

TRIBAL OBSERVER

APRIL
2025

Working Together For Our Future

www.sagchip.org/tribalobserver

Volume 36 | Issue 4



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SCTC president named Honoree of the Year by American Indian College Fund

AMERICAN INDIAN COLLEGE FUND

DENVER, March 11 – The American Indian College Fund selected Carla Sineway, president of Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College, as its 2024-2025 Tribal College President Honoree of the Year.

This award is granted to a distinguished individual who made a positive and lasting impact on the tribal college movement.

Sineway is a member of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe and has spent most of her life in her hometown of Mount Pleasant, Mich. She has worked for the Tribe for almost 40 years, starting out at as a counselor trainee when the Indian Child Welfare Act first came into play.

Sineway's own academic journey and the path that led her to be president of a tribal college was not direct or expected. Her childhood, though largely a good one, included a stepfather who struggled with alcoholism, and Sineway dreamed of the day she turned 18 and could get away.

She made plans with two of her closest friends in high school to apply to colleges together. But no one they knew had gone to college, and they had no help in completing applications, understanding FAFSA, or registering for classes.



Courtesy of American Indian College Fund

Carla Sineway, president of the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College, is honored and wrapped in a Pendleton blanket for her recognition as the 2024-2025 Tribal College President Honoree of the Year by the American Indian College Fund.

Sineway was accepted to Central Michigan University but found herself lacking strong support from her family or the university. Her mother, who loved and wanted to support her, insisted she try nursing, a socially-accepted degree for women at the time.

Unprepared for living on a college campus and having learned she was not cut out for the medical field, Sineway considered pursuing a career in law enforcement. She married and had children and returned to school after working in her first social work position for her Tribe.

At first, she was still uncertain about a career and accrued 265 credits before graduating with a bachelor's degree in sociology from CMU. She then went on to earn a master's in counseling.

Her transition into the education field came when she applied for Tribal Education

director. It was the challenge Sineway needed. She not only excelled in the role but went back to school once again, this time for a master's in education from Capella University.

In her role as Education director, Sineway grew the Tribe's pre-school program into a school that went through middle school and offered an alternative school option, adult education, and leadership program.

The Department of Education grew as it served as a catch-all for community needs, including running the Tribal newspaper, maintaining a library, and operating an afterschool gym program. Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College (SCTC) was born from this expansion of services.

The Tribe began offering classes and looking into accreditation. The Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College was chartered in 2000. The first president of the college asked Sineway to serve as the dean of students and curriculum in 2002.

Several college presidents would come and go over the next few years and she filled in as the interim president. One day her husband and sons asked why she did not apply for the role. Sineway admits she had doubts about her capability, but

her family noted she was already doing the job. Once officially in the position, she got to work rebuilding from a staff of three to 20 full-time and 30 part-time employees today.

Graduation day is Sineway's favorite day of the year, she said, because it fills her heart to see the students walk across the stage, especially considering the struggles they faced and the work they put in to make it.

She said that is the importance of a tribal college education: it opens a door and provides an opportunity that students might not have otherwise. She said without tribal colleges and universities, a good percentage of Native graduates would have never

gone to school or had a choice in life.

"It should be a choice... A lot of people want to make it but are afraid," Sineway said. "(Tribal colleges and universities) are here to support them through the journey and let them know we've been there too."

Sineway said the SCTC staff are like her extended family, as it was often coworkers who encouraged and supported her academic journey and career.

In these uncertain political times, she is encouraged by what she knows of her staff.

"We made it through (COVID) and will make it through this. We always do," she said. "Being supportive to one another is really important."



Observer photo by Kyla Henry

As the American Indian College Fund named SCTC President Carla Sineway the 2024-2025 Tribal College and University President Honoree of the Year, on Tuesday, April 18, Sineway was formally recognized for this achievement at SCTC. Current students, alumni, faculty, and community members celebrated her contributions.

At the event, Sub-Chief Luke Sprague presented the award and highlighted her journey, emphasizing the perseverance that led her to this recognition.

When Sineway accepted her award, she reflected on her journey and credited her success to the dedicated team she works with.

CMDHD hosts Medication Take Back event with Isabella Substance Awareness Coalition

CENTRAL MICHIGAN DISTRICT HEALTH DEPARTMENT

MOUNT PLEASANT, Mich., March 25 – Central Michigan District Health Department and the Isabella Substance Awareness Coalition are hosting a Medication Take Back event on Thursday, April 3, from 1 to 4 p.m. at CMDHD's office at 2012 E. Preston St., Mount Pleasant.

Community members can drop off unwanted or expired medications for safe disposal.

The Coalition, which includes local organizations, works to keep Isabella County safe and healthy by educating the public on substance use risks and promoting prevention.

"Properly disposing of medications helps prevent accidental poisoning, misuse, and environmental harm," said Anna Reetz, CMDHD community health supervisor. "It also keeps homes safer and supports

community well-being."

This event supports National Prescription Drug Take Back Day, a Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) initiative that takes place on April 26.

In October 2024, Americans turned in 314 tons of medication at 4,644 locations. Find a nearby year-round drop-off site at DEATakeBack.com.

The FDA also provides safe disposal tips at fda.gov/consumers/consumer-updates/where-and-how-dispose-unused-medicines.

CMDHD also offers harm reduction services through Exchange Central, a syringe service program that helps prevent the spread of diseases from sharing needles. It provides sterile supplies, Narcan, sharps containers, and free HIV and hepatitis C testing.

Narcan training is also available.

Syringe service programs are legal, and participants are protected from paraphernalia laws. Visit cmdhd.org/exchange-central for more information.

PRESORTED STANDARD
US POSTAGE
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GREENLEAF, MI
48839
PERMIT # 338



Brenden James Lennon

October 12, 1986 – February 22, 2025

Brenden James Lennon passed away unexpectedly on Feb. 22, 2025, at McLaren Bay City. He was born in Midland, Mich., on Oct. 12, 1986. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him, from his big smile and personality to his love of cinema and reciting his favorite lines.

Brenden (Bren) graduated from R.H. Dow High School and went on to earn a bachelor's degree in outdoor recreation from Central Michigan University. He loved the water and spent his career teaching others to love it, too.

Bren emphasized safety and first aid. He instilled those values in all those who worked with him in Colorado, Florida, and Pennsylvania, and his most recent position as aquatics manager at the Soaring Eagle Waterpark.

Bren enjoyed the outdoors through rustic camping, hiking, ice climbing in the Upper Peninsula, mountain biking, kayaking and paddle-boarding.

Consistent with Brenden's "safety first" mindset, he was also a wilderness first responder, making sure to keep everyone he was with safe. One of his favorite times of the year was his annual family vacation to Higgins Lake. When the rest of the family was sleeping in the camper, he insisted on pitching a tent.

Brenden leaves behind his parents, Tom and Maggie Lennon; and his girlfriend, Sarah Newlin.

He is also remembered by his siblings: Kristin (Trevor) Oplinger, Michael (Rhown) Lennon, and Daneille (David) Schrock. His nephews: Patrick Schrock, Andrew Schrock, Owen Oplinger and Thomas Schrock will always remember Uncle Brenden for his patience, guidance, and the love he gave them over the years.

Bonnie Sprague, Bren's manager and good friend, sponsored a memorial service at the Soaring Eagle Waterpark on Wednesday March 12, from 1 to 3 p.m.



Emma Fisher

June 12, 1939 – March 10, 2025

Emma Fisher, aged 85, of Mount Pleasant, passed away on Monday, March 10, 2025, at The Laurels in Mt. Pleasant.

Born on June 12, 1939, in Saginaw, Mich., she was the daughter of the late Elijah John and Luella (Brown) Fisher. Emma married Donald Ray Buckles in 1956 in Saginaw County, and he preceded her in death in 1984.

A descendant of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe, Emma worked as a manager for Luigi's Pizzeria in Saginaw before moving to Mount Pleasant in 2000. She was passionate about weaving baskets and was deeply devoted to her family, cherishing her grandchildren.

She is survived by two sons, Donald Ray Buckles Jr. of Mount Pleasant and David (Sharon Peterson) Buckles of Arizona; eight grandchildren, Brooke (Mike) Snyder, Stevie Okeefe, Mallory (Troy) Taylor-Latzko, Chelsea Ashley, Tamara (Mark) Peterson, Bonnie Peterson, Donald Buckles III, Nathan Buckles, and Amanda Stephens; great-grandchildren, Logan, Lincoln, and Liberty Rocha, Aaiyana Okeefe, Dominus and Deus Latzko, Blair VanAcker, Teegan and Regan Buckles, Addalyn, Alivia, Allora, and Arabella Ashley-Angiolini, and Mason and Lilah Peterson; one great-grandson, Grayson Rocha.

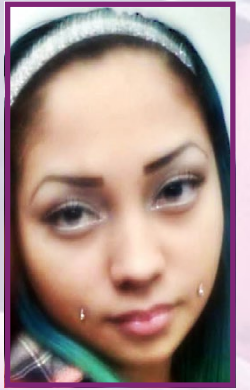
Her parents preceded her in death; her husband, Donald Ray Buckles; her son, Blair Okeefe; her siblings, Cecil Fisher, Naomi Peterson, Sam Fisher, John Fisher, Larry Fisher, Tony Fisher, and Bill Fisher; and her two infant brothers.

A celebration of life was held Sunday, March 16, at 2 p.m. at the Seventh Generation Elijah Elk Culture Center.



In loving memory of Cree Summer

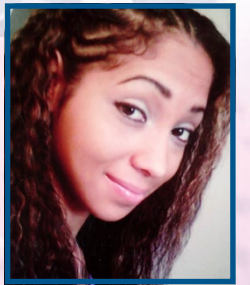
You found eternal peace and happiness in Heaven. The pain of losing you may never fully fade, but we hold on to the cherished memories we made knowing that one day we'll be reunited. Your love lives on in the hearts of all who knew you and your strength continues to inspire us. As we remember you today, our hearts are filled with gratitude for the kindness and laughter you brought into our lives. Happy Birthday in heaven Cree Summer. We honor your memory with love and the beautiful moments we shared together. ♥ ♥



4/9/1990 – 10/18/2023

On behalf of my daughter, Cree

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to community members, extended family, local agencies and the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe. Please forgive me, I must apologize for this late message. It is long overdue. I was overwhelmed by the love, kindness and support our family received during the most difficult and painful time of our lives. It will be two years this Oct. 18 since we lost Cree. Adjusting to life without her is slow and ongoing. It is a process of healing. I thank you all for being part of it.



Sincerely, Tracy

Juan Antonio Reyes

November 17, 1942 – March 16, 2025

Juan Antonio Reyes, age 82, of Mount Pleasant, passed away Sunday, March 16, 2025, at his home.

Juan was born in Donna, Texas, on Nov. 17, 1942, the son of Juan and Consuelo (Sauceda) Reyes. He proudly served his country in the U.S. Army from 1966-1968.

On March 1, 1971, Juan married Sally Green in Lansing, Mich. Sally preceded Juan in death on April 29, 2023.

Juan earned his degree from Michigan State University. Juan worked for Central Michigan University in the facilities management department from 1975-2000. He also worked for Soaring Eagle Casino from 1988-2005, beginning as a dealer and ended up as a poker pit manager.

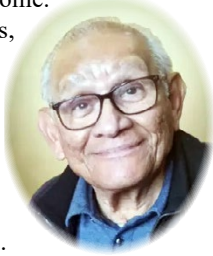
Juan was a devout catholic and attended mass at Sacred Heart Catholic Church. He loved CMU football and basketball and was a member of the Chippewa Club. Juan loved people, especially his family. He was a well-loved man with a great sense of humor and work ethic. In retirement was a driver for the Amish community chiropractor, his friend, Cletus. Juan also loved the Dallas Cowboys and traveling.

Juan is survived by his daughters, Allison Fisher of Mount Pleasant, Renee Cusmano (Tim Margitish) of St. Clair Shores, Dana Reyes (Trent Trepanier) of Mount Pleasant; grandchildren Ashley Fisher Kylie Fisher (Antonio), Raymond Fisher III, Sam Cusmano; great-grandchildren Miguel Rangel and Ronin Peters; siblings Joe (Gloria) Reyes of Brownsville, Texas, Juanita Reyes of Donna, Texas, Rudy Reyes of Donna, Texas; and many nieces and nephews.

Juan was preceded in death by his parents; wife Sally; eight brothers; and four sisters.

A memorial service took place at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, March 19, 2025, at Clark Family Funeral Chapel with Benjamin Evers officiating. The family greeted friends beginning at 3 p.m. until the time of the service.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.



2024

SCIT GOLF

Membership

Memberships on sale until:
Monday, Feb. 10, 2025 at 8 a.m.

- Open to Tribal Members, employees and their families.
- Includes green fees and discounts on apparel, range, food and drink at participating courses.

Memberships cost \$300 each

- Memberships and cart raffle tickets available for purchase at the Tribal Operations Accounting window in the Black Elk Building.
- Payment plans are also available.

Participating courses:

- Pleasant Hills Golf Club
- Firefly Golf Links
- Maple Creek Golf Club
- Eagle Glen Golf Club
- PohlCat Golf Course

Cart Membership Raffle (optional)
Drawing on Friday, April 11, 2025 at 12 p.m.

- Win a cart at your favorite course. (Limit may only win once)
- One cart membership available at each course.
- Tickets: One for \$5, or five for \$20

Honoring, Healing & Remembering

Join us on the 91st anniversary of the Mt. Pleasant Indian Industrial Boarding School closing. We recognize the suffering, strength and resilience of the children through a day of memorial and fellowship.

Save the date!

Friday, June 6, 2025

For more information, please contact:

MLHadden@sagchip.org | 989.775.4751

Office of Tribal Licensing & Regulations Announcement

Mno Shkiziwin Open Enrollment Period is Aug. 1 - Nov. 1, 2025

- On the website, an informational video, program guide and all forms are available for review.
- You may also pick up a packet with all details at the Black Elk Building in Mount Pleasant.

For more information, please contact:

Office of Tribal Licensing & Regulations

- **Latasha, licensing specialist:** (989) 775-4175
- **Chris, director:** (989) 775-4105
- **Email:** OTLR@sagchip.org
- **Tribal Member only section of:** www.sagchip.org

Elder Parking Permits

Elder Parking Permits are available at the Office of Tribal Licensing and Regulations. Please visit the office to complete an application and pick up new or replacement permits.

License Plates

Friendly reminder for any Tribal Member who carries a SCIT License Plate on their vehicle: Please stop by the office any time there is a change in your personal information since your last renewal, including: name, contact information or physical/ mailing address.

Sagamok Loyalty Cards

Sagamok Loyalty Cards for eligible Tribal Members are available at the Office of Tribal Licensing & Regulations. Pick yours up ASAP to continue receiving fuel and tobacco tax discounts at Sagamok!



Tribal Member

RÉSUMÉ

Development

Available through Human Resources

Any Tribal Members needing assistance in creating or updating their resume are encouraged to contact Betsey Alonzo to set up an appointment at the following:

Betsey M. Alonzo | Balonzo@sagchip.org | 989-775-5643





“WORKING TOGETHER FOR OUR FUTURE”

Attention Tribal Members

Tribal Council Regular Session Meetings

are held at 9 a.m.

Regular Tribal Council Sessions

- ▶ First Tuesday of each month at 9 a.m.
- ▶ Inside the Council Chambers of the Black Elk Government Complex
- Meetings are open to Tribal Members
- Anyone wanting to be added can call 989-775-4004

Regular Council Session Dates

• April 1 • May 6 • June 3



41st annual Saginaw Chippewa

POWWOW

Naakdoon Anishinaabe-aadziwin
“Follow the Anishinaabe Way of Life”

Save the Date!

July 25-27, 2025

Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Campground
7525 E. Tomah Rd., Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

• **Emcees:** Joel Syrette & Brian Moore

• **Arena Directors:** Wayne Silas & Joe Syrette

• **Head Veteran:** Ray Cadotte

• **Male Judge:** Joe Bointy

• **Female Judge:** Shelley Bointy

• **Drum Judge:** Harvey Dreaver

• **Host Drum:** The Boyz

• **Fire Keeper:** Steven Oldman

• **Head Dancers:** Picked daily

**Free Admission*

***Drug and Alcohol Free Event*

www.sagchip.org/pow-wow

For more information, contact: SCIT Powwow Committee at 989.775.4000 or PowwowCommittee@Sagchip.org

SCIT POWWOW COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Special requests during powwow
(Honor songs, specials, birthday announcements, etc.)

Please email: powwowcommittee@sagchip.org

Deadline: March 21, 2025

Vendor applications

Vendor applications will close: March 21, 2025

Applications online: www.sagchip.org/pow-wow

Camping reservations

Email: powwowcommittee@sagchip.org

Seryna Acuna will contact you for reservations.

Please note: Elders, vendors and participants will have priority to the limited water and electric hook-up site during powwow weekend. All others will have access to the remaining sites available.

PA system/sound and tabulator

The Powwow Committee is requesting bids for a PA system/sound and tabulator company for the SCIT Powwow on July 25-27, 2025.

Please email bids to: dapilar@sagchip.org



Tribal Observer

Graduate Photos

Please submit information to
Observer@Sagchip.org

College

- Graduate’s name
- School
- Field of Study

High School

- Graduate’s name
- School

Deadline: May 16, 2025

June 2025 Tribal Child Welfare Affidavits or Child Mino Shkiziwin Applications

Forms are available now.

**You must fill out ONE form completely.*

Deadline: Friday, May 2, 2025 by 5 p.m.

Tribal Clerk’s Office hours:
Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Notarization is required

- Forms are available by mail, email and at www.sagchip.org
- Post marked forms, email or faxed will not be accepted
- The Tribal Clerk’s office must have the original form
- **For questions regarding the TCWP call the Tribal Clerk’s Office at 989-775-4051**

Parents/guardians have the option to participate in the Mno-Shkiziwin program

- **For questions regarding the Mno-Shkiziwin Program call 989-775-4175**

Publication on Notice of Hearing:

Attention All SCIT Members

TAKE NOTICE: There will be a public hearing held on **Monday, May 19, 2025 at 8:30 a.m. in the Tribal Council Chambers in the Black Elk Building, 7500 Soaring Eagle Blvd., Mount Pleasant, MI 48858.** This hearing will address the liquor license application presented to Tribal Council by Christopher Nadobny, director of the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort Food & Beverage Department, or his designated staff. The application which will be reviewed and discussed at the hearing requests as follows:

Renewal of Retail On-Premise General License for the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort located at 6800 Soaring Eagle Blvd. Such license, if approved would cover Casino Beverage Main Floor Bar #1,2,3,4, High stakes VIP lounge, SECR Casino beverage cart services, Room Service, Banquet Spaces, Portable Bars #1-#13, Legends Diner, Siniikaung Bistro, Entertainment Hall, Hotel Pool and Spa areas, Miijim C-Store, Quick Service Cart Services, SECR Outdoor Concert Venue, SECR Concession Trailer, SECR Slot Palace Bingo Hall, Slot Palace Gaming Spaces in Rooms ‘A’, ‘B’, and ‘C’, Slot Palace Pub, Slot Palace A-side Bar, Little Eagle Café, Ascend Sports Bar, SECR Casino Gift Shop, SECR Slot Palace Gift Shop, any indoor service on premises under the auspices of the SECR, and any outdoor service on premises under the auspices of the SECR.

This License, if issued, will be for the duration of one full year from May 24, 2025 to May 23, 2026, with hours of alcohol service consistent with section 10 of the Gaming Compact of Aug. 20, 1993, and specifically including hours of service for 7 a.m. Sunday alcohol sales and sales on Christmas Eve until 11:59 p.m., Christmas Day at 12 p.m. (noon) and New Year’s Day until 4 a.m.



2025 Summer Youth Worker Program

Crew leaders and summer youth workers needed

Program runs for six weeks: June 23 - July 31

**Summer youth worker employees adhere to Tribal Operations Policies and Holidays.*

- ▶ **Summer youth worker portal:** The Summer Youth Worker calendar, program news and reminders, a call-in link, and other important documents will all be posted in June and updated regularly on the Summer Youth Worker portal at www.sagchip.org/summeryouth
- ▶ **Job applications will become available in April at www.sagchip.org/careers**

**Paper applications will also be available at the Black Elk Building Human Resources front window.*

Crew leaders:

- Must be SCIT Member
- Must be 18-24 years old
- High school diploma or GED
- Must be able to pass background check
- Valid Michigan driver’s license
- **Applications open:** April 1, 2025
- **Deadline:** Positions open until filled

Youth workers:

- Must be SCIT Member
- Must be 14 -18 years old age at the time of application
- Must be able to attend parent/guardian and youth worker meeting
- **Applications open:** April 1, 2025
- **Deadline:** Positions open until filled

For more information, please contact:
989.775.5643 | BAlonzo@sagchip.org

TO APPLY:
Scan QR Code Below



Saganing Powwow

Golf Outing Fundraiser



Friday, June 13, 2025

Tee time: 10 a.m. shotgun start

Pine River Golf Club
2244 Pine River Rd., Standish, MI 48658

- Format: Four player scramble
- Entry: \$80 per player **Includes cart, green fee, skins, lunch and awards banquet*
- Prizes for: longest drive, closest to the pin, and longest putt
- Mulligans: \$5 each, limit two per player
- Raffles

Cash prize with a gift

**All payouts are from donations and will determine the prize.*

Pre-registration:

Email team name and players to:
powwowcommittee@sagchip.org

2026 Annual Reports

Forms available now

Deadline: Friday, Oct. 31, 2025

Tribal Clerk’s Office hours:
Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Notarization is required

- Forms available by mail, email and at www.sagchip.org
- No postdated forms, emails or faxes accepted

Your 2026 Annual Report MUST be filed before/ with submitting a Tribal Loan Application.

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



Tribal Council

Chief

Tim J. Davis | District One

Sub-Chief

Luke Sprague | District One

Treasurer

Maia Spotted Tail | District One

Secretary

Jennifer L. Wassegijig | District One

Sergeant-at-Arms

Christina Otto | District One

Chaplain

Alice Jo Ricketts | District One

Council Member

Brad Bennett | District One

Council Member

David Merrill Jr. | District One

Council Member

Frank J. Cloutier | District Three

Council Member

Ron Nelson | District Two

Council Member

Samantha Chippeway | District One

Council Member

Theresa Peters-Jackson | District One

HR TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY WORKSHOP SERIES

Learn, have fun, get connected!

- ▶ **Black Elk Building, HR Training Room**
(7500 Soaring Eagle Blvd., Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858)
- ▶ **All materials provided along with a certificate of completion**
- ▶ **Free**



To sign up:

- ▶ **Scan QR code to the right:**
- ▶ **Contact:**
989.775.5643 | Balonzo@sagchip.org
- ▶ **Or visit:**
www.sagchip.org/hr/class-signup.aspx

For more information:

www.sagchip.org/hr/CareerDevelopment

"How to Have Difficult Conversations"

Tuesday, April 8, 2025: 2-3:30 p.m.

This workshop provides a framework to hold conversations when there are opposing viewpoints, and strong emotions are present.

"Daily Success"

Thursday, May 22, 2025: 2-5 p.m.

Being a parent, spouse, or student is challenging to say the least. Finding ways to be more productive and organized within our daily lives can help us alleviate stress and be more successful in our lives.

Tribal Youth Suicide Prevention Survey

The Native Connections program at SCIT Behavioral Health is conducting a mental health survey for Tribal Members/descendants between the ages of 9 to 24.

Behavioral Health has incentives available for anyone who completes the surveys. Please call Sarah Jones, data analyst, at 989-775-4898 for the incentives or for more information.

The survey will assist in gathering information about our community to help prevent substance misuse and suicide among our Tribal youth.

SCAN QR CODE



The Seven Grandfather TEACHINGS

Nbookaawin – Wisdom

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

Zaagidowin – Love

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

Minaadendamooing – Respect

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

Zoongide'ewin – Bravery

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

Gwekwadiziwin – Honesty

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

Dibaadendiziwin – Humility

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

Debwewin – Truth

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

SCIT POWWOW COMMITTEE

SCIT Golf Membership PACKAGE RAFFLE

Winner takes all. Package includes:

- ▶ **2025 SCIT Golf Membership** worth \$300
 - **Participating courses:** Pleasant Hills Golf Club, Maple Creek Golf Club, PohlCat Golf Course, Firefly Golf Links and Eagle Glen Golf Club.
 - **Membership includes:** Green fees and discounts on apparel, range, and food and drink at participating courses.
- ▶ Swag bag of goodies and a \$100 Visa gift card

Drawing: Friday, April 18

12 p.m. | Black Elk Building

Tickets: • One for \$5 • Three for \$10

Contact Powwow Committee for tickets:

Darcy Pilar, Elizabeth Chivis, Carla Bennett, Dabian Sprague, Noelle Wells, Naomi McCormack, Brianna Yahbay, Seryna Acuna, Niibin Sprague and Elizabeth Smith.

**All proceeds benefit the Saginaw Chippewa and Saganing Powwows*

For more information, please email:

Powwowcommittee@sagchip.org

ZIIBIWING CENTER of Anishinabe Culture & Lifeways

The Ziibiwing Center will be open to the public during the following holidays:

- ▶ **Easter** — Monday, April 21, 2025
- ▶ **Michigan Indian Day** — Friday, Sept. 26, 2025
- ▶ **Veterans Day** — Tuesday, Nov. 11, 2025
- ▶ **Martin Luther King Jr. Day** — Monday, Jan. 19, 2026
- ▶ **Presidents Day** — Monday, Feb. 16, 2026

SCIT Powwow Committee VACANCIES

Attention Tribal Members:

The SCIT Powwow Committee is currently seeking interested individuals to serve on the committee.

Requirements:

1. Must be Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe member
2. Must be 18 years of age
3. Submit a letter of interest

Please submit a letter of interest to:

Mail: SCIT Powwow Committee
7500 Soaring Eagle Blvd.
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

Email: PowwowCommittee@sagchip.org

For more information, please contact:

989.775.5600 | PowwowCommittee@sagchip.org

TRIBAL OBSERVER

Boozhu! The Tribal Observer, a monthly newspaper, is published on the first of each month.

- To contact Tribal Observer staff, please call 989-775-4096 or email observer@sagchip.org.
- To change your mailing address, please contact the Tribal Clerk's office at 989-775-4055.
- Community advertisements will not be accepted over the phone.

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

Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe
c/o Tribal Observer
7500 Soaring Eagle Blvd.
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858



Subscription rates are \$30 per year.

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

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

Tribal Observer Advertising

To place an advertisement, please contact the Tribal Observer at 989-775-4096 or Observer@sagchip.org for more information.

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

Political ads - All political ads will be 1/4 page and have a red border stating as such. The cost is \$250. 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. Make checks out to SCIT.

Name: _____

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Please mail form to:

Tribal Observer
7500 Soaring Eagle Blvd.
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

Contact Information:

• **Phone:** 989-775-4096
• **Email:** Observer@sagchip.org
www.Sagchip.org/TribalObserver



Kina bi maad ziim gak Kchi pii tend da kwad
"All life is sacred"

A Missing and Murdered Indigenous People Event

Thursday, May 5, 2025
5-6:30 p.m. | The Hill Campground
7525 E. Tomah Rd., Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

- Spread awareness to the Missing and Murdered Indigenous People (MMIP) Movement
- Guest speakers
- Light refreshments

Red Dress exhibits will be featured starting the beginning of April until the middle of May, to bring recognition to this powerful movement.

For more information, contact:
989-775-4400 | BHDVServices@sagchip.org

Attention Members:

NF Nimkee Fitness

DOORS WILL BE LOCKED AT ALL TIMES

To have access to the Fitness Center: Please have your Employee Badge or 24/7 black fob (for non-employees)

New members: If you would like to become a new Nimkee Fitness member, please use the Public Health entrance to gain access through the back of the Fitness Center.

- Staff are available: Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- Nimkee Clinic patients and non-employees (SCIT Members/descendants or tribal members/descendants of another Tribe) will need a fob.
- The first fob is free, with a \$10 fee for a replacement.
- Employees must bring Employee ID to be linked to the 24/7 access system.

New Dance Yoga Class

Niimdaa "Let's Dance"

Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.
Beginning: Thursday, March 6, 2025

For more information, please contact:
Nimkee Fitness at 989.775.4690

ACFS YOUTH MURAL Design Contest

The winner selected will have their design painted as a 4-by-5 foot mural in an ACFS family visitation room, with all supplies provided.

Eligibility:

- Indigenous youth
- Open to students ages 12-18 in grades 6-12

Design requirements:

- Submitted on an 8-by-10 inch or 16-by-20 inch canvas.
- Designs must reflect: "What family means to me."

Submissions:

- Submissions and registration forms must be turned in to ACFS by 5 p.m. on May 2.

Prizes:

- First place and People's Choice will receive: \$25 gift card and art supply gift basket.
- The contest winner will have the opportunity to paint their mural at ACFS between the hours 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. starting the week of June 9, 2025.

Voting:

- ACFS will vote and choose the winner.
- A People's Choice Award will be voted on at:
 - Bingo Night: May 9 at the Eagles Nest Tribal Gym
 - ACFS Silent Auction: Tuesday, May 20

Display:

- All designs submitted by the deadline will be displayed at ACFS Bingo Night and Silent Auction.

For registration form and more information, please contact:
989-775-4914 | WFlowersMurch@sagchip.org

HONORING SAGANING TRADITIONAL POWWOW

June 14 & 15, 2025
Powwow Grounds - 2750 Worth Rd. Standish, MI

| | |
|--|---|
| Emcee: Mike Medawis | Head Veteran: Raymond Cadotte |
| Arena Director: Gabe Cleveland | Host Drum: Ribbon Town |

Head Dancers Selected daily

For camping reservations or for more information:
989.775.5600 | powwowcommittee@sagchip.org

PRE-FILLED Easter Egg FUNDRAISER

Youth Council is selling Easter eggs filled with candy and toys!

Pick-up: Friday, April 18, 2025
3-5 p.m. | 7th Generation
(7957 E. Remus Rd., Mt. Pleasant)

- 30 eggs: \$25
- 50 eggs: \$40
- 75 eggs: \$60
- 100 eggs: \$80

For more information:
youthcouncil@sagchip.org | 989-621-9375

All proceeds will assist in Youth Council travel costs.

19TH ANNUAL People's Traditional POWWOW

Save the Date!

Aug. 23 & 24, 2025
Seventh Generation Powwow Grounds
7957 E. Remus Rd., Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

Dignitaries: TBD

SCTC Land Grant INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

POSITIONS AVAILABLE
Provides SCTC students access to new experiences, research, and hands-on learning opportunities working with professionals in the field.

Application deadline: April 11, 2025 by 5 p.m.
May provide up to \$1,800 per semester and summer to qualified students.

► **Start:** May 12, 2025 ► **End:** May 8, 2026

Criteria:

- Must be an enrolled SCTC student
- Current student
- Must be able to do physical labor
- Commit to eight to 12 hours per week
- Taking six credits or more per semester
- Must have and maintain a 3.0 GPA or higher
- Must be enrolled in at least one STEAM (Science, Technology, Art, Ag, Math) related course and/or be a member of the STEAM^{AG} Student Organization

If interested, please contact:
989.317.4827 | khart@sagchip.edu

In Honor of

WII MAAJIIKWAD

PLAQUE Fundraiser

Plaques will be placed on 18 benches around Wii Maajiikwad

Plaques cost: \$500 each

- Plaques will have the pre-engraved wording: "In Honor of"
- Maximum letter count for customizable area: 50 letters
- Black plaques only: no colored plaques
- Plaque size: 2"x10"
- Must be a Tribal Member's name

Payments can be made at:
Accounting in the Black Elk Building

For more information, please contact:
ESchlegel@sagchip.org or 989.775.4453

People's Traditional POWWOW

Golf Outing Fundraiser

Friday, May 30, 2025
Maple Creek Golf Course (Shepherd, Mich.)
Shotgun start: 9 a.m.

Registration deadline

► \$80 prepaid by May 2 ► \$100 after May 2

Two person scramble

- CASH payouts for Skins and 50/50
- Prizes for winning teams
- Swag bags for every participant
- On course games and proxies to win gift cards
- All registrants will be entered into door prize drawings
- Participants are also eligible for a chance to receive their entry fee back. Two random people will be drawn at the conclusion of the event.

** All proceeds will benefit the annual People's Traditional Powwow in August 2025*

For more information:
989-775-4780 | TJackson@sagchip.org



Ogitchedaw make a stand along other Michigan veterans to protest federal executive orders

JOSEPH V. SOWMICK

Public Relations Manager

On March 14, the Anishinabe Ogitchedaw Veteran and Warrior Society took a stand at Michigan States Capitol in Lansing with other Michigan veterans to protest recent federal executive orders coming from the Trump administration.

According to a March 13 CNN article, U.S. District Judge William Alsup has ordered half a dozen federal agencies to “immediately” reinstate probationary employees fired last month as part of the Trump administration’s effort to rapidly shrink the federal workforce.

The article stated, “The preliminary injunction issued requires the departments of Veterans Affairs, Agriculture, Defense, Energy, Interior and Treasury to rehire the employees. The judge said that he might extend the order to cover other federal agencies at a later time.”

Ogitchedaw Okima I Tony Carmona led the entourage on the Capitol steps that included fellow veterans David Perez Sr., Minnie Martin, Rae Houston



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

Members of the Anishinabe Ogitchedaw Veteran and Warrior Society protest in support of veterans’ rights at the Michigan State Capitol in Lansing on March 14 (left to right: Paul Walker, Tony Carmona, David Perez Sr., Minnie Martin and Rae Houston).

and honorary Ogitchedaw member Paul Walker.

The veterans brought the Ogitchedaw healing staff, Saginaw Chippewa flag along with the POW and Air Force flag. The Ogitchedaw also shared the western door medicine white sage with appreciative fellow veterans in a healing smudge ceremony.

“... I would like to know what happened to giving people two weeks’ notice when they are being released from a job? We are here specifically to show our disdain for these executive orders that affect veterans services and

coming down from above to lay off so many people,” Carmona while at the Capitol. “Are you going to tell me out of 83,000 people, that all of them aren’t doing their job and they are all worthless? I don’t think so, and a lot of people here agree and we got to do something about it.”

On March 11, Congressman John Moolenaar and Congresswoman Debbie Dingell (D-MI) reintroduced bipartisan legislation that would require the Veterans Affairs Department to ensure veterans in rural areas have reliable access to patient advocates to receive better care.

“Our nation’s veterans deserve the best possible service from the VA. Unfortunately, veterans know receiving care from the VA often consists of time-consuming paperwork, fighting through layers of red tape, and lengthy appeals,” Moolenaar said. “This is especially true for Michigan veterans in rural communities, where the nearest VA clinic may be hundreds of miles away. Patient advocates are an asset for veterans to work through the bureaucracy, and improve accountability in the VA.”

According to Carmona, “The director of the VA just came out with a video for all the veterans to look at and said everything is going to be alright and ok, but they are going to cut back and get rid of the veteran crisis lines.”

“There are people we know from our work in AOVWS that will be affected by this and Dr. Minnie Martin who has worked for our veterans knows this outsourcing of services will hurt Michigan veterans,” Carmona said. “A lot of those vital services that come from the VA where they go directly to the homes to help veterans won’t be happening with these cuts from the federal government on these programs. There is no way that these actions are not going to affect the health care of veterans in a negative way.”

Ogitchedaw member Minnie Martin discussed her career as a retired Saginaw, Mich. VA doctor, and said she believes the decisions being made in Washington regarding veterans is affecting the most vulnerable population.

“Our veterans not only deserve our respect but they also should be taken care of by our population. No veteran should be homeless and no veteran should be without health care and their needs should be met with a prompt and caring response,” Martin said. “And even when properly staffed, we are continuing to fall behind meeting needs of our veterans. These cuts and layoff will make an already crippled system crumble with these executive orders.”

Martin further said her heart is breaking when she hears about veterans not getting the quality care they were promised.

“This is an issue that affects families all over Michigan and the benefits our veterans are entitled to. If there is a family member or caregiver assisting a veterans with meals, shopping or activities with daily living, their reimbursement may be affected,” Martin said. “There

are also other grant programs that make homes wheelchair accessible that the VA uses with other contractors that may be stalled or may lose funding altogether. As a matter of fact, these concerns affect veterans, their families and all the Michigan communities we live in.”

Honorary Ogitchedaw member Paul Walker said he stands in solidarity, not only with the Ogitchedaw, but with all the Michigan veterans at the Michigan Capitol that day.

“They signed up and went to fight for our country and put their lives on the line. I have the utmost respect for that and (this) is our chance where we let them know the Saginaw Chippewa Tribe care about the treatment of all veterans...,” Walker said at the Capitol.

With far reaching political issues like these executive orders, Walker said he is encouraged the voice of Indigenous elected officials can lead the way through their decisions.

“I like the message sent through Tribal Chief Tim Davis and our Tribal Council supporting our effort to be here (at the Capitol) and people should be aware that they believe in showing that respect for veterans’ health care,” Walker said. “We have veterans sitting on our Council right now and they support letting our voices to be heard by the elected officials here. It’s an awesome feeling being here (at the Capitol) and showing our Tribe supports veterans’ issues.”

Ogitchedaw Okima I Tony Carmona said for anyone interested in supporting veterans, he encourages them to attend the monthly Ogitchedaw meeting, held on the second Saturday of each month at 2 p.m. at the Ziibiwing Center.

Seventh Generation teaches maple syrup making to Tribal students

On March 26, Lee Ann Ruffino, cultural manager for Seventh Generation, confirms the 2025 gathering of maple syrup sap from the trees on the powwow grounds have yielded over 180 containers to date.

“The spring weather continues to be kind and while the sap is running, we can expect to produce more while we can,” Ruffino said.

Ruffino complimented Eric Sowmick (top right), cultural services representative, and other staffers as they led Wii Maajikwad students through the educational teaching of how maple syrup is gathered and made. The students and teachers will be treated to a pancake breakfast later in April.



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

Congratulations Powwow logo contest winners!



**SCIT Powwow
LOGO WINNER:
Allyssa Shawboose**



**Saganing Powwow
LOGO WINNER:
Reagan Sizemore**

SOARING EAGLE CASINO & RESORT NOW HIRING Summer Concert Series SEASONAL STAFF

Accepting only rehires and Tribal-preference hires with application

Only previous summer concert employees, SCIT Members or descendants, or tribal members of other federally recognized tribes and First Nations of Canada may apply.

Posting dates: March 24, 2025 - April 11, 2025

Seasonal positions available:

- Crowd Control: *\$20 an hour
- Usher: *\$20 an hour
- Bartender: **Up to \$15 an hour + tips
- Waitstaff: Up to \$15 an hour + tips

*Wage only for concert nights

**Requires Gaming License

Applications available online at:
<http://www.sagchip.org/careers>

Must be 18 years of age or older

For more information: Human Resources at 989.775.5600

Scan here
to view
open
positions!





Chiefs and Sub-Chiefs

of the

Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan

1937 – 1939

- Elijah Elk, Chief
- Willis Jackson Sr., Sub-Chief

1939 – 1941

- Willis Jackson Sr., Chief
- Elijah Elk, Sub-Chief

1941 – 1943

- James Strong, Chief
- Elmer B. Simonds, Sub-Chief

1944 – 1945

- Elmer B. Simonds, Chief
- Elijah Elk, Sub-Chief

1945 – 1949

- Willis Jackson Sr., Chief
- James Strong, Sub-Chief

1949 – 1950

- James Strong, Chief
- *Unknown, Sub-Chief

1950 – 1956

- Elijah Elk, Chief
- James Strong, Sub-Chief

1956 – 1959

- Willis Jackson Sr., Chief
- Eli Thomas, Sub-Chief

1960 – 1961

- Willis Jackson Sr., Chief
- Elijah Thomas, Sub-Chief

1965 – 1967

- Willis Jackson Sr., Chief
- Elijah Thomas, Sub-Chief

1967 – 1968

- Willis Jackson Sr., Chief
- Elijah Thomas, Sub-Chief

1968 – 1969

- Willis Jackson Sr., Chief
- Willis Jackson Jr., Sub-Chief

1970 – 1973

- Willis Jackson Jr., Chief
- Elijah Thomas, Sub-Chief

1973 – 1975

- Willis Jackson Jr., Chief
- Elijah Thomas, Sub-Chief

1975 – 1977

- Peter Otto, Chief
- John Quigno, Sub-Chief

1977 – 1979

- Peter Otto, Chief
- Arnold Sowmick, Sub-Chief

1979-1982

- Peter Otto, Chief
- John Quigno, Sub-Chief

1982 – 1984

- Arnold Sowmick, Chief
- Ruth Moses, Sub-Chief

1984 – 1986

- Arnold Sowmick, Chief
- Ruth Moses, Sub-Chief

1986 – 1988

- Arnold Sowmick, Chief
- Ruth Moses, Sub-Chief

1988 – 1990

- Arnold Sowmick, Chief
- Tim J. Davis, Sub-Chief

1990 – 1991

- Tim J. Davis, Chief
- Ruth Moses, Sub-Chief

1991 – 1993

- Ronald Falcon, Chief
- Ruth Moses, Sub-Chief

1993 – 1995

- Gail George, Chief
- Tim J. Davis, Sub-Chief

1995 – 1996

- Phillip Peters Sr., Chief
- Gary Quigno, Sub-Chief

1996 – 1997

- Ronald Jackson, Chief
- Arlene Molina, Sub-Chief

1997 – 1999

- Kevin Chamberlain, Chief
- Tim J. Davis, Sub-Chief

1999 – 2001

- Phillip Peters Sr., Chief
- John Hart, Sub-Chief

2001 – 2003

- Maynard Kahgegab Jr., Chief
- David Otto, Sub-Chief

2003 – 2005

- Audrey Falcon, Chief
- Bernie Sprague, Sub-Chief

2005 – 2007

- Fred Cantu Jr., Chief
- Tim J. Davis, Sub-Chief

2007 – 2009

- Fred Cantu Jr., Chief
- Lorna Kahgegab Call, Sub-Chief

2009 – 2011

- Dennis V. Kequom Sr., Chief
- Diana Quigno-Grundahl, Sub-Chief

2011 – 2013

- Dennis V. Kequom Sr., Chief
- Julius S. Peters, Sub-Chief

2013 – 2015

- Steven J. Pego, Chief
- Lorna Kahgegab Call, Sub-Chief

2015 – 2017

- Frank J. Cloutier, Chief
- Brent D. Jackson, Sub-Chief

2017 – 2019

- Ronald F. Ekdahl, Chief
- Julius S. Peters, Sub-Chief

2019 – 2021

- Tim J. Davis, Chief
- Joseph F. Kequom, Sub-Chief

2021 – 2023

- Theresa Peters-Jackson, Chief
- Jennifer L. Wassegijig, Sub-Chief

2023 – 2025

- Tim J. Davis, Chief
- Luke Sprague, Sub-Chief

This list was gathered in an effort to honor our Tribal community leaders through information located in the Ziibiwing Center of Anishinabe Culture & Lifeways archives.

We welcome any suggestions, corrections, or additional information from our Tribal community.

If you have information to share for this exhibit, please contact:

Anita Heard

Research Center Coordinator
Ziibiwing Cultural Center

- Email: ahheard@sagchip.org
- Phone: 989-775-4733

Tribal employees recognized with years of service awards during annual banquet

NATALIE SHATTUCK
Editor

Longevity was recognized during the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe’s annual employee banquet for years of service awards. This year featured a red carpet theme and was held Friday, Feb. 28 at 7 p.m. in the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort’s Entertainment Hall.

The event is open to all Tribal Operations and Migizi employees, not just those recognized with a years of service award.

Those in attendance were treated to a meal, along with lucky prize winners announced throughout the evening.

Angel Jackson, gaming commissioner, was honored for achieving 35 years of service. Jackson began her career with the Tribe in 1983.

Louanna Bruner, director of Human Resources, read statements about the honorees throughout the evening.

“(Jackson) held several positions including receptionist, cashier, community health representative, accounting clerk, vault supervisor and case manager,” Bruner said. “In 1995, she became a gaming commissioner. In 1999, she decided it was time for a change and left Gaming to become a pharmacy technician at Nimkee Clinic. Angel eventually returned to Gaming in 2000 as the director of licensing and compliance before assuming her current role...”

Her sister, Tonya Jackson, provided a statement: “... She has inspired and helped so many within the community in



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck
Angel Jackson
35 years of service



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck
Wendi Bovear
30 years of service



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck
Fabian Cantu
30 years of service



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck
Mary Pelcher
30 years of service



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck
Jacqueline Reger (center)
30 years of service



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck
Mary LaFountain
30 years of service



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck
Quantinesha Wilson
25 years of service



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck
Chris Young
25 years of service

different capacities. She probably doesn’t know how much she is appreciated. Her strength inspires me every day. She is always there when needed. She has overcome challenges in her life and never gave up; she just kept going and continues to do so...”

Ten recipients were recognized for achieving 30 years of service: Wendi Bovear, Fabian Cantu, Troy Chamberlain, Leigh Chippewa, Kim Howe, Richard Hubble, Mary LaFountain, Mary Pelcher, Jacqueline Reger and Alice Jo Ricketts.

Wendi Bovear, Saganing compliance officer, came to Soaring Eagle Gaming in

1993, working as a finance pool worker.

Bovear’s husband, Nick Bovear, provided a statement read by Bruner: “... You’ve worked so hard to build an amazing legacy in your profession, and it’s been such a privilege to witness your growth, and triumphs over the years. I’m so proud of everything you’ve accomplished, but more importantly, I’m proud of the wonderful person you are – someone who gives so much of herself to her work, family, and friends...”

Fabian Cantu, fire sergeant for the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Fire Department, began

his career with the Tribe in Gaming in 1991. In 1997, he became a full-time firefighter and became sergeant in 2017.

Fire Chief Fred Cantu provided the following statement, read by Bruner at the banquet: “... Fabian, your hard work and your commitment to this organization, as well as the Tribal Fire Department, doesn’t go unnoticed. Your passion as a servant to this community is truly appreciated and I wish you the best as you continue to serve your community...”

Troy Chamberlain has spent 23 years working as a security guard for Soaring Eagle before transferring to Nimkee Clinic

as a custodian.

“Troy was a natural fit and soon became everyone’s friend,” Bruner said of Chamberlain.

Leigh Chippewa works as the HRIS specialist for the Human Resource Department.

Chippewa’s coworker Mary Roberts provided a statement: “.... Your hard work and determination has not been unnoticed, not only are you a dedicated coworker, you are also an amazing human being; filled with kindness, intelligence and creativity...”

Kim Howe, payroll manager, began with the Tribe in 1994 in

TRIBAL OPERATIONS & MIGIZI

Years of Service Award Recipients

FIVE YEARS OF SERVICE

• Trisha Bassett

• Brad Bennett

• Sondra Bennett

• Charles Benz

• Daniel Figgins

• Carmen Fox

• Bambi Hallows-Howard

• Shirley Houle

• Brooke Kequom

• Forrest Kollman

• Raymond Martell

• Julie Martin

• Andrew Mejia

• David Miller

• Zachary Morse

• Stefan Neyome

• Jenna O’Meara

• Elissa Schlegel

• April Stevens

• Lee Straus

• James Trepanier

• Lucas Winter

• Timothy Wolters

TEN YEARS OF SERVICE

• Betsey Alonzo

• Judith Brittain

• Samantha Chippeway

• Kimberly Condon

• Timothy Davis

• Cathy DeLeon

• Shannon Dorn

• Matthew Gibson

• Jason Jeffrey

• Kenneth Karas II

• Frederick Kuhlman

• Jackie Mannie

• Gregory McFarland

• David Merrill

• Ashley Oakley

• Shonna Patterson

• Benjamin Paul

• Trent Vatter

• Kelly Woodworth

• Brenden Lennon

FIFTEEN YEARS OF SERVICE

• Patricia Alonzo

• Willie Bailey

• Gina Borushko

• Charles Brown

• Sandra Compau

• Jackie Donovan

• Beverly Foster

• Melissa Fulger

• Jayme Green

• Mike Luplow

• Michael McCreery

• Frances Mena

• Amanda Mosher

• John Pattison

• Misty Pelcher

• Annette Plarske

• Elizabeth Simon

• Jennifer Wassegijig

• Carrie Wemigwans

TWENTY YEARS OF SERVICE

• Amy Alberts

• Adam Aldrich

• Deborah Campbell

• Kevin Chamberlain

• David Chatfield

• Steven Fare

• Jodi Friend

• Elizabeth Holbrook

• Nanette Katzinger

• Shawn Kimewan

• Anna Levesque

• Danita Mandamin

• Stacy Mandoka

• Brandy Pelcher

• Paula Quigno

• Rhonda Quigno

• Sarah Silas

• Kelly Smith

• Eric Sowmick

• Brian Sprague

• Steven Urbani

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF SERVICE

• Gerald Bardy

• Louanna Bruner

• Renata Chookomoolin

• Bridget Faairchild

• Angela Gonzalez

• Jenifer Grove

• David Jeffrey

• Tonia Jewell

• Robin Keefer

• Patricia Kequom

• Sally Kniffen

• Amanda Kripa

• Jill O’Brien

• Mary Perez

• Deborah Peterson

• Kevin Ricketts

• Chandra Rippie

• Stephany Smith

• Jill Spindler

• Brad Walraven

• Jeff Wentworth

• Quantinesha Wilson

• Chris Young

THIRTY YEARS OF SERVICE

• Wendi Bovear

• Fabian Cantu

• Troy Chamberlain

• Leigh Chippewa

• Kimberly Howe

• Richard Hubble

• Mary LaFountain

• Mary Pelcher

• Jacqueline Reger

• Alice Ricketts

THIRTY-FIVE YEARS OF SERVICE

• Angel Jackson



Saginaw Chippewa Round Dance held in new Wii Maajikwad school

KYLA HENRY
Staff Writer

The annual Saginaw Chippewa Round Dance was held on Saturday, March 8. This was the first year the Round Dance was held in the new Wii Maajikwad school building.

This year’s theme was “Where We Learn,” which coincided with the new location.

This year’s emcee was Mike Medawis, with Aaron Chivis as stickman and Steve Pego as pipe carrier.

Invited singers included Vito Buckanaga, Leroy Shenoskey, Zhaawon Smith, Kwake Hale, and Caden Pego.

The event was livestreamed by Rezonance Productions (Nathan Isaac).

The night started off with a community feast. After everyone was finished eating, the Round Dance kicked off with a welcoming song.

Later that evening, the K-12 Education Department held a

Photos courtesy of Paul Syrette Photography

Round Dance Student Honorees

- **Wii Maajikwad:** Enzo Rueckert, Winona Wemigwans, Milani Banziini, Kingston Quintero-Smith, Nina Nahmabin, Jacob Nedwash, Valarae Isaac, Garner Shomin, April Cummins, Harley Jackson, Jayden Jackson, and Bonnie Redstar
- **Beal City:** Mason Maxon, Emily Warnette, Joshua Gardner, Kelsey Chippewa, Raymond Lamach and Joseph Federico
- **Fancher Elementary:** Mercades Pimentill and Tobias Whitehouse
- **Mary McGuire Elementary:** Zagiidawin Pelcher and Emilio Pelcher
- **Pullen Elementary:** Mia Alvarez and Dash Bonstelle
- **Mt. Pleasant Middle School:** Emma Kendall and Corleone Castillo-Sprague
- **Oasis:** Angelita Martinez and Aspen Isham
- **Shepherd:** Jaylah Kequom, Declan DeFeyer, Leylahni Sandoval-Ritter, Benjamin Sanchez-Hinmon, Jay Garcia and T’yannah Trepainer
- **Renaissance:** Maleki Dye, Ava Leureaux, Steven Fulton, and Angela Peck
- **Ganiard Elementary:** Brayzen Kahgegab and Vera Loomis
- **Vowles Elementary:** Cortez Gonzalez and Aanzhenii Vasquez
- **Mt. Pleasant High School:** Andrew Kequom and Alexis Trepanier

student honoring ceremony.

As the night went on, a mid-night snack was prepared. The

Round Dance then ended with a closing song and wrapped up at 1 a.m.



Employee Banquet

continued from page 8

the finance pool before moving to the payroll department.

“Kim and her team are responsible for running payroll for every single employee with the Tribe – that includes Soaring Eagle Casino and Resort, Tribal Operations and Migizi. There’s no doubt that she is everybody’s favorite person.”

Richard Hubble, internal auditor for Gaming Commission, started his career with the Tribe as a housekeeper at Soaring Eagle in 1993. He has been in his current position since 2007.

Mary LaFountain, Saganing compliance supervisor, was hired in 1993 as a cage/vault cashier. After two years, she was promoted as finance control supervisor. She moved to Compliance in 1998, and eventually transferred to Saganing when the casino opened.

LaFountain’s son, George, provided a statement: “... My mother has always been the strongest person I have known; which she displays with the way she approaches her job... She has always been an extremely dedicated employee that takes pride in her job...”

Mary Pelcher, dean of academics for the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College,

began her career with the Tribe in 1998 as an administrative assistance in Education.

Pelcher’s daughter, Millie, provided a statement: “I am so proud of my mom for all her years of service and dedication to our community. She leads by example; she is smart and kind and strong and funny, and she inspires many every day, just by being herself...”

Jackie Reger, senior comptroller for the Accounting Department, began with the Tribe in 1994 as an accountant.

Nathan Smith, program budget analyst, provided a statement about Reger: “... I’ve been under her watch directly or indirectly since February 2003, and I can say with 100 percent certainty that I wouldn’t want it any other way. She has been the kind of leader that I would aspire to be. Almost always armed with an answer to the avalanche of questions that come her way daily, patience to explain why a particular course of action has been chosen, but never overly rigid and always willing to listen to an alternate view...”

Tribal Council Chaplain Alice Jo Ricketts was also honored with 30 years of service.

Her husband, Kevin Ricketts, provided a statement: “... She always amazes me

with her strength and prayers. Thirty years of dedication to the Tribe is awesome. My wife would have done that for nothing – no money, no recognition; just love for her people. My wife has many more years of service left fulfilled with her love. She will always be available to her Saginaw Chippewa Tribe when they ask.”

Also honored that evening was employee Brendan Lennon, aquatics manager for the Soaring Eagle Waterpark. Lennon, 38, unexpectedly passed away on Feb. 22. He would have received his 10 year service award this banquet. A moment of silence was offered and his father accepted his award.

On behalf of the Human Resource Department, HR Senior Manager Mary Quigno, wished to thank everyone that attended, the Tribal departments that contributed to the banquet, and the local businesses that graciously donated prizes for the drawings.

“We had the biggest number (22) of hard working, dedicated employees receiving a 25 years of service award,” Quigno said. “We had a total of 117 employees who received a years of service recognition this year, so thank you all for your continued service to the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe.”

TOGETHER WE ACT,
UNITED WE CHANGE



April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month 2025

Week 1 – Self Defense Class

Tuesday, April 1 | Tribal Gym | 6-7:30 p.m.

- Open to females only, ages 16 and up
- Wear comfortable athletic clothing and tennis shoes/sneakers

Week 2 – Energy Healing Circle

Tuesday, April 8 | Behavioral Health | 5:30-6:30 p.m.

- Energy Practitioner: Debbie Peterson, HIA Certified and ADS

Week 3 – Yoga

Wednesday, April 16 | Behavioral Health | 5:30-6:30 p.m.

- Yoga Instructor: Felicia Otto, RYT 500, SCIT

Week 4 – Energy Healing Circle

Wednesday, April 23 | Behavioral Health | 5:30-6:30 p.m.

- Energy Practitioner: Debbie Peterson, HIA Certified and ADS

Week 5 – Self Defense Class

Wednesday, April 30 | Tribal Gym | 6-7:30 p.m.

- Open to females only, ages 16 and up
- Wear comfortable athletic clothing and tennis shoes/sneakers

*Pre-registration is preferred, but not required.

To register or for more information, contact:

989-775-4400 | BHDVServices@sagchip.org

Win Prizes! Participants will be entered in to prize drawings.





Rez Pets:

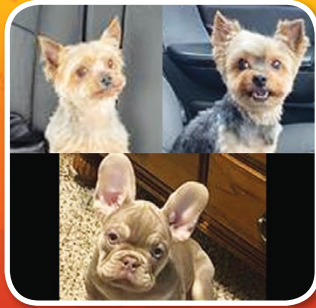
It's Raining Cats and Dogs!



Owners: Anne Heidemann & Karl Roosa
Name: Coraline
Breed: Boston Terrier
Age: 14



Owner: Jessica Gelvin
Name: Charlie
Breed: Tabby
Age: 7



Owner: Wendy Drowley
Names: Lexie, Radar, Luther
Breeds: Yorkie, Yorkie, French Bulldog
Ages: 12, 8, 7 months



Owner: Jenny Newland-Tyrell
Names: Eevee, Cleo
Breeds: Dorkie, Yorkie
Ages: 1, 6



Owner: Kimberly Condon
Name: Nalu
Breed: Pit Bull
Age: 1



Owners: Lindsay Drumm & Nicholas Ross
Names: Tucker, Bottles, Darby
Breeds: Rough Collie, American Shorthair, American Shorthair
Ages: 17 months, 17, 2



Owner: Anita Hall
Names: Billie Holiday, Petey
Breeds: Microbully, American Staffordshire Terrier



Owner: Andi Mayer
Names: Harley, Ella
Breed: Shi Tzus
Ages: 13, 9



Owners: Nick & Wendi Bovear
Names: Lainey, Lola, Riley, Maggz
Breed: Shi Tzus
Ages: 10 weeks, 2, 3, 16



Owner: Raven Wemigwans
Names: Aahnii, Maverick
Breeds: Czechoslovakian Vlcia, Blue Heeler
Ages: 7, 3



Owners: Scott & Melissa
Name: Copper
Breed: Basset Hound
Age: 1



Owners: Mike McCreery Family
Names: Cooper, Earl Grey, Little Man, Bailey, Pepper



Owners: Jerry & Tanya Bardy
Names: Ayce, Coco
Breeds: German Shepherd, Belgian Malinois/German Shepherd
Ages: 6, 5 months



Owner: Chelsea Deinzer
Names: Leonard, Maude
Breeds: Miniature Pinscher, Terrier
Ages: 9, 9



Owners: Harry & Denise Pelcher
Name: Daisy
Breed: Cavipoo
Age: 2



Owner: Debbie Peterson
Names: Sadie Hawkins, Eddie Vedder
Breeds: Orange Tabby, Shorthair
Ages: 6, 15



Owner: Rhonda Quigno
Names: Waasmowin, Nagaamo, Naangoons, Miinaande
Breed: American Pocket Bullies



Owner: Aubree Dockham
Name: Baby
Breed: Tortoiseshell cat
Age: 4



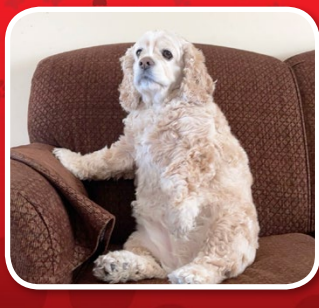
Owner: Darlene Chippewa
Names: SugarCookie, Snowball, Whitey, NillaVanilla
Breed: Golden Doodles
Ages: 1, 3, 3, 2



Owners: Elizabeth & Rich Holbrook
Name: Archibald Angus
Breed: Scottish Fold/Ragdoll
Age: 2



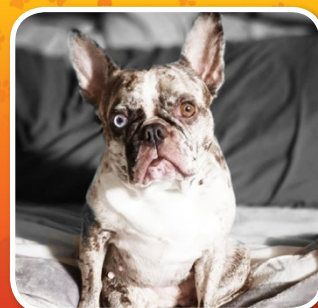
Owners: Craig & Marlene Waynee
Name: Lucy
Breed: Golden Retriever
Age: 15



Owners: Rose Wassegijig & David Flamand
Name: Natalie "Natty"
Breed: Cocker Spaniel
Age: 11



Owner: Paul Moses
Name: Scrappy
Age: 6



Owner: Lorilee Giddings
Name: Moonshine
Breed: French Bulldog
Age: 5



Owners: Rich & Barb McEnhill
Names: Murray, McCoy
Breed: Beagles
Ages: 8, 7



Owner: Ella & Emerson Fox
Name: Oliver Montgomery Fox
Breed: Bernadoodle
Age: 4



Owner: Katie Hager
Name: Mirabella
Breed: Australian Cattle Dog
Age: 5



Owner: Gene Davidson
Names: October, Sebastian



Owner: Nicole Aasved
Names: Jagger, Kaijah
Breeds: Chocolate Lab, Pug
Ages: 8, 9



Owner: Seth Wladysiak
Name: Jinx
Breed: Tortoiseshell
Age: 2



Owners: Mike & Crystal Peruski Family
Names: Angel, Peppa the Pug
Breeds: Brittany Spaniel, Pug
Ages: 10, 1



Owner: Sandi Chesebrough
Name: Opal
Breed: Rescued
Age: 3



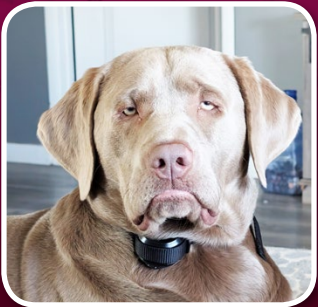
Owners: Jason, Candace, Bella Benzinger
Name: Harlee J Benzinger
Breed: Olde English Bulldogge
Age: 3



Owner: Tonia Jewell
Names: Violet, Harvey
Breeds: Mixed breed, Great Dane
Ages: 8, 5 months



Owner: Rachel Bailey
Name: Rocket, Loki
Breeds: Tabby, Domestic Shorthair
Ages: 2, 3



Owners: Will & Staci Bailey
Name: Diesel
Breed: Silver Lab
Age: 13 months



Owner: Melita Trepanier
Name: Fonzy
Breed: German Shepherd
Age: 4



Owner: Sandy Schafer
Name: Stanley
Breed: Golden Retriever
Age: 1



Owner: Theresa (Pelcher) Jackson
Name: Puff Puff
Breed: Pomeranian
Age: 12



Owner/Name: Miskwaande Dionysus Northside Davis-Ortiz-Trepanier-Palacios
Breed: Tuxedo cat



Owner: Laura Lund
Names: Oscar, Emmy
Breed: Orange Tabby, Calico
Ages: 4, 10 months



Owner: Riana Chippewa
Name: Phoebe
Breed: Chihuahua
Age: 8



Owner: Dawn Chippewa
Name: Buddy
Breed: Labradoodle
Age: 6 months



Owner: Susan Landon
Name: Gizmo
Breed: Morkie
Age: 10 weeks



Owners: Calvin Shomin & Rachel Phillips
Name: Rosie
Breed: Golden Retriever
Age: 8 months



Owner: Lanette Gale
Names: Simon, Stitch
Breed: Long Hair Tuxedos
Ages: 3, 3



Owners: David & Pam James
Name: Dinky
Breed: Chiweenie/Yorkie
Age: 10



Owners: Mike & Mary Floyd
Name: Mommas
Breed: German Shepherd mix
Age: 6



Owner: Karen Roy
Names: Taz, Sammi
Breed: Tabbys
Ages: 5, 3



Owner: Daniel Bennett Sr.
Names: Gunner, Junior, Moose
Breed: Beagles
Ages: 1, 3, 2



Owners: Cheyanna & Cody Mena
Name: Longo
Breed: Pitbull Mix
Age: 4

Adopt a Pet

Humane Animal Treatment Society

1105 S. Isabella Rd., Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

- **Hatsweb.org**
- **Phone:** 989.775.0830
- **Email:** hats.caninesupervisor@gmail.com hats.felinedepartment@gmail.com
- **Walk-in hours:** M-F, 1-5 p.m.
Other times available by appointment



Charlie

Charlie is a large male American Bulldog mix. Charlie is a cuddle bug, but is very shy when first meeting new people and prefers a slow introduction. Once he warms up, you'll have the best buddy. He loves to play in the yard and romp around after toys. You will see his fun side if you toss him a few toys!



Courtesy photo

Gertrude

"Gertrude the Snuggle Queen" is a 1-year-old female Tabby. After warming up to new people, she is a complete cuddle bug. She is a social butterfly when it comes to other cats, she just prefers ones that give her space and understand she likes to take things at her own pace. She would love a calm and quiet home.



Courtesy photo

APRIL PROMOTIONS



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Win a share of \$322,000 in Cash and Premium Play! SATURDAYS IN APRIL

Every hour from 5PM–10PM, one winner will be drawn to receive \$500 and 100 Bonus Entries. At 11PM, the prize goes up to \$50,000 in Cash for one lucky winner. On April 26, the Grand Prize amount increases to \$100,000 Cash!

ACCESS Club Members will receive one (1) entry for every 900 points earned on their ACCESS Loyalty Card from 12AM March 30, 2025, until 10:55PM on April 26, 2025.



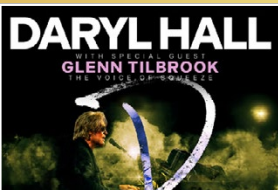
FRIDAYS 3PM–11PM

Win a share of over \$125,000 Cash & Premium Play every hour! On April 25 at 11PM, one lucky guest will take home a Grand Anniversary Prize of \$44,000 Cash!

ENTERTAINMENT



**LOS LOBOS &
LOS LONELY BOYS**
FRIDAY, APRIL 4 | 8PM
\$47, \$57, \$76, \$82
ENTERTAINMENT HALL



**DARYL HALL
WITH SPECIAL GUEST GLEN TILBROOK**
SATURDAY, APRIL 5 | 7:30PM
\$62, \$76, \$89, \$96
ENTERTAINMENT HALL



**PETER FRAMPTON
LET'S DO IT AGAIN TOUR**
SATURDAY, APRIL 19 | 8PM
\$73, \$95, \$108, \$115
ENTERTAINMENT HALL



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Win a share of \$209,000 in Cash and Prizes! SATURDAYS IN APRIL, MAY AND JUNE

From 5PM–10PM, play for the chance to win \$1,000 Cash and 1,000 Bonus Entries into the Grand Prize Drawing! At the 10PM Grand Prize Drawing, one lucky player will win a New Truck, a Sea-Doo Switch, and \$1,000 in Gas Cards!

ACCESS Club Members will receive one (1) entry for every 200 points earned on their ACCESS Loyalty Card from 12AM on March 29, 2025, until 10:55PM on June 28, 2025. 10X entries on Mondays through June 23, 2025, are for the Grand Prize Drawing on June 28, 2025.



**FRIDAYS
12PM–9PM**
Claw your way to a share of \$105,000 in Cash and Prizes!



**MONDAYS
12PM–9PM**
Every hour, one lucky player will step up to the plate for a chance to win \$100,000 in Cash!



APRIL 1–APRIL 30
Show your valid Michigan fishing license at the ACCESS Club to get a free baseball cap (while supplies last) and a raffle entry for a \$2,500 Frank's Great Outdoors gift card. Earn 1,000 points each day to get 5 bonus entries. Raffle entries must be picked up the same day. Earning period: 7AM–11:59PM.



**APRIL 20
6AM–11:59PM**
Access Members that earn 800 points can swipe at a promotional kiosk to play a game and win anywhere from \$5 to \$50 in Premium Play!

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



Lakota author Jessie Taken Alive Rencountre shares her writings with local area schools

JOSEPH V. SOWMICK
Public Relations Manager

On March 5, Hunkpapa Lakota author and jingle dress dancer Jessie Taken Alive Rencountre (Standing Rock Sioux Tribe) shared her writings with local area schools.

Rencountre has published six children’s books. By combining cultural knowledge with her experiences of more than 15 years as a school counselor, she educates through storytelling, song, and dance.

The packed crowd of Ganiard Elementary students and faculty were enthralled with her presentation.

Her book “Thunder’s Hair” features a young man who is fed up with school bullies. He considers cutting his hair until his wise grandmother reminds him of the power of having long hair.

“I think one of the best experiences I can get out of this as an author is watching the kids in their beauty of being themselves. They get to experience other cultures and, in the process, they learn diversity is truly a beautiful thing,” Rencountre said. “I believe we are all born into this world and the belief we are role modeled by society is not true, like being different is bad. I want to share knowledge



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

Hunkpapa Lakota author Jessie Taken Alive Rencountre shares her book with students at Ganiard Elementary in Mount Pleasant, Mich. on March 5.

with the kids that we are all beautiful, regardless of the language we speak and the skin color we are.”

Rencountre said she credits her parents with inspiring her as a child to continue her writing. She said she hopes to continue on her path of storytelling.

She also said she believes a deep cultural awareness will strengthen Lakota and other Indigenous youth and may help to break the cycle of generational trauma.

“In our Hunkpapa Lakota tradition we talk about the importance of being a good relative and our mothers are considered our first teachers,” she said. “These are the values that I taught to my children and I look at my own four

daughters as future leaders. One of the qualities I see as I have visited with many tribes is our common belief seen in our respect of our elders and wisdom keepers. They know so much about our ways and culture and it is a message that is worth sharing in the books I write.”

The author said in sharing her teaching, she has learned about her elders being wise and deserving respect.

“I think our spirits recognize that respect we have for the sacred fire and many ceremonies utilize that gift given to our people by the Creator,” she said. “It is universally recognized by many cultures across the world but it is certainly an excellent teacher for our indigenous

people. To be around that fire and to hear the stories that are shared around it resonates with the children’s spirit.”

Alexis Gourrier, school counselor at Ganiard Elementary, said it was great to have Jessie Rencountre visit the school and read her children’s book.

“She offered our students a great message about courage and strength. It was awesome for the students to be able to learn about the culture of our Native American people,” Gourrier said. “Her book was amazing and she did a great job with our kids. We loved the messages of being a modern-day warrior as well as being courageous and standing up for ourselves and others.”

Her book tour also included Wii Maajikwad along with other Mt. Pleasant elementary schools

(Fancher, Pullen, Vowles and Mary McGuire).

Rencountre said sitting around a fire and listening to stories reminds her of what happens in the classrooms where she reads to the children.

“The spirits recognize that fire and it helps calm us down and to be able to sit and hear things being shared in a good way just like we are doing with the classroom today. It is who our people were born to be: storytellers,” Rencountre said. “It is our responsibility to carry on these teachings to the young ones and thing ahead of the next seven generations. We all were once children who were taught beautiful things about our language and culture and to continue that tradition will ensure our stories will live on to the next generations.”

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Fans treated to an evening of entertainment and flawless harmonies with Boyz II Men, After 7

NATALIE SHATTUCK

Editor

Seeing the R&B group Boyz II Men in concert is like watching a live magic show. Their “tricks” of flawless harmonies, choreography, swagger, and Wanya Morris’ vocal abilities really stun and capture audiences. The audience witnessed this during the group’s return to the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort, with special guest After 7, on Saturday, March 15.

Boyz II Men – members Wanya Morris, Nathan Morris and Shawn Stockman – performed a 75-minute set, while sporting matching crisp, white attire.

The set list, full of ‘90s R&B nostalgic hits, began with “Can’t Let Her Go,” “Don’t Stop,” and “Water Runs Dry,” along with covers of 112’s “Cupid” and New Edition’s



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

Members of R&B groups Boyz II Men and After 7 share a moment backstage at Soaring Eagle on Saturday, March 15.

“Can You Stand the Rain.”

The vocal runs started to come to life (calm down, Wanya!) during the hit “On Bended Knee,” which was followed by “Hey Lover.”

Tony! Toni! Toné! was originally scheduled to open for Boyz II Men, but unfortunately the group’s

founding member and guitarist, D’Wayne Wiggins, passed away on March 7 after privately battling bladder cancer.

Boyz II Men paid homage to Wiggins with spoken word and by performing a snippet of “Anniversary” by Tony! Toni! Toné! after each Boyz II Men member introduced himself.

Shawn Stockman told the audience there was one rule for the evening.

“One rule only: Enjoy yourselves. That’s it. Leave all your cares and problems and baby mama issues outside of this place,” Stockman said, stirring audience cheers.

After “Please Don’t Go,” “Ugh Ahh (Sequel Version)” and “Four Seasons of Loneliness,” it was time for the rock section and cover portion of the show.

The Boyz launched right into Sam Cooke’s “A Change is Gonna Come,” Lenny Kravitz’s “Are You Gonna Go My Way,” The Guess Who’s “American Woman,” Bruno Mars’ “Locked out of Heaven,” The Beatles’ “Come Together,” and Prince’s “Purple Rain.”

The night flew by and it was time to close out the evening

with Boyz II Men’s biggest hits, including: “It’s So Hard to Say Goodbye to Yesterday,” “One Sweet Day,” “I’ll Make Love to You,” “End of the Road” and the upbeat, unforgettable “Motownphilly.”

Prior to Boyz II Men, R&B/soul group After 7 opened the show and performed an entertaining 60-minute set.

After 7 formed in Indianapolis in 1987.

Similar to Boyz II Men, After 7 also matched in white attire. The group began the show with “Baby I’m For Real,” “Can He Love You” and “Can’t Stop.”

The group heated up the Entertainment Hall stage and kept it warm for Boyz II Men as they ended their portion of the show with the timeless and catchy tunes, “I Care ‘Bout You,” “Nights Like This” and “Ready or Not.”

Tower of Power and War bring the funk to Soaring Eagle

MATTHEW WRIGHT

Staff Writer

The Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort hosted iconic soul-funk bands Tower of Power and War on Saturday, March 8.

Headlining the night was Tower of Power. The band brought more than five

decades worth of material to the Entertainment Hall stage.

Their set began with the fan favorite “We Came to Play,” followed by “Soul With a Capital ‘S’” and “You Ought to Be Havin’ Fun.”

The funk continued with the groovy baselines of “Soul Vaccination,” “I Like Your Style” and “To Say the Least,

You’re the Most.”

Next up was the chart-topping singles “You’re Still a Young Man” and “Don’t Change Horses (In the Middle of a Stream),” followed by “This Time It’s Real.”

A highlight of the night featured a performance of “Diggin’ on James Brown,” a tribute to the late artist.

To close out the night, Tower of Power performed the smooth, slow hit “So Very Hard to Go,” followed by the funky beats of “What Is Hip?/ Soul Power.”

Opening for Tower of

Power was the progressive soul band, War.

The group began with “Me and Baby Brother,” “Slippin’ Into Darkness” and “The Cisco Kid.”

Next up was the hip riffs of “Spill the Wine,” followed by “Out of Sight” and “Summer.”

The crowd cheered as the opening baselines of the classic song “Low Rider” rang out.

War ended their set with a spirited performance of “Why Can’t We Be Friends?” and “All Day Music.”

For more information on



Observer photo by Matthew Wright

Tower of Power’s Tom Politzer on the tenor saxophone

upcoming shows, please visit the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort website at www.soaringeaglecasino.com.



Observer photo by Matthew Wright

Tower of Power performs “Soul With a Capital ‘S’” during the March 8 concert at the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort.



Observer photo by Matthew Wright

Members of War perform the hit song “The Cisco Kid.”

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ENTERTAINMENT



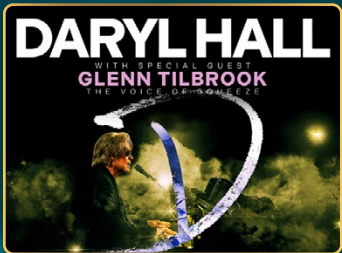
**Los Lobos and
Los Lonely Boys**

Friday, April 4
8PM
Entertainment Hall
Tickets: \$47, \$57, \$76, \$82



**Benatar & Giraldo
With Special Guest The Vindys**

Saturday, May 10
8PM
Entertainment Hall
Tickets: \$50, \$60, \$79, \$85



**Daryl Hall
With Special Guest Glenn Tilbrook**

Saturday, April 5
7:30PM
Entertainment Hall
Tickets: \$62, \$76, \$89, \$96



Tacos & Tequila

Saturday, May 17
6:45PM
Entertainment Hall
Tickets: \$60 GA



**Peter Frampton
Let's Do It Again Tour**

Saturday, April 19
8PM
Entertainment Hall
Tickets: \$73, \$95, \$108, \$115



Zac Brown Band

Sunday, May 25
7PM
Outdoor Concert
Tickets: \$54, \$144, \$178, \$209



**Herman's Hermits
Starring Peter Noone**

Monday, April 28
4PM
Entertainment Hall
Tickets: \$26, \$36, \$46, \$53



**Chicago
Live in Concert**

Wednesday, June 25
8PM
Entertainment Hall
Tickets: \$63, \$77, \$90, \$97



**Grupo Siggno
and Los Palominos
Cinco De Mayo Celebration**

Saturday, May 3
8PM
Entertainment Hall
Tickets: \$32, \$44, \$54, \$61



**Def Leppard
With Special Guest Collective Soul**

Saturday, July 18
8PM
Outdoor Concert
Tickets: \$58, \$148, \$182, \$213

Visit our website SoaringEagleCasino.com for complete entertainment lineup.

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

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Coverall pays \$144,000
- Glazed ham dinner
- \$50 Premium Play
- \$25 food voucher
- Entry into a 95-prize raffle
- \$99 room rate for Friday or Saturday



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Earth Day 2025 Awareness Month, theme is “Our Power, Our Planet”

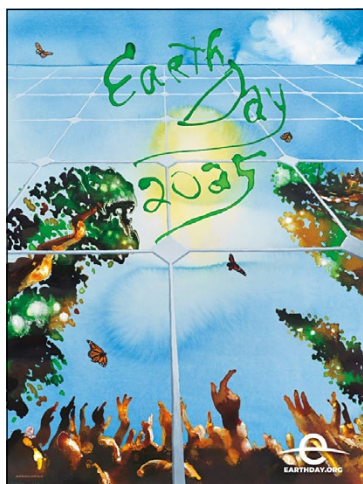
KATIE HAGER

Environmental Outreach
Coordinator

Earth Month and Day strive to increase awareness of environmental impacts paired with separate or collective actions to support the environment and its beautiful features. Many communities and individuals come together to clean up litter, plant trees, raise awareness, discuss problems and nature-based solutions, or reflect on their relations to land and water.

The first Earth Day was held on April 22, 1970, when activist John McConnell and Sen. Gaylord Nelson separately asked Americans to join in grassroots demonstrations to raise awareness for environmental issues and health during times of elevated toxic drinking water, air pollution, and the effects of human impacts in the natural world and systems.

President Richard Nixon aided in creating the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) which was the catalyst for many environmental regulations and laws including the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, and the Endangered Species Act.



Courtesy of earthday.org

Earth Day 2025’s theme is “Our Power, Our Planet” to create a greater understanding that our current reliance on energy is unsustainable.

Fossil fuels have historically been essential yet they pose serious threats to our environment and health. Shifting towards renewable energy will spur economic growth and increase job demand while utilizing a clean, sustainable energy source that is becoming more affordable.

According to Project Drawdown, electricity production in 2023 contributed to about 25 percent of greenhouse gas sources.

An innovative electricity sector can reduce carbon

emissions and improve human health and equity while providing many benefits to mitigate climate change through renewable energy and energy efficiency.

These focuses and actions can include but are not limited to: adopting renewable solutions such as biomass power, microgrids, concentrated solar power, distrusted energy storage, district heating, grid flexibility, wind turbines, net zero buildings, hydropower, utility-scale energy storage, waste to energy, and water distribution efficiency; innovating and developing building automation systems; building retrofitting; dynamic glass; geothermal power; green and cool roofs; high efficiency systems; insulation; LED lighting; low-flow fixtures; smart thermostats; and solar hot water.

What can you do?

Practice energy efficiency and purchase energy efficient products; turn off the lights and unplug electronics or appliances when not in use; use environmentally-safe products; use reusable bags and products; create art to advocate for the Earth; keep a nature journal; use less paper or use recycled; practice sustainable fashion;

eat green – eat locally and eat less meat when able; drive less by grouping errands and making fewer trips; keep your vehicles maintained; carpool when possible; plant native trees and vegetation; support reforestation; plant a pollinator garden; go to the park or green space; reduce, reuse, recycle, upcycle, and compost whenever possible; use less or no chemicals in the garden; conserve water; get others involved; do not use or purchase single-use items if possible; collect rainwater to water plants; complete a trash can or waste audit; reach out to local legislatures and representatives about environmental concerns and issues; promote sustainable development; keep your surroundings clean; clean up plastic or trash in your neighborhood or backyard.

Always use care and best judgment when picking up litter. Wear close-toed shoes and protective gloves or use a trash grabber for items that may be sharp. Only pick up trash or garbage that is safe to handle and can be easily disposed of or recycled. Avoid touching litter directly and do not touch your face while cleaning up.

If you do not have a trash grabber a repurposed pair of

BBQ or salad tongs can work as a pickup device. If it is not clean – it cannot be recycled, meaning if it is moldy or it is not relatively clean you can throw it in the trash bag. Bring hand sanitizer if you are able and be sure to wash your hands as soon as you are finished.

Leave hazardous items such as needles, syringes, batteries, oil drums, and canisters alone as these may not be safe and have specific waste instructions and regulations.

For Earth Month, the Environmental Team is asking the community to come together to raise awareness and encourage community actions to protect, support, and clean our planet. As a Tribal community, we can strive to achieve environmental sustainability within our community, homes, workplace, and backyard.

By working together to protect Mother Earth, we keep her beautiful and healthy. In turn, she keeps us all healthy, both for our generation and the next seven generations to come.

Sources:

- *Earth Day 2025, the Old Farmer’s Almanac*
- *Drawdown Roadmap, Project Drawdown*

Editorial: Another successful year for Give Kids A Smile event in February

LISA WAKEFIELD

Dental Assistant

Thank you to all those that made Give Kids A Smile a success in February. Whether

it was behind-the-scenes or on the front line, all of your effort helped Nimkee Dental Clinic provide education to 402 children.

Two of our great team members, Jodi Lucas and Jennifer

Powell, visited the area schools and gave an awesome presentation. Each student received a goodie bag to take home to share what they learned with their family. All the hard work and efforts of everyone involved are greatly appreciated.

Unfortunately we were unable to see the children

scheduled in the clinic due to the bad weather. The office was closed for the day resulting in the rescheduling of 27 of GKAS patients.

Each year the GKAS program gets bigger and better. We are all looking forward to next year and helping all the kids in the community have a big bright smile.



EMERGING FRAUD THREATS

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is a technology that enables machines to mimic certain human-like behavior, such as speech or writing. AI, while a useful tool in some circumstances, can be exploited by bad actors to make scams more convincing.

Three terms to know

- **Chatbots:** A chatbot is a computer program that may use AI to simulate human conversation and could be used maliciously to obtain, store, or manipulate your personal data.
- **Voice Cloning Technology:** Voice cloning uses AI to mimic the voice of someone you know.
- **Deepfakes:** A deepfake is an authentic looking AI-generated video or image.

► **Phishing Attacks:** Using AI, scammers can quickly personalize phishing emails, imitate dialogue, and bypass spam filters, making it harder for individuals to distinguish between genuine and fraudulent communications.

► **Family Emergency Scams:** Scammers can utilize voice cloning and deepfakes to impersonate a loved one who claims they are in danger and need money.

► **Romance Scams:** Fraudsters can use AI technology to operate fake profiles on dating websites and social media platforms. AI-powered chatbots then simulate realistic conversation to build trust, with the goal of tricking the target into sending them money.

► **Examples of AI in Frauds and Scams:** It may be difficult to know if someone is using AI-technology in a scam. One thing is certain: AI makes traditional frauds and scams easier to deploy on a large scale and are all the more convincing.

► **Example of a Fake Text Message:** Transaction Update Your account is being debited for iPhone 13 USD \$599.97. Not you? Call Amazon at (888)***- ***

Tips to protect yourself

- Do not share sensitive information via phone, email, text, or social media.
- Do not transfer or send money to unknown locations.
- Consider designating a “safe word” for your family that is only shared with family members and close contacts.
- Report potential scams to the authorities and the companies involved.

U.S. Fraud Hotline: 1-855-303-9470 | Monday-Friday | 9 a.m. - 5 p.m

April 2025 Tribal Elder Birthdays

- | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1) Willard Chapoton III | John Quinn | Craig Perez |
| David James | | |
| 2) Mike Frank | 9) Edward Matthews | 20) Joseph Collins |
| 3) Peggy Harris | Lisa Snyder | Kari Ellis |
| Sharon Matthews | Janice Wilcox | Leo Bennett Jr. |
| Robert Sharon | 10) Sena Hutcheson | 21) Annette Buckner |
| Christine Bird | Paul Moses | Raymond Cloutier |
| Mary North | Wendy Chapman | Theron Fisher |
| Laura Yoder | 11) Barbara Sprague | 22) Charles Benz |
| 4) Judy Jackson | Maury Francis | Ethel Lingford |
| Crystal Hodge | Stephanie Sprague | 24) Monica McQuarter |
| Jennifer Goodwin | 12) Randolph Holy-Day | 25) Brenda Franco |
| Dennis Kequom III | Ursula Gibbons | 26) Darlene Wilson |
| 5) Kimi Alani | 13) Lawrence Collins | Carolyn O’Neal |
| Westbrook Shawboose | 14) Rena Bird | Teresa Reyes |
| William Fox | 15) Raymond Fisher II | 27) Marie Kequom |
| 6) Jesse Helms | Laurie Jackson | Alta Arroyo |
| Gerry Leauteaux | Paula Howlett | Jovain Shawboose |
| Shelly Rickert | Marietta Stanley | Linda Smith |
| Mary Russell | Michael McCreery | Mary Perez |
| 8) Cathleen Matthews | 16) Debra House | Emma Cantu |
| Eleanore VanHorn | Russell Stevens | 28) Stephen Bonnaau |
| Mark Cyr | Leslie Bennett | Glen Tolfree Jr. |
| | 17) Jon Bennett Jr. | Tracy Cousins |
| | Wanda Lautner | 29) Robin Dutton |
| | Robert Mays | Tonia Jewell |
| | 19) Valerie Moore | 30) Lou Loiselle |
| | Kermit Paul Jr. | Lawrence Zocher |



Andahwod Continuing Care Community and Elder Services
District One Elders' April 2025 Newsletter

Boozhoo! Warm weather is around the corner! Try to get outside when the temps are rising and the sun is shining.

The Powwow Homecoming Trip, confirmation letters will be mailed soon. In the meantime, if you have any questions please call Andahwod's main office with your inquiries 989-775-4300.

Andahwod Elder Services will be hosting the Michigan Indian Elders Association (MIEA) conference in July. These conferences are held in October, April, and July each year. The SCIT delegates are Kathleen Hart, Clinton Pelcher Jr., and Barbara Sprague (alternate). More information will be provided later.

Andahwod Phone Numbers

- Gayle Ruhl:** 989.775.4305
Administrator

Sandra Pelcher: 989.775.4300
Administrative Assistant I

Dawn Chippewa: 989.775.4308
Billing/Administrative Assistant II
- Careena Meyers:** 989.775.4315
Support Services Manager

Galina Kolb: 989.775.4301
Resident Care Manager

Sheligh Jackson: 989.775.4307
Elders Advocate
- Patty Kequom:** 989.775.4302
Activities Assistant

Denise Pelcher: 989.775.4339
Activities Coordinator

Maintenance: 989.775.4313

Nurse's Station: 989.775.4319

Andahwod CCC & ES business hours are Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. After business hours, or if it is an urgent matter, please call the Security Desk at 989-775-4317 or the Nurse's Station at 989-775-4319.



With a Bunny Gram Fundraiser!

Cost: \$5 each
10 lucky bags will contain a \$10 McDonald's gift card.

Includes: Candy, a small toy and stickers

On sale:

- ▶ April 1-14
- ▶ April 2 during Elder's Lunch
- ▶ April 9 during Elder's Breakfast

Pick up only: No deliveries.
You must pickup on April 16 or 17 from Andahwod.

All proceeds support elder services.

For more information, please contact:
depelcher@sagchip.org | 989.775.4339



April 2025 Andahwod events

| | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| Coffee Break Daily 2:30 p.m. | Elders Lunch April 2, 16 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. | Name that Tune April 14 2:30 p.m. | Bingo with Friends April 25 1 p.m. |
| Sewing Tuesdays 10 a.m. | Saganing Bingo with Friends April 8 Leaving at 9 a.m. | Easter Party April 17 2:30 p.m. | Birthday Bingo & Potluck April 26 12-3 p.m. |
| Euchre Thursdays 5:30 p.m. | Elders Breakfast April 9, 23 9-10 a.m. | CLOSED Easter Monday April 21 | Lansing Antique Mega Mall & Horrocks April 29 Leaving at 10 a.m. |
| Otago Exercise Thursdays 1 p.m. | Easter Brunch April 16 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. | Language Bingo April 22 1 p.m. | |

For more information, please call Andahwod at: 989.775.4339 **Activities and events are subject to change.

Mother's Day Mini Quilt Raffle

Two winners will be selected

- **First winner:** has the choice of either quilt
- **Second winner:** receives other quilt

Tickets available: April 1-May 7, 2025

Drawing: May 7 at 12 p.m. during Elder's Lunch

Tickets: One for \$5 or three for \$10

***Quilts are valued at \$150**

ELDERS LAWN MOWING SERVICE

Andahwod Elder Services will be accepting applications for spring and summer lawn mowing in Isabella County. There are guidelines and an application to complete to be considered for the program. SCIT elders who are over 70 years old, have a medical disability with documentation and/or live alone will receive first priority.

The guidelines and application will be available at Andahwod. After approval of application, there will be a \$50 service fee.

Andahwod Elder Services will also have a list of local mowing businesses and community members who do mowing for those who do not qualify for the service, but need this self-pay assistance.

The program will begin accepting applications on April 1, 2025. Limited spots available for this service.

For more information call: Sheligh at 989-775-4307

Birthday celebrations

Every month, Andahwod hosts a birthday celebration for residents and employees. We are inviting community elders to join us during for these celebrations of cake (or other sweet treat) and socializing. It does not need to be your birthday month to attend. Hope to see you there.

Celebrations held: The second Thursday of each month at 2:30 p.m.

Upcoming dates: ▶ April 10 ▶ May 8

GRANT ASSISTANCE FOR TRIBAL ELDERS

There are grants available for Tribal elders 60 years and older, depending on the grant qualifications, the Tribal elder may need to gather documentation pertaining to grant eligibility. For example: Repair quotes, shut-off notice, etc. The following grants are

available to Tribal elders, *if funding is available and eligibility is met.*

- **Emergency Minor Assistance Program (EMAP)**
- **Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP)**

Nimkee Medication
Pick up & drop-off

Andahwod is able to pick up Tribal elder medications from Nimkee Pharmacy and drop off at their home. Monday - Thursday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Call 989-775-4307 to schedule.

April 2025 Andahwod CCC & ES Menu

Lunch: 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Dinner: 4:30 p.m. - 5 p.m.

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|--|--|--|--|---------------------|
| Sugar free available upon request. Call kitchen for lunch and dinner at 989-775-4314. | | 1 Chef Salad Pork Taco w/Beans & Rice | 2 Chicken Noodle Soup Baked Chicken w/Mashed Potatoes Elders Lunch | 3 Goulash w/Butter Bread Egg Salad Sandwich | 4 Enchilada Dinner Smoked Sausage w/Potatoes | 5 Chef's Choice |
| 6 Chef's Choice | 7 Pepperoni Pizza Chef Salad | 8 Fish Sandwich w/Hush puppies Chicken Stir Fry | 9 Zuppa Soup Beef Burrito w/Beans & Rice Elders Breakfast | 10 Polish Dog w/Potato Salad Bacon Wrapped Chicken | 11 Pancakes w/Sausage Steak Sandwich w/Onion Rings | 12 Chef's Choice |
| 13 Chef's Choice | 14 Spaghetti w/Meatballs Protein Bowl | 15 BBQ Chicken w/Baked Potato Sloppy Joe | 16 Easter Brunch 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. Cobb Salad | 17 Fried Bologna Tomato Soup w/Grilled Cheese | 18 Italian Sub Strawberry Pecan Chicken Salad | 19 Chef's Choice |
| 20 Chef's Choice | 21 Chicken Alfredo w/Garlic Bread Club Sub w/Macaroni Salad | 22 Grilled Cheese burger w/Veggies Ham w/ Potatoes | 23 Vegetable Beef Soup Steak Dinner Elders Breakfast | 24 Wing Ding Basket Pork Chop w/Asparagus | 25 Chili B.L.T. | 26 Chef's Choice |
| 27 Chef's Choice | 28 Baked Ziti Hibachi Wrap | 29 Mushroom Swiss Burger w/Fries Stuffed Peppers | 30 Minestrone Soup w/Breadstick Teriyaki Pineapple Chicken | *Menu subject to change* <small>*Warning: Consuming under cooked foods or eggs could lead to a Food Bournie Illness. **Warning: Please inform cashier/staff of any severe food allergies you may have prior to sitting down. Thank you</small> | | |



APRIL 2025 | Tribal Community Event Planner

DK-12 Education Services Homework Lab

- Monday - Thursday | 3-5 p.m.
- Wii Maajikwad
 - 989-775-4071 or dsmith@sagchip.org

Nimkee Fitness Poutine Fundraiser

- April 2 | 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
- Eagles Nest Tribal Gym
 - 989-775-4690
 - \$10 per meal
 - All proceeds will go towards new fitness equipment

People’s Powwow Breakfast Fundraiser

- April 4 | 8-11 a.m.
- 7th Generation
 - 989-775-4796
 - Big breakfast: \$10
 - Pancakes and choice of meat: \$8

HR Community Workshop Series

- April 8 | 2-3:30 p.m.
- HR Training Room, Black Elk Building
 - 7500 Soaring Eagle Blvd., Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858
 - To register: www.sagchip.org/hr/class-signup.aspx
 - 989-775-5643 or Balonzo@sagchip.org
 - How to Have Difficult Conversations

Kna-dwen-mi-go (You Are Needed)

- April 9 | Lunch at 11:30 a.m., program begins at 12 p.m.
- SCTC Community Room
 - 989-775-4519 or AHeidemann@sagchip.org
 - Program description: Interested in running for non-tribal elected office? Join us to learn from Native people who currently hold non-tribal elected office.
 - Lunch by Chef Sam Anglin

Child Abuse Prevention Month: Pinwheels for Prevention

- April 11 | 1-4 p.m.
- 989.775.4901
 - Plants with pinwheels giveaway at ACFS for everyone who wears blue.

Film Screenings at Ziibiwing

- April 9, 10 | 5:30 p.m.
- Ziibiwing Center
 - 989-775-4751
 - April 9: “I Am Gitxsan”
 - April 10: “Sugarcane”
 - Part of the CMU International Film Festival
 - Pizza and popcorn provided

Free Youth Girls Basketball Camp

- April 12 | 10 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
- 6-11 years: 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
 - 12-16 years: 12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.
 - Wii Maajikwad - New Recreation Center
 - 2875 Gikendasso Way, Mt. Pleasant Mich.
 - Registration required: Recreation@sagchip.org
 - Open to Native youth girls, from all tribes
 - Free event, all skill levels welcome

Mending Broken Hearts for Youth

- April 14 | 5:30 - 7 p.m.
- SCTC Community Room
 - msteecyphert@sagchip.org or 989-775-4870
 - Q-and-A informational session
 - Develop the capacity of individuals and communities to heal from unresolved grief and the losses created by the legacy of historical and intergenerational trauma.
 - Drop-in youth group planned, more details soon.

ACFS Bingo Night

- May 9 | 6-8 p.m.
- Eagles Nest Tribal Gym
 - WFlowersMurch@sagchip.org or 989-775-4914
 - Packets: \$10 for nine games

ACFS Dessert Cook-off and Silent Auction

- May 20 | 5-7 p.m.
- Broadway Park
 - WFlowersMurch@sagchip.org or 989-775-4914



Child Abuse Prevention

Blue Ribbon Week



April 7: “Sock It” to Child Abuse

►Wear a pair of crazy socks!

April 8: “Team Up” Against Child Abuse

►Wear your favorite sports team jersey/shirt!

April 9: Be a “Hero” Against Child Abuse

►Wear your favorite superhero apparel!

April 10: Put a “Cap” on Child Abuse

►Wear your favorite crazy hat!

April 11: Go Blue Day

►Wear as much blue as possible!

Complete all five challenges to win a prize! Participants must bring photo proof of completion of all five challenges to ACFS to receive a prize.

For more information, please contact: ACFS at 989.775.4901



APRIL 2025 | Tribal Community Calendar

| Monday | | Tuesday | | Wednesday | | Thursday | | Friday | | Sat./Sun. | |
|--|---|---|---|--|---|---|---|---|---|--|---|
| <div><div>●</div> SECR Payroll</div> <div><div>●</div> SCIT Per Capita</div> <div><div>●</div> SCIT Payroll</div> <div><div>●</div> Curbside Recycling</div> | | 1 | <div>Recovery on the Rez</div> <div>2-3 p.m. Zoom</div> <div>Regular Council Session</div> <div>9 a.m. Council Chambers</div> <div>Performance Circle Graduation</div> <div>5-6 p.m. Ziibiwing</div> <div>Self-Defense Class</div> <div>(Sexual Assault Awareness Month Event)</div> <div>6-7:30 p.m. Tribal Gym</div> | 2 | <div>Beading Circle</div> <div>11 a.m. - 2 p.m. SCTC</div> <div>Eagle Feather Teachings</div> <div>1:30-2:30 p.m. B. Health</div> <div>Drums Out</div> <div>7-9 p.m. 7th Gen</div> | 3 | <div>Sacred Fire Lunch</div> <div>12-1 p.m. 7th Gen</div> <div>Community Sewing Nights</div> <div>5-8 p.m. 7th Gen</div> <div>Recovery on the Rez</div> <div>6 p.m. B. Health</div> | 4 | <div>Fireside on the Rez</div> <div>11:30 a.m. B. Health</div> <div>Spirit Bear Talking Circle</div> <div>7 p.m. Andahwod</div> | 5 | <div>Fireside on the Rez</div> <div>6 p.m. B. Health</div> <div>Circle of Indigenous Arts</div> <div>10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Ziibiwing</div> |
| | | 6 | <div>Circle of Indigenous Arts</div> <div>10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Ziibiwing</div> | | | | | | | | |
| 7 | <div>Recovery Group</div> <div>1-2 p.m. B. Health</div> | 8 | <div>Bingo with Friends</div> <div>10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Saganing</div> <div>STEAM^{AG} Lunch & Learn</div> <div>12-1 p.m. SCTC</div> <div>Recovery on the Rez</div> <div>2-3 p.m. Zoom</div> <div>Energy Healing Circle</div> <div>(Sexual Assault Awareness Month Event)</div> <div>5:30 - 6:30 p.m. B. Health</div> | 9 | <div>Beading Circle</div> <div>11 a.m. - 2 p.m. SCTC</div> <div>Eagle Feather Teachings</div> <div>1:30-2:30 p.m. B. Health</div> <div>Traditional Shaker Workshop</div> <div>5-7 p.m. 7th Gen</div> <div>Drums Out</div> <div>7-9 p.m. 7th Gen</div> | 10 | <div>Community Sewing Nights</div> <div>5-8 p.m. 7th Gen</div> <div>Recovery on the Rez</div> <div>6 p.m. B. Health</div> | 11 | <div>Fireside on the Rez</div> <div>11:30 a.m. B. Health</div> <div>Spirit Bear Talking Circle</div> <div>7 p.m. Andahwod</div> | 12 | <div>Fireside on the Rez</div> <div>6 p.m. B. Health</div> |
| <div>Recovery Group</div> <div>1-2 p.m. B. Health</div> | | <div>Recovery on the Rez</div> <div>2-3 p.m. Zoom</div> | | <div>Beading Circle</div> <div>11 a.m. - 2 p.m. SCTC</div> <div>Eagle Feather Teachings</div> <div>1:30-2:30 p.m. B. Health</div> <div>Drums Out</div> <div>7-9 p.m. 7th Gen</div> <div>Yoga</div> <div>(Sexual Assault Awareness Month Event)</div> <div>5:30 - 6:30 p.m. B. Health</div> | | <div>Tribal Observer DEADLINE</div> <div>Sacred Fire Lunch</div> <div>12-1 p.m. 7th Gen</div> <div>Craft Luncheon</div> <div>11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Saganing</div> <div>Community Sewing Nights</div> <div>5-8 p.m. 7th Gen</div> <div>Recovery on the Rez</div> <div>6 p.m. B. Health</div> | | <div>Fireside on the Rez</div> <div>11:30 a.m. B. Health</div> <div>Spirit Bear Talking Circle</div> <div>7 p.m. Andahwod</div> | | 13 | |
| | | | | | | | | | | <div>Fireside on the Rez</div> <div>6 p.m. B. Health</div> | |
| <div>Recovery Group</div> <div>1-2 p.m. B. Health</div> | | <div>STEAM^{AG} Lunch & Learn</div> <div>12-1 p.m. SCTC</div> <div>Recovery on the Rez</div> <div>2-3 p.m. Zoom</div> | | <div>Beading Circle</div> <div>11 a.m. - 2 p.m. SCTC</div> <div>Eagle Feather Teachings</div> <div>1:30-2:30 p.m. B. Health</div> <div>Drums Out</div> <div>7-9 p.m. 7th Gen</div> <div>Energy Healing Circle</div> <div>(Sexual Assault Awareness Month Event)</div> <div>5:30 - 6:30 p.m. B. Health</div> | | <div>Community Sewing Nights</div> <div>5-8 p.m. 7th Gen</div> <div>Recovery on the Rez</div> <div>6 p.m. B. Health</div> | | <div>Fireside on the Rez</div> <div>11:30 a.m. B. Health</div> <div>Beaded Tassel Workshop</div> <div>2-5 p.m. 7th Gen</div> <div>Spirit Bear Talking Circle</div> <div>7 p.m. Andahwod</div> | | 14 | |
| | | | | | | | | | | <div>Fireside on the Rez</div> <div>6 p.m. B. Health</div> | |
| <div>Tribal Ops Closed</div> <div>Easter (Observed)</div> <div>Recovery Group</div> <div>1-2 p.m. B. Health</div> | | <div>STEAM^{AG} Lunch & Learn</div> <div>12-1 p.m. SCTC</div> <div>Recovery on the Rez</div> <div>2-3 p.m. Zoom</div> | | <div>Beading Circle</div> <div>11 a.m. - 2 p.m. SCTC</div> <div>Eagle Feather Teachings</div> <div>1:30-2:30 p.m. B. Health</div> <div>Drums Out</div> <div>7-9 p.m. 7th Gen</div> <div>Energy Healing Circle</div> <div>(Sexual Assault Awareness Month Event)</div> <div>5:30 - 6:30 p.m. B. Health</div> | | <div>Community Sewing Nights</div> <div>5-8 p.m. 7th Gen</div> <div>Recovery on the Rez</div> <div>6 p.m. B. Health</div> | | <div>Fireside on the Rez</div> <div>11:30 a.m. B. Health</div> <div>Beaded Tassel Workshop</div> <div>2-5 p.m. 7th Gen</div> <div>Spirit Bear Talking Circle</div> <div>7 p.m. Andahwod</div> | | 15 | |
| | | | | | | | | | | <div>Fireside on the Rez</div> <div>6 p.m. B. Health</div> | |
| <div>Recovery Group</div> <div>1-2 p.m. B. Health</div> <div>Two Spirit Talking Circle</div> <div>6-8 p.m. SCTC</div> | | <div>Movie Day</div> <div>1-3 p.m. Saganing</div> <div>Recovery on the Rez</div> <div>2-3 p.m. Zoom</div> | | <div>Beading Circle</div> <div>11 a.m. - 2 p.m. SCTC</div> <div>Eagle Feather Teachings</div> <div>1:30-2:30 p.m. B. Health</div> <div>Trading Card Game Night</div> <div>6-8 p.m. 7th Gen</div> <div>Self-Defense Class</div> <div>(Sexual Assault Awareness Month Event)</div> <div>6-7:30 p.m. Tribal Gym</div> | | <div>Reservation Household Cleanup</div> <div>Saturday, May 17, 2025 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.</div> <div>Former SCA Parking Lot</div> <div>For Tribal Members and Housing Department tenants only (Tribal ID required.)</div> <div>Accepting household items that do not pose a threat to Mother Earth.</div> | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | |



Observer Classifieds: To place your ad, call the Tribal Observer at **989-775-4096**, email observer@sagchip.org, call to make an appointment in the Observer offices in the Black Elk Building or mail to Tribal Observer, Attn.: Classified, 7500 Soaring Eagle Blvd., Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858. Please have all submissions and payment in by deadline. Classified rates are \$10 for 15 words or less and 75 cents per additional word. Any thumbnail image costs an additional \$15.

Apply to job postings online at www.sagchip.org. * Job postings are subject to change daily.

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

100 Employment

Tribal Operations

Water Operator III

Open to the public. High school diploma or GED. Sign-on bonus: \$1,000 upon six month anniversary, \$2,000 upon one year anniversary. Must be at least 18 years of age. Five years of water operator or related experience.

Waste Water Operator III

Open to the public. Sign-on bonus: \$1,000 upon six month anniversary, \$2,000 upon one year anniversary. High school diploma or GED. Three years' experience in wastewater/water field or directly related experience in plumbing or mechanical plant operations.

Waste Water Operator II

Open to the public. Sign-on bonus: \$1,000 upon six month anniversary, \$1,500 upon one year anniversary. High school diploma or GED. Three years' experience in wastewater/water field or directly related experience in plumbing or mechanical plant operations.

Director Utilities

Open to the public. Associate degree in management, trade, or related field. Seven years progressive experience with public administration, municipal services, or utilities. Three years in a supervisory capacity. Desired qualifications: Bachelor's degree in management, construction, engineering, utilities or related field. Construction experience.

Facilities Director

Open to the public. Associate degree in management, trade, or related field. Five years progressive facilities management in a large complex. Three years in a supervisory capacity level. Desired qualifications: Bachelor's degree in management, construction, engineering, utilities or related field. Construction experience.

AWARE SMHA Project Co-Coordinator

Open to the public. Grant funding through Sept. 30, 2028. Master's degree in counseling, social work, human services or related field. One year of experience in mental health services working with children and families of children with severe emotional disturbances.

Grants and Contracts Compliance Coordinator

Open to the public. Bachelor's degree in business administration with an emphasis in accounting. Five years' experience in governmental fund accounting and grants and contracts management.

Clerical Pool

Open to SCIT Members only. Must be at least 18 years of age and possess a high school diploma or equivalent. Clerical experience is a plus.

General Labor Pool

Open to Tribal Members and community members. Must be at least 18 years of age.

Dentist

Open to the public. DDS/DMD degree from an accredited school. Michigan licensed dentist. Must be able to pass background check to meet the employment eligibility requirements as they pertain to the position.

Child Welfare Prevention Specialist

Open to the public. Bachelor's degree in social services, human services or related field. An equivalent combination of education and directly related experience may be considered. Two years social services, families first worker, or family preservation experience desired.

Open to the public. Grant-funded position through Sept. 30, 2028. Bachelor's degree in education, social work, counseling, or human services related field.

Native American Language Coordinator

Open to the public. Grant-funded position through Sept. 30, 2028. Bachelor's degree in education, social work, counseling, or human services related field.

Paraprofessional

Open to the public. High school diploma or GED. Pass a state or local exam (i.e. Basic Skills Test of Michigan for teacher certification or ETS ParaPro Assessment).

Elementary Teacher

Open to the public. Bachelor's degree in education or related field or currently enrolled in a teacher certification program, including alternative route programs, and able to obtain teaching certificate within six months of hire.

Community Project Manager - AWARE

Open to the public. Grant funded position through Sept. 30, 2028. Bachelor's degree in education, social work, counseling, or human services related field. Experience in project management, communications and working with school systems and community collaborations and partnerships.

Clinical Therapist - RTC

Open to the public. Licensed master's degree in counseling, social work, human services or related field. Limited licensed individuals who can obtain full licensure within two years from date of hire.

Special Education Teacher

Open to the public. Bachelor's degree in special education, education or related field. Teaching certificate with special education endorsement. Experience with current assessment requirements and state standards.

Victims of Crime Advocate

Open to the public. Bachelor's degree in counseling, social work, sociology, psychology, law enforcement criminal justice, law or related field.

Clinical Therapist Family Resource

Open to the public. Licensed master's degree in counseling, social work, human services or related field. Limited licensed individuals who can obtain full licensure within two years from date of hire. Experience with co-occurring diagnosis and treatment.

Supplemental Instructor

Open to the public. At least 60 completed credits towards a college degree with an overall GPA of 3.0 or above.

Physician/Medical Director

Open to the public. MD or DO from an accredited medical school in the United States. Board certified in clinical specialty, preferably in family practice. Current State of Michigan medical license without exclusions or sanctions.

Cook PT - SCA

Open to the public. Successful completion of ServSafe certification within probationary period.

Physician

Open to the public. Medical degree or doctor of osteopathic medicine. Current board certification in specialty.

Tribal Code Compliance Officer

Open to the public. High school diploma or GED. Five years' relevant experience including building construction, inspection and ordinance enforcement.

Registered Medical Assistant

Open to the public. High school diploma or GED. Registered or certified medical assistant license. Minimum of one year experience working as a medical assistant in an outpatient medical clinic.

Associate General Counsel

Open to the public. Juris doctor from an ABA accredited law school. Experience as a practicing attorney. Licensed to practice law in the State of Michigan.

Victims Advocate

Open to the public. Associate degree in human services related field, or an equivalent combination of education, training, and experience. One-year experience working with victims of domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking.

Secondary Language Immersion Specialist

Open to the public. High school diploma or GED. Must have basic Anishinaabe language skills. Excellent communication and group leadership skills. Desired qualifications: Associate degree. Fluent Anishinaabe speaker.

Registered Medical Assistant - Andahwod

Open to the public. Registered or Certified Medical Assistant license. One year experience in long-term care or clinic setting desired.

Interim Clinical Therapist

Open to the public. Interim position. Licensed master's degree in counseling, social work, human services or related field. Limited licensed individuals who can obtain full licensure within two years from date of hire.

Residential Treatment Support Technician

Open to the public. Must be at least 18 years of age. High school diploma or GED. Desired qualifications: Previous experience in the substance abuse field. Experience in a residential treatment center.

ACFS Director

Open to the public. Master's degree in social services, human services or related field. Licensed master social worker in good standing with the State of Michigan. Five years social services experience or related clinical experience.

Maintenance Worker PT

Open to the public. Must be 18 years of age. One-year experience with basic maintenance and grounds keeping.

Dental Hygienist PT

Open to the public. Two years working experience in dental hygiene desired. IHS and NHSC loan repayment eligible clinic.

Technical Services Technician I

Open to the public. High school diploma or GED. Two years help desk experience or Bachelor's degree in information technology, computer science, or related field.

Pharmacy Technician

Open to the public. High school diploma or GED. Pharmacy Technician License. One year experience working in a pharmacy desired.

Associate Judge PT

Open to the public. Ten years' experience as a practicing attorney. Licensed as active member in good standing by the State Bar of Michigan or other state bar. Desired

qualifications: Considerable litigation experience, and a demonstrated interest in working with a Tribe.

Nurse Practitioner/Physician Assistant

Open to the public. Family Nurse Practitioner or Physician Assistant License. Masters of science degree in nursing for family nurse practitioner.

Soaring Eagle

Kitchen Equipment Technician

Open to the public. High school diploma or GED. Three years of experience in commercial food equipment repair.

Sous Chef - Banquet

Open to the public. High school diploma or GED. Three years kitchen experience in a quality operation specializing in food production. One year in a supervisory capacity.

Laundry Attendant PT

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

Building Maintenance Worker

Open to the public. Must be at least 18 years of age. One year of experience in a building maintenance, technical, manufacturing or similar position.

Guest Room Attendant PT

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

Keybooth Attendant PT

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

Line Server PT

Open to the public. Must be at least 18 years of age. Must be able to pass annual ServSafe Food handling classes.

Carpet/Flooring Technician

Open to the public. High school diploma or GED. Must be at least 18 years of age.

Central Plant Operator

Open to the public. High school diploma or GED. Must be at least 18 years of age. Three years of experience in a central plant, mechanical equipment environment, or licensed HVAC.

Line Cook Pastry

Open to the public. Must be at least 18 years of age. Six months of restaurant cooking experience with increasing levels of responsibility, or six months of SECR internal culinary training.

Waitstaff Summer Concert PT

Open to the public. Must be at least 18 years of age.

Bartender Summer Concert PT

Open to the public. Must be at least 18 years of age.

Usher Summer Concert PT

Open to the public. Must be at least 18 years of age.

Crowd Control Summer Concert PT

Open to the public. Must be at least 18 years of age.

F&B Chef

Open to the public. High school diploma or GED. Four years of hotel kitchen experience, or similar restaurant experience.

Saganing

Beverage Waitstaff FT

Open to the public. Must be at least 18 years of age.

Beverage Waitstaff PT

Open to the public. Must be at least 18 years of age.

Line Cook

Open to the public. Six months of restaurant cooking experience with increasing levels of responsibility, or six months of internal culinary training.

Bartender PT

Open to the public. Must be at least 18 years of age.

Master Plumber

Open to the public. High school diploma or GED. Must be at least 18 years of age. Ten years of experience as a master plumber.

F&B Cashier

Open to the public. Must be at least 18 years of age.

Saganing Police Officer

Open to the public. High school diploma or GED. Must be a U.S. citizen and at least 21 years of age. Must be able to pass departmental fitness evaluation. Associate degree desired.

Guest Room Attendant

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

Laundry Attendant PT

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

Night Auditor

Open to the public. High school diploma or GED. Must be at least 18 years of age.

Transit Driver

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

Count Team

Open to the public. Must be 18 years of age.



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Youth walk runway during M'nadendan Wi "Respect That!" Indigenous fashion show

NATALIE SHATTUCK

Editor

Tribal youth brightened up the runway, rocking their ribbon skirts or shirts during the M'nadendan Wi "Respect That!" Indigenous Youth Fashion Show, held on Wednesday, Feb. 26.

The third annual event, in support of Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month, began at 6 p.m. in the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort Entertainment Hall.

More than 50 youth strutted the runway – on the stage in the Entertainment Hall – with beautiful attire designed by Tribal community members.

As each youth member walked the runway, event emcee Nathan Isaac (Rezomance Productions) read a statement they each provided, answering what respect means to them.

"My favorite part of the event was getting to hear over 50 Tribal youth explain in their words what respect in a relationship means to



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

Tribal youth pose for a photo after walking the runway during the M'nadendan Wi "Respect That!" Indigenous Youth Fashion Show on Feb. 26 in the Soaring Eagle Entertainment Hall.



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

The talented designers for the fashion show pose for a group photo that Wednesday evening.

them as they crossed the stage," said Jalene Lewis, victim services coordinator for Behavioral Health Programs. "Getting to witness and empower the next generation, as they found a way define what a healthy, safe, and respectful relationship meant to them was an honor and it is my hope that this work in the community will be able to continue for years to come."

Prior to the modeling, Tribal Council's Christina Otto and Youth Council's Ginaajwi Pego

provided a prayer, and Tribal Member Melissa Isaac spoke to the audience.

Melissa Isaac currently works for the Michigan Department of Education's Indigenous Education Initiative where she serves Indigenous students attending public schools throughout Michigan.

Isaac spoke about the Seven Grandfather Teachings, highlighting respect. She also discussed Michigan House Bill 4854, passed on Dec. 31, 2024.

House Bill 4854 of 2023 (Public Act 209 of 2024) states "indigenous individuals to wear traditional regalia and bring traditional objects in a school building" (legislature.mi.gov).

The bill now protects all of our Indigenous students and their sacred items, Isaac said.

"I cannot wait to see all of the beaded caps this graduation season, without fear that they will be taken away," she said.

The event's special guest speaker was Pisim Sb, an Anishinaabe-Nehiyaw artist, entrepreneur and model with a story of resilience. From Maskwacis Cree Nation, Pisim represents his home community and its Indigenous sovereignty through his music and advocacy.

Pisim Sb spoke of self-termination and self-awareness, and what it looks like to have a healthy relationship with one self.

Also a musical artist, Pisim Sb performed a few of his songs for the audience to enjoy.

"The incredible outpour of support and talent from over 30 tribal artists amazed me; including a few youth that were able to walk in the show as well as showcase some of their own



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

Guest speaker Pisim Sb, an Anishinaabe-Nehiyaw artist, entrepreneur and model, shares a story about self-respect.

indigenous fashion on themselves and for their peers," said Jalene Lewis, victim services coordinator for Behavioral Health Programs.

In preparation for the show, Lewis said she met with the Tribal youth to have some "positive conversations to educate them on what teen dating violence can include as well as some qualities of a healthy relationship."

A dinner was held during the event and it wrapped up with a drum and dance social.

The teen models included: Hamza Isiah, Kaleb Potter, Isiah Otto-Powers, Tahlia Alonzo-Villanova, Dehmin Kahgegab, Miikawadizi Prout, Zhaawan Martell, Sereniti Cole, Kayla Campbell, Raegan Sizemore, Oginihns Zerbe, Tayla Sizemore, Troy Richardson Jr., Ashani Pelcher, Zhaabwii Pamp-Ettinger, Azhiyen Wemigwans, Kaylee Frens, Jaycee Sheahan-Kahgegab, Natalia Martin, Jayla Trepanier, Kyla Henry, Dexter Henry, Tyannah Trepanier, Noelle Collins-Ziviski, Mya Chippeway, Layla Pigeon, Azh Traver, Leylahni Sandoval-Ritter, Izabel Hernandez, Sariah Farrell, Myleyah Hunter, Benjamin Sanchez Hinmon, Ellery Lawson, Reese Collins-Ziviski, Adrienne Pelcher, Juliana Contreras "Rae", Ziigwan Callaway, Lynn Allana VanOrden, Alexis Darnell, Bryson Roth, Jasmine Jewell, Eli Harris, Asiianah Barnes, Mayna Kahgegab, Angela Peck, Aiyana Sheahan, Peyton Cleveland-Morset, Mnookmi Pego, Miah Perez, Billie Jo Jackson, Angelita Martinez, Taleah Hernandez, Brittnee Campbell, Adrian Kahgegab, Charmaine Castillo-Pelcher, Emma Maxon and Aria Drain.

The artists/designers included: Glenna Halliwill, Tonya Antoine, Carrie Heron, Maia Montoya Pego, Felicia Otto, Bethel Merrill, Niibin Sprague, Bonnie Sprague, Gayle Ruhl, Tonya Antoine, Marcella Hadden, Raegan Sizemore, Bonnie Ekdahl, Carole Tally, Joelle Peters, Dajia Shinos, Lisa Kennedy, Susan Hinmon-Johnson, Sarah Jones, Mariann Pelcher-Wright, Courtney Kahgegab, Benjamin Sanchez Hinmon, Kylie Wemigwans, Tahsheenah Foley, Anita Hall, Mikayla Steele-Cyphert, Melissa Pamp, Raynah Perez, Kenna Standing Rock and Ayebah Wilson.



Observer photos by Natalie Shattuck