Tribal Gym

7070 E. Broadway

Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

Friday

6:30pm Doors Open

7:00pm Round Dance

8:00pm Student Honoring

12:00am Closing

Saturday

4:00pm Doors Open

5:00pm Pipe Ceremony & Feast

7:00pm Round Dance

11:30pm Memorial

12:00am Midnight Lunch

1:30am Raffles & Drawings

3:00am Closing

Invited Singers:

Rocky Morin

Kenny Merrick Jr.

John Syrette

Hunter Blassingame

Marcus Denny

Kino Pyawasit

Mike Sullivan

Cheevers Toppah

Jordan Mowat

Kyle BigCanoe

Brendon Harvey

Fat N Furious

Regina, Saskatchewan

TC Crew

Twin Cities, Minnesota

2017 World Hand Drum Champion

Nathan Rikishi Pelly

Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan

"Working Together for Our Future"

All children must be accompanied by an adult. Unsupervised children will be reported to the proper authorities. No drugs, alcohol or persons under the influence permitted.

2018 Sports Boosters Winter Auction

Feb. 24 | 5 - 10:30 p.m. | CMU Finch Fieldhouse

(Open to adults 18 & over)

Each year the Sports Boosters provide support for the student athletes at both Mt. Pleasant Middle School and Mt. Pleasant High School.

For the 2015-16 school year, they spent more than \$126,000 to meet athletic needs. The support they provide to the student athletes comes in the form of organizing events and paying for uniforms, equipment, scholarships and so much more.

There are two main fundraisers held each year. The Winter Auction takes place at Central Michigan University's Finch Fieldhouse and includes dinner, a DJ, dancing, a silent auction, live auction and raffles. Tickets are \$30 per person.

Tables for 10 people can be reserved and labeled with a name for those who will be seated there. Drink tickets are also available for purchase.

For more information, please check out the Facebook page, Mt. Pleasant Oiler Athletic Boosters, or visit its website at [www.oilerboosters.com](http://www.oilerboosters.com). Questions can be sent to [oilerboosters@gmail.com](mailto:oilerboosters@gmail.com).

\$10.00 for one song

Proceeds Support SCA Cultural Programming

\$20 for 1 song + a CD

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-Boss

-Husband, Wife

-Sweet Heart

Deliveries Wednesday 02/14/18 \$45-\$60

Round Dance singers will sweetly serenade your unsuspecting Round Dance Gram recipient and gift them a sweet song!

Please Purchase by Friday (02/09/18)

-SCA Front Desk 8am-5pm

or

Contact: AB Team (989)775-4453

cstevens@sagchip.org, jday@sagchip.org

Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan

"Working Together for Our Future"

Servicing Tribal Ops departments



## Workshop participants craft cedar boxes to store sacred items

**NIKI HENRY**

Photographer Journalist

A full house of participants crafted cedar boxes at a workshop led by Benedict Hinmon, cultural representative, at Seventh Generation the evenings of Jan. 17 and 18.

The beautiful 24-by-8-by-40 inch boxes were each uniquely decorated by workshop attendees and are generally used, according to Hinmon, to store items such

as eagle feathers, pipes, medicines or personal items.

“Cedar is one of the four sacred medicines used in a variety of ceremonies for healing, blessing, protection and purification,” Hinmon said. “Of the four medicines, it is the most widely used in ceremonies, right beside tobacco.” This makes it the perfect material for a box in which to store sacred items.

The workshop was made possible through the Seventh Generation Program.



Observer photo by Niki Henry

**On Thursday, Jan. 18, Guadalupe Gonzalez (left) and Dana Kequom Neyome (right) work on cedar boxes at the workshop sponsored by the Seventh Generation Program.**



Observer photo by Niki Henry

**Workshop participants Daisy Kostus (left) and Shirley Houle (right) take a break from oiling their boxes to pose for a photo.**

## Two Saginaw Chippewa youth selected for Sundance film fellowship

**NATALIE SHATTUCK**

Editor

Two Saginaw Chippewa youth have been selected for the Sundance Institute’s Full Circle Fellowship Program, a year-long program for 18 to 24-year-old Native filmmakers from Michigan and New Mexico.

The fellowship launched at the Sundance Film Festival, Jan. 18-28, in Park City, Utah.

The fellows – Nicholas Sowmick (18) and Joseph Ernest Wemigwans (18) – received an immersive experience in the world of independent film and attended screenings, participated in guided film discussions and connected with leaders of the Indigenous film community.

The fellowship focuses on developing Native youth filmmakers through workshops and training opportunities and links talented young storytellers to education and career pathways across fields of independent filmmaking, using structural strategies with which Native



Courtesy of Nicholas Sowmick

**The two fellowship recipients, Nicholas Sowmick (left) and Joseph Wemigwans (right), pose for a photo during the Sundance Film Festival in Utah.**

communities heal by telling their own stories.

Sowmick, a Beal City High School student, attended the film festival Jan. 21-26.

“Ever since I was a child, I’ve always wanted to make movies,” Sowmick said. “I would ask my parents every day if we could stop and see a movie, and usually, 45 to 50 percent of the time, we would.”

“Now that I’ve gotten older, I’ve been more interested in what happens behind the scenes, especially the editing and sound design, but I wouldn’t have a problem directing or acting,” Sowmick said. “I’ve done both, and I take enjoyment out of it, even if it’s stressful.”

Sowmick said his interest was piqued by the sheer amount of filmmakers who got their start at Sundance.

“Some names to mention are Quentin Tarantino (‘Kill Bill,’ ‘Pulp Fiction’), Rian Johnson (‘Looper,’ ‘Star Wars: The Last Jedi’) and Taika Waititi (‘Thor: Ragnarok’),” Sowmick said. “The film list is almost endless, too, with films such as ‘Napoleon Dynamite,’ ‘Little Miss Sunshine,’ ‘Mudblood’ and ‘Reservoir Dogs’ making their debut there. The legacy behind the Sundance Institute is stunning,

and I’m blown away with the fact that they picked me and Joseph to be a part of it!”

The Sundance Native team has visited and presented programs at the Ziibiwing Center for several years, and that has contributed to the increase of interest in the fellowship program and also resulted in the increase of applications from youth in Michigan.

It was through one of the Ziibiwing Center visits that Wemigwans said he became interested further in filmmaking.

“I never knew Sundance did such a program, and I loved how they helped our people and let us free our creative minds,” Wemigwans said.

Wemigwans said he has loved films all of his life and paying close attention to the details of how they are crafted, especially.

“I do want to pursue (filmmaking),” Wemigwans said. “I will gladly use what was taught to me for any of my future projects that me and my friends have in mind.”

Other Full Circle Fellowship recipients include recent Michigan State University graduate Kaitlin Lenhard (Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians) and Mandolin Eisenberg (Taos Pueblo), current University of New Mexico student.

The fellowship program began in 2014 with support from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

Following Sundance President and Founder Robert Redford’s original vision, Sundance Institute has remained committed to supporting Native American artists throughout the Institute’s history. This support has established a rich legacy of work and has backed more than 300 filmmakers through labs, grants, mentorships, public programs and the platform of the festival.

The Native American and Indigenous Program has a global focus and, through its work, strengthens Indigenous cinema.

Filmmakers supported over the years include the following: Sterlin Harjo (Seminole/Muskogee), Taika Waititi (Te Whānau-ā-Apanui), Billy Luther (Diné/Hopi/Laguna Pueblo), Andrew Okpeaha MacLean (Iñupiaq), Aurora Guerrero (Xicana), Sydney Freeland (Diné), Ciara Leina’ala Lacy (Kanaka Maoli), Lyle Mitchell Corbine Jr. (Bad River Band of the Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians) and Shaandiin Tome (Diné).

Eight Indigenous-made films premiered at this year’s festival.

Also shown was a special 20th anniversary archive screening of “Smoke Signals,” directed by Chris Eyre (Cheyenne/Arapaho) with the screenplay by Sherman Alexie (Spokane/Coeur d’Alene).

# WearRED

*Fit & Fashion Night*

## Tuesday, Feb. 13, 2018

5:30 - 8 p.m. | SECR Ballroom

You are invited to dinner and an evening out, sporting whatever red you are comfortable in. This night is all about the red to be mindful of the importance of heart health. *Our first teacher is our own heart. – Cheyenne*

**Get involved in the movement...**

**Do you have a hobby or activity that keeps you moving?**

**1** Email a photo or video of you being active wearing red. Involve your friends/families/pets; think active and red. *(Submitted photos and videos will be shown at the event.)*

**-or-**

**2** Register (contact Brandon Schultz) to be on stage the night of the event to entertain those in attendance with your best runway walk, or show off your favorite way(s) to be active.

**For more information, please contact:**  
Brandon Schultz at 989.775.4663 or bschultz@sagchip.org

## SAVE THE DATE:

# 29th Annual “Celebrating Life” Pow wow

## March 17-18, 2018

CMU is an AA/EO institution, providing equal opportunity to all persons, including minorities, females, veterans and individuals with disabilities (see cmich.edu/ocrie).

**FEB**  
**16,17**



## The Price Is Right

Entertainment Hall

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Two shows per day plus VIP packages available, visit [soaringeaglecasino.com](http://soaringeaglecasino.com) for details

**FEB**  
**23,24**



## Amsoil Championship Snocross Series

8PM

Prices start at \$25

Day and weekend passes available

**MAR**  
**1&2**



## Theresa Caputo

Entertainment Hall | 8PM

Prices start at \$34

**MAR**  
**17**



## St. Paddy's Day Bash

Free Event: Live performance at 9PM from STONE CLOVERS and a free Cornhole Tournament

**MAR**  
**31**



## Dane Cook

Entertainment Hall | 8PM

Prices start at \$72

**APR**  
**13**



## Charley Pride

Entertainment Hall | 8PM

Prices TBD

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FRIDAYS, FEBRUARY 2, 9, 16 & 23

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Be the perfect matchmaker with the Perfect Match Game!  
Members have a chance to earn cash prizes by matching cards.  
Join us and test your memory skills for cash!



**Swipe Ripe Slot Tournament**

Join us Saturdays in February 2:00-8:00PM

Earn 600 points beginning at 10AM for a chance to participate in the tournaments. The Top 3 Scores of the week win up to \$500 in cash!

At Sagaming Eagles Landing Casino



**Ready Set Lunch**

Join us Sundays in February 8:00AM-10:00PM

First 1,000 guests who earn 600 points win a  
Free Lunch Accessory!

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A shower of surface and drinking water information follows water ceremony

NIKI HENRY

Photographer Journalist

After the bi-monthly Elders Breakfast at Andahwod Continuing Care and Elder Services, elders, Tribal Members and the community were invited to participate in a water ceremony that took place in the building's center circle.

Participants were also welcomed to listen to presentations provided by the Planning Department's Environmental Team and by a representative from the Utilities department.

The event began after 10 a.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 10 with Taylor Brook, watershed outreach coordinator, welcoming participants and inviting Wabanaisee (Snowbird) Singer Daisy Kostus to open with a prayer.

Steve Pego, helping healer for Behavioral Health, then greeted the crowd in Anishinaabemowin and explained women sing during the ceremony to draw down water from the river that flows forever in the third realm.

"That water that comes from the third realm is healing," Pego said, explaining it can cleanse the pollution in Mother Earth's rivers and lakes.



Observer photo by Niki Henry

**Wabanaisee (Snowbird) Singer Roxann Sawade smudges ceremonial materials to prepare them for the water ceremony at Andahwod on Wednesday, Jan. 10.**

Following Pego's introduction, the Wabanaisee sang and passed out water to event attendees.

After the ceremony, Brook explained why drinking and surface waters should be protected, what her department is doing regarding water quality and what community members can do to join the effort to prevent and eliminate water pollution.

"Our water program monitors Tribal waters and tries



Observer photo by Niki Henry

**Snowbird Judy Scheuffele distributes water to event attendees with the help of fellow Wabanaisee singers.**

to address problems that we find through that monitoring," Brook said, explaining that her department works with land owners and other agencies to resolve the issues.

"We monitor for several different reasons – mostly to protect the community from health concerns and to identify and improve those issues," Brook said. "The programs that we run are equal to the programs the state runs, so we work together."

Brook explained which waters her team examines and

what it assesses in the water, noting that E. coli is the most well-known element monitored.

She also said that a source-tracking study of the north branch of the Chippewa River that used canines and DNA analysis revealed that the E. coli bacteria in that water comes mainly from human sources.

"So, we know there are a lot of leaking or failing septic systems in the area," she said, explaining that measures are being taken to change the situation.

"Isabella County just passed an ordinance to do point-of-sale inspections on houses," Brook said, "so, anytime somebody goes to sell their house, they will have to make sure the septic is inspected and working properly."

Brook said this ordinance should help reduce the amount of E. coli in the river.

The Planning Department's water quality staff has resources available for anyone interested in learning more about protecting water sources and reducing surface water pollution.



Observer photo by Niki Henry

**After the water ceremony, Taylor Brook (front), watershed outreach coordinator for the Planning Department's Environmental Team, presents information about how the department helps protect drinking and surface waters while Marshall Jackson (back), water operator at the Utilities/Water Treatment Plant, waits to address the crowd.**

Additionally, information can be obtained from the Utilities department.

After explaining the SCIT water system and filtering processes in detail, Marshall Jackson, water operator at the Utilities/Water Treatment Plant, said tours of the plant are available for interested parties, as are educational brochures for Members who want to learn more about their drinking water.

Public input request: Tribal Water Program engagement strategies

TAYLOR BROOK

Watershed Outreach Coordinator

The watershed outreach coordinator position with the Tribe's Environmental Team was new in December 2015.

Two community engagement strategies have been drafted as a way to give the program structure and direction and to help identify goals.

These strategies are an important deliverable for the Tribe's Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Grant that funds this position,

and they will be released to state, federal and local agencies. It is our intention that these strategies will be adopted by Tribal Council for implementation. They will be used to build programs and obtain future funding.

The purpose of the Tribal community engagement strategy

is to engage other Tribal departments, boards, councils and programs to increase collaboration about the protection and restoration of water resources; to educate the Tribal community about water resource topics; to gather information about environmental priorities; and to bring cultural knowledge into the department. This will allow the environmental team to make more informed decisions that better represent the community's values and priorities.

This strategy has been reviewed by a handful of Tribal departments/boards.

The purpose of the external community engagement strategy is to identify priority partners (external to the SCIT) for restoration projects and water resource outreach and to outline activities for achieving water quality goals. This strategy has been reviewed by external partner agencies, and comments have been incorporated. Both strategies will be

reviewed by a broader audience though this process.

In order to ensure we can serve the Tribal community to the best of our ability, it is important these community engagement strategies are framed by the priorities and goals of the community.

It is with this idea in mind I am requesting comments from the Tribal community about the strategies.

A link to these strategies can be found on the Tribal Member website on the Planning Department, Environmental Team, water quality page (near the bottom). It has also been distributed through the Tribal Ops Announcements email list.

Please call (989) 775-4162 or email [tbrook@sagchip.org](mailto:tbrook@sagchip.org) for more information or to request hard copies of the strategies.

The deadline for comments is Friday, Feb. 16.

Thank you in advance for your time; I look forward to incorporating any comments.

**Adopt a Pet**

**Poppy**



Hi, friend! What am I, you ask? Well, I'm a little bit of everything; my caregivers refer to me as a beautiful little mutt. My name is Poppy, and I'm in search of a forever family. I don't mind well-mannered children and some dogs, but I do need a feline-free home. I'm a 6-year-old female.

**Sparkle**



Meet Sparkle, a 1-year-old Domestic Shorthair mix. Sparkle is a small female who will have been with the Humane Animal Treatment Society for one year on Feb. 21. She is looking for her forever home! Feel free to stop in and meet her today.

**Available at: The Humane Animal Treatment Society**

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

**Humane Animal Treatment Society Wish List**

Please drop off during business hours: Monday - Friday 9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

- Bleach wipes
- Laundry detergent
- Paper towels

- Cat/kitten wet food
- Dog/puppy wet food
- Pet carriers (small/medium)

- Soft dog treats
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- Cat litter

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## Michigan Indian Elders Association 2018 scholarship notice

The Michigan Indian Elders Association (MIEA) is pleased to announce it will award four \$1,000 scholarships and six \$500 scholarships.

The scholarships will be awarded to at least nine qualified students, with the \$1,000 scholarships being awarded to the top three qualified students, as determined by committee review and lottery, if necessary.

**Each student must currently be enrolled in a course of study at, or have a letter of acceptance from, a public college or university or technical school and must meet the following qualifications:**

- Must be an enrolled tribal member (with a tribal card) or a direct descendant of an enrolled member of one of the MIEA constituent tribes/bands. (This must be verified in writing by the tribe's enrollment department.)

- Must have successfully completed and passed all five General Education Development (GED) equivalency tests with a minimum score of 40 and an average score of 45 and must possess a GED certificate; or must have graduated from an accredited high school with a 3.00 GPA; or, if currently enrolled at a college, university or trade school, must have an accumulated 3.00 GPA.

- Must, except for special and extenuating circumstances, attend college, university or trade school on a full-time basis.

- Must complete the provided application form and submit it with required supporting documentation, and the mailing must be received by the coordinator, postmarked no later than June 15. (Please note: Incomplete or late applications will not be considered.)

An application form can be downloaded from [michiganindianelders.org](http://michiganindianelders.org).

The application can also be obtained from the tribal education department of each of the constituent tribes/bands.

**Student Incentive Program 2017/18:** A Student Incentive Program is being offered by MIEA to recognize students who achieve all A's during a marking period as well as students who achieve perfect attendance for a marking period.

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

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

**Students must meet the following qualifications:**

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

- The student must be in grades 1-12 at a public or private school. (Home schooled students are not eligible.)

- A student must be in grades 4-12 to qualify for the straight A award (which includes A-, A and A+).

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

- The first two marking periods only of the 2017/2018 school year will be used to determine the winners if a lottery ensues.

- A student can qualify for both the perfect attendance and straight A's awards for both marking periods. For example, straight A's and perfect attendance for both marking periods would mean four chances to win.

Please submit the following items to qualify for an award:

- A completed Student Incentive Program Application Form, signed by a parent of the student

- A copy of the child's report card, signed by the parent, or a letter from an administrator of the student's school to verify the achievement of straight A's and perfect attendance

- A copy of student's or parent's tribal identification card

The drawing to determine the winners will be held at the April 2018 Conference of the Michigan Indian Elders Association.

Please follow these directions for the child to be considered for an award.

The completed application form, a signed report card or verification letter of achievement from a school administrator and copy of the student's or parent's tribal identification card must be received or postmarked no later than March 15.

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

**Please send the aforementioned documents to:**

LeAnn Stindt  
103 Big Bear Road  
Iron River, MI 49935

## Editorial: Mt. Pleasant Middle School adjustments, upcoming events

**GLORIA MULBRECHT**

Student Support Tutor

With all the changes that happened this year at Mt. Pleasant Middle School, the students have adjusted well.

The sixth graders faced one of the biggest changes, acclimating to moving throughout the building. The students went from having one main teacher to having seven teachers and

being responsible for getting to each class on time and being prepared for that class.

With help from the seventh and eighth graders, the sixth graders are now doing great.

Upcoming cultural events at the middle school: a monthly Talking Circle with some of the Saginaw Chippewa Academy cultural staff and a beading class for students who want to learn how to bead.

### Vowles

**The following students earned perfect attendance for December:** Aliana Lerma, Giovanni Pelcher, Miles Davis, Caleb Howard, Kaden Kjolhede, Cannon Thomason, Landon Pelcher-Harless and Aanilaya Pelcher.

### Mary McGuire

**The following students earned perfect attendance for December:** Nikodin Davis, Isaiah Rodriguez, Cruz Vaquera, Trevor Isham, Kashmir Hatlak, Ogininhs Zerbe, Ellie Patterson, Auriah Hunter, Bailey Burger, Ryan Flaughter and Jonathan Martinez.

### Ganiard

**The following students earned perfect attendance for December:** Angela Peck, David Bennett, Morgan Pelcher, Hailey Cozzie, Jay Foster-Fleming, Ahkario Gibbs, Annabelle Hart, Caleb Sprague, Jaidyn Barnes, Mya Osawabine, Jayden Pope, Ava Vogel, Analeigha Gibbs, Dehmin Kahgagab, Kollin Martin and Ethan Reed.

### Beal City

**The following students earned perfect attendance for December:** Bryant Prout, McKenzie Gardner, Skylur Graveratte, Zachary Meyers, Mattie Seger, Cierra Seger and Hunner Seger.

### Fancher

**The following students earned perfect attendance for December:** Aolani Gibbs, Ian Martin, Maisie Mena, Theya Morales, Miah Perez, Andrea Hawkins, Aviana Gomez, Nadia Mills, Zamiah Marshall, Leonard Pamp-Ettinger, Ringo Stevens, Metao Harris, Gabriela Escobedo, Anthony King, Mia McCreery, LahRae Wilson, Darien Haggard, Tiara Osawabine, Jardina White-Eye and Foster Horman.

### Renaissance

**The following students earned perfect attendance for December:** Richard McClain, Gracie Flores, Bryson Roth, Allana VanOrden, Jacob Delacruz, Jennifer Delacruz, Jadrian Jackson, David McClain, Emma Henry, Isaiah Otto-Powers, Syriana Smith, Jayne Starkey, Richard Delacruz, Oscar Smith, Tierra Ash, Brysen Chamberlain-Fish, Sabashion Davis, Cordelia McDaniel, Elijah Otto-Powers and Kayana Pope.

### Pullen

**The following students earned perfect attendance for December:** Charlee Lewis, Alonso Mendez, Aakodewin Prout, Xavier Alvarez, Abbie Patterson, Tru Quigno-Vaugh, Davonte Rogers, Lakiah Vertz, Sereniti Cole, Heath Jackson-Hofer, Gnaajwi Pego, A'shanique Traver, Johnny Vertz, Micah Wagner, Braeden Bennett, Leticia Hawkins, Alex Hinmon, Madison Isham, Angelo Leasureaux, Donovan Morrow, Armando Quiroz, Miguel Chippeway and Isaiah Perrin-Hawkins.

### Shepherd

**The following elementary students earned perfect attendance for December:** Chayton Chatfield, Eyhana Feliciano, Lakota Jackson, Jayden Jackson-Taylor, Ellery Lawson, Dan Mena, Lyric Owl, Ethan Pigeon, Layla Pigeon, Aiden Raphael, Aanzhenii Starkey, Aubreyanna Stevens, Alex Taylor and Benjamin Tatro. **Middle School:** Neveah Badger, Foster Crampton, Alize Jackson, Olivia Lawson, Malayla Marko, Sarah Osawabine, Mana Pelcher, Andee Raphael, Adam Saboo, Angelina Smith, Miingin Starkey, Alexis Taylor and LaAnna Trudeau. **High School:** Nijii Batcher, Christina Benz, Sienna Chatfield, Zack Lezan, Uriah Main, Damien Martinez, Dia Niezgoda, Jordan Seegraves and Emma VanHorn. **Odyssey:** Akima Alaniz and Guadalupe Pelcher.

## Attention: All SCIT higher education students

### Grade Reports Deadline

**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 your file is complete, as it will cause a delay in processing if it is not.

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# A record number of students enroll in SCTC spring semester

## SCTC STAFF

On Jan. 8, the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College began the spring semester with a record number of students enrolled in courses. Established in 1998, SCTC has continued to be a place where people from the

community can come, regardless of their past academic history, to find their footing to work towards their personal and educational goals. This perseverance, by both the staff and the students, has ushered in the college’s modern era – one that appears to be set towards growth as more and more members

begin to realize the importance of education. SCTC is also poised to graduate its largest-ever class this upcoming May. In addition to the nearly 200 individuals who signed up for spring college-level courses, SCTC also has approximately 60 students working on their GED credential.

Now in its second semester of operation, after the initial pilot successfully helped nine individuals earn their GED, SCTC has high hopes for the program. “The idea is that, hopefully, people who come here for GED will choose to remain after earning their credential and transition to

college level courses. We permit students without a GED to register concurrently for a limited number of college-level credits while earning their GED, with an eye on reducing the time-burden on a student who knows that they want to move beyond GED,” said Nathan Lambertson, dean of students.

# SCTC student poetry from the Pop Culture - Star Wars class

*(Editor’s note: The following are poems written by SCTC students in Nina Knight’s HUM 230 Pop Culture – Star Wars class, a Humanities elective.)*

## Deanna Campbell

Rey, Finn and Poe  
Han with his blaster  
Chewie with his bow  
With many nods and winks  
And most importantly  
No sign of Jar Jar Binks

## Alan Vasquez

I’m a fan of the original Star Wars  
The real Episode 1  
It’s got good guys  
Bad guys  
Robots and not one but two suns  
Imagine if Vader was your Dad?  
Could you forgive Him for his wrongs,  
even after he cut off your hand?  
With the help of some teddy bears the  
rebels brought the Empire to its knees  
The kids love it  
Their parents said, “Oh please.”



Courtesy of Nina Knight

SCTC students dress up as Star Wars characters for Nina Knight’s American Pop Culture – Star Wars class.

## Santino Medina

Anakin Skywalker let fear drive him mad  
He once was good then he turned bad  
Luke and Leia had been born  
Unfortunately, apart they were torn  
Then, Padme died from a broken heart  
You can say she was doomed from the start  
They had no idea that they would meet one day  
Until Darth Vader took Leia away  
She was rescued by Han Solo and Luke  
Most will say their reunion was a fluke  
Luke had a thing for Leia which was twisted  
Since, they didn’t know their  
blood-relationship existed

## Alex Leasureaux

**The Force**  
The force is all around you!  
It’s to the right of you!  
It’s to the left of you!  
Its strength can overwhelm you!  
Its strength can enlighten you!  
Dig deep within yourself!  
The force is strong with you!  
Feel it!  
As Yoda would say,  
“Your mind you open  
And powerful you will become!”

## Liz Trasky

It all began,  
At the last breath of their mother.  
Two little children,  
Forced from one another.  
Sent across the galaxy,  
In hopes of protection.  
From the dark side influence  
And any other detection.  
  
But strong the force was,  
In this little farmer boy.  
An adventurous soul,  
With much to enjoy.  
But often he stopped and stared at  
the two suns,  
Wondering for his future of what he  
would become.

## Sam Anglin

Mom said “Don’t look back”  
And I shouldn’t have  
Would Padme still be alive?  
If I hadn’t broken her heart?  
She said, “Don’t look back” So I won’t  
Now there’s only Darth

# SCTC and Behavioral Health collaborate to lead a discussion about addiction

## NATALIE SHATTUCK

Editor

During National Drug Facts Week (Jan. 22-28), the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College and Behavioral Health Programs collaborated for a Lunch & Learn event. The Monday, Jan. 22 event at noon generated a full classroom in the SCTC West Building. SCTC Student Council President Trisha Trasky and Carrie Carabell, leadership apprentice for Behavioral Health, provided welcoming remarks. The two then introduced Dianna Chipp, clinical therapist for Behavioral Health, to lead a discussion about alcohol and drug addiction while participants enjoyed lunch from Pisanello’s Pizza. Chipp said she is back working on the residential side of the treatment program, which she described as “always a challenge – heartbreaking at times and joyous at times.” “The disease of addiction is cunning, baffling and powerful,” Chipp said. Chipp described the five characteristics of chemical dependence:

1. Obsessive and compulsive – Compulsive behavior includes “an urge to do something even if you don’t want



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

Dianna Chipp, clinical therapist for Behavioral Health, leads a discussion about alcohol and drug addiction during the Jan. 22 Lunch & Learn hosted at the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College.

to. Your brain gets hijacked: the fight, flight or freeze part of the brain. It’s the moment when we use even though we said we didn’t want to,” Chipp said, also explaining the obsessive part is “the overthinking and the ritual of the addiction.”

2. Primary – “If someone is using, no one can help them until their drinking and drug-ging stops,” Chipp said.
3. Progressive – “The addiction gets worse as it goes on.”
4. Chronic
5. Fatal

The five characteristics can be discouraging for both the addict and others who want to help that addict, Chipp said.

“Knowing the five characteristics can shift your perception towards compassion for those struggling with addiction,” Chipp said. “A person stopping (using) is only 10 percent of the work, and 90 percent is changing their behavior, their brain – the mental work,” she said. “By the time the addict gets help, they will have progressed a lot.” Chipp recommended the people not using – who want to help the addict – get help too. “It is a family effort,” she said. Chipp said family members who attend Al-Anon, a program of recovery for the families and friends of alcoholics, are told they “cannot cause, cure or control their loved one’s addiction.” Chipp said she recommends the Al-Anon program in Clare, held at a Congregational United Church of Christ. The meetings take place on Wednesday evenings at 8 p.m. and Saturdays at noon. Behavioral Health provided numerous Tips for Teens brochures that delivered drug facts from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. “Teens become addicted much quicker than adults because their brains are not fully developed,” Chipp said.

The signs and symptoms of heroin use are euphoria, drowsiness, impaired mental functioning, slowed-down respiration and constricted pupils (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration). Signs of a heroin overdose include shallow breathing,

pinpoint pupils, clammy skin, convulsions and coma (SAMHSA). According to SAMHSA, any method of heroin use – snorting, smoking, swallowing or injecting the drug – can cause immediate harm and lead to addiction. More information is available at [www.samhsa.gov/SHIN](http://www.samhsa.gov/SHIN)

## Otto to serve on the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College’s Board of Regents



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

On Tuesday, Jan. 23, Carmen Otto (left) was sworn in by Chief Ronald F. Ekdahl (right) to serve on the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College’s Board of Regents. With her left hand on the Holy Bible and her right hand raised, Otto repeated, after Ekdahl, the following oath: I, Carmen Otto, having been appointed to the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College Board of Regents, solemnly swear to uphold the Charter of the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College, to commit myself to the goals set forth by the Board of Regents and to conduct all my duties with respect to the Tribal College.



## Sold-out audience treated to ballads, a cappella harmonies of Boyz II Men

**NATALIE SHATTUCK**

Editor

Raw talent, emotional ballads and a cappella harmonies proved to be the night's focus in the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort Entertainment Hall on Dec. 30.

The boys were back in town – Boyz II Men, that is.

The four-time Grammy Award-winning R&B group had returned for another sold-out show in Mount Pleasant.

Currently a trio composed of baritone Nathan Morris alongside tenors Wanya Morris and Shawn Stockman, the performers captivated the

audience by opening their concert with the up-tempo hit “Motownphilly.”

That Saturday evening brought on hit after hit including “On Bended Knee,” “4 Seasons of Loneliness” and “It’s So Hard to Say Goodbye to Yesterday,” which showcased the group’s flawless harmonies along with Wanya’s soulful, powerhouse vocal solos.

“The music industry has changed. People don’t want to hear that kind of love anymore,” Wanya said of the love ballads they perform, though fans’ reactions proved him otherwise.

Next, Shawn grabbed an electric guitar, Nathan played bass guitar and Wanya

took lead vocals for a medley of hits including Lenny Kravitz’s “American Woman,” Bruno Mars’ “Locked Out of Heaven,” The Beatles’ “Come Together” and Journey’s “Open Arms.”

“We are 26 years into our career,” Nathan said, stirring applause.

“They (music industry executives) told us this next song would be a hit record if we recorded it 19 or 20 years ago. But we never recorded it,” Nathan said of “Amazed,” made popular by the country band Lonestar.

Boyz II Men presented bows after each ballad including “Water Runs Dry,” “I’ll Make

Love to You” and “A Song for Mama.”

Boyz II Men currently holds a residency at The Mirage in Las Vegas through the end of 2018 while they also continue to tour across the country and around the globe.

They have also received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

The trio holds the distinction of being the best-selling R&B group of all time, with an astounding 64 million albums sold ([boyziimen.com](http://boyziimen.com)).

“We broke up five times. For five minutes each... because we thought of our fans,” Wanya said, smiling.

Boyz II Men concluded their outstanding show with “End of the Road.”

Multi-platinum awarded R&B singer-songwriter Avant performed as the opening act.

Avant is best known for hits



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

**R&B group Boyz II Men perform during their sold-out Dec. 30 Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort show.**

“Separated,” “My First Love” and “Read Your Mind.”

The 41-year-old artist released his first album “My Thoughts” in 2000.

“I’ve been (making music and performing) for 17 years,” Avant said. “Thank you for supporting R&B... R&B is who we are.”

Avant’s sultry, sensual hits primed the audience for a full night of R&B.



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

**Wanya Morris of Boyz II Men smiles at the crowd during a performance of their hit song “Motownphilly.”**



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

**Avant, R&B singer-songwriter, performs as the night’s opening act.**

## Women billiard players compete in Grand Slam event

**NIKI HENRY**

Photographer Journalist

Four days of intense challenges among the Women’s Professional Billiard Association heated up the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort on Jan. 3-7.

The 9-Ball WPBA Grand Slam competitors were eventually reduced to three players vying for the championship and \$12,000 grand prize.

Underdog Kelly “Quickfire” Fisher took her 27th place ranking head-to-head against top-seeded Line Kjosrvik in the semi-final competition on Jan. 7 in the Entertainment Hall.

Fisher, originally from England, turned pro in 2004 and has since won the following titles: 9-Ball World Champion, 10-Ball World Champion, China Open Champion, Amway Cup Champion, WPBA U.S. Open Champion, WPBA Classic



Observer photo by Niki Henry

**Kelly “Quickfire” Fisher (left) earned second place against event champion Ga Young Kim “Little Devil Girl” (right) during the Women’s Professional Billiard Association Grand Slam tournament that took place in the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort’s Entertainment Hall on Jan. 3-7.**

Tour Multiple Champion, TOC Multiple Champion and six-time Snooker World Champion.

Kjosrvik – a professional since 1999 who is originally from Norway and has earned six European Championships, two Women’s Euro Tour Championships and a bronze medal at the World Games along with 34 other medals throughout the years – played hard against Fisher throughout the semi-final, several times quickly and efficiently clearing the table only to make an error when it came time to sink the 8- or 9-ball.

Kjosrvik handed enough of these opportunities over to Fisher, who sunk the balls left by Kjosrvik and also played well in her own right, that Fisher was able to take the semi-final,

coming up from the losers’ bracket to find herself competing for the Grand Slam championship against Ga Young Kim.

Kim, a South Korean also known as “Little Devil Girl,” has been a professional player since 2001.

Kim was ranked third for the event and has won the following titles during her career: 2010 U.S. Open Champion, 2010 Yalin Women’s World Runner-Up

Champion, 2012 Yalin Women’s World Champion, 2013 Ultimate 10-Ball Champion and 2014 WPBA Master’s Champion.

Fisher and Kim played a total of 16 games, with the first two off to a slow start when no balls found pockets from the break or for several rounds afterward.

Fisher took the first game, with Kim taking the second and third.

Fisher then rallied and took the lead, winning the next two games before Kim tied the score by pocketing the 9-ball with the object ball in game six.

Kim then shot ahead, taking the next game and also shooting two perfect games before Fisher came back to win the tenth game.

Kim took the next four games before Fisher rallied again, winning game 11 by using the object ball to sink the

9-ball. Kim then racked and broke the balls, sinking the cue ball along with an object ball, allowing Fisher the opportunity to clear the table on her next turn and take the game.

At this point in the tournament, Fisher was down three games, with a score of 6 to Kim’s 9.

After a short break, the competitors returned to the table. Kim then took the tournament and the grand prize, winning her 10th game by dominating the table after Fisher scratched, with the cue ball contacting a ball other than the object ball.

The event, sponsored by RTB Solutions, Aramith,



Observer photo by Niki Henry

**Ga Young Kim concentrates on a difficult shot as she competes for the championship at the tournament on Jan. 7.**

Diamond and Simonis Cloth, was streamed live on the WPBA Facebook page as well as its YouTube channel. Recordings of the event can still be accessed at both locations.



Observer photo by Niki Henry

**Despite her top ranking, Line Kjosrvik was defeated in the semi-final competition by Fisher, who was seeded 27.**

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

**Contact:** (989) 772-6277

113 W. Broadway, Suite 240

Mt. Pleasant MI 48858



Theory of a Deadman and Adelitas Way rock the Soaring Eagle with sold-out show

MATTHEW WRIGHT

Staff Writer

The Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort hosted Theory of a Deadman and Adelitas Way on Dec. 29. The two hard rock acts presented memorable performances and a sold-out show.

The Las Vegas-based rock band Adelitas Way began the night with their hit songs “Bad Reputation,” “Ready for War (Pray for Peace)” and “Notorious.”

The 30-minute set also featured fan-favorite tunes “Alive,” “Good Die Young,” “Criticize” and “Sick.”

The British Columbia-based rock group Theory of a Deadman formed in 2001. After six studio albums, the band’s accolades now include 10 Top 10 hits and three No. 1 hits on Billboard’s Mainstream Rock chart.

Theory of a Deadman



Observer photo by Matthew Wright

Theory of a Deadman guitarist Dave Brenner (left) and lead singer Tyler Connolly perform during their sold-out Dec. 29 Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort show.

began with “Lowlife,” the lead track off of their 2011 album “The Truth Is...”

The hits continued with the songs “Blow,” “So Happy” and “Santa Monica.”

The staccato, hip-hop inspired rhythms of “Straight Jacket” were followed by the songs “All or Nothing,” “Hurricane” and “Drown.”

The upbeat, pop-rock tune “Echoes” showcased the band’s experimentation with new sounds on their 2017 album “Wake Up Call.”

Theory of a Deadman also played “Not Meant to Be,” “Angel” and the self-reflective “Hate My Life.”

The band closed the night with a three-piece encore



Observer photo by Matthew Wright

Adelitas Way lead singer Rick DeJesus performs “Bad Reputation.”

featuring “Rx” and “Bad Girlfriend.” Both songs reached No. 1 on Billboard’s Mainstream Rock Chart.

A cover of Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers’ classic song “Into the Great Wide Open,” was played between the two songs.



Observer photo by Matthew Wright

Theory of a Deadman’s Connolly claps along with the audience during the chorus of the hit song “Lowlife.”

For more information about upcoming shows, please visit the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort website at [www.soaringeaglecasino.com](http://www.soaringeaglecasino.com).

Gabriel Iglesias impresses audience with customized material, personal interactions

NIKI HENRY

Photographer Journalist

After a short video in which Gabriel “Fluffy” Iglesias was honored by fellow comedians for his 20 years in the business, Iglesias took to the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort’s Entertainment Hall stage in his signature jean shorts. Hilarity ensued.

Iglesias first set the ground rules for that Saturday, Jan. 20 show, which included not rushing the stage.

“I’m not that Iglesias,” he said.

He then drew the audience in by teasing the locals and showing he had researched the area by referencing Saginaw as “Sagi-nasty.” Iglesias then changed the name of the city to “Sagin-awesome” to the delight of the crowd.

Shortly into his comedic set, Iglesias noticed a female audience member alone in the first row. He chatted with her a bit, seemingly taken back by the empty front row, and learned



Observer photo by Niki Henry

Gabriel “Fluffy” Iglesias amuses his audience while he talks with an audience member during his Jan. 20 show at the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort.

that her name was Liz and she was from Farwell.

Iglesias continued to talk to her throughout the show in a series of amusing asides. He eventually did the same with the security guards sitting on the stage staircases.

Iglesias shared with the audience he has a strong gay following of which he is proud, though getting hit on by male members of his fan base initially threw

him off before he realized this gave him options.

Throughout the show, Iglesias affectionately referred to his wife as a “biscuit blocker” after sharing a story about a family meal at Red Lobster and enjoying the basket of biscuits.

Iglesias consistently impressed the audience with his vocal sound effects, accents and facial expressions as well as his impersonations and use of

different voices for the characters in the stories he shared.

Part way into the show, Iglesias stopped his routine and said, “There are a lot of camouflage hats in this crowd.” He went on to say his bus driver, Dave, would fit right in with the people wearing them.

“He looks like the word ‘Merica’,” Iglesias said before telling a few stories about what life on the road with Dave is like.

Iglesias next began a tale about a show he did in Ohio. When the crowd reacted, he interrupted them, acknowledging he understood the rivalry.

“Hang on,” he said. “You want to know how this ends.”

At 11 minutes after the show was supposed to end, Iglesias stopped, showed the audience the timer and said, “You can’t get upset with anything I say now; you didn’t pay for it. This is bonus.”

Iglesias continued telling stories for more than 40 more minutes, opening himself to questions, taking a few photos

with audience members and introducing his dogs.

When fulfilling a request to perform an old joke, Iglesias said, “You know, after 20 years, it feels weird that you know what I’ll say before I say it.”

He was laughing and started a joke over several times because the audience was shouting his punch lines with him.

“You don’t need me,” he said before pleading for them to stop and let him finish.

“That’s what she said,” someone in the audience called out.

“This two-minute joke is going to take half an hour,” Iglesias said to a loud and laughing crowd.

Iglesias ended his show by thanking everyone in attendance for their love and support, and he exited the stage shouting, “Michigan before Ohio!”

Fellow Latino comedian Alfred Robles opened the night for Iglesias by priming the crowd with jokes centered on Mexicans, his childhood, politics and religion.

The audience responded enthusiastically.

Rodney Carrington delights fans with stand-up act, comical song performances

MATTHEW WRIGHT

Staff Writer

The Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort hosted “Rodney Carrington Live” on Wednesday, Dec. 27. The sold-out show featured the crass, unpolished, but ultimately humorous comedy of the actor, singer and writer.

Carrington has released eight albums. His first album, “Hangin’ with Rodney,” was released in 1998. He also starred in his own sitcom “Rodney,” which aired on ABC for two seasons.

According to Pollstar, Carrington has been one of the top 10 highest grossing touring comedians for the last 10 years and has been among the top five the last several years.

Carrington’s 90-minute set covered a variety of topics. He shared personal reflections about his marriage, divorce, the subsequent weight gain and his life now in the dating scene.

“I was married 18 years,” Carrington said. “...Once you’ve been attacked by a grizzly bear, you don’t typically go back to Yellowstone.

If you do, you drive by with the windows up.”

He joked about his upbringing and family life as well as the awkwardness that sometimes accompanies interactions during the holidays.

“We all have that somebody that came over for Christmas, and we go ‘Ughh,’” he said. “If you don’t have that person, you’re that person. That’s how you know.”

The second half of the act saw Carrington grabbing his guitar to play some of his classic songs. The original songs continued the hilarious, crude standard set during his stand-up routine.



Observer photo by Matthew Wright

Carrington’s performance received an abundance of laughs during his sold-out Dec. 27 Soaring Eagle show.



## Rick Springfield 'makes a wish' come true, delivers hit songs

**NATALIE SHATTUCK**

Editor

A "rock 'n' roll musician" and "soap opera star" were the two most common phrases heard backstage by fans describing Rick Springfield. The fans were eagerly waiting in line to meet the artist after his Dec. 28 Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort show.

That Thursday evening, the meet and greet line included fans who purchased a \$675

package that included a guitar Springfield would sign.

At nearly 70 years old, Springfield upheld an incredibly energetic stage presence during his performance.

Springfield and his band began their vigorous set with "Light This Party Up," "I've Done Everything for You" and "I Get Excited."

"Have a new record coming out. Some of you won't like it," Springfield said between songs. "Seriously, we will be getting calls."

The band launched right into "Down" and "Affair of the Heart," during which Springfield smashed a bouquet of roses on the stage which caused rose petals and water to fly onto the stage and into the first couple rows of fans.

"Ladies, do you have a tissue?" Springfield said, sniffing, appearing to have a cold.

"OK, who wants my tissue now?" Springfield said of his used tissue. Fans could be heard either yelling "Ewww!" or hollering.

Continuing his many interactive moments with the crowd, after "Roar," Springfield asked, smirking, "Who wants a guitar pick? What do I get?"

The band then performed "Jesus Saves." The song's feisty



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

**Rock 'n' roll musician Rick Springfield raises his fist during the performance of "Light This Party Up" at Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort.**

lyrics went on to say "Jesus saves white trash like you."

A medley was then performed containing riffs only of "Jessie's Girl" before springing into "Love Is Alright Tonite."

Springfield showcased his slide guitar skills during "Miss Mayhem," which had a country-rock sound.

He had enthusiastic audience members sing the chorus of "Don't Talk to Strangers" into the microphone.

During "Human Touch," he walked into the crowd as audience members rushed over to him.

One verse and a chorus into the much-anticipated hit "Jessie's Girl," Springfield stopped singing and stated he had a special guest there to join him.

Springfield then welcomed 18-year-old Gavin Sibley to the stage.

Sibley was a Make-A-Wish foundation recipient whose wish was to sing the well-known song with Springfield.

Traveling eight hours from Princeville, Ill., his wish came true.

Sibley received special meet and greets with Springfield both before and after the show. After the show, Sibley and his family

were spotted wearing Make-A-Wish T-shirts and overjoyed looks on their faces.

"Gavin still feels on top of the world. (I'm) so grateful his wish was fulfilled," said his mother Michelle Sibley. "The whole experience was phenomenal. Gavin keeps saying maybe he can go on tour with them sometime."

The audience proved they also adored that special moment with a standing ovation and their hooting and hollering that was heard throughout the venue.

Leaving on that high note, Springfield and his band closed the show with "Kristina."



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

**Springfield makes his guitar talk to the audience while playing "I've Done Everything for You" on Dec. 28.**



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

**Gavin Sibley (left), a Make-A-Wish foundation recipient, not only sang "Jessie's Girl" on stage with Springfield but also spent time with him backstage after the show.**

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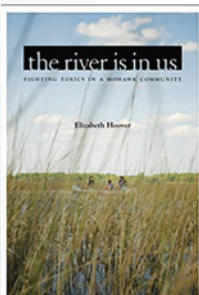
**FEATURED AUTHOR**  
**DR. ELIZABETH HOOVER**

Elizabeth Hoover, PhD is an author, gardener, beadworker, fancy shawl dancer, and Assistant Professor of American Studies and Ethnic Studies at Brown University in Rhode Island. She also teaches courses on environmental health and justice in Native communities, indigenous food movements, Native American museum curation, and community engaged research. (<https://vivo.brown.edu/display/emhoover>)



In *The River Is in Us: Fighting Toxics in a Mohawk Community*, author Elizabeth Hoover takes us into Akwesasne, an indigenous community in upstate New York located near three Superfund sites. Hoover shows the efforts set in motion by Mohawk midwife Katsi Cook to preserve Native culture and lands and to shed light on health issues linked to those contaminated sites. "This moving, uplifting book is an essential read for anyone interested in Native Americans, social justice, and the pollutants contaminating our food, water, and bodies."

<sup>1</sup>[https://www.amazon.com/River-Us-Fighting-Toxics-Community/dp/1517903033/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1516302986&sr=8-1&keywords=elizabeth+hooover](https://www.amazon.com/River-Us-Fighting-Toxics-Community/dp/1517903033/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1516302986&sr=8-1&keywords=elizabeth+hooover)



You're invited to come and meet someone with extensive knowledge and skills in connecting the dots from traditional lifeways and ways of knowing to contemporary environmental needs and issues that are critical to the health, well being and very survival of the North American Indian communities.

### E. I. Couse Collection Showing

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E. I. Couse was a founding member of the Taos Society of Artists. He studied at the Art Institute of Chicago, National Academy of Design in New York City, and then at the Julian Academy in Paris. Born in Saginaw, Michigan in 1866, E. I. Couse formed a lasting friendship with the local Ojibwe Anishinabek and Chief David Shoppnegons, in particular.

Experience one of America's leading Western artists who stated in 1916 that his goal was "to remove the misconception and contempt in which the Indian has been held..."

On February 3, 2018, join William Johnson, Curator at the Ziibiwing Center, for a special exhibit featuring E. I. Couse's early Impressionist paintings of French peasantry.



**Artwork will remain on display through Saturday, February 10, 2018.**



Preparing for a troubled teen’s return from a treatment center

(Editor’s note: The following article is provided by the online news source, News & Experts, and is being reprinted with permission.)

Raising a teenager can be a challenge under the best circumstances.

But, when teenagers’ addictions, learning disabilities or emotional and behavioral issues become more than parents can bear, the young people often are placed in residential or wilderness treatment programs where professionals help them work through issues.

Success can quickly unravel when the child returns home, though, if parents are not ready with a plan to help with the transition.

“Parents often fear that their son or daughter is going to relapse into old, unhealthy

or dangerous patterns,” said Dr. Tim R. Thayne, a marriage and family therapist and author of “Not by Chance: How Parents Boost Their Teen’s Success In and After Treatment” ([www.drtimthayne.com](http://www.drtimthayne.com)).

“They have fears about how their child will connect socially with other people and whether they will find the right friends. They fear their teen will fall further behind in academics,” Thayne said.

Thayne suggested the following ways to help parents ease the transition:

- Identify natural mentors for your teen. A natural mentor – such as a neighbor, teacher, relative or coach – is typically more effective than an officially-assigned mentor.
- “Studies suggest that most formal mentoring relationships last less than a year,” Thayne

said. “In contrast, natural mentoring relationships, which come from the church, school, family and neighborhood, are far more durable, with the average lasting nine years.”

- Know when and how to grant back privileges and freedoms. Do not let your teen pressure you into promising the return of certain privileges.

Long before they come home, teens in treatment often begin asking what they are going to be able to do and how soon.

“They want back the freedoms they once had, such as cell phone and car use, sleepovers, computer time, dating, time with friends and so forth,” Thayne said. “If there is ever a time not to buckle under pressure from your teen, it’s now, while they are still in the program. If your teen is going to be angry, let the program deal with the fallout.”

When they do come home, do not make a rule you are not willing to back up. Consistency is key.

Over time, as your trust grows, be ready to hand out rewards before being asked, but this does not have to happen all at once.

“Things can be handed out for a weekend trial or at a level of 50 percent of what your child initially pushed for,” Thayne said.

- Find someone to talk with. “Parents should have someone they can open up to about their emotions,” Thayne said.

He said to find a therapist or a coach who has experience working with parents in this situation.

“That counselor will be better equipped to help you through this transition,” he said. “Nothing will surprise them – not your fears, not your questions, not your situation.”

In addition to an expert coach, Thayne said it also helps to have a trusted friend to vent to as well.

“Long-term success doesn’t come about by chance, by hoping or simply because you shelled out a lot of money and sent your child away to get help,” Thayne said. “It requires work and changes on your part, and it takes a concrete plan.”

Thayne is also the founder and CEO of Homeward Bound, a leading program in early intervention and in-home transition from treatment services for families of troubled teens.

He has a master’s degree from Brigham Young University and a doctoral degree in marriage and family therapy from Virginia Tech.

Source: News & Experts

Air mattresses pose dangerous hazard or death to infants

JENNIFER DOERING & TRINA SALM WARD

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

(Editor’s note: The following article was submitted to the Tribal Observer by Nimkee Public Health Nurse Anna Hon in an effort to raise awareness about this dangerous hazard to infants. The article was published in October 2017 by Public Health Post at [publichealthpost.org](http://publichealthpost.org) and written by Jennifer Doering and Trina Salm Ward of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.)

Air mattresses, or air beds, pose an especially dangerous hazard to infants.

Well-meaning parents may mistakenly think that a firm air mattress is “firm enough” to be a safe sleep surface; however, the Consumer Product Safety Commission warns that air mattresses should not be used with infants less than 15 months of age.

Infants can easily roll into a position in which they cannot breathe (positional asphyxia). Infants can also suffocate when their faces are pressed into an air mattress by a parent’s or sibling’s arm, leg or body moving during sleep.

Jennifer Doering sits on the Milwaukee Fetal and Infant Mortality Review (FIMR).

Throughout a two-year period, she noticed three cases involving the death of babies on air mattresses.

If there were three deaths on air mattresses in two years in Milwaukee, Doering wondered if there might be a similar trend in cities across the nation. If this were the case, there could potentially be hundreds of deaths involving air mattresses that have flown under the radar of public health and consumer product advocates.

To investigate further, Doering consulted her colleague, Dr. Trina Salm Ward, and together they reached out to members of the Child Death Review division of the National Center for Fatality Review and Prevention to ask if they could identify the number of cases in which air mattresses were involved in infant death.

It was discovered there were 108 cases of infant deaths between 2004 and 2015 in which an air mattress was the incident sleep space.

A Child Death Review representative was careful to note some important limitations of the statistics.

First, deaths were being reported by only 24 states during

that time. The year each state started reporting child deaths to the national reporting system varied, meaning the 2004-2015 timeframe did not capture 11 years of data from all 24 states.

Finally, not all deaths were necessarily reported to the National Center, meaning some deaths involving air mattresses could have been unreported.

This lead Doering to believe the number of deaths found may be vastly underreported.

Doering and Ward reviewed the policies and educational materials promoted by key organizations that promote safe infant sleep.

With one exception, organizations did not explicitly mention the danger of air mattresses. Water beds were commonly mentioned, but the prevalence of air mattresses now far outnumbered that of water beds, which were common in the 1980s.

Although air mattress packaging and labels have clear consumer warning requirements, an equally important way to increase awareness of the danger is to ensure consistent messaging in parent and consumer brochures and on social media sites.

Doering and Ward suggest more explicit warning labels and policies that include the danger as well as increased data monitoring to better track this potential trend.

Doering and Ward published their findings in the American Journal of Public Health in June 2017. Dr. Rachel Y. Moon, a member of the American Academy of Pediatrics Taskforce on SIDS and professor in the Department of Pediatrics at University of Virginia Medical School of Medicine, also commented on the findings.

This is an example of how community academic partnerships such as FIMR

can help identify potential emerging trends and work to quickly address them. This is extremely important, as new and improved products are being developed every day and traditional monitoring and policies may be challenged to keep up with the rapid changes in the consumer product industry.

Source: [www.publichealthpost.org/research/air-mattresses-infant-deaths/](http://www.publichealthpost.org/research/air-mattresses-infant-deaths/)



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Contact information

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

• Phone: 989.775.4615 • Email: [SVancise@sagchip.org](mailto:SVancise@sagchip.org)

Jayme Green | BS, Fitness Coordinator, Wellcoaches® Certified Health and Wellness Coach

• Phone: 989.775.4696 • Email: [Jgreen@sagchip.org](mailto:Jgreen@sagchip.org)

| Nimkee Fitness Center Group Exercise Schedule February 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 | 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                     |                                |



## Nimkee Fitness Center facility gets a facelift

**NIKI HENRY**

Photographer Journalist

The Nimkee Fitness Center hosted a “New Year, New Look” party on Wednesday, Jan. 10 with a yogurt bar and cake to help celebrate and exhibit the facility’s recent updates that include additional equipment and many aesthetic changes.

Construction for the project began in early fall and was completed in only six weeks, but Nimkee staff wanted to coordinate the open-house celebration with the New

Year to inspire resolutions and new beginnings for community members.

Interior updates include a new color scheme of bright yellow and gray, diamond plating on workout room walls, a new cubby in the entryway and a new front desk.

Locker rooms were also revamped and now sport marble walls, cubbies and new stalls, counter-tops, showers, lights and mirrors.

Fitness Coordinator Jayme Green noted that new equipment, such as the rower and squat racks, was added at the request of Nimkee clientele.

“People seem to really be enjoying the upgrades,” she said, noting they were “a long time coming.”

Sharon Peters, administrative assistant, said it had been 19 years since any changes were made to the facility.

“Come to (Nimkee) Fitness,” she said, encouraging Tribal



Observer photo by Niki Henry

**During the recent updates to the Nimkee Fitness Center that were completed this fall, new lavatory and shower stalls were built in both the men’s and women’s locker rooms.**

Members and employees to check out the updates and work out.

A Nimkee regular noted the fitness center is “a safe, supportive and judgment-free place to work out.”

“They are rooting for you to succeed,” she said enthusiastically.



Observer photo by Niki Henry

**As a result of the upgrades, the workout room walls now sport shiny, metallic diamond plating.**



Observer photo by Niki Henry

**Additional equipment was added to the floor, and the interior color scheme was changed to yellow and grey.**



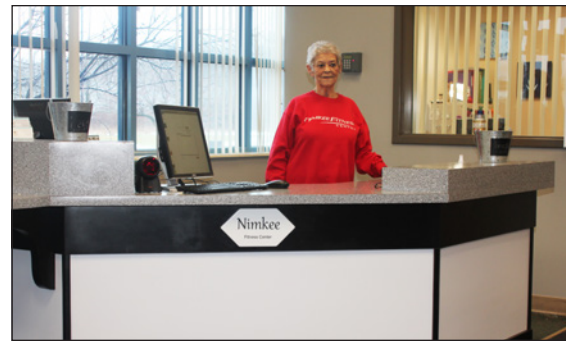
Observer photo by Niki Henry

**Each locker room now boasts cubbies in which clients can store items during workouts.**



Observer photo by Niki Henry

**At the request of Nimkee clientele, a rowing machine was purchased and added to the fitness area.**



Observer photo by Niki Henry

**Administrative Assistant Sharon Peters stands at the new front desk near the facility’s front entrance.**

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### For more information:

**Jaden Harman, Fitness Coordinator**

• Phone: 989.775.4694 • Email: JHarman@sagchip.org

## Mobile blood drive at Soaring Eagle helps save lives

**NIKI HENRY**

Photographer Journalist

The Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort hosted a Michigan Blood mobile blood drive on Wednesday, Jan. 16.

Throughout the day, 91 potential donors registered and attempted to give blood in the temporary lab set up in the Entertainment Hall; 41 of whom were first-time donors with Michigan Blood.

A total of 68 pints was donated – five pints more than the amount collected last year – which can save up to 204 lives.

All who participated in the drive received premium play and a chance to win a casino package that included an overnight stay, two concert tickets and a \$50 dining card.

According to Michigan Blood, winter weather and cold temperatures impact blood supply, with donations dropping due to cancelled drives and low turnout, so every pint helps.



Observer photo by Niki Henry

**At the Jan. 16 blood drive that took place in the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort Entertainment Hall, Bob Garrett (back row) offered support to donors Jolene Ford (front left) and Eric Nisonger (center front) at the aftercare station along with Michigan Blood volunteer Gerry Augustyniak (front right).**

## 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 (third Tuesday) at 2 p.m. in the Public Health Ballroom. A stipend is given for each meeting attended (If eligible). Tribal Health Board support and Tribal Council approval required.*

**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.*



**Environmental Nutrition presents: Never eschew a cashew**

**LORI ZANTESON**

Nutrition Writer

*(Editor's note: The following article has been re-printed, with permission, from 2018 Environmental Nutrition and submitted by Sally Van Cise, RD, nutritionist, wellness coach for Nimkee Public Health.)*

**The folklore:** Chew on cashews for heart health.

Native to Brazil, the cashew was introduced to India and Africa by Portuguese explorers in the 16th century.

The cashew tree, from its wood and bark to its fruit, was highly prized for its healing properties.

In Brazil, cashew nut oil was used to treat leprosy; while in India, the cashew was used restoratively, as an appetizer, hair tonic and aphrodisiac. But, it was not until the 20th century that the cashew nut became a culinary star.

Cashews are now the third most consumed tree nut in the U.S., and for good reason.

The cashew is a favorite, flavor-wise, and is commonly regarded as a nutrition star for its punch of protein, heart-healthy fats, vitamins and minerals.

**The facts:** Cashews (*Anacardium occidentale*) are seeds of an evergreen shrub related to pistachios, mangos



**Chew on cashews for heart health.**

and poison ivy. The cashew seed is attached to the bottom of its fruit — the cashew apple, which is high in vitamin C — and popular where cashews are grown, which includes tropical regions of India and Brazil.

The kidney-shaped cashew has two layers of shells, between which is a potentially toxic resin/oil that is removed and used to make many products, including varnish and insecticide. Just a handful of the nuts (one ounce) packs a satisfying 10 percent Daily Value (DV, based on 2,000 calories per day) of protein and 20 percent DV of bone-healthy magnesium.

Cashews are lower in fat than most nuts, and the fat they contain is mostly heart-healthy monounsaturated fat.

**The findings:** A rich source of both monounsaturated and polyunsaturated fatty acids which are associated with reducing the risk of heart disease,

## Cabbage and Cashew Salad Recipe\*

**Nutrition information** (per serving): 225 calories, 16g fat, 18g carbohydrates, 6g protein, 4g dietary fiber, 313mg sodium, 5g sugar

### Ingredients:

- 4 c. savoy cabbage, shredded
- 1 c. roasted cashews, coarsely chopped
- 1 Tbsp. lemon juice, freshly squeezed
- 1 1/3 c. red onion, thinly sliced
- 1/2 tsp. salt, or to taste
- 1/4 c. parsley, chopped
- 2 Tbsp. vegetable oil

**Directions:**

1. Toss together in a bowl cabbage, cashews, onion and parsley.
2. Mix oil, vinegar, lemon juice and salt and toss into salad.

**Makes four servings**

*\*Recipe adapted courtesy of Melissa's Produce*

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The Observer can also be viewed exclusively online at [www.sagchip.org/TribalObserver](http://www.sagchip.org/TribalObserver).

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Elder spotlight: Executive Chef Theron Fisher of Kitchens for Good

(Editor's note: The following is featured on the Kitchens for Good website at [kitchensforgood.org](http://kitchensforgood.org), which highlights Tribal Member Theron Fisher, executive chef.)



Theron Fisher

Theron Fisher brings 30 years of leadership experience and expertise in the hospitality industry to the culinary operation of Kitchens for Good. Prior to joining Kitchens for Good, Theron designed, opened and operated food and beverage operations for hotels, casinos and independent restaurant companies across the country. His hotel experience includes opening a 515-room AAA four-diamond resort and raising its food service

department revenue from \$5 million to \$38 million a year. Theron, a UCSD graduate, was excited to move back to San Diego after working throughout the country for casinos and hotels. At Kitchens for Good, Theron oversees kitchen operations, including being chef instructor of Project Launch.

Theron brings his prolific experience to the classroom by helping teach students at Kitchens for Good the ins and outs of the culinary industry. Theron enjoys dining out and visiting students in restaurants and kitchens where they are now employed. Kitchens for Good is a 501(c)(3) and social enterprise with the mission to break the cycles of food waste, hunger and poverty through innovative solutions in workforce training, healthy food production and social enterprise. Kitchens for Good bridges the gap between wasted food and hunger by rescuing surplus and cosmetically imperfect food from wholesalers and farmers and engaging students in a culinary

apprenticeship program to transform these ingredients into nutritious meals for hungry families. This approach addresses the most immediate need of hunger by feeding food lines but also helps to shorten the line itself by giving unemployed people skills to become self-sufficient. Through the power of kitchens and cooking, the students transform their lives from ones of addiction, incarceration, homelessness and unemployment to lives of stability, employment and a brighter future. Ultimately, Kitchens for Good believes that kitchens can be economic engines for good in communities. In addition to tackling issues of food waste, hunger

and poverty, Kitchens for Good ensures its own sustainability by building a profitable food enterprise at the core of every kitchen. These enterprises include a robust catering and events operation, a line of retail condiments and contract meal services. Through these enterprises, the company creates job training opportunities for its culinary students and generates profits to reinvest into social programs. Kitchens for Good breaks the mold of typical nonprofits by generating nearly 70 percent of its budget through social enterprise revenue, reducing its reliance on philanthropy.

Source: [Kitchensforgood.org](http://Kitchensforgood.org)

Editorial: Cold weather safety for older adults

(Editor's note: The following article has been reprinted from the National Institute on Aging, provided by the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. The article was submitted to the Tribal Observer by Andahwod Case Manager Julie Pego.)

Fahrenheit or higher. To save on heating bills, close off rooms you are not using. Close the vents in those rooms, and shut the doors. Keep the basement door closed, and place a rolled towel in front of all doors to the outside to keep out drafts. • Make sure your house is not losing heat through windows. Keep your blinds and curtains closed. If you have gaps around the windows, try using weather stripping or

caulk to keep cold air out. • Dress warmly on cold days even if you are staying in the house. Throw a blanket over your legs. Wear socks and slippers. • When you go to sleep, wear long underwear under your pajamas and use extra covers. Wear a cap or hat. • Make sure you eat enough food to keep up your weight. If you do not eat well, you might have less fat under your skin. Body fat helps you stay warm.

Early warning signs of hypothermia

- 1. Cold feet and hands
- 2. Puffy or swollen face
- 3. Pale skin
- 4. Shivering
- 5. Slower than normal speech or slurred words
- 6. Acting sleepy
- 7. Being angry or confused

Source: [www.nia.nih.gov/health/cold-weather-safety-older-adults](http://www.nia.nih.gov/health/cold-weather-safety-older-adults)

• Drink alcohol moderately, if at all. Alcoholic drinks can make you lose body heat. • Ask family or friends to check on you during cold weather. If a power outage leaves you without heat, try to stay with a relative or friend.



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Elders celebrate Elvis Presley’s birthday with music, food, fun

NIKI HENRY

Photographer Journalist

A large group of elders at Andahwod Continuing Care and Elder Services celebrated what would have been Elvis Presley’s 82nd birthday on Monday, Jan. 8, by participating in an enthusiastic game of “Name That Tune,” led by John Gerhard, human resource training instructor.

The birthday party, hosted by Andahwod, began with Sheligh Jackson, assistant elders’ advocate, serving birthday cake and a few of Elvis’ favorite refreshments: peanut butter and banana sandwiches, blue “suede” punch and fried pickles.

As the elders ate, they chatted with Jackson about Elvis and some of his favorite foods. Jackson said Elvis actually preferred his PB and banana sandwiches fried and with the additional ingredient of bacon.

“No wonder he gained so much weight,” said game participant Juanita Slater, laughing.

Next, the elders divided into two teams, The Nobody’s and

Leader of the Pack, and competition ensued with Jackson keeping score and awarding points when contestants correctly named a song and an artist (for the handful of songs included that were not sung by Elvis) as well as for singing and dancing with the music.

When elder Roger High joined the group, Gerhard briefly stopped the game to play a special song for him – “The Jones Laughing Record” by Spike Jones and His City Slickers – much to High’s evident delight.

During the game, Jackson talked about Elvis’ motion picture movies with participants and shared obscure facts about Elvis as well as a story about her visit to Graceland, where she fell and skinned her leg. She told the elders she proudly bears the scar she gained on Elvis’ property as a result of the incident.

All competitors, regardless of their level of participation, seemed to derive a lot of pleasure from the trivia, stories and discussions as well as the game, which Gerhard said afterward



Observer photo by Niki Henry

Leader of the Pack team members (left to right) Marilyn Bailey, Phyllis Brodie and Guy Fallis join together to compete against The Nobody’s.



Observer photo by Niki Henry

When Roger High (left) stops by the event, John Gerhard (right), game host and human resource instructor, plays a special song for him.

is their typical response to the monthly event.

“Overall, I know (the elders) anticipate our sessions,” Gerhard said, noting the elders have already requested a Doo Wop theme for the February competition and that he will also include love songs for a Valentine’s Day twist.

Jackson agreed with Gerhard about the popularity of the event.

“All the elders enjoy it and have a good time,” she said. “It’s another activity we like to offer to community elders to add some fun and laughter to their day.”

Andahwod Employee of the Month

ANDAHWOD STAFF

Andahwod Continuing Care and Elders Services is pleased to announce the December Employee of the Month is Maria Stebbins.

Maria has worked at Andahwod for one year as a certified nursing assistant.

In her spare time she likes to go swimming, bowling, tanning and shopping.

When asked what she enjoys most about working at Andahwod, she said, “I love helping others, so helping the residents and working with them one-on-one is something I really enjoy. When I can bring a smile to a resident’s face is what I enjoy most.”

Maria would like to thank Andahwod and the elders of the Tribe for appreciating her hard work and dedication.



Courtesy of Andahwod

Maria Stebbins, CNA

She would like to thank her mom and family for helping her become the person she is today.

February 2018 Andahwod events

Euchre

Mondays | 6 p.m.

Elder Bean Bag League

Wednesdays | 4 p.m.

Language Bingo

Feb. 1 | 1 p.m.

Valentine's Day Social

Feb. 10 | 2 - 4 p.m.

- Elders may bring in a decorated basket filled with candy, trinkets, goodies, etc.
- Those who bring in a basket will get a ticket for a prize.
- Live auction of the baskets

Name That Tune:

Doo Wop & Love Songs

Feb. 13 | 3 - 4:30 p.m.

Elders Breakfast

Feb. 14 & 28 | 9 - 10 a.m.

Friday Fish Fry

Feb. 16 & 23 | 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

- Ages 13 & older: \$11
- Ages 12 & under: \$5
- Menu: Tossed salad, coleslaw, fresh baked bread and butter, green beans, vegetable medley, french fries, tater tots, hush puppies, fried cod, baked tilapia and assorted desserts.

Valentine's Bingo

Feb. 17 | Games begin 2 p.m.

- Must be at least 13 years old to enter and play.
- Doors open at 1 p.m. for packet sales.
- First packet: \$15
- Additional packets: \$5 each

Elders Tax Prep

Feb. 20 | 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

- Must sign up. No walk-ins.
- Space is limited.
- To sign up: 989.775.4300

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

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?

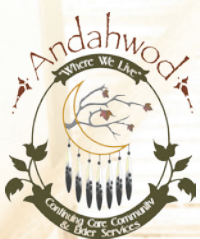
Here is your chance to showcase the recipe that everyone is always asking you to make or you just enjoy cooking and eating!

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



FEBUARY 2018 Tribal Elder Birthdays

- |    |   |    |   |
|----|---|----|---|
| 1  | Todd Bergevin, John Kampf Jr., Eliza Owl, Bonnie Sprague, Cathy Floyd, Gail Smith | 17 | De Anna Baker, Lori Mazur   |
| 2  | Deborah Meskill, Carl Sanford Pelcher, Robert Shawboose                           | 18 | Richard Byce  |
| 3  | Kelly Hartwell, Mark Martin, Robin Martin, Martha Pudvay, Donna Trapp, Tom Waynee | 19 | Joan Cline, Milton Pelcher, James McDonald, Walter Slavik   |
| 4  | Wayne Ritter, Juanita Slater, Roland Jackson                                      | 20 | Ronald Bonnau, Ross Chapoton, Peggy Goebel, Nancy Miller  |
| 5  | Mary Graveratte, Marcia Kelsall   | 21 | Steven Sowmick, Tina Bordeau, Gregory Dutton, Savannah Star-Rice  |
| 6  | Barbara Brodie, Timothy Davis, Mark Grischke, Esther Bailey                       | 22 | Tracy Mays, Chester Cabay III, Rebecca Rittmaier  |
| 7  | Patrick Nahgahgwon, Scott Pego  | 23 | Susan Bettistea, Betty Brief, Dorothy Brown, Kevin Fallis, Kelly Kendall, Kathie Kozuch, Ralph Mays, Bunny Roth |
| 8  | Linda Craig, Larry Collins, Debra Marler, Linda Martin                            | 24 | Dianna Chamberlain, Mark Starkey, David McConnell, Judith McLellan, Bernie Wright                               |
| 9  | Raymond Davis, James Burnham, Linda Powell-Champagne                              | 25 | Cynthia Quigno, Shirley Robertson   |
| 10 | Paul Rueckert Sr., Leroy Scharaswak   | 26 | Leon Reed, Willie Bailey Jr., Lorna McDonald, Edward Phelps   |
| 11 | Mark Schafer, Kyle Garlick, Michael Pashenee                                      | 27 | Frederick Bennett Sr., Dawn Chippewa, Jeremy Sawmick, Alvin Jackson   |
| 12 | Bonnie Ekdahl   | 28 | Adelaide Davis, Julie Chamberlain   |
| 13 | Evelyn Castaneda, Sheri Lairson   | 29 | Evelyn Sharon   |
| 15 | Norman Cyr Sr., Terry Vasquez, Jeffrey Sprague, Mark Steele                       |    |   |
| 16 | Kathy Dintaman, Darryl Jackson, Florence Sprague                                  |    |   |



FEBRUARY 2018 EVENT PLANNER

Free Auricular (Ear) Acupuncture

Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22 | 4 - 6 p.m.

- Location: Behavioral Health
- Contact: 989.775.4895

Feb. 21 | 11:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

- Location: Saganing Tribal Center
- Contact: 989.775.4895 or 989.775.5810

Drums Out: Singing for Fun

Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22 | 6 - 8 p.m.

- Location: Seventh Generation Blue House
- Contact: 989.775.4780

Families Against Narcotics Support Group

Feb. 1 | 7 - 9 p.m.

- Location: Tribal Operations Seniors Room
- Contact: 989.775.4880

Donnie Dowd: Traditional Healer

Feb. 1 | 9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

- Location: Behavioral Health
- Call for an appointment: 989.775.4850

Teen Dance Party

Feb. 2 | 7 - 10 p.m.

- Location: Eagles Nest Tribal Gym
- Contact: 989.775.4780

Traditional Sweat Lodge

Feb. 2 | Teachings and fire lighting at 5 p.m.

- Location: Behavioral Health
- Contact: 989.775.4879

Love & Logic Parenting Classes

Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22 | 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

- Location: Nimkee Memorial Wellness Center
- Contact: 989.775.4616

SCTC Student Senate Beading Showcase

Feb. 3 | 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

- Location: Eagles Nest Tribal Gym
- Local Native American beading artists are invited to come out, showcase and sell their items.
- Table rental: 989.775.4760 or ttrasky@sagchip.edu
- Tables are \$25 each. Limited space available.

Anishinaabemowin & Sacred Fire lunches

Feb. 8, 22 | 12 - 1 p.m.

- Location: Seventh Generation
- Contact: 989.775.4110
- Learn the basics of Ojibwe language with Anishinabe Outreach Specialist Isabelle Osawamick

Healthy Heart Breakfast

Feb. 8 | 8 - 10 a.m.

- Location: Nimkee Public Health Kitchen
- Start your day with a delicious Egg McNimkee!
- Learn Anishinaabemowin
- Join in for bingo during breakfast.

K-12 Education Trip to Snow Snake

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

- Location: Snow Snake Ski & Golf
- Registration: Feb. 2 at 8 a.m. in the Tribal Education building.
- Open to the first 60 who register.

Wear RED Fit & Fashion Night

Feb. 13 | 5:30 - 8 p.m.

- Location: SECR Ballroom
- Contact: 989.775.4663
- Dinner and an evening out, sporting whatever red attire you are comfortable in.
- This night is all about red to be mindful of the importance of heart health.

Elders Breakfast

Feb. 14, 28 | 9 - 10 a.m.

- Location: Andahwod
- Contact: 989.775.4300

Families Against Narcotics Monthly Forum

Feb. 15 | 7 - 9 p.m.

- Location: Eagles Nest Tribal Gym
- Contact: 989.775.4880

Fish Fry

Feb. 16, 23 | 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

- Location: Andahwod
- Contact: 989.775.4300
- 13 & older: \$11
- 12 & under: \$5
- Menu: Tossed salad, coleslaw, fresh baked bread and butter, green beans, vegetable medley, french fries, tater tots, hush puppies, fried cod, baked tilapia and assorted desserts.

Saganing Talking Circle

Feb. 21 | 5 - 6:30 p.m.

- Location: Saganing Tribal Center
- Contact: 989.775.4879

Elders Tax Preperation

Feb. 20 | 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

- Location: Andahwod
- Registration: 989.775.4300
- Partnering with the Isabella County Commission on Aging.
- Must sign up for a time slot; no walk-ins allowed.
- Preparers have passed an IRS test and recieved training with per capita income.
- Consult a professional tax preparer if you have investments or rental property or have sold rental property.

TRIBAL COMMUNITY CALENDAR | FEBRUARY 2018

| MONDAY  | TUESDAY  | WEDNESDAY   | THURSDAY   | FRIDAY  | SAT./SUN.   |
|---|--|---|--|---|---|
| <div><div><div>● SECR Payroll</div><div>● SCIT Per Capita</div><div>● SCIT Payroll</div><div>● Curbside Recycling</div><div>● Waste Collection*</div></div><div><small>*Bins must be curbside by 6:30 a.m.</small></div></div>                        | <div><div><div>Saginaw Chippewa Indian</div><div>Tribe of Michigan</div></div></div>   |   | <div><div>1</div><div>Language Bingo<br/>Andahwod   1 p.m.</div><div>Talking Circle<br/>7<sup>th</sup> Generation   3 - 5 p.m.</div><div>12-Step Meditation Group<br/>B. Health   7 - 9 p.m..</div></div>  | <div><div>2</div><div>Drop-in Group<br/>B. Health   11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.</div><div>Active Parenting Now<br/>ACFS   10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.</div><div>Youth Council Teen Dance<br/>Tribal Gym  6 - 9 p.m.</div></div>  | <div><div>3</div><div>New Spirit Support Group<br/>B. Health   4 - 6 p.m.</div></div>   |
| <div><div>5</div><div>Drop-in Group<br/>B. Health   5 - 7 p.m.</div><div>Women's Traditions Society<br/>B. Health   5 - 6:30 p.m.</div><div>Euchre and Potluck<br/>Andahwod   6 - 8 p.m.</div></div>  | <div><div>6</div><div>Ogitchedaw Meeting<br/>Seniors Room   6 p.m.</div><div>Substance Abuse Meeting<br/>B. Health Lodge   5 - 7 p.m</div></div> | <div><div>7</div><div>Traditional Teachings<br/>Saganing   11 a.m.</div><div>Open Gym<br/>Tribal Gym   6 - 9 p.m.</div><div>Youth Council Bake Sale<br/>Tribal Ops   3:30 -5 p.m.</div></div>   | <div><div>8</div><div>Anishinaabemowin<br/>Sacred Fire Lunch<br/>7<sup>th</sup> Generation   12 - 1 p.m.</div><div>Talking Circle<br/>7<sup>th</sup> Generation   3 - 5 p.m.</div><div>12-Step Meditation Group<br/>B. Health   7 - 9 p.m.</div></div>                               | <div><div>9</div><div>Drop-in Group<br/>B. Health   11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.</div><div>Active Parenting Now<br/>ACFS   10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.</div></div>  | <div><div>10</div><div>Elders Valentine's<br/>Social &amp; Auction<br/>Andahwod   1 - 4 p.m.</div><div><div>11</div><div>New Spirit Support Group<br/>B. Health   4 - 6 p.m.</div></div></div>  |
| <div><div>12</div><div>Drop-in Group<br/>B. Health   5 - 7 p.m.</div><div>Women's Traditions Society<br/>B. Health   5 - 6:30 p.m.</div><div>Euchre and Potluck<br/>Andahwod   6 - 8 p.m.</div></div>   | <div><div>13</div><div>Substance Abuse Meeting<br/>B. Health Lodge   5 - 7 p.m</div><div>Name that Tune<br/>Andahwod   3 - 4:30 p.m</div></div>  | <div><div>14</div><div>Open Gym<br/>Tribal Gym   6 - 9 p.m.</div><div>STEAM Pi Day Celebration<br/>SCTC   12:15 - 1:15 p.m.</div><div>Youth Council Meeting<br/>Tribal Ops   5 p.m.</div><div>Feast Plate Workshop<br/>7<sup>th</sup> Generation   5 - 8 p.m.</div></div> | <div><div>15</div><div>Tribal Observer<br/>Deadline   5 p.m.</div><div>Talking Circle<br/>7<sup>th</sup> Generation   3 - 5 p.m.</div><div>12-Step Meditation Group<br/>B. Health   7 - 9 p.m.</div><div>Feast Plate Workshop<br/>7<sup>th</sup> Generation   5 - 8 p.m.</div></div> | <div><div>16</div><div>Drop-in Group<br/>B. Health   11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.</div><div>Active Parenting Now<br/>ACFS   10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.</div><div>Friday Fish Fry<br/>Andahwod   4:30 - 6:30 p.m.</div><div>Youth Council Movie Night<br/>Tribal Gym   7 - 9 p.m.</div></div> | <div><div>17</div><div>Bingo<br/>Andahwod   1 - 5 p.m.</div><div><div>18</div><div>New Spirit Support Group<br/>B. Health   4 - 6 p.m.</div></div></div>  |
| <div><div>19</div><div>Tribal Ops Closed<br/>President's Day</div><div>Drop-in Group<br/>B. Health   5 - 7 p.m.</div><div>Women's Traditions Society<br/>B. Health   5 - 6:30 p.m.</div><div>Euchre and Potluck<br/>Andahwod   6 - 8 p.m.</div></div> | <div><div>20</div><div>Substance Abuse Meeting<br/>B. Health Lodge   5 - 7 p.m</div></div>   | <div><div>21</div><div>Tribal Education<br/>Advisory Meeting   9 a.m</div><div>Open Gym<br/>Tribal Gym   6 - 9 p.m.</div></div>   | <div><div>22</div><div>Talking Circle<br/>7<sup>th</sup> Generation   3 - 5 p.m.</div><div>12-Step Meditation Group<br/>B. Health   7 - 9 p.m.</div><div>Anishinaabemowin<br/>Sacred Fire Lunch<br/>7<sup>th</sup> Generation   12 - 1 p.m.</div></div>                              | <div><div>23</div><div>Drop-in Group<br/>B. Health   11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.</div><div>Active Parenting Now<br/>ACFS   10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.</div><div>Friday Fish Fry<br/>Andahwod   4:30 - 6:30 p.m.</div></div>   | <div><div>24</div><div>Birthday Bingo<br/>Andahwod   12 - 3 p.m.</div><div><div>25</div><div>New Spirit Support Group<br/>B. Health   4 - 6 p.m.</div></div></div>  |
| <div><div>26</div><div>Drop-in Group<br/>B. Health   5 - 7 p.m.</div><div>Women's Traditions Society<br/>B. Health   5 - 6:30 p.m.</div><div>Euchre and Potluck<br/>Andahwod   6 - 8 p.m.</div></div>   | <div><div>27</div><div>Substance Abuse Meeting<br/>B. Health Lodge   5 - 7 p.m</div></div>   | <div><div>28</div><div>Open Gym<br/>Tribal Gym   6 - 9 p.m.</div><div>Youth Council Meeting<br/>Tribal Ops   5 p.m.</div></div>   | <div><div>blind date<br/>With a Book</div><div>Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Library<br/>until Feb. 14</div></div>   |   | <div><div>You can Quit!<br/>We can help!</div><div>1-800-QUIT-NOW<br/>1-800-784-8669<br/>www.michigan.gov/tobacco</div><div>Funded by the Michigan Department of Community Health</div><div>Free! Michigan TOBACCO QuitLine</div></div> |



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.

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115 For Sale

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130 Services

135 Events

140 Giveaways

145 Miscellaneous

100 Employment

Tribal Operations

Clerical Pool

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

Primary Language Immersion Specialist

Open to the public. Must possess specialized skills which include a high level of demonstrated fluency, knowledge of age-appropriate teaching techniques, a clear understanding of immersion philosophy and language acquisition and five years experience teaching Anishinabemowin.

Secondary Language Immersion Specialist

Open to the public. High school diploma or GED. Associate degree preferred. Must be a fluent Anishinaabe speaker. Two years teaching Anishinaabemowin. Early childhood teaching experience preferred. Excellent communication and group leadership skills. Proficient with Microsoft Office programs preferred. Must be able to pass background check to meet the employment eligibility requirements as they pertain to the position.

Resident Care Manager

Open to the public. Registered Nurse. Bachelor's degree in nursing preferred. Three years long-term care experience. One year in a supervisory capacity. Experience and knowledge of services to assisted living services, adult foster care services and homes for the elderly. Must be able to effectively communicate with residents and all members of the health care team. State of Michigan Registered Nurse License. BLS Certification.

Dental Assistant

Open to the public. High school diploma or equivalent. Graduate of an accredited Dental Assisting Program or two years of dental assisting experience. An equivalent combination of education and directly related experience may be considered. Certification to expose dental radiographs. Ability to obtain HIPPA Certification, Blood Borne Pathogens Certification, BLS Certification and safety training within 30 days of hire.

General Labor Pool

Open to the public. Must be at least 18 years of age and possess a high school diploma or equivalent. Must be physically fit and be able to perform manual labor. Applicants must have a telephone contact number and be available on short notice for short-term employment. May also be required to have a valid Michigan Driver License.

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.

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.

Elder Community/ Activities Assistant

Open to the public. Must have a high school diploma or GED. Six months working with elders or activity planning. Event planning experience. Must be able to effectively communicate with residents, elders and community members and have good computer skills.

Housing Administrative Program Coordinator

Open to the public. Must have a high school diploma or GED. Five years executive assistant experience. Experience with title searches and recording. An understanding and experience of HUD laws and regulations preferred.

Paraprofessional

Open to the public. Must have a high school diploma or GED. Must pass a state or local exam (i.e. basic skills test of michigan for teacher certification or ETS ParaPro Assessment) or complete at least two years of study at an institution of higher education (60 semester hours) or associate degree. Two years' experience working with children in a school setting preferred.

Journeyman Lineman

Open to the public. Must have a high school diploma or GED and Journeyman Lineman license. Two years lineman experience preferred. Commercial Driver's License (CDL). Backhoe operation experience preferred.

Elementary Teacher

Open to the public. Must have a high school diploma or GED. Bachelor's degree in education or related field. Master's degree preferred. Experience with current assessment requirements and federal and state standards. Two years teaching experience preferred. Preference will be given to those with proficiency in speaking the Ojibwe language.

Healthy Start Maternal Child Nurse

Open to the public. Registered Nurse. Bachelor's degree in nursing preferred. Program planning and coordination of prevention program experience. One year nursing experience in community health, obstetrics and prenatal health care management. State of Michigan Registered Nurse

License. Certified Childbirth Educator preferred. Certified ASQ SE and three screener and trainer preferred. Certified Neonatal Resuscitation preferred. Ability to obtain HIPAA Certification, Blood Borne Pathogens Certification, BLS Certification and safety training within thirty days of hire.

Operator Lab Technician

Open to the public. Must have a high school diploma or GED. One year experience in wastewater field. Must be willing to take classes in microbiology, advanced math and beginning algebra courses. Must have an aptitude for operating and maintaining water treatment and waste water treatment mechanical equipment and be skilled in the operation, repair and maintenance of mechanical, lab equipment and electrical equipment.

Special Education Teacher

Open to the public. Bachelor's degree in special education, education or related field. Master's degree preferred. Teaching certificate with special education endorsement. Experience with current assessment requirements and state standards. Two years special education teaching experience preferred. Preference will be given to those with proficiency in speaking the Ojibwe Language.

Registered Medical Assistant

Open to the public. Registered or Certified Medical Assistant License. One year experience working in an outpatient or clinic setting. Must be able to effectively communicate with patients and all members of the health care team and have good computer skills.

Administrative Assistant II

Open to the public. High school diploma or GED. Four years administrative support experience or Associate's degree. Two years administrative support experience.

Anishinabe Language Apprentice

Open to the public. High school diploma or GED. Associate's degree preferred. Excellent communication and group leadership skills. Proficient with Microsoft Office programs preferred.

SECR

Server Assistant FT

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

Inventory Control Warehouse PT

Tribal Members only. High school diploma or equivalent. Must be able to obtain and maintain a Tribal driver's license and Industrial Truck Operator Permit. One to three years experience in receiving or warehousing.

Table Games Dealer PT

Open to the public. Must have a high school diploma or GED. Must be at least 18 years of age. Must be able to obtain certification from the SECR Table Games Department for each game associate deals. Applicants that do not possess these certifications

but have prior casino dealing experience may earn their certification by successfully passing the written and table testing requirements for the required games.

Carpet/Upholstery Cleaner

Open to the public. Some carpet and upholstery cleaning experience required. Knowledge in various chemicals pertaining to daily maintenance of furniture upholstery and carpet.

Host/Hostess PT

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

Guest Room Attendant PT

Open to the public. Must have a high school diploma or GED. Requires three months housekeeping experience.

Housekeeper FT

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

Housekeeper PT

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

Line Server PT

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

Line Server FT

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

Security Officer PT

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

Central Plant Operator

Open to the public. Must have a high school diploma or GED. Must be at least 18 years of age. At least three years experience in a central plant or mechanical equipment environment. Must be able to operate computerized equipment and devices.

Steward PT

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

Guest Relations Representative PT

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

Server Assistant PT

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

Painter

Open to the public. Must have a high school diploma or GED. Must be at least 18 years of age. Three years of experience as a commercial painter or five years of experience in a building maintenance environment with a heavy focus on building finish or substrate repairs.

Massage Therapist

Open to the public. Must have a high school diploma or GED. Must be at least 18 years of age. Michigan massage certification with 600 total hours required for massage certification. One year experience preferred. Must be able to work days, nights, weekends and holidays.

Table Games Dealer FT

Open to the public. Must have a high school diploma or GED. Must be at least 18 years of age. Must be able to obtain certification from the SECR Table Games department for each game associate deals. Applicants who do not possess these certifications but have prior casino dealing experience may earn their certification by successfully passing the written and table testing requirements for the required games.

Culinary Supervisor

Open to the public. Must have a high school diploma or GED. Must be at least 18 years of age. Three years of restaurant or banquet cooking experience with increasing levels of responsibility. Culinary degree from an American Culinary Federation (ACF) accredited school preferred. Six months of lead or supervisory experience.

Senior Accountant

Open to the public. Bachelor's degree in accounting. Four years of experience in accounting; casino or hospitality accounting preferred. Proficient with Microsoft Office and accounting software. Must be able to obtain and maintain a gaming license to meet the employment eligibility requirements as they pertain to the position.

Front Desk Agent PT

Open to the public. Must have a high school diploma or GED. Must be at least 18 years of age. Three years customer service experience and cash handling experience.

Inventory Control Warehouse PT

Open to the public. Must have a high school diploma or GED. One year receiving or warehouse experience working with warehouse equipment. Experience with operating warehouse equipment including forklifts and riding cleaning machines. Must be experienced on stand-up or sit-down fork lift or must be able to be certified within 90 days of hire/transfer. Must have a valid Michigan Driver's License and must be able to obtain and maintain a Tribal Driver's License.

Inventory Control Warehouse PT

Open to the public. Must have a high school diploma or GED. One year receiving or warehouse experience working with warehouse equipment. Experience with operating warehouse equipment including forklifts and riding cleaning machines. Must be experienced on stand-up or sit-down fork lift or must be able to be certified within 90 days of hire/transfer. Must have a valid Michigan Driver's License and must be able to obtain and maintain a Tribal Driver's License.

F&B Shift Supervisor

Open to the public. Must have a high school diploma or GED. Must be at least 18 years of age. Associate degree preferred. Three years food and beverage experience. Two years supervisory experience in the hospitality field. Point of Sale experience.

SELC & Saganing

Line Cook PT

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

Food & Beverage Attendant PT

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

Food & Beverage Attendant FT

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

Security Officer PT

Open to the public. Must be at least 18 years of age with a high school diploma or equivalent. Security or surveillance experience preferred.

Count Team Associate PT

Open to the public. Must be at least 18 years of age with a high school diploma or equivalent. Six months cash-handling experience. Gaming, banking or customer service experience preferred.

Finance Cashier PT

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

Operator Lab Technician

Open to the public. High school diploma or GED. One year experience in wastewater field. Must be willing to take classes in microbiology, advanced math and beginning algebra courses. Must have an aptitude for operating and maintaining water treatment and waste water treatment mechanical equipment and be skilled in the operation, repair and maintenance of mechanical, lab equipment and electrical equipment.

Players Club Rep PT

Open to the public. High school diploma or GED. Must be at least 18 years of age. Customer service experience preferred. Must be able to pass background check to meet the employment eligibility requirements as they pertain to the position.

115 For Sale



House For Sale

House for Sale in Ogemaw Estates: 7575 Ogemaw Drive, 4 bedrooms 2.5 baths Contact Amanda Lewis 989-400-0633.



## Employees recognized for dedication and service during annual event

**NIKI HENRY**

Photographer Journalist

The banquet room at the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort filled with Tribal Operations and Migizi employees and their guests, music provided by Sweetgrass Productions, dancing and generous giveaways on Friday, Jan. 5 during the Employee Recognition Banquet.

The event began at 7 p.m. with a song by Mino Ode' and a welcome from Tribal Council Sergeant-at-Arms Kenny Sprague who expressed appreciation for the hard work and dedication of the employees as well as for their families who support their efforts and commitment.

Tribal Council Chaplain Diana Quigno-Grundahl provided a prayer before attendees enjoyed a dinner of pasta and green salads, rolls, sweet potatoes with Brussels sprouts, mashed potatoes, chicken, ham and a variety of decadent desserts.

Before Mino Ode presented an honor song, Chief Ronald F. Ekdahl addressed the room.

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone here for their continued dedication and commitment towards excellence," Ekdahl said. "Tonight we honor and acknowledge our employees. Everyone here plays a role in the success of this organization."

Ekdahl continued, "We value each and every one of you whether you are just joining us or you have been with us for many years. We appreciate your time with this organization."

The chief then explained that tenured employees are role models who help meet community needs and positively promote the Tribe.

"You make us an organization that is respected throughout the Great Lakes Bay Region," he said before concluding with well-wishes for employees in 2018 and a heartfelt miigwetch.

One of the main elements of the evening was the recognition of three employees who have



Observer photo by Niki Henry

**During the Jan. 5 Tribal Operations and Migizi Employee Recognition Banquet at the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort, Jean Coughlin, medical billing and accounts clerk, is honored for her 30 years of service.**

each served the Tribe for 30 years. This portion of the event was led by Council member Louanna Bruner.

Bruner said recognizing long-time employees is the best part of her job as the Anishinabe workforce developer and as a councilwoman.

"I love how willing their coworkers and family members are to provide congratulations and their experiences from working side-by-side with them for many years," Bruner said in her speech. "It truly makes this recognition more personable and, in some cases, quite entertaining."

Accounts Payable Bookkeeper Candace Benzinger was first to be honored for her 30 years of service.

"Candace began working for the Tribe in February 1987 as a full-time table games dealer at the card room," Bruner said. "She was quickly promoted to floor person in less than six months, which led to additional promotions of pit boss and shift supervisor in 1990 and becoming a card room manager in 1993."

Bruner said Benzinger took a significant pay cut to transfer to accounts payable in 1995 so she could spend more time with her family.

Benzinger was described by coworkers in Bruner's speech as vibrant, devoted to her family, active, fun and passionate.

Unable to attend the event, Benzinger's award was accepted by Ekdahl on her behalf.

Concluding Benzinger's recognition, Bruner said, "(Benzinger) wanted me to share with all of you that she is very grateful for all of the opportunities the Tribe has provided for her. More so, the Tribe is grateful for her 30 year service."

Next, Bruner recognized Jean Coughlin for her 30 years of service.

"Jean started her career with the Tribe on Sept. 29, 1987, as a medical billing and accounts clerk, a position she continues to hold today," Bruner said

before sharing several entertaining stories about Coughlin submitted by her coworkers.

Through Coughlin's tribute, a picture was painted of her as an avid deer hunter who cares deeply for her coworkers, embraces fun and works diligently and accurately in her job.

Coughlin's coworkers expressed their appreciation for her, with several offering her public congratulations and the hope for many more years working alongside her.

Gaming Commission Vice-Chairperson Shellie Pelcher was the final 30-year employee honored.

Bruner said Pelcher began working as a bingo concession worker in 1987 and her former boss Bonnie Sprague, current general manager for the Soaring Eagle Waterpark and Hotel, described her as honest, motivated, outspoken, happy and fun with a loud and infectious laugh.

Other coworkers described Pelcher as knowledgeable, professional, helpful, driven and blunt, and her daughter Tasha paid an emotional and heartfelt tribute to her mother that described how tenacious she was as she raised her daughters as a single mother while also working to support them.

Earlier during the banquet Deborah Eisenmann, Malissa Kerby, Jeanette Mandoka-Carpenter, Gloria Mulbrecht and Diana Quigno-Grundahl were also each recognized for serving the Tribe for 25 years.

Additionally, the following employees were recognized for serving the Tribe for the last 20 years: Gordon Boerma, Charles Bullock, Donald Chippewa Sr., Brian Chippeway, Julie Craven, Jerry Crysler, Dustin Davis, Judith Davis, Jennifer Davis-Cummings, Margaretta Elliott, Dan Gahagan, Richard Gruss, Glenna Halliwill, Anita Heard, Marta Heslip, Brian Kelly, Daisy Kostus, Linda Mallay, Joseph Maxey, Alberto Ortiz, Jeremy Pumford, Margaret Steslicki, William Vaught, Tod Walraven, Jerry Wieferrich, Emily Wiggins, Marion



Courtesy of Frank Cloutier

**Jeanette Mandoka-Carpenter (left) was not in attendance at the Employee Appreciation Banquet, hence, on a later date, Chief Ronald F. Ekdahl (right) and Tribal Council presents her with a 25 years of service award.**



Observer photo by Niki Henry

**Gaming Commission Vice-Chairperson Shellie Pelcher, who began her employment as a bingo concession worker, receives recognition for serving the Tribe for the past 30 years.**

Williams, Misty Wolfgang and Leanne Worgess.

The following employees were recognized for 15 years of service: Marco Angiolini, Sharon Avery, Jason Defeyer, Tracey Defeyer, Amanda Flaughter, Lanette Gale, John Gerhard, Benedict Hinmon, Nathaniel Isaac, Joe Johnson, Leslie Klein, Rosalie Maloney, Ruben Mosqueda, James Post, Tim Ruggirello, Barry Skutt, Darcy Sprague, Judith Sysak, Kelly Willis and Craig Wilson.

The following employees were recognized for 10 years of service: Harry Ambs, David Anderson, Marc Buccilli, Leah Carmody, Rita Champine, Trent Disel, Ronald Ekdahl, Jason Elliott, Aaron Graveratte, Estella Halliwill, Esther Helms, Tasha Jeffrey, Rita Lutes-Pulley, Kamie Mandoka, Jody Mielke, Andrea

Mayer, Dawn Morrow, Sheila Mullen, Pamela Murphy, Ashley Reed, Gene Steere, Shuna Stevens and Omero Vasquez.

The following employees were recognized for five years of service: Betsey Alonzo, Mary Baldwin, William Bates, Bethany Blades, Bryce Branson, Raymond Cadotte, Daniel Clevenger, Eric Decker, Cathy DeLeon, Darren Esch, Anthony Fuller, Carrie Heron, Ashley Hunt, Desiree Jean, Samantha Kirklin, Alexa LaRose, Lacey Mandoka, Aaron Murdoch, Rachel Phillips, Nicholas Poolaw Sr., Abby Sellers, Natalie Shattuck, Justin Shawboose, Samantha Snyder, Lindsey Sprague, Cecilia Stevens, Timothy Walraven, Bruno Wemigwans, Thomas White, Larry Willoughby, Jenna Winchel and Matthew Wright.



Observer photo by Niki Henry

**Mino Ode' provides a welcome song to initiate the event.**



Observer photo by Niki Henry

**Malissa Kerby is honored for 25 years of service.**



Observer photo by Niki Henry

**Deborah Eisenmann receives recognition for her 25 years of employment.**



Observer photo by Niki Henry

**Gloria Mulbrecht is recognized for her 25 years of service.**



Observer photo by Niki Henry

**Diana Quigno-Grundahl receives honor for serving the Tribe for 25 years.**