



Miini-Giizisa  
(Moon of the Blueberry)

# TRIBAL OBSERVER

JULY  
2025

Working Together For Our Future

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

Volume 36 | Issue 7



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## Honoring, Healing & Remembering marks 91st anniversary of MIIBS closing

**MATTHEW WRIGHT**  
Staff Writer

The Ziibiwing Center of Anishinabe Culture & Lifeways hosted its annual Honoring, Healing and Remembering on June 6.

The annual event recognized the suffering, strength and resilience of the children though a day of memorial and fellowship.

The Mt. Pleasant Indian Industrial Boarding School consisted of 37 buildings on 320 acres of land, with an

average enrollment of 300 American Indian students per year in grades K-8. The school operated from June 30, 1893 to June 6, 1934. Daily life was very regimented.

Like other American Indian Boarding Schools, students were forbidden to speak their language, honor their culture, and practice their spirituality. The students performed work such as laundry, farm work, cleaning, and other manual labor for the majority of the school day. They also received basic academic instruction for the remainder of the day.



Observer photo by Matthew Wright

**The grand entry during the Honoring, Healing and Remembering event is held on Friday, June 6 on the grounds of the Mount Pleasant Indian Industrial Boarding School.**



Observer photo by Matthew Wright

**A Reader's Theater has volunteers read segments from Thomasine Ruby MeShawboose's book "Stories Within the Walls of the Mt. Pleasant Indian Industrial Boarding School."**

## "Boontak (Stop it!): Stolen Daughters of Turtle Island" exhibit re-opens at the Ziibiwing Center

**MATTHEW WRIGHT**  
Staff Writer

The Ziibiwing Center of Anishinabe Culture & Lifeways held a grand re-opening on May

29 for the exhibit "Boontak! (Stop it!): Stolen Daughters of Turtle Island."

The exhibit is currently displayed at the Ziibiwing Center, and will be on display until Aug. 29.

It features 94 portraits of women and girls, captured by Tribal Elder Marcella Hadden of Niibing Giizis (Summer Moon) Photography and her granddaughter Christina Benz.

The exhibit brings awareness to the Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women & Girls (MMIWG) movement.

More than 5,700 American Indian and Alaska Native women and girls were reported missing as of 2016, according to the National Crime Information Center, but only 116 of those cases were logged with the Department of Justice.

MMIWG | 8



Observer photo by Matthew Wright

**Tribal Elder Marcella Hadden (left) and her granddaughter Christina Benz (right) speak during the May 29 grand re-opening held at the Ziibiwing Center.**

The day, recognizing the anniversary of the closing date, began with a 7 a.m. sunrise ceremony at the Mission Creek Cemetery. The ceremony was facilitated by elders George Martin and Steve Pego alongside Ogithedawag members.

At 9 a.m. the day continued on the grounds of the Mt. Pleasant Indian Industrial Boarding School, located on Crawford Road in Mount Pleasant, Mich.

A light breakfast was served and the silent auction and 50/50 raffle began. All proceeds from the auction and raffle benefitted the MIIBS security and maintenance projects.

The event began with a grand entry and flag song provided by the Blue House Singers. Attendees joined the grand entry, carrying lanyards with the names of deceased MIIBS students.

Isabelle Osawamick, Anishinabe outreach language specialist, provided the opening prayer.

HHR | 7



Observer photo by Matthew Wright

**Thomasine Ruby MeShawboose provides opening remarks prior to the Readers Theater.**



## Annual HOMECOMING MEETING

Thursday, July 24, 2025

Doors open at 9 a.m.

Meeting begins at 10 a.m. with Grand Entry

Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort  
Entertainment Hall

\*Open to all ages \*\*Tribal ID required

**All Tribal Members will be entered to win gas cards, concert tickets, and overnight stays upon checking in for the meeting.**





## Leona Ashquab Castaneda

June 2, 1973 - May 11, 2025

Leona Ashquab Castaneda, age 51, of Grand Rapids, Mich., walked on Sunday, May 11, 2025.

Leona was preceded in death by her daughter Tabitha Kendall; her parents Harriet and Ben Castaneda; her brother Vincent Castaneda.

Leona will be dearly missed by her son Jeff Kendall; her granddaughters Savannah Hernandez and Anabella Kendall; her brother Chawn Castaneda; her sisters Loretta and Evelyn Castaneda; her nieces Camie, Cheyenne, Aanzhenii and Sunci; her nephews Ben, Cruz and Leehawk; her great-aunts Mary Brokup, Olga Castaneda, Virginia Garcia, Paula Lopez, Theresa Casas; and many close relatives and friends.

Leona was a proud member of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe. She had a deep love for animals. Leona had a flair for fashion. She had an infectious laugh.

Leona will be remembered for her loving heart. Her greatest joy was her family.

The funeral service was held Thursday, May 15, 2025 at 1 p.m. at the Bradley Indian Mission in Shelbyville, Mich. Her family received visitors at the church on May 15 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Burial followed after the service at Bradley Indian Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to the family.



## Beverly "Becky" Sue Pamp-Ettinger

December 12, 1948 – June 11, 2025

Beverly "Becky" Sue Pamp-Ettinger, age 76, of Mount Pleasant, passed away Wednesday, June 11, 2025, at her home.

Becky was born on Dec. 12, 1948, in Battle Creek, Mich., the daughter of Leonard and Stella (Bennett) Pamp. She was a graduate of Bronson High School with the class of 1969.

Becky worked for General Electric for 25 years until her retirement in 1995. She was a proud member of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe.

Becky was a loving mother; she loved seeing her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and was an accomplished quilt maker.

She enjoyed going to the casino; slot machines and bingo were her favorites. Becky liked to watch cooking shows, play softball, and attend powwows. Her parents started the Mendon powwows, and they were activists for their cultural preservation.

Becky is survived by her children: Timothy (Sarah) Stein of Ft. Wayne, Indiana, Debbie (Lee) Smith of West Union, Ohio, Phillip Stein of Ft. Wayne, Indiana, Gary Ettinger and Robbie Ettinger, both of Mount Pleasant; grandchildren Jacob D.W. Smith, Katlyn (Jacob) Sherwin, Valerie Stein, Gabriel (Erica) Stein, Timothy J. Stein, Charles Stein, Brandon Smith, Travis (Sabrina) Smith, Howie Smith, Bryon Stein, Takoda Stein, Wyatt Stein, Leonard Pamp-Ettinger, Robbie Pamp-Ettinger, Zhaabwii Pamp-Ettinger (Ms. Z); great-grandchildren Silas, Dominic, Elena, Juliette, and Hugo Sherwin, Josephine Stein, Troy, Scarlet, Hunter, and Stella Smith; sisters Colleen Wagner and Elizabeth Hughes, both of Mt. Pleasant; and many other extended family members.

Becky was preceded in death by her parents; infant granddaughter Josephine Stein; sisters Julie Snyder, Betsy (Frank) Crooker; brother Matthew Pamp; nephews Shane Pamp and Duane Snyder; and the love of her life David Ettinger.

Graveside funeral services were held Monday, June 16, 2025, at 1 p.m. at Woodland Cemetery, Isabella County, with Dale Anderson officiating. A luncheon followed at the Reflections Reception Center at Clark Funeral Chapel.

Memorial contributions may be made to Becky's family.



## William "Bill" Thomas Cross Sr., Ph.D.

November 30, 1944 – June 20, 2025

William "Bill" Thomas Cross Sr., age 80, was born in Sparrow Hospital in Lansing, Mich. to William Barlette Cross and Violet C. Jackson Cross on Nov. 30, 1944. He was currently living in Winter Haven, Fla. He walked on Friday, June 20, 2025 at the George C. Forsythe Hospice House Unit, with family at his side.

He is survived by his son William Thomas Cross II, daughter-in-law Melissa Cross, and two wonderful granddaughters Kaelin and Madison Cross. Also surviving are his siblings: his brother Edward Cross, sister Suzanne Cross, and brother-in-law James Colthorp, and nephew Jason Cross and his wife Noelle Cross and their children.

He graduated from Eastern High School where he enjoyed playing football and baseball. He earned three degrees from Michigan State University. He then taught at MSU, Wisconsin, and Harvard as a visiting professor. More recently, he served as a consultant with numerous accomplishments while working for and providing assistance to tribal nations in the U.S.

He enjoyed boating on Lake Michigan, collecting Native American artwork, and most of all, being a father, grandfather and uncle. He was frequently on the move traveling and working in a number of states.

He was always making plans for new adventures, traveling, and working in new locations to provide assistance to a tribe, organizations, and/or individuals. Also, he loved sharing time and adventures with family and friends.

When asked, he provided thoughtful responses to folks, even though at times his thoughts may not have been appreciated; the majority of the time, he was correct. He had the ability to see the forest while others were viewing an individual tree.

Family and friends wish him much love for his journey as he 'walks on' to reunite with his relatives.

There will be a fire in his honor at the Nokomis Culture Heritage Center in Okemos, Mich. Date and time to be announced.



## Caden Zane Ritter

April 17, 2004 – May 31, 2025

Caden Zane Ritter, age 21, formerly of Mount Pleasant, passed away Saturday, May 31, 2025, at his home.

Caden was born April 17, 2004, in Garden City, Mich., the son of Alex Ritter Sr. and Melissa Ring. He was a proud member of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe.

Caden is survived by his father, Alex Ritter Sr. of Mt. Pleasant; sister, Miranda Ritter of Belleville; nephew, Auron Abbott of Florida; his dog, Bodie; grandmother, Sandra Ring of New Boston, Mich.; and many aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Caden was preceded in death by his mother Melissa, Ring; brother, Alex Floyd Ritter Jr.; and grandpa, Keith Ring.

Funeral services for Caden took place on Thursday, June 12, 2025, at 2 p.m. with Benjamin Evers officiating. A luncheon followed in the Reflections Reception Center. The family greeted friends on June 12 which began at 12 p.m. until the time of the service. Interment was held on Friday, June 13, 2025, at 1 p.m. at Michigan Memorial Cemetery in Flat Rock, Mich.

Memorial contributions may be made to the family.



## 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](http://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



## Anishinabe Ogitchedaw Veteran and Warrior Society is in need of VETERAN MEMBERS

Meetings are held the second Saturday of each month at 2 p.m. at the Ziibiwing Center.

**For more information, please contact:**

Paul Walker at [PWalker@sagchip.org](mailto:PWalker@sagchip.org)



## Native Fest

A Celebration of North American Indian Culture

### Indian Car Bingo

**Tuesday, July 22, 2025 • 6 - 9 p.m.**

- Registration: 4:30 p.m.
- Fabulous prizes
- \$30 per person
- Open to the public
- Rain or shine



### Kids' Night

**Wednesday, July 23, 2025 • 6 - 9 p.m.**

- All night fun!
- Bounce houses
- Caricatures
- Balloon artists
- Rain or shine
- Photo booth
- Pony rides
- Free and open to the public
- Petting zoo
- Hula hoop contest
- Yard games

**5:30 p.m. | Dinner** (Provided by Nbakade Family Restaurant)

**8 p.m. | Magician Anthony Grupido**

As a keynote speaker, Anthony works with 200 school districts per year talking about mental health, resiliency, and suicide prevention.



As a magician... Anthony has opened for some of the 'biggest names in the industry', like Jim Gaffigan, The Impractical Jokers, and the Winner of America's Got Talent! He's performed magic all over the world from intimate gatherings to corporate stages and recently became the most viral pickpocket online today with over 300 million views.

## Collection Showing Personal Artifacts

On display July 21-24, 2025

Sponsored by:



\*All proceeds will support education and cultural programming at the Ziibiwing Center.



THE MIDWEST'S PREMIER AMERICAN INDIAN MUSEUM  
6650 EAST BROADWAY, MT. PLEASANT, MICHIGAN 48858  
989.775.4750 • [WWW.SAGCHIP.ORG/ZIIBIWING](http://WWW.SAGCHIP.ORG/ZIIBIWING)

## Michigan Department of Education Office of School Support Services Food Service Program

# MEET UP and EAT UP

**Monday - Friday: Until Aug. 15**

**Come in and have a seat and eat:**

**Breakfast: 7:30 - 9 a.m. • Lunch: 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.**

### Wii Maajiikwad

2875 Gikendaaso Way, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

*\*This institution is an equal opportunity provider.*



## TRIBAL YOUTH POLICE ACADEMY

**July 22-23, 2025**

**9 a.m. - 4 p.m. (both days) | SCIT Police Department**

**Open to Tribal community youth**

**12-18 years of age**

**Activities include:** Driving course (golf carts), shooting courses (using non-lethal ammunition), K-9 demos and equipment/tool displays

**Registration required**

**Deadline: Monday, July 7, 2025**

- Register in person at the Tribal Police Department
- A waiver and acknowledgment form must be signed
- Limited to 20 spots

**For more information, please contact:**

► Tribal Dispatch: 989.775.4700

► Sgt. Craig Wilson: [cawilson@sagchip.org](mailto:cawilson@sagchip.org)

► Officer Joe Maxey: [jmaxey@sagchip.org](mailto:jmaxey@sagchip.org)







“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

• July 1 • Aug. 5 • Sept. 2



## 19<sup>TH</sup> 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



## NATIVE FARMERS MARKET

All Are Welcome!

**Tuesdays • June 3 - Sept. 16**  
**10 a.m. - 2 p.m. | Farmers Market Pavilion**  
Corner of Broadway and Leaton roads

**Items include:** Seasonal produce, baked goods, beaded/sculpted/natural art and Indigenous foods.

**Welcoming NEW Healthy Food/Native Art Vendors:** Maple syrup, eggs, honey, seeds, cottage foods, plants, organic protein and wild rice.

- You do NOT have to be Native American to be a seller.
- You must be Native American to be an art vendor.

**Now featuring:** Produce grown on SCTC's Food Sovereignty Garden

**Mshkikiikaan**  
(The Place of Medicine)



**Like us on Facebook!**

**For more information, contact:**  
Jasmine Gonzalez: 989.775.4629 | JaGonzalez@sagchip.org  
Public Relations: PublicRelations@sagchip.org



## Announcing the New Combined Tribal Library

Same great Tribal Library and  
Tribal College Library, now combined  
into one library for everyone!

**New location beginning June 30, 2025:  
Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College**

5805 E. Pickard, Mt. Pleasant MI 48858

- **Serving all ages with a dedicated youth area**
- **Staffed same hours:** Monday-Friday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
*\*Self-service also available*
- **We will be hosting a grand re-opening, details TBD**

**Library services details:**

Staffed library services for everyone  
available at the new Tribal Library,  
located inside SCTC on July 1.

*\* Some services, including computer access, will be  
limited until the move is complete.*



**Behind-the-scenes details:**

- **Monday, July 7 and Tuesday, July 8:** Books, supplies and shelving will be moved from old Tribal Ops building to the new Tribal Library
- **Wednesday, July 9 and forward until completion:** Library staff unpack books and get everything fully set up.

**For more information, please contact:**  
989-775-4519 or AHeidemann@sagchip.org



## 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Michigan Indian Family Olympics

**Friday, July 18, 2025**

**Central Michigan University's  
Bennett Track & Field**

**Registration opens in May**  
[www.sagchip.org/mifo/](http://www.sagchip.org/mifo/)

**For more information, contact:** 989.775.4694

## Tribal Youth Surveys

The Native Connections program at SCIT Behavioral Health is conducting surveys 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 at 989-775-4898 for the incentives or for more information.

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



**Mental Health Survey**

[Scan QR code to complete](#)



**Substance Abuse Prevention Survey**

[Scan QR code to complete](#)





## 36<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL Freedom Walk

**Saturday, July 26, 2025**

**Eagles Nest Tribal Gym**  
7070 E. Broadway, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

**7:00 a.m.** – Doors Open and Registration  
**7:30 a.m.** – Welcome and Opening Prayer  
**8:00 a.m.** – Invited Speakers in Recovery  
**9:00 a.m.** – Walk Begins

**Freedom Walk T-shirts and swag bags to the first 250 people!**

**For more information:** [Prevention@sagchip.org](mailto:Prevention@sagchip.org)

## September 2025

### Tribal Child Welfare Affidavits or Child Mino Shkiziwin Applications

**Forms are available now.**  
*\*You must fill out ONE form completely.*

**Deadline: Friday, Aug. 1, 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](http://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



## GOLF COMPETITION

*Earn points for your Tribe!*

**Thursday, July 17, 2025**

**The Pines Golf Course**  
1022 Clubhouse Dr., Lake Isabella, MI 48893

**Check-in opens: 8 a.m. | Shotgun start: 9 a.m.**

**Age groups:**

- Youth 17 and under
- Mens 64 and under
- Seniors 65 and over
- Ladies all ages
- Coed: all ages invited

**Format:** Two-person scramble

**Register online:** [www.sagchip.org/mifo/](http://www.sagchip.org/mifo/)

**Cost:** \$35\* per player

**Admission includes:** 18 holes of golf, cart, lunch, skins and proximities

**For more information, please contact:**  
989.775.5309 | 989.400.1838 | BSprague@sagchip.org





## 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



## Tailgate package includes:

- Blackstone 22" tabletop griddle with hood
- Detroit Tigers cornhole set
- Two free tickets for SECR concert of choice



## Tickets on sale now!

- \$5 each or five for \$20

### Tickets available from:

- **Public Relations:** 989.775.4059
- **Nimkee Fitness:** 989.775.4690
- **Native Farmers Market**  
Every Tuesday, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

### Drawing: Wednesday, July 16

*\*Need not be present to win*

## Memory GARDEN

A beautiful landscaped place at Behavioral Health that is used to remember and honor the life of a loved one who has passed away due to substance/suicide.

**Wednesday, Aug. 6, 2025**

**6:30 - 8:30 p.m. | Behavioral Health**

(2800 S. Shepherd Rd., Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858)

Please join Native Connections as we begin building a community memorial garden.



**Email plaque name submissions to:**



**Felicia Otto**

989.775.4823 | Fotto@sagchip.org

**Deadline: Friday, July 11, 2025**

## HOSPITALITY CHALLENGE



**Wednesday, July 9, 2025**

**Pleasant Hills Golf Course**

(4452 E. Millbrook Rd. Mt. Pleasant)

**Tee time: 10 a.m.**

- **Divisions:** SECR Hospitality, SECR Casino and Migizi
- **Teams:** Will consist of players from their division, any mix. Must be on payroll of that division.
- **Format:** Two player teams, 18 holes.
- **Cost:** \$40 per player
- **Lunch at the turn:** 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
- **Skins:** \$40 per team (optional)
- **Trophy:** The team with the most points will win the Hospitality Challenge Trophy
- **Door prizes:** Available for top 10 team scores

### Games:

- **Games start:** 9 a.m. on the practice green
- **Points:** Earn points for each event
- **Games include:** Putting, chipping, driving and best dressed team

### Registration:

- **Payment:** Full cash payment due with registration, must pay at the Soaring Eagle Cage

### Contact:

- **989-775-5309 or BSprague@sagchip.org**
- **989-775-5418 or MBurhans@sagchip.org**

## 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.

## REQUEST FOR QUOTES: ROOF REPLACEMENTS

**Project overview:** The Saginaw Chippewa Housing Department is requesting quotes for roofing five structures with a new metal roof. The Department is seeking a reputable firm to provide the following services and products only: two residential units, Broadway Park small pavilion and the Little Elk baseball dugouts. Work will include all steps necessary to reroof each structure as well as any cleanup. Service areas will include four separate addresses as listed below. Contractor must provide owner with the warranty information for each metal roof.

### Project goals:

- Install metal roof in a safe, timely, and professional manner.
- Communicate with the owner in a timely and professional manner.
- Removal of debris and clean up at each of the four sites.

### For more information:

**Rosalie Maloney:** 989.775.4581 | RoMaloney@sagchip.org

**Miranda Pelcher:** 989.775.4586 | MiPelcher@sagchip.org

**Submission deadline:** July 24 by 5 p.m.

### Drop or mail proposals to:

SCHD  
2451 Nish-Na-Be-Anong Dr.  
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

**Or emailed to:** RoMaloney@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](mailto:observer@sagchip.org).
- To change your mailing address, please contact the Tribal Clerk's office at 989-775-4055.
- Community advertisements will not be accepted over the phone.

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

Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe  
c/o Tribal Observer  
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](mailto: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: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

### Please mail form to:

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

### Contact Information:

• **Phone:** 989-775-4096  
• **Email:** [Observer@sagchip.org](mailto:Observer@sagchip.org)  
[www.Sagchip.org/TribalObserver](http://www.Sagchip.org/TribalObserver)





## Wii Maajiikwad

### Immersion School

### Open Enrollment

2025-2026 School Year

### Now accepting applications

Wii Maajiikwad has three immersion classrooms for 2, 3, and 4 year olds. Enrolling a child is a conscious choice for your child to learn Anishinaabe language. There are requirements for parental/caregiver language learning also. Only complete applications will be accepted.

**Returning student applications must be turned in by: Aug. 1, 2025 by 4 p.m.** to have priority placement status

**Next priority is SCIT Tribal Members, then SCIT Descendants, and then all other federally-recognized tribes will be placed.**

- Applications are accepted on a first come basis.
- Students must be two years old by Sept. 1, 2025.

*\* NOTE: Children entering the 3-year-old classroom MUST BE POTTY TRAINED as they cannot accommodate diaper/soiled clothes changes.*

**The following must be submitted with your application to be complete:**

• Birth certificate	• Tribal affiliation documents
• Immunization card	• School physical & dental exams
• Insurance card	• \$100 application fee upon acceptance

*\* All documents must be submitted with your application which will be date/time stamped.*

**Enrollment forms available at:**

- **Wii Maajiikwad**  
2875 Gikendaaso Way, Mt. Pleasant
- **Online at:** <https://www.sagchipschool.net>

**For more information, please call:**  
989-775-4470 or 989-775-4453

## CAREER Opportunities

**Andahwod Continuing Care Community & Elder Services**  
2910 S. Leaton Rd., Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

- ▶ **CNA (Certified Nurse's Assistant)**
- ▶ **ROSS Medical Student Externship**  
Please call 989-775-5600 for more information

**Highlights of working at Andahwod:**

- ▶ Comfortable setting where residents and staff get to know each other
- ▶ Routine workload with manageable expectations
- ▶ Work values of honor, care and respect eldest members
- ▶ Rewarding work with Tribal community elders
- ▶ Shift and weekend premiums

Scan here to view open positions!

**To apply or for more information, visit:**  
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## Anishinaabe Language Revitalization Committee VACANCIES

**Seeking three individuals who are committed to revitalizing Anishinaabemowin.**

**Vacant positions: Three community Tribal Member representatives ages 25 & over.**

- Candidates must be a SCIT Member and able to attend monthly meetings.
- Meetings held monthly with dates/times/location TBD.

**For more information, please contact:**  
Mary Perez at [MAPerez@sagchip.org](mailto:MAPerez@sagchip.org) or 989-775-4026

**Send letter of interest to:**  
**Howard Webkamigad**, ALRD Program Manager  
**By email:**  
[HWebkamigad@sagchip.org](mailto:HWebkamigad@sagchip.org)  
**By mail:**  
Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe  
ATTN: Howard Webkamigad  
2875 Gikendaaso Way  
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

## Substance Use Disorder Treatment and Recovery TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

*New changes start now!*

**Trouble finding transportation to your appointments that maintain your recovery?**

**What's available:**

- Transportation to any recovery-related appointments.
- Gas cards, taxi services, direct transport by staff with 24-hour notice.
- Can include going to a job interview (not ongoing work), other appointments or meetings that help maintain recovery.
  - AA/NA meetings
  - Court dates
  - Medical
  - Counseling

**Call today to see if you qualify for assistance:**  
*\*Must be referred by an outside or internal agency as a recommendation.*

**Erin Sprague:** 989-775-4887 | [ErSprague@Sagchip.org](mailto:ErSprague@Sagchip.org)  
**Behavioral Health:** 2800 S. Shepherd Rd.

*\*MDHHS Substance Use Disorder Transportation Grant.\**

**Recovery Gas Cards Distribution Program**

**Must be in active recovery to qualify for service.**  
▶ By referral only ▶ Opioid use currently or historically

**\$30 Gas cards distribution schedule:**  
Tuesdays & Thursdays | 2-4 p.m.  
Behavioral Health: 2800 S. Shepherd Rd.

**For more information, please contact:**  
**Erin Sprague:** 989-775-4887 | [ErSprague@Sagchip.org](mailto:ErSprague@Sagchip.org)

## Homecoming POWWOW Sale

**July 1-31, 2025**  
**Ziibiwing Gift Shop hours:**  
Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

**20% OFF REGULAR PRICED ITEMS**

*\*Excludes Pendleton items*

*\*\*No additional discounts except Hero Card*

**Raffle entry for every \$50 spent!**

**50% off Premier Level Ziibiwing memberships**  
• Raffle for every membership purchase

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989.775.4750 • [www.sagchip.org/ziibiwing](http://www.sagchip.org/ziibiwing)

## Recovery Housing Program

Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA), Recovery Housing Program (RHP) supports individuals in recovery onto a path to self-sufficiency by expanding the housing capacity within the local are.

**Eligibility criteria:**  
You must meet ALL criteria listed below to be eligible for RHP funds.

- Must be a person in recovery from substance use who is "actively" engaged in recovery services
- Applicant has NOT received assistance with paying rent for recovery housing in the past two years or since Jan. 1, 2023
- Must be struggling with homelessness or are close to being homeless and could benefit from assistance with rent and/or utilities
- Has a current lease agreement in their own name signed and dated: Provide a copy of the lease agreement to grant staff.
- Rental cost cannot exceed the HUD approved rates
- Property must be inspected by RHP approved staff and meet all required area of inspection. This includes a lead-based paint provision for structures built before 1978.
- Provide proof of four weeks of income. If not employed, provide last year's proof of Federal Income Tax Return. Income is NOT considered a requirement in order to be eligible for assistance. The granting agency requires proof of income for tracking purposes.

**Applications:**

- An applicant must submit a fully completed application with all required documentation to be considered for rental assistance. Applications with missing documentation will not be accepted.
- Applications are located at Behavioral Health by calling 989-775-4850 or by stopping by the front office (2800 S. Shepherd Rd., Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858).
- Applications are accepted on Tuesdays and Thursdays ONLY at Behavioral Health

**For more information, please contact:**  
Behavioral Health at 989-775-7850

## 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](mailto:OTLR@sagchip.org)
- **Tribal Member only section of:** [www.sagchip.org](http://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 set up an appointment by contacting:**  
**Human Resources Training & Development at 989-775-5600**





## Education Department's 2025 banquet honors high school and higher education graduates

**NATALIE SHATTUCK**

Editor

All of their hard work finally paid off as they received their diplomas or certificates. This past year's graduates were honored at the Education Department's Graduation Banquet on June 3 at Wii Maajikwad.

The banquet began just after 5:30 p.m. in the school's gymnasium as Emcee Erik Rodriguez, public relations director, gave a warm welcome, congratulated the graduates and introduced Blue House Singers to perform a welcome song.

Tribal Council Chaplain Alice Jo Ricketts provided the opening prayer. Chief Tim J. Davis then delivered welcoming remarks.

As we see our younger kids enter this building, we are hoping they will continue to go to the next level and then finish college, work for the Tribe



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

**Mary Pelcher, dean of academics at the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College, delivers the keynote address during the June 3 Graduation Banquet held at Wii Maajikwad.**

and work up the ladder, Chief Davis said on the stage of the Wii Maajikwad gymnasium stage.

The chief spoke about the importance of seeking education and learning Anishinabemowin.

"Hopefully in 25 years, to be on Tribal Council, you will have to be able to speak the language," Davis said.

Next, Sub-Chief Luke Sprague provided remarks. He thanked all of education employees – past and present. He also showed his appreciation for all who have helped pave the way to make the Education Department what it is today.

Sprague offered several words of encouragement to the graduates.

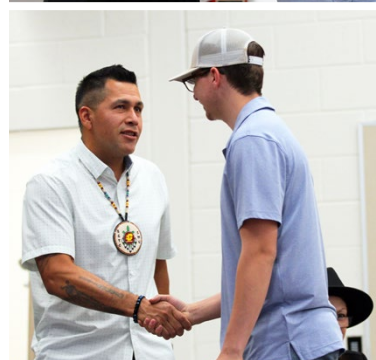
"Your life is just starting. Embrace the challenges. Embrace the struggles..." Sprague said.

Grand Traverse Bay Band member Mary Pelcher was the keynote speaker



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

**Chief Tim J. Davis provides welcoming remarks to the graduates, their families and friends.**



Observer photos by Natalie Shattuck

that evening. Pelcher has worked for the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe for several years. Pelcher said in 1988, she began working in Tribal Operations with one typewriter, one phone and one computer.

Pelcher is currently employed as dean of academics for the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College. She is also currently working on completing her doctorate in education.

"Graduates, you are the dreams of our people," Pelcher said. "... Each of you have encountered your own journey."

Pelcher mentioned how the graduates have used the power of each of the Seven Grandfather Teachings – wisdom, love, respect, bravery, honesty, humility, and truth – to get to where they are today.

"All of the lessons of the Seven Grandfather Teachings add up to a

well-rounded you," Pelcher said, addressing the graduates.

This year, five graduates were honored for completing their master's degrees. Nine graduates completed their bachelor's degrees, three were honored for achieving their associate degrees, and two completed certificates.

Forty-six high school graduates were recognized, as well as three adult education/GED recipients.

Student support advisors Renata Borton, Marta Heslip and Kari Noack presented certificates to the high school and GED graduates. Post-Secondary Support Specialist Olivia Manitowabi-McCullough presented awards to the higher education graduates.

The event concluded with closing remarks from Rodriguez, an honor song by Blue House Singers and a dinner for all graduates and their supporters.

## Wii Maajikwad kindergarten teachers receives Teacher of the Year award from CMU program

**NATALIE SHATTUCK**

Editor

Being an educator can be a challenging, yet rewarding career, and oftentimes a teacher's devotion goes unnoticed. Susan Jeffrey, kindergarten teacher at Wii Maajikwad, was recognized and honored with the Teacher of the Year award from Central Michigan University's America Counts and Reads program.

America Counts and Reads recruits CMU students to work in selected elementary schools as tutors. It is a federally-funded tutoring program managed by the Mary Ellen Brandell Volunteer Center, focusing on improving children's reading and math skills in the local community (cmich.edu).

According to Jeffrey, 12 teachers from local schools were in the running for the Teacher of the Year Award.

"I was very honored that I was selected to receive this award," Jeffrey said. "I was especially grateful for (the tutors') help in my classroom this year."

This is Jeffrey's 15th year working at the Tribal school, formally known as the Saginaw Chippewa Academy.

"The CMU tutors made a big difference in the students' lives, and in my life, while assisting in the classroom," Jeffrey



Courtesy photo

**Susan Jeffrey, kindergarten teacher at Wii Maajikwad**

said. "Their assistance to the students and myself was very valuable and helpful in many ways, and I can't thank them enough for their service to our school."

According to CMU's website, "Each year, over 300 kindergarten through fifth-grade students in the community receive one-on-one tutoring" through the program.

Tutors work with each student for at least one hour per week, and tutor between one to five students (cmich.edu).

For more information about the America Counts and Reads Program, please email [volunteer.center@cmich.edu](mailto:volunteer.center@cmich.edu) or call 989-774 7685.



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• Or scan QR code →



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**Shotgun start: 9 a.m.**

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1022 Clubhouse Dr., Lake Isabella, Mich.

• **Register:** [www.sagchip/MIFO](http://www.sagchip/MIFO)

• **Cost:** \$35 per player

• **Format:** Two-person scramble

**Friday, July 18, 2025**

**Central Michigan University's**

**Bennett Track & Field**

• **Registration open:** 7:30 - 11 a.m.

• **Opening Ceremonies:** 9 a.m.

**For more information, please contact:**

Seth Pifer at [SPifer@sagchip.org](mailto:SPifer@sagchip.org) or 989.775.4694



**Check out the 2025 Team SCIT T-shirt!**

*\*For all SCIT participants.\*  
\*Must be picked up before 11 a.m. on event day.*

*\*This is an alcohol, smoke and drug-free event.*





## HHR

continued from front page

Emcee Erik Rodriguez, public relations director, provided a welcome and introduced Chief Tim J. Davis.

Opening remarks were also given by Emily Paski, associate legal counsel/tribal liaison for the Office of the Governor, State of Michigan; Dr. Neil MacKinnon, president of Central Michigan University; and Boomer Wingard, mayor of the City of Mt. Pleasant.

Following a pipe ceremony was the student roll call to remember the deceased. The names of each of the deceased students were read by Osawamick and William Johnson, curator/office manager of the Ziibiwing Center.

The morning concluded with a lunch, tours of the outside of the buildings, and musical selections by Brothers in Music.

The afternoon session began with a Readers Theater: “Stories Within the Walls of the Mt. Pleasant Indian Industrial Boarding School.” Researched and written by Tribal Elder Thomasine “Ruby” MeShawboose, the script featured dialogue from boarding school students, superintendents, teachers and more.

Johnson and Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Marcella Hadden provided background information on MeShawboose’s findings and her work for the Tribe. This included her involvement in the Stone Street Project in 2009 in Flint, Mich.

“(The Tribe) and the Michigan Anishinaabek Cultural Preservation and Repatriation Alliance began an unprecedented Flint Stone Street ancestral recovery and reburial project that lasted over three archeological field seasons,” Johnson said. “Ruby MeShawboose was the only community member that was there, every single day.”

Ruby was presented an eagle feather by Hadden and Johnson.

The next guest speaker was Lacey Kinnart of the Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition. She welcomed the attendees with a reminder of the importance of the event.

“We are gathered here today to talk about something that impacts every Native person and what many of us carry – the wounds of intergenerational trauma and the medicine that we are reclaiming,” Kinnart said.

Kinnart commented on the lasting effects of the boarding school era.

“When we talk about Indian boarding schools, we are not just talking about something in the past,” Kinnart said. “We are talking about something that continues to live on in our families, our bodies and our silence.”

She also shared the ways in which that trauma has been passed on.

“Inter-generational and historical trauma is not just what was done, but what was taken, what was withheld, what we never got to receive,” Kinnart said. “A quiet ache travels across generations in many Indigenous communities. A grief encoded not only in memory but in physiology, rests in the silences between words.”

According to the Coalition’s website, it was created to develop and implement a national strategy that increases public awareness and cultivates healing for the profound trauma experienced by individuals, families, communities, American Indian and Alaska Native nations resulting from the U.S. adoption and implementation of the Boarding School Policy of 1869.

For more information on the Coalition, please visit [www.boardingschoolhealing.org/](http://www.boardingschoolhealing.org/).

The final speakers were Melissa Isaac and Shannon Martin from the Michigan Department of Education’s Indigenous Education Initiative.

According to its website, the Department, through



Observer photo by Matthew Wright

**Attendees carry the names of the boarding school children as a name card necklace during grand entry.**



Observer photo by Matthew Wright

**Melissa Isaac (left) and Shannon Martin (right), Indigenous Education Initiative**



Observer photo by Matthew Wright

**The student roll call to remember the deceased is provided by Ziibiwing Curator/Office Manager William Johnson (left) and Anishinaabe Outreach Specialist Isabelle Osawamick (right).**



Observer photo by Matthew Wright

**Lacey Kinnart, Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition**



Observer photo by Matthew Wright

**Opening remarks are provided by Tribal, local and state dignitaries (left to right: State of Michigan Associate Legal Counsel/Tribal Liaison Emily Paski, Chief Tim J. Davis, Central Michigan University President Dr. Neil MacKinnon and City of Mt. Pleasant Mayor Boomer Wingard).**

the Indigenous Education Initiative Team, works with the 12 federally-recognized tribes that share geography with the State of Michigan and Indigenous communities to develop and maintain an authentic and meaningful consultative relationship.

Isaac provided an overview of the projects the initiative is currently working on. This included an effort to require the teaching of boarding school history in public schools.

“We just want to say ‘miigwetch’ to the grass roots efforts that allowed us to do the work that we are doing today,” Isaac said. “Community members, including boarding school survivors, who initiated this effort to change the law to require the teaching of our history in our Michigan K-12 public school system. Right now it is law that educators teach about the Holocaust and the Armenian genocide, but they don’t have to teach about the genocide that happened here, on our own land.”

Martin provided more insight in to the important progress the initiative is providing.

“I want you to think about where we have gathered today.

At a site that used education to try to erase our people, erase our spirituality, erase our languages, our songs and our stories,” Martin said. “Now we are proud to work on a project that is being funded by the State of Michigan to activate our Anishinabe lifeways, to activate our Anishinabe way of life.”

For more information on the Indigenous Education Initiative, please visit [www.michigan.gov/mde/resources/indigenous-education/mde-indigenous-education-initiative](http://www.michigan.gov/mde/resources/indigenous-education/mde-indigenous-education-initiative)

Volunteers from within the community performed a jingle dress healing dance.

The event concluded with a celebratory round dance and traveling song, and giveaways.

## Caucus Committee 2025 sworn in on June 25



Observer photo by Alicia Raphael

**In preparation for this year’s Tribal elections, the 2025 Caucus Committee members pose for a photo after being sworn in by Chief Tim J. Davis in the Council chambers on Wednesday, June 25 (left to right: Joseph V. Sowmick, Seryna Acuna, Heaven Wemigwans, Chief Davis, Lori Nahdee, Karen Naganashe, Council Chaplain Alice Jo Ricketts and Mille Thomas). Additional Caucus Committee members that could not make this date will be sworn-in in the near future.**

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## Two-day historical trauma training workshop offered by Anishnaabeg Child & Family Services

**JOSEPH V. SOWMICK**  
Public Relations Manager

On June 9-10, Dereck Stonefish, Ph.D., (an Oneida Native from the Iroquois Confederacy), through his extensive work with the Native American Training Institute, conducted a two-day workshop on historical trauma and its cultural capacity.

The workshop was offered by Anishnaabeg Child & Family Services and held at the new Supportive Housing building.

This was the second time Stonefish has presented on behalf of ACFS.

“Empirically, I observe more individuals embracing recovery and reconnecting with spirituality. I would even suggest that recovery is becoming ‘cool,’” Stonefish said. “We are witnessing people who have had positive experiences in recovery actively reaching out to bring those still suffering into their healing circles.”

Stonefish said he finds there is research supporting resiliency through both ceremony and survival instincts.

“Our ancestors survived through profound resilience – a trait passed down to us,” Stonefish said. “A key aspect of their resilience was preserving ceremonies and sacred knowledge in secrecy during colonization and forced assimilation. Government policies, including boarding schools, outlawed our way of life, driving ceremonies underground. Today, while many communities have lost significant ceremonial life, we see Indigenous people actively seeking to reclaim their identity.”

Stonefish said this pursuit fosters resiliency, positioning ceremony as a protective factor.

“Discovering spirituality often leads individuals to rediscover themselves, enabling a transition from survival-based resilience back to the Indigenous resilience our ancestors embodied – especially when they find that missing spiritual connection,” he said.

During the workshop, Stonefish explained how Adverse Childhood Experiences – or ACEs – involving bullying and exposure to lateral violence are quite common.

“These are learned behaviors, fundamentally alien to our ancestral ways of life, introduced by colonizing forces,” Stonefish said. “The core issue is that these behaviors are learned from adults within our communities. Once normalized, they trickle down to children, leading to bullying and lateral violence among youth. Children experiencing these behaviors often mimic them at home, potentially introducing trauma even if it wasn’t originally present there.”

Addressing this, Stonefish said, starts with individuals paying close attention to adverse childhood experiences and identifying predictors – perhaps using tools like ACE screens.

“When generational trauma becomes normalized, tribal children suffer alarmingly high rates of harm across mental, physical, spiritual, and emotional dimensions,” he said. “This generational normalcy contributes directly to the disproportionate number of Native children in the child welfare system. Healing is essential here, but the term itself has often become a buzzword.”

He said “true healing often requires professional resources like counseling, therapy, or psychiatric support to guide the process.”

“While returning to ceremony is healing, ceremonies didn’t cause this trauma and cannot entirely fix it alone,” he said. “As a spiritual person, I see our ways of life as vital protective factors. However, we must ultimately address our own trauma, sometimes necessitating professional help. We urgently need to normalize seeking these trained resources in our communities and overcome the fear surrounding them.”

Through the cultural trauma training and his personal experience, he said 20 years of therapy has significantly improved his life.

Stonefish offered an interesting teaching regarding powwow music and how people can connect to it.

“‘Tympanic therapy’ refers to using sound, specifically drumming, to soothe complex PTSD – a condition prevalent, yet often undiagnosed and



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

**Dereck Stonefish**

untreated, in Indian Country.

“A core teaching of the powwow drum is that it represents the heartbeat of the people or the Earth. Research shows our hearts naturally synchronize with the drum’s beat, calming us when anxiety or depression accelerates our heart rate. While sound therapy is gaining modern popularity, Indigenous people have understood the healing power of the drum and song for millennia.”

Indigenous teachers, he said, recognized that drumming and singing soothe individuals, often inducing a meditative state. This creates a profound, often subconscious, environment for healing, he said.

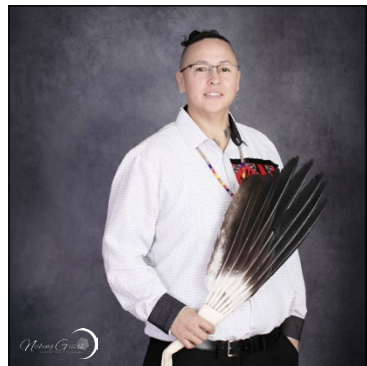
## Harm Reduction: The evidence-based, proactive approach to problematic substance use

**LACEY MANDOKA**  
Wellbriety Coach

Harm Reduction is an evidence-based, proactive approach to problematic substance use and the harmful effects that come with it.

Harm reduction incorporates a scope of strategies that include safer use, managed use, abstinence, and meeting people where they are while addressing conditions of use and the use itself. It includes prevention, risk reduction, health promotion and it also empowers people who use substances and their families with the choice to live healthy, purpose filled, self-directed lives.

Safer use supplies are linked to infectious disease prevention, disposal of and access to sterile syringes and injection



Courtesy of Marcella Hadden, Niibing Giizis Photography

**Lacey Mandoka**

equipment, distribution of naloxone, vaccination, testing, and linkage to infectious disease care and substance use treatment.

Thirty years of research has shown that it does not increase illegal drug use or crime, and it plays a significant role in reducing the transmission of viral hepatitis, HIV, and other infections (Source: “Are needle and syringe programmes associated

with a reduction in HIV transmission among people who inject drugs: a systematic review and meta-analysis” article.)

Research also shows that people who receive these services are five times more likely to enter substance use treatment and three times more likely to stop using drugs, according to an article in the Journal of Substance Abuse Treatment.

If you think of substance use disorder, try to think of it on a spectrum ranging from full use, all the way to no use. Where the individual is on that spectrum is where they need to be met. It ranges from meeting them with safer use supplies to resources to non-use and everything in between while respecting them and accepting where they are and where they want to go in this process.

Stigma surrounds substance use disorder and the people who

struggle with it. Harm reduction helps alleviate that stigma by recognizing that the person is not the condition, and that the person deserves to be treated with dignity and respect. It provides resources and support by meeting them where they are without judgment.

Reducing the stigma reduces the shame the person who uses substances feels allowing more susceptibility to recovery.

As Indigenous people, we get to create policy, programs, and practices that are grounded in cultural traditions, Indigenous knowledge, ceremonies, land, and language, which creates an additional layer to the harm reduction scope promoting connection, healing, and wellness.

Keep in mind that these are our people and sometimes the ways that work for some do not work for all. But by

incorporating our knowledge of our people and our ways, we have a much better chance of success.

**About the author:** Lacey Mandoka (she/her) is an enrolled citizen of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan. Lacey serves as the recovery coach for the Permanent Supportive Housing Department and as one in her community.

She earned her associate of arts degree from the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College in 2023 and is currently working towards an undergraduate degree from Central Michigan University in psychology.

Lacey enjoys producing sacred medicines from her garden, eagerly connecting with all her culture has to offer, and spending time with her nieces and nephews.

## MMIWG

*continued from front page*

Eighty-four percent of Native women experience violence in their lifetime, according to the National Institute of Justice.

A 2008 study found that women in some tribal communities are 10 times more likely to be murdered than the national average.

This is the second time that Ziibiwing has featured the exhibit; it originally ran from September 2020 until May 2021 during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Curator/Operations Manager William Johnson explained the impact the pandemic had on the original exhibit.

“This beautiful exhibit was installed and ran its course...” Johnson said. “But unfortunately was failing due to the ravages of COVID-19.”

Johnson explained why he felt MMIWG was a significant topic to revisit with this returning exhibit at the Ziibiwing Center.

“We have an amazing opportunity to continue to educate our Saginaw Chippewa Tribal community and the people of the world to this unfortunate atrocity that is levied against Indigenous women and girls,” Johnson said.

Prior to a ribbon cutting, Hadden shared background information on her photography.

“We spent two days photographing the beautiful women

who took time out of their day to stand for something that has touched the lives of all Indigenous Native women,” Hadden said.

Hadden said the idea for the

exhibit came from her granddaughter, Christina Benz, whom accompanied her for the ribbon cutting.

Approximately 25 students from Indian University

helped reinstall the exhibit over four days.

For more information on the exhibit on the Ziibiwing Center, please visit [www.sagchip.org/ziibiwing](http://www.sagchip.org/ziibiwing).



Observer photo by Matthew Wright

**“Boontak! (Stop it!): Stolen Daughters of Turtle Island” is on display at the Ziibiwing Center until Aug. 29, 2025,**



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On September 27 at 11PM, one lucky guest will win a brand-new truck, toy hauler trailer, UTV and \$5,000 gift card to Frank's Great Outdoors!

ACCESS Club members will receive one (1) entry for every 200 points earned on their ACCESS Loyalty Card from 12AM on June 29, until 10:55PM on September 27. Color, make and model may vary.



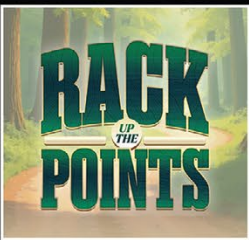
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One lucky winner will be drawn to play Spin Pong from 11AM-9AM every hour. Drop the ball, spin the wheel and score cash if it lands on a prize spot. Earned 1,500 points? You get a bonus ball for more chances to win!



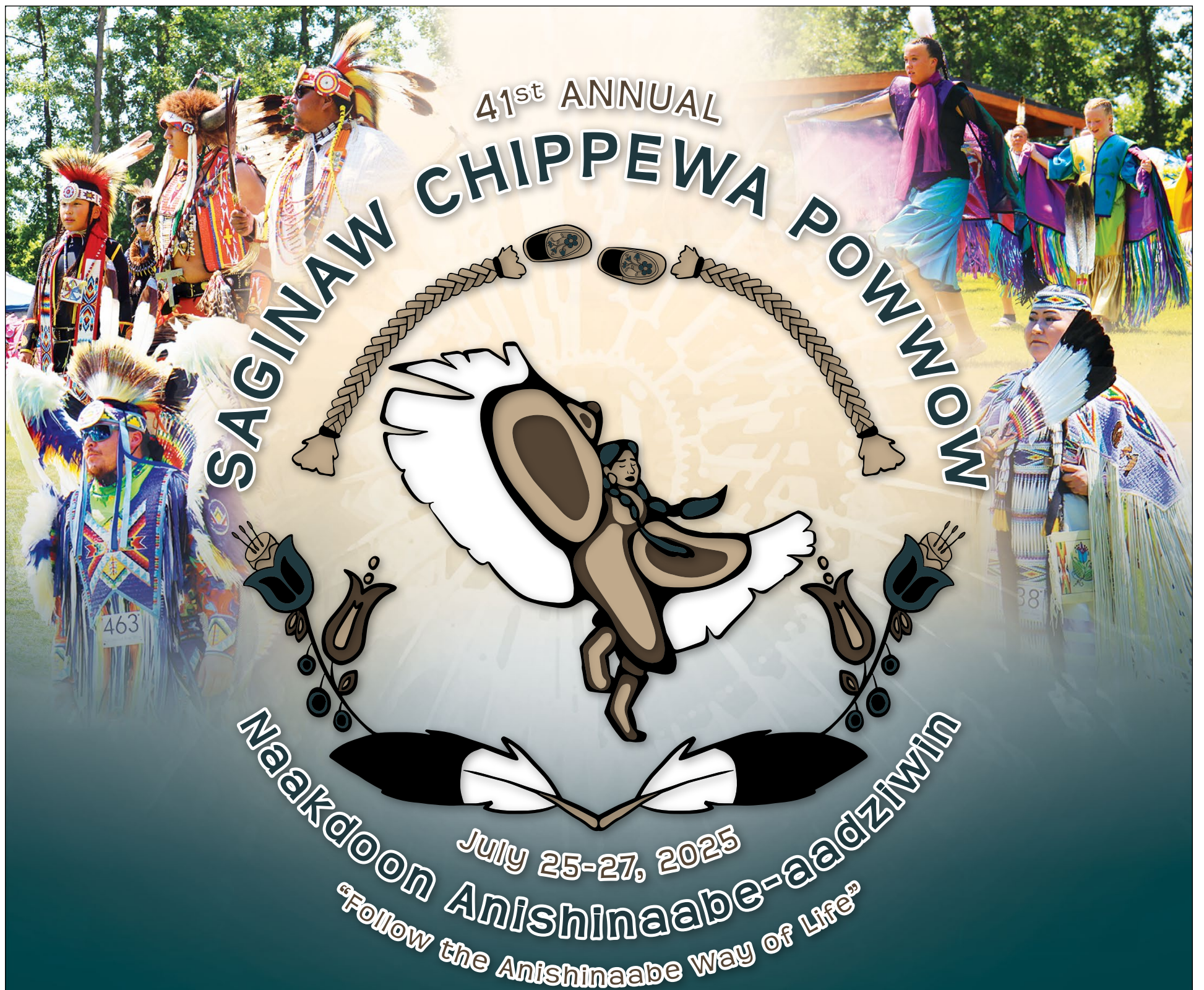
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Earn \$5 in Premium Play (up to \$50) for every 300 points earned using your ACCESS Loyalty Card from 4AM-11:59PM. Plus, we will be doing hot seat drawings for \$50 in Premium Play from 7AM-11PM. Also, earn 2,500 points on your ACCESS Loyalty Card from 7AM-11:59PM to play a promotional kiosk game and win up to \$50 in Premium Play!



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9AM-9PM  
Earn 1,000 points from 9AM-9PM, swipe at a kiosk to print a receipt and pick up a Hunt & Haul t-shirt at the Access Club booth. While supplies last.

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





**July 25, 26 & 27, 2025**

## Grand Entry

Friday: 7 p.m. | Saturday: 1 p.m. | Sunday: 12 p.m.

## The Hill Campground

7525 E. Tomah Rd., Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

For camping reservations, please email [powwowcommittee@sagchip.org](mailto:powwowcommittee@sagchip.org) or contact Seryna Acuna at 989.775.5600.

*\*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.\**

## Hotel Information:

- Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort | 1.888.732.4537
- Soaring Eagle Waterpark and Hotel | 1.877.232.4532
- The Retreat at Soaring Eagle | 1.877.232.4532

Emcee: Joel Syrette

Emcee: Brian Moore

Emcee: Wayne Silas

Emcee: Joe Syrette

Head Veteran: Raymond Cadotte

Head Male Judge: Joe Bointy

Head Female Judge: Shelley Bointy

Head Drum Judge: Harvey Dreaver

Host Drum: The Boyz

Fire Keeper: Steven Oldman

Head Dancers: Picked daily

**[www.sagchip.org/pow-wow](http://www.sagchip.org/pow-wow)**

*\*Free Admission \*\*Drug and Alcohol Free Event*

**For more information, please contact:** [PowwowCommittee@sagchip.org](mailto:PowwowCommittee@sagchip.org) or 989.775.5600



**Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan**

*“Working Together for Our Future”*

7500 Soaring Eagle Blvd.  
Mount Pleasant, MI 48858  
989-775-4000  
[www.sagchip.org](http://www.sagchip.org)







41ST ANNUAL SAGINAW CHIPPEWA

POWWOW

July 25, 26, & 27, 2025



# UNDERSTANDING THE PATH

A list of powwow guidelines from the SCIT Powwow Committee

- 1. Be on time.** The SCIT Powwow Committee is doing everything possible to ensure that activities begin and run smoothly. Please cooperate in this regard.

**2. Appropriate dress and behavior are required in the arena.** Anyone unwilling to abide by this rule will be asked to leave by the arena director. (If you are going to dance, try to wear dance clothes.)

**3. Pointing with fingers is considered poor manners by some nations.** If you must point, use your head and nod in the direction you wish to indicate.

**4. The seating around the arena is reserved for dancers in regalia.** Seats with blankets, shawls or regalia items on them are taken and should not be bothered. Do NOT sit on someone else's blanket unless invited. Uncovered seats are considered available.

**5. No pets allowed; they should be left at home.** The arena is a sacred place from the time it is blessed until the powwow is over. At no time should pets be allowed in the arena.

**6. Respect the head male and female dancers.** Their role entitles them to start each song or set of songs. Please wait until they have started to dance before you join in. In some traditions, it is considered improper to pass the head male or female dancer within the arena.

**7. Some songs require you to be familiar with the routine or have special eligibility rules in order to participate.** Trot dances, snake, buffalo, etc. require particular steps or routines. Veteran dances may be restricted to veterans, combat veterans or, in some cases, the relations of veterans. If you are not familiar with a particular dance, observe and learn. Watch the head dancers to learn the procedures.
- 8. Most powwows are nonprofit and depend upon donations, raffles, blanket dances, etc. for support.** Donations are encouraged as a way to honor someone. Any participant can drop money onto the blanket to aid with the powwow expenses.

**9. Certain items of religious significance should be worn only by those qualified to do so.** Respect the traditions. Never intentionally touch another dancer's regalia, personal property without permission.

**10. Giveaways, attributes of Indian generosity, are held at many dances.** They are acknowledgments of appreciation to recipients for honor or service given to the people. When receiving a gift, the recipient thanks everyone involved in the giving.

**11. If you wish to ask for a special song from a drum, talk to the arena director first and make sure the master of ceremonies is informed.** It is traditional to make a gift (monetary or otherwise) to the drum for special requests.

**12. Before sitting at a drum, ask permission from the head singer.** Do not touch a drum without permission. The drums are sacred, and it is believed that anyone who takes a place behind the drums has been selected by the Creator to be there. No one drums without special permission, and no one sits in the drumming area without special permission. Great offense is taken if you choose to sit in this area. You should never turn down an invitation by anyone, especially elders, during a powwow.

**13. Ask permission before taking pictures of dancers.** Pictures may be taken with the permission of the dancers but not during dedication dances (veterans songs, flag songs or prayers). These special songs will be announced by the emcee. Under no circumstances may you enter the arena to take photos.
- 14. If at any time you are uncertain of procedure, etc., please check with the emcee, arena director or head singer.** They will be glad to help you with your questions.

**15. Unless you are sure spectator seating will be provided, bring a chair.** Remember that the seating immediately around the arena is for dancers only.

**16. Be aware that someone standing behind you may not be able to see over you.** Make room, step aside, sit or kneel if someone is behind you.

**17. Alcohol, recreational drugs and firearms are prohibited at all powwows.**

**18. If you see a lost feather, or you yourself drop a feather, do not pick it up.** Notify the nearest veteran, the head veteran, head male dancer or arena director immediately.

**19. In some places it is okay for adults to dance while carrying infants or small children.** In other places this is considered contrary to local etiquette. Ask before doing so.

**20. Always stand during special songs.** This includes grand entry, flag songs, veteran songs, memorial songs, prayer songs or any other song that the emcee designates. It is also customary to remove hats for the duration of that song.

**21. Always listen to the emcee. The emcee will give all of the information you need as well as entertain you and keep you posted about news.** Any questions you have can be answered by the emcee, whom will let you know when you need to stand and when you may sit after honor songs. The emcee will also announce intertribal dances and other invitations for guests to participate.

**22. Supervise your children so that all may enjoy the event without distraction.**

**23. If you have a question, ask.** Most dancers, singers, elders and staff are happy to help. Offer a cold drink or other small, symbolic gifts to those who help you.

## 2025 SCIT Powwow Dancer Payouts

Junior Boys (6-11)			
Place	Grass	Fancy	Traditional
1st	\$200	\$200	\$200
2nd	\$150	\$150	\$150
3rd	\$125	\$125	\$125
4th	\$100	\$100	\$100

Junior Girls (6-11)			
Place	Jingle	Fancy	Traditional
1st	\$200	\$200	\$200
2nd	\$150	\$150	\$150
3rd	\$125	\$125	\$125
4th	\$100	\$100	\$100

Senior Adults (Men) 36-49			
Place	Grass	Fancy	Traditional
1st	\$1,100	\$1,100	\$1,100
2nd	\$800	\$800	\$800
3rd	\$600	\$600	\$600
4th	\$400	\$400	\$400

Senior Adults (Women) 36-49			
Place	Jingle	Fancy	Traditional
1st	\$1,100	\$1,100	\$1,100
2nd	\$800	\$800	\$800
3rd	\$600	\$600	\$600
4th	\$400	\$400	\$400

Teen Boys (12-17)			
Place	Grass	Fancy	Traditional
1st	\$400	\$400	\$400
2nd	\$300	\$300	\$300
3rd	\$200	\$200	\$200
4th	\$125	\$125	\$125

Teen Girls (12-17)			
Place	Jingle	Fancy	Traditional
1st	\$400	\$400	\$400
2nd	\$300	\$300	\$300
3rd	\$200	\$200	\$200
4th	\$125	\$125	\$125

Golden Age (Men) 50-59		
Place	Traditional	Fancy/Grass
1st	\$1,100	\$1,100
2nd	\$800	\$800
3rd	\$600	\$600
4th	\$400	\$400

Golden Age (Women) 50-59		
Place	Traditional	Jingle/Fancy
1st	\$1,100	\$1,100
2nd	\$800	\$800
3rd	\$600	\$600
4th	\$400	\$400

Junior Adults (Men) 18-35			
Place	Grass	Fancy	Traditional
1st	\$1,100	\$1,100	\$1,100
2nd	\$800	\$800	\$800
3rd	\$600	\$600	\$600
4th	\$400	\$400	\$400

Junior Adults (Women) 18-35			
Place	Jingle	Fancy	Traditional
1st	\$1,100	\$1,100	\$1,100
2nd	\$800	\$800	\$800
3rd	\$600	\$600	\$600
4th	\$400	\$400	\$400

Platinum Age (Men) 60+	
Place	Combined
1st	\$1,100
2nd	\$800
3rd	\$600
4th	\$400

Platinum Age (Women) 60+	
Place	Combined
1st	\$1,100
2nd	\$800
3rd	\$600
4th	\$400

Drum Contest					
1st:	\$10,000	2nd:	\$8,000	3rd:	\$6,000
4th:	\$4,000	5th:	\$3,000	Drum Split:	\$2,000

For more information:

Phone: 989.775.4000

Email: PowwowCommittee@Sagchip.org

**\*\*All payouts are subject to change\*\***





## Michigan legislators join SCIT delegation on tour of Saganing infrastructure programs

**JOSEPH V. SOWMICK**

Public Relations Manager

On May 23, State of Michigan legislators received a tour of Saganing infrastructure programs as a supplement of joining the semi-annual 2 percent distributions: State Sen. Roger Hauck (R-34th District), was joined by Rep. Jerry Neyer (R-92nd District), Rep. Mike Hoadley (R-99th District) and Rep. Greg Alexander (R-98th District).

The SCIT delegation was led by Tribal Council Member Frank Cloutier (District Three), Public Relations Director Erik Rodriguez and Saganing water plant employees.

Cloutier said there may always be ways to partner and improve upon our infrastructure needs by utilizing Federal and State funds for growth and expansion.

“Being one of the largest employers in Arenac County, we must be able to provide water and waste water to our operations as they serve the greater community and our expansion needs,” Cloutier said. “We must always be prepared to take on any and all economic opportunities. As the Council At-Large representative, I have always felt it important that our Membership be keenly aware of our efforts to maintain and grow our economic efforts.”

SCIT Member Jonas Wilcox is the lead Utilities Water Operator. He has obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in biology from Central Michigan University.

“This plant is unique as it is water treatment and wastewater treatment under one building. We have the ability to add modular units for each side to increase capacity,” Wilcox said. “There is a tremendous opportunity for expansion in Saganing. This plant also give the opportunity for staff to cross train which is fantastic from an operational stand point.”

Wilcox said his team is currently servicing the Saganing Eagles Landing Casino & Hotel, Saganing Outreach Center, and Saganing Eagles Landing RV Park.

“We are a surface water treatment plant using ultrafiltration membranes,” Wilcox said. “We get our water from

the Saginaw Midland Municipal Water Supply located at Whitestone Point near Alabaster, Michigan,” Wilcox said “Our wastewater system also utilizes membrane filtration but it is combined with activated sludge in the Membrane Bio Reactor. We typically average 99 percent removal of Total Suspended Solids and Carbonaceous Biochemical Oxygen Demand.”

Cloutier said he has witnessed the continued growth and expansion of the business.

“Our business interests in Saganing is directly responsible for one-third of our income and it stands as the most viable option for future growth,” Cloutier said. “Strategic efficiencies were developed when planning the Saganing property that have proven to provide an efficient and robust income stream.”

Wilcox gave praise to his coworkers for his team’s success and highlighted their contributions to the facilities.

Operator III Stacy Ancel (Sault Ste. Marie tribal member) has a Bachelor of Science in biology from Lake Superior State University with both water and wastewater state certifications.

Operator II Owen Kendall has more than a decade of field experience in water distribution and wastewater treatment and collection. He is also state certified.

Operator II Andrew Sammons joined the team in 2020 and is responsible for daily water and wastewater labs, monitoring equipment, making repairs, and maintaining equipment as well as building and grounds maintenance.

Operator I Cody Berk holds state licenses and enjoys ensuring the water is safe for the families in the community.

Wilcox said he appreciates the Tribal support throughout the years on the Saganing campus and would “like to see future development.”

“I am honored to work with such an exceptional team who cares about the good work we do,” Wilcox said. “It is great to see a small team work together to deliver excellent service to the area.”

Wilcox said the plants are permitted under the EPA with a NPDES permit and are considered an EPA non-transient non-community water supply.

## Michigan State legislators speak

**Sen. Roger Hauck (R-34th District)**



“I think the Saginaw Chippewa Tribe does a good job for the community when it comes to providing infrastructure support for their businesses. With building your substation, you look at the cost of electricity and you get a chance to provide that now for yourself. As a sovereign nation, you can sign up with Calvin Berk as a tribal utility authority or a Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) to provide power to your community. We can help businesses to navigate regulation but so much goes back to the local communities and this is where the Tribe’s expertise is an example for the state. I can support when it comes to regulation; we need to take a step back and let the tribes assert their sovereignty and do what best for their people. The substation is an excellent example of that kind of innovation.”

**Rep. Jerry Neyer (R-92nd District)**



“The water facility that you have here shows the capacity to grow as your community and business property in the immediate area grows. It is also providing a means for increased development and housing in the area by having those utilities available. I commend the Tribe for looking at the big picture while business drives expansion you are also looking at the needs of the surrounding community where people work. It lessens the cost for the community where the Tribe helps with infrastructure projects and we can see that in the local area two percent distributions. Instead of many businesses where they are looking to compete, the strength I see in the Tribe is you actively look for ways to partner with the community. That way the growth isn’t one sided and everyone benefits.”

**Rep. Mike Hoadley (R-99th District)**



“I can speak to what I’ve noticed about the Saginaw Chippewa Tribe and their efforts toward outreach in the community. It has been nothing short of outstanding and the two percent grant dollars speak volumes to that cooperative spirit. I think the Tribe has done an exemplary job in their outreach to the state legislature but to see your development first hand brings those efforts full circle on how you stay tuned in to the local community. Overall, regarding business development, rural communities are uniquely challenged with a lack of solid infrastructure and concern regarding the energy grid need to be addressed. The business atmosphere changes rapidly with requirements needed for the internet and the Tribe is helping the community meet those needs here in Arenac County.”

**Rep. Greg Alexander (R-98th District)**



“I think the Tribe has been very insightful on how they combined the water plant and the wastewater plant into one unit. It’s important to look at the needs of the infrastructure for future development and expansion. The Tribe is showing a great example of how you can be self-reliant and take care of both needs of the government and business interests. My history and experience previously as a drain commissioner, there is no such thing as a Republican road or a Democrat drain. The infrastructure is needed by all and it’s very insightful that the Tribe is thinking forward in meeting those needs.”

Courtesy images

## Editorial: It was a great turnout for the 2025 Summer Safety Fair on June 7

**SUE SOWMICK**

Public Health Nurse

Thank you to everyone that helped put together the Summer Safety Fair on June 7! The event was held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Public Safety Building – located on the corner of Leaton and Broadway roads.

We had quite a good turnout; from tiny babies to elders. A total of 291 registered. For those attendees that wrote down their ages, there were 123 children, 87 adults, and 40 seniors (55 and older).

The safety fair was sponsored by Tribal Police and Fire, Andahwod Continuing Care, Tribal Council and Nimkee. We had participation from many Tribal departments and agencies from the community.

We had many volunteers from the Tribe and the community. We were very lucky with the weather – it was gorgeous.

Safety Day is an opportunity to connect with our community to highlight public safety resources and equipment used during a given emergency. It also provides the community the opportunity to get to know the men and women that serve in these roles as first responders.

This fosters trust in our emergency workers and helps alleviate fear and anxiety in an emergency situation.

The safety fair also provides an excellent opportunity to foster an environment of safety in the community. It also provides a fun, family activity for all ages.

First of all, thank you to Tribal Council for supporting and participating in the Safety Fair! It is wonderful to see the community come out to learn some new information and have fun.

Tribal Police had a lot of their equipment on display along with providing education to families. Tribal Police had helmets and children’s bikes to giveaway; to promote healthy exercise along with safety. Their Sharps and drug-drop off was available. The Mt. Pleasant Police Department also had an officer attend.

The Tribal Fire Department was a hit as they arranged for Aeromed life flight to come in!

American Red Cross had information about what to do in an emergency, and also provided a bouncy house, along with a bean bag toss from the Kiwanis and a couple other games.



Observer photos by Joseph Sowmick

There was information for seniors from Andahwod, the Alzheimer’s Association and the Area Agency on Aging.

Many departments participated in the planning and implementation of the event. Nimkee helped organize the event and did the registration.

Nimkee’s booth had a variety of health and safety handouts and education, and door prizes.

Nimkee worked with community health care centers to provide services including Central Michigan District Health Department to provide safety information and naran.

McLaren Health/Karmonos Cancer centers educated about cancer. Peer 360 and Isabella Substance Awareness Coalition had information about recovery.





Comedian Nikki Glaser brings 'Alive And Unwell Tour' to Mount Pleasant

NATALIE SHATTUCK  
Editor

The Jaw-droppingly raw and adored comedian, Nikki Glaser, performed in the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort's Entertainment Hall on Saturday, May 24 as part of her "Alive And Unwell Tour."

Her 8:40 to 10 p.m. show included raw, raunchy, and unfiltered bits that had the audience wondering if they should be laughing that hard or be insulted instead. Is there anything she is afraid to say?

In January, Glaser made history as the first woman to host the Golden Globe Awards solo.

Following her HBO standup special, "Good Clean Filth" in 2022, her second HBO comedy special "Someday You'll Die" premiered in May 2024.

According to Glaser's website, "Someday You'll Die" set the record for "the best premiere night for an HBO comedy special in more than two years and for the number one largest streaming for a comedy special in HBO Max/Max history" (nikkiglaser.com).

Glaser was a brilliant stand-out during the roast of Tom Brady, a Netflix special.

During her Mount Pleasant tour stop, she roasted Michigan harder than she roasted Brady.

"The automobile was invented here, presumably, so everyone had a faster way to leave," Glaser joked.

Her roasts on Michigan, Mount Pleasant, the Reservation, and the casino was an added 10-minute skit into this performance. She said she had just written the roast prior to her

performance and read her jokes off of her phone.

"This is the oil capitol of Michigan, which is kind of like being the prettiest girl at the ugly party... I'm from St. Louis and I just have to say, it is nice to visit a worse place in the Midwest," Glaser said.

"Of course, everyone knows that the State of Michigan is shaped like a mitten. I see it more like a hand. Even the State itself is signaling... 'Don't come here!'"

Comedians Esther Povitsky (a 25-minute routine) and Sean O'Connor (a 10-minute routine) opened for Glaser.

Povitsky presented jokes about motherhood and family life, and O'Connor told a story about his childhood photos accidentally ending up on an adult website.



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

Comedian Nikki Glaser performs at Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort on May 24 as part of her "Alive And Unwell Tour."

Soaring Eagle hosts first-time sumo wrestling, sushi, and sake event

NATALIE SHATTUCK  
Editor

As the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort continues to bring elite entertainment to mid-Michigan, the past month was no different as a fun, new experience featuring sumo wrestling, sushi, and sake was held

On Saturday, May 31, celebrating Asian American Pacific Islander Month, attendees flocked to the Entertainment Hall for a tasting of fresh sushi rolls, sake, and handcrafted Asian-inspired cocktails. Live sumo wrestling and drumming demos also occurred during the sampling event.

The event featured sumo wrestlers Hiroki, Mendee, Ramy and Ichi.

Ichi is one of the most famous and successful sumo champions in the world today.

"Recruited from Mongolia, (Ichi) was a Japanese high school sumo stand-out," the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort released in a statement. "Before entering pro sumo, he won a national sumo title, becoming an amateur 'yokozuna,' which allowed him to skip most of his lower pro sumo



Courtesy photo

"Fun Gov" Tim McCullough, senior executive casino host at Soaring Eagle, jokes around with the sumo wrestlers visiting as part of the sumo, sushi and sake event on May 31.

ranks, and he entered his pro team as the highest-ranked member. He reached elite 'sekitori' status in a record of two tournaments – the fastest in history, at the time."

The food was created by the Soaring Eagle Food & Beverage Department and sushi chef, Min Min Tun, who was brought in for the occasion.

Chef Min Min Tun offered tuna tataki, salmon cream cheese, tempura crunch, and nigiri rolls.

The chef and his wife, Aye Soe, have three sushi locations, in addition to the restaurant, Amazing Myanmar Asian Cuisine in Kentwood, Mich. The restaurant offers a fusion

of Asian flavors, offering dishes from Thai, Burmese, Indian, and Japanese cuisines.

Betty Riddle, executive sous chef for SECR, said prior to the event, she researched food items that were commonly served at sumo wrestling events. She found Chanko Nabe was by far the most popular.

"Chanko Nabe or 'Sumo Stew' is a robust hot-pot filled with all kinds of vegetables and tons of protein in a rich dashi – a stock made with Komu (dried kelp) and other ingredients – and chicken broth," Riddle said. "Traditionally eaten by sumo wrestlers, this well-balanced meal

is also enjoyed in Japanese homes and at some restaurants. I made three different varieties with three different flavor profiles. Tsukune is a traditional chicken meatball used in Chanko Nabe. Making these was definitely challenging but it was a lot of fun learning this technique."

Along with the Chanko Nabe station – which featured more than six dishes – there was also a salads and Onigiri station, a skewers and Okonomiyaki station and a dessert station.

"Chef Mark, Chef Henry, Chef Carrie and the Banquet team got to work with some new ingredients and worked very hard to produce and serve these inspired menu items," Riddle said.

According to Riddle, the skewers station was the biggest hit.

"We offered three varieties (Yakatori chicken, braised pork shoulder, and shrimp and shiitake) and served with Okonomiyaki," Riddle said. "Okonomiyaki is a Japanese savory pancake. We added shredded cabbage and carrots, and served with Kewpie mayo and Okonomiyaki Sauce and Aonori flakes."

Sous Chef Holly Bigelow and her team served a variety of

Asian-inspired desserts: Mini jiggy cheesecakes, carrot bars, fruit skewers and green tea ice cream.

"There is a lot of behind-the-scenes work to be done and the team learned a lot about customs, what types of food to prepare and have on hand for all of their meals," said Tanya Barty, advertising/PR manager of the SECR Marketing Department.

Tribal Council members and Soaring Eagle team members and guests enjoyed their own experience the day prior with a Japanese-themed luncheon menu and meet and greets with the sumo wrestlers.

Barty said the first-ever event was a success as the internal team and the wrestlers' management all worked well together to make the event run smoothly.

"Our guests enjoyed the show and stayed to the very end," Barty said. "During the event, those in attendance had the chance to ask the wrestlers questions, so it was great to see the crowd getting involved as well."

Tickets were available for VIP, general admission or just to watch the live entertainment. VIP ticketholders received a ZINI Lychee vodka bottle.

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### Maya

Maya is a 2-year-old female tortoiseshell named in honor of Maya Angelou. Just like her namesake, Maya is full of grace, strength, and wisdom. She is a true companion cat – affectionate, attention-seeking, and happiest when she is close to her people. She gets along well with other cats and would thrive in almost any home – whether it's with a first-time cat owner or seasoned feline fan.

**Humane Animal Treatment Society • [Hatsweb.org](http://Hatsweb.org)**  
**Address:** 1105 S. Isabella Rd., Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858 | **Phone:** 989.775.0830  
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**Walk-in hours:** M-F, 1-5 p.m. \*Other times available by appointment\*





## Cody Johnson, Carly Pearce, Jade Eagleson deliver evening of neotraditional country music

**NATALIE SHATTUCK**

Editor

Country music fans spoke loud and clear: Cody Johnson's concert at the Soaring Eagle sold out in less than five minutes when the tickets went on sale, back in March. Fast forward to Friday, June 13 and the outdoor concert had finally arrived.

As part of his "2025 Leather Deluxe Tour," Cody Johnson was joined by opening acts Carly Pearce and Jade Eagleson.

Carly Pearce, an American country music singer-songwriter, is a Grand Ole Opry and Kentucky Music Hall of Fame member. She performed a 45-minute set.

She began her portion of the show with "Next Girl," "Country Music Made Me Do It," "Still Blue," and performed Dolly Parton's "Jolene."

Her set also included the single that first gained her major recognition in 2017, "Every Little Thing."

Pearce told the audience she would listen to every decade of country music as a child. She also mentioned she wrote "Fault Line" in honor of her grandmother.



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

**Opening act Jade Eagleson gets the show started on that Friday evening.**

Pearce performed the Platinum-certified country radio chart toppers "What He Didn't Do" and "Never Wanted to Be That Girl," which she recorded with Ashley McBryde.

Pearce ended her show with "I Hope You're Happy Now," the three-time Platinum-certified single, which she recorded with Lee Brice.

The evening's headliner Cody Johnson, country music singer-songwriter, performed for nearly two hours. His full-of-life stage presence and hit country songs kept the audience hollering for more throughout his show.

Johnson released six albums before he eventually signed with a major recording label.

According to his website, "He has 47 career RIAA certifications, a Pandora Billionaire Award, nearly 7.5 billion global streams and two number one singles" (codyjohnsonmusic.com).

The band launched right in to "That's Texas," a song about the state Johnson originates from.

It was a cool, slightly chilly, evening for June in Michigan.

"Texas is sitting at 105 degrees today and it feels pretty good in Michigan. It makes me want to build a house and move here," Johnson said, and the crowd erupted in applause and hollers.

The liveliness continued on with "Me and My Kind," and then the band slowed it down with "Dance Her Home," "How Do You Sleep At Night?," "With You I Am," "Dear Rodeo" and the sultry "Nothin' On You."

The show was held the Friday prior to



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

**Cody Johnson performs during his sold-out show on June 13 at Soaring Eagle as part of his "2025 Leather Deluxe Tour."**

Father's Day and Johnson paid homage to his dad.

"I've got my dad on the road out here with me for Father's Day this weekend, and I was telling him before the show that I like stuff like this because we get the opportunity to travel all over the world," Johnson said. "This year we played Scotland, Ireland, England, Australia, New Zealand, Brazil, and you get to see people from all walks of life that actually just love country music and what it stands for."

"We get the opportunity, a lot of the times, to play... hockey arenas and NBA arenas and to be honest with you, after a while, they kind of all look the same. But being out here tonight, outside, sitting on the lawn with you guys, it sure does feel good to be up here playing country music. I want to thank you from the

bottom of my heart for being a country music fan and showing up out here this evening."

Also performed that evening: "Human," "Georgia Peaches," "The Fall," "People in the Back," "I'm Gonna Love You," and Irving Berlin's "God Bless America," which was followed by a medley during which Johnson's lively band was introduced.

"The Painter" was performed, along with the award-winning singles: "Dirt Cheap," which won 2025 Song of the Year at the Academy of Country Music Awards, and "'Til You Can't," which won two 2022 Country Music Association Awards.

With the boisterous audience begging for the concert not to end yet, the encore included performances of The Chicks' "Travelin' Soldier" and "Diamond in My Pocket."



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

**Carly Pearce performs a 45-minute set, opening the outdoor show for Johnson.**

Canadian country singer Jade Eagleson, 31, opened the show with a 25-minute set, beginning at about 7:30 p.m. He derives from Bailieboro, Ontario.

Born to a family consisting of six generations of Canadian cattle ranch farmers, Eagleson chose pursuing a country music career in Nashville over joining the family business.

Eagleson has released three albums and 12 singles.

He has achieved number one hits on Canada Country charts with "All Night to Figure Out," "Lucky," "More Drinkin' than Fishin'," "Telluride," and "She Don't Know," which he dedicated to his wife that evening, who was back home in Nashville.

Eagleson set the mood right for an evening of today's neo-traditional country.

## Memorial Day weekend at SECR features Zac Brown Band and Corey Kent

**MATTHEW WRIGHT**

Staff Writer

The Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort hosted country musicians Zac Brown Band and Corey Kent on Sunday, May 25. The two groups helped fans kick off the Memorial Day weekend with a memorable Summer Outdoor Concert Series show.

Headlining the night was country music group Zac Brown Band. The group boasts a plethora of accomplishments including five straight No. 1 album debuts, three GRAMMY awards and 16 No. 1 radio hits.

The nine members of Zac Brown Band took to the outdoor stage, kicking off the holiday weekend with the summertime vibes of "Same Boat" and "Toes."

The depth of their musicianship was on display that night, with an abundance of different musical instruments used. This included violin, mandolin, banjo, piano, bongo drums and plenty of guitars. This variety was evident during a cover of The Charlie

Daniels Band's "The Devil Went Down to Georgia."

The hits continued with "Someone I Used to Know," and Fleetwood Mac's "The Chain."

Next up was a mashup of "Free" and Van Morrison's "Into the Mystic."

The band energized the crowd with the fast paced "Whiskey's Gone" before slowing it down for the laidback vibes of "My Kind of Medicine."

Zac Brown Band treated

fans to many of their biggest hits that night. This included "Keep Me in Mind," "Out in the Middle," "Wild Palomino," "Sweet Annie," "Homegrown" and "Day for the Dead."

A highlight of the night was a spirited rendition of the smash hit "Chicken Fried."

This was followed by "Knee Deep" and another mashup of their original song "Colder Weather" and the Eagle's "Take it to the Limit."



Observer photo by Matthew Wright

**Members of Zac Brown Band perform "The Devil Goes Down to Georgia" during the May 25 outdoor concert at the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort.**

The band's versatility was on full display during the encore performances of Queen's "Bohemian Rhapsody," and the upbeat pop-rock infused "Beautiful Drug."

Opening for the night was country musician Corey Kent.

Known for blending classic country sounds with contemporary pop, Kent treated his fans to many of his biggest hits. This included "Girl I Never Met," "Ain't My Day," "This Heart,"

"Something's Gonna Kill Me," "Rust" and "Damn Good Country Song."

A highlight of his set was the hit song "Wild as Her." The song soared up the charts after its release in 2021, shining on a spotlight on the talents of Kent.



Observer photo by Matthew Wright

**Country musician Corey Kent**



# ENTERTAINMENT



**East X West 2025**  
Global Asian Music Festival  
Friday, July 4  
6PM  
Entertainment Hall  
Tickets: VIP \$79,  
Reserved \$49, GA \$29



**Brooks & Dunn**  
With Special Guest  
Bayker Blankenship  
Friday, August 8  
8PM  
Outdoor Concert  
Tickets: \$44, \$130, \$151, \$173



**Fourth Of July**  
Fireworks Spectacular  
Friday, July 4  
DUSK  
Outdoor Concert Area  
FREE



**Creed**  
With Special Guests Mammoth  
WVH & Hinder  
Saturday, August 23  
7PM  
Outdoor Concert  
Tickets: \$56, \$146, \$180, \$211



**Rock 'N' Rum**  
Soaring Eagle Dine & Drink Series  
Saturday, July 12  
6:45PM  
Entertainment Hall  
Tickets: GA \$60



**Rascal Flatts**  
With Special Guest Lauren Alaina  
Saturday, August 30  
8PM  
Outdoor Concert  
Tickets: \$46, \$136, \$160, \$180



**Foreigner**  
With Special Guests Loverboy  
& Night Ranger  
Saturday, July 26  
7PM  
Outdoor Concert  
Tickets: \$32, \$65, \$90, \$104



**Tim McGraw**  
With Special Guest Travis Tritt  
Friday, September 26  
8PM  
Outdoor Concert  
Tickets: \$58, \$148, \$182, \$213



Visit our website [SoaringEagleCasino.com](https://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.

**\$60,000**  
**SIZZLING SUMMER**  
**BINGO BASH**

Win a **Carnival®** cruise-for-two,  
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**MAIN SESSION AT 3PM**

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



# Annual Human Race brings in competitive racers and casual runners to 5K event

**NATALIE SHATTUCK**  
Editor

Competitive racers and casual runners lined up on the Remus Road starting line to begin the 33rd annual Human Race.

The 5K run and one-mile fun run or walk began on the road in front of Seventh Generation at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, June 11. The race route was along Remus and Leaton roads and trails on the Reservation.

The overall male 5K winner was Dave Hofman with a time of 18 minutes and 42 seconds.



Racers in the 33rd annual Human Race take off at the starting line on Remus Road on Wednesday, June 11.

The overall female 5K winner was Cyndi Techentien with a time of 24 minutes and 42 seconds.

All 5K racers that placed in the top three of their age classification and the top three one-mile finishers won a hand-crafted cedar eagle feather award.

It was Seth Pifer’s, fitness coordinator of Nimkee Fitness, first time organizing the event as the race director as he joined the Fitness Center team within the last year.

“I enjoyed organizing this event; it was a great opportunity for me to be able to set up a race path and give community members/employees an opportunity to get outside and get some exercise in,” Pifer said. “I felt as though the event ran very smoothly, and it seemed like everyone enjoyed their time spent at the event.”

The event is held in an effort to promote spirituality and Native American culture along with health and positive lifestyles for all.

“I think my favorite part of it coming together was seeing how many community members and employees came out to support 7th Generation/ Nimkee Fitness and the joy that people expressed when/if they received an eagle feather trophy,” Pifer said. “I am happy that we were able to put on a fun event for everyone.”



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

**Dave Hofman is the first 5K finisher with a time of 18 minutes, 42 seconds.**



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

**Cyndi Techentien is the overall female 5K winner with a time of 24 minutes, 42 seconds.**

The Human Race was held by Nimkee Fitness and the Seventh Generation Elijah Elk Cultural Center. A post-race dinner was offered for all participants.



Observer photos by Natalie Shattuck

## Family Caregiver Assistance Program (FCAP)

**Who is a family caregiver?**  
The Older American Act Title VI Grant identifies two types of caregivers (unpaid):

- Adult family member who provides in-home care and/ or support to a tribal elder with Alzheimer’s disease or other brain or muscular or spinal dysfunction conditions. *For example, Parkinson’s disease, multiple sclerosis, stroke, muscular dystrophy, spina bifida, migraines, etc.*
- Grandparent or Tribal Elder (50 years of age) relative who provides primary care to a child by legal guardianship (or informal consent of care) and lives with child.

**Who is eligible for support services?**




- The unpaid family member adult who helps the Elder.
- The grandparent or family member who cares for the child.
- The unpaid Tribal Elder who provides care to adults 18-59 years old with disabilities.

**What services are available?**

- Elders Minor Assistance Program**
- Respite Childcare** – youth camps, afterschool programs, or respite childcare expenses, or reimbursement for already paid respite care.
- Respite Elder Care** – worker able to assist with community elder medical transports, coordinating medical appointments, medical supplies, and health related shopping trips.
- School supplies and clothing**

**For more information:**  
989-775-4306 or LBurr@sagchip.org

**Andahwod CCC & ES:** 2910 S. Leaton Rd., Mt. Pleasant  
*\*Items and services are only offered when grant funds are available. \*\*Provided by Andahwod Elder Services and funded by the Older Americans Act Title VI.*



## Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) now available

The Elder Services Office is now assisting with the LIHEAP grants for heating, year-round crisis, and weatherization assistance.

**Program Eligibility:** Determined by gross income, including wages, self-employment, contract income, and a payment from mortgages, SSA benefits retirement, and other types of income. Minimum and maximum benefit amounts for assistance are based on household income and individuals residing in the home for qualifying tribal member households.

Priority is given to older adults 60 years and older, individuals with disability or young children in the home. Applications can be picked up and assistance with completing the application with the Elder Services program.

Please call Sheligh Jackson at 989-775-4307 for more information. This grant program runs until Sept. 30, 2025.

June 2025 Tribal Elder Birthdays			
1) Scott Bettistea Lester Chippeway Jr. Kimberly Palmer Andrew Wagner Betty Coffin	Jocelyn Perkins	18) Marcus Peters Clare Camburn Pamela Schotl Mang Webkamigad	Jane Jolly John McDonald Lisa Starkey Rodney Miller Sr.
2) Joseph Sowmick Sherry Bailey-Mason Sherry Hileman	10) Gregory Falsetta Barbara Link Erika Anderson	19) Debra Smith Randy James Melissa Mowry Brian Tabor	25) Guy Jackson Michael Dalton Robert Fallis III
3) Janis Ash Belinda Land Candice Ashmun Randall Bird Lee Kerns Kirsten Schaefer	11) Diane Dege Leo Jackson Jr. Nancy Nedwash	20) Carla Jeffrey-Hovey Eric Sowmick Klisti Felske	26) Sheri Jackson Douglas Ritter Barbara Durga
4) Catherine Wendling	12) William McClain David Miller	21) Joe Brown Jason Barnes Crystal Sprague	27) Elizabeth Mena Donald Federico Tracey Frank Donald Leauteaux Jr.
5) Christina Knott	13) Delmar Jackson Jr. Mary Bukowiec William Kellogg Trent Trepanier Sr. Lisa Iordanou	22) Melissa Fulger Kimberly Dorow Louise Hunt Michael Neyome David Russell	28) Judy Johnson Stephen Johnson Thomasine McShawboose
6) Deborah Christie	14) Dennis Christy Sr.	23) Lewis Mena Linell Crampton Shannon Gross Tina Howard	29) Valarie Raphael
7) Joanne Rogers	15) Donald Nelson Juanita Rogers Tracey Jackson	24) Margaret Hinkle Annette Ackley Duane Beaulieu Jr. Cheryl Berlin Andrew Falcon	30) Marlin Bennett Ann Orr Frederick Stevens Keeshta Wemigwans Sr. Elizabeth Chivis
8) Carmen Otto Timothy Sedlow Glenna Halliwill Colleen Vasher	16) Paul Walker Julie Walker-Hunt		31) Yvonne Glomski Victor Bailey Marlene Gray
9) Christian Jackson Mary Johnson Harry Pelcher Theresa Finn Philip Meir III	17) Larry Burnham Gary Grills Kevin Hancock Gerald Nahgahgwon Mark Powell Deborah Smith		

## Sweet Treats Ice Cream Truck

The ice cream truck will be at Andahwod every other Wednesday at 2:30 p.m. for about a half hour. Make sure to come satisfy your sweet tooth.

**Upcoming dates:**  
• July 2, 16, 30 • Aug. 13, 27




## 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.

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

**Upcoming dates: July 10 & Aug. 14**







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

**Boozhoo!** July will be a busy month for the Tribal community! Andahwod CCC & ES is hosting the Michigan Indian Elders Conference on July 21-23 and the Elders Homecoming Powwow Trip on July 24-27. Agendas/itineraries will be available at each registration sign-in.

- ▶ If you signed up for the Elders Homecoming Powwow Trip, sign-in for the trip will be at the merchandise counter in the SECR Entertainment Hall.
- ▶ A euchre tournament will be offered during the cornhole tournament on Friday, July 25. Doors open at 11:30 a.m.
- ▶ The ice cream social is open to all community members on Thursday, July 24 at Andahwod from 2-3:30 p.m., following the Homecomming Community Meeting.



Andahwod Phone Numbers

- **Gayle Ruhl:** 989.775.4305  
Administrator
- **Careena Meyers:** 989.775.4315  
Support Services Manager
- **Patty Kequom:** 989.775.4302  
Activities Assistant
- **Sandra Pelcher:** 989.775.4300  
Administrative Assistant I
- **Galina Kolb:** 989.775.4301  
Resident Care Manager
- **Denise Pelcher:** 989.775.4339  
Activities Coordinator
- **Dawn Chippewa:** 989.775.4308  
Billing/Administrative Assistant II
- **Sheligh Jackson:** 989.775.4307  
Elders Advocate
- **Maintenance:** 989.775.4313

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.

Title VI Needs Assessment Survey

Andahwod has not received the surveys yet but will contact those who would like to participate when we receive them. Please sign up to complete a survey and receive a gift card! To schedule a time to complete this survey, contact the Elder Services Program at 989-775-4300.

The Elder Services program is entering the next cycle of Title VI grant funding, as part of this process, Elder Services will be conducting a needs assessment survey as one of the required steps in the application process. We are asking all District I and II Elders to contact our office to schedule a time to complete this survey, for your time we will provide each elder completing the survey with a \$15 gift card. The needs assessment will help with the type of services provided to elders in District I and II.

The information is vital to fulfilling the grant application and letting the department understand what services are really needed by elder members.

Elders Minor Assistance Program (EMAP)

GRANT IS STILL AVAILABLE!

\*Assistance for minor home and vehicle repairs.

\*Must be a SCIT Elder over 60 years old.

Introducing the new certified nursing assistant transporter

I would like to introduce myself, my name is Lucinda Burr. I have two grown children and have lived in Isabella County all my life. I have worked in a skilled nursing facility and a foot, ankle and wound clinic as a medical assistant. I will be the transport CNA for the Andahwod Elder Services program in our service area.

This is a grant-funded position through the Older Americans Act Title VI Part A grant. This position will allow me to assist the elders with supportive services such as: Medical transports, provide wellness checks, personal shopping, hygiene supplies, chore services, clarify to the elder of doctor orders, clean and set up medical equipment, and coordinate medical care for tribal elders.

I am very excited to be able to have this opportunity to help Tribal elders in the community with their needs.

Please contact Lucinda for transportation and supportive services at 989-775-4306.



Courtesy photo

July 2025 Andahwod events

**Coffee Break**  
Daily | 2:30 p.m.

**Sewing**  
Tuesdays | 10:30 a.m.

**Walking Club**  
Thursdays | 1 p.m.

**Euchre**  
Thursdays | 5:30 p.m.

**Pour Painting**  
July 2 | 1 p.m.

**Fourth of July Party**  
July 3 | 2:30 p.m.

**Language Bingo**  
July 8 | 1-3 p.m.

**Elders Breakfast**  
July 9, 23 | 9-10 a.m.

**Birthday Celebration**  
July 10 | 2:30 p.m.

**Name that Tune**  
July 15 | 2:30 p.m.

**Elder Fishing at RV PARK**  
July 15, 29 | 5:30-7 p.m.

**Bingo with Friends**  
July 16 | 1-3 p.m.

**MIEA Conference Meeting at SECR Ballroom**  
July 16 | 7 a.m. - 4 p.m.

**Ice Cream Social**  
July 24 | 2-3:30 p.m.

For more information, please call:  
Andahwod at 989.775.4339

\*\*Activities and events are subject to change.



Andahwod will be a cooling station during the summer months. Elders are encouraged to come to Andahwod and visit, relax or participate in a craft/activity.

July 21-23, 2025

Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort

6800 Soaring Eagle Blvd. Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

**Purpose:** MIEA is a forum to listen to the needs of elders, share resource information and advocate for elders in Michigan.

Itinerary:

- **Monday, July 21:** Delegate and EAB members-only dinner at Andahwod at 5 p.m.
- **Tuesday, July 22:** Elder registration, opening ceremony, business meeting, afternoon activities and entertainment.
- **Wednesday, July 23:** Retiring of Flags, conclusion and to-go breakfasts

Hotel information:

Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort

1.888.732.4537 | www.soaringeaglecasino.com

Reservation code: MIEA072125

Registration:

- **SCIT Elders, please call:** Andahwod at 989-775-4300
- **Other tribes:** contact your Tribal Elder's Program



July 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
<b>*Menu subject to change*</b> <small>*Warning: Consuming under cooked foods or eggs could lead to a Food Bourne Illness. **Warning: Please inform cashier/staff of any severe food allergies you may have prior to sitting down. Thank you</small>		<b>1</b> Hamburger Stroganoff Lemon Baked Salmon	<b>2</b> Burger & Brats (cookout) Tomato Soup & Grilled Cheese <b>Elders Lunch 11:30 a.m.</b>	<b>3</b> Baked Chicken w/Mashed Potato Sloppy Joe w/Fries	<b>4</b> Spinach Chicken Salad Swedish Meatballs	<b>5</b> Chef's Choice
<b>6</b> Chef's Choice	<b>7</b> Hot Dogs w/Mac N Cheese Cabbage Rolls	<b>8</b> Beef Stew w/Biscuits BLT	<b>9</b> Ham & Bean Soup Chicken Strip Basket <b>Elders Breakfast 9 a.m.</b>	<b>10</b> Ham Steak w/Sweet Potato Goulash	<b>11</b> Sweet & Sour Chicken w/White Rice Reuben Sandwich w/French Fries	<b>12</b> Chef's Choice
<b>13</b> Chef's Choice	<b>14</b> Salisbury Steak Chili	<b>15</b> Beef Tips & Noodles Egg Salad Sandwich	<b>16</b> Pizza Buffet Potato Soup <b>Elders Lunch 11:30 a.m.</b>	<b>17</b> Meatloaf Smothered Chicken	<b>28</b> Lasagna w/Garlic Bread Cobb Salad	<b>29</b> Chef's Choice
<b>20</b> Chef's Choice	<b>21</b> Fried Cod Sandwich w/Fries Cheeseburger	<b>22</b> Bologna Sandwich Chicken Wings	<b>23</b> Chicken Wild Rice Soup Beef Tacos <b>Elders Breakfast 9 a.m.</b>	<b>24</b> Broccoli Soup Ribs w/Baked Potato	<b>25</b> Chicken Quesadilla Meatball w/Egg Noodles	<b>26</b> Chef's Choice
<b>27</b> Chef's Choice	<b>28</b> Spaghetti w/Meat Sauce Chicken Bacon Swiss	<b>29</b> Hot Turkey Sandwich Pork Loin	<b>30</b> Soup & Salad Cheeseburger Pasta Bake	<b>31</b> Chicken Pot Pie Pork Chops	<b>Sugar free available upon request. Call kitchen for lunch and dinner at 989-775-4314.</b>	





JULY 2025 | Tribal Community Event Planner

Open Rec

Weekdays (\*except Wednesdays) | 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
\*Wednesdays | 9:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.  
\*Closed on July 4 & 25 and Aug. 29

- Wii Maajikwad/Recreation Center
- 2875 Gikendasso Way, Mt. Pleasant Mich.
- [Recreation@sagchip.org](mailto:Recreation@sagchip.org)
- Free access to weight room and the south gym

Mazinigwaadan (Bead It) Workshops

July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 | 5:30 - 8 p.m.

- SCTC Community Room (5805 E. Pickard)
- **Register:** [mapelcher@sagchip.edu](mailto:mapelcher@sagchip.edu)
- Twenty-five spots open for each workshop

Weekly Warrior Challenge

July 2 | Bowling at Riverwood Resort  
July 9 | Trip to South Higgins Lake State Park

- **Registration:** [recreation@sagchip.org](mailto:recreation@sagchip.org)
- Open to all Native youth, grades 6 and up

Chippewa River Cleanup

July 10 | 10:30 a.m., entering water at 11:30 a.m.

- Deerfield Park (2425 W. Remus Rd.)
- [KHager@sagchip.org](mailto:KHager@sagchip.org) or 989.775.4585

Youth Day Trip to Eagle Village Inc.

July 12 | Leaving Behavioral Health at 9 a.m.

- Eagle Village Inc. (175th Ave., Hersey, Mich.)
- **Registration:** [MSteeleCyphert@sagchip.org](mailto:MSteeleCyphert@sagchip.org)
- Open to first 20 youth who register

Sharing Circle with Kathy LeBlanc

July 12 | 3 p.m., dinner served at 6 p.m.

- Seventh Generation (7957 E. Remus Rd.)
- [TJackson@sagchip.org](mailto:TJackson@sagchip.org) or 989-775-4780

Maadizekwe Wiii (s/he starts cooking)

July 14, 29 (two separate sessions) | 5-8 p.m.

- Seventh Generation (7785 E. Remus Rd.)
- **Registration:** [MSteeleCyphert@sagchip.org](mailto:MSteeleCyphert@sagchip.org)
- With Indigenous Chef Sam Anglin
- Open to first 30 youth who register

MIFO Golf Competition

July 17 | Shotgun start at 9 a.m.

- The Pines Golf Course (Lake Isabella, Mich.)
- **989.775.5309 or [BSprague@sagchip.org](mailto:BSprague@sagchip.org)**
- Register online at [www.sagchip/MIFO](http://www.sagchip/MIFO)
- Format: Two-person scramble
- Cost: \$35 per player

Michigan Indian Family Olympics

July 18 | Opening ceremonies start at 9 a.m.

- CMU Bennett Track & Field
- [SPifer@sagchip.org](mailto:SPifer@sagchip.org) or 989.775.4694
- Register online at [www.sagchip/MIFO](http://www.sagchip/MIFO)

STEAM<sup>AG</sup> Open Mic Night

July 19 | 4-8 p.m.

- SCTC Main Campus parking lot
- 5805 E. Pickard Rd., Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858
- **Register:** 989.317.4827 or [khart@sagchip.edu](mailto:khart@sagchip.edu)
- An evening of poetry, songs, recitals, instrumental, dance, etc.
- Cash prizes

NativeFest: Indian Car Bingo

July 22 | 6-9 p.m., registration starts at 4:30 p.m.

- Ziibiwing Center (6650 E. Broadway)
- **989-775-4750**
- Lots of great prizes

NativeFest: Kids' Night

July 23 | 5:30-9 p.m.

- Ziibiwing Center (6650 E. Broadway)
- **989-775-4750**
- Featuring: Magician Anthony Grupido
- Dinner, bounce houses, petting zoo and more

Homecoming Annual Meeting

July 24 | 10 a.m., doors open at 9 a.m.

- SECR Entertainment Hall
- **989-775-4096**

Intertribal Open Golf Tournament

July 25 | Shotgun start at 9:30 a.m.

- Maple Creek Golf Course (Shepherd, Mich.)
- **989-775-4522 or [Recreation@sagchip.org](mailto:Recreation@sagchip.org)**
- Registration deadline: July 10 at 12 p.m.
- Three-person scramble, \$80 per person

41st annual Saginaw Chippewa Powwow

July 25 | Grand entry at 7 p.m.  
July 26 | Grand entry at 1 p.m.  
July 27 | Grand entry at 12 p.m.

- The Hill Campground (7525 E. Tomah Rd.)
- [PowwowCommittee@sagchip.org](mailto:PowwowCommittee@sagchip.org)

36th annual Freedom Walk

July 26 | Doors open at 7 a.m.

- Eagles Nest Tribal Gym (7070 E. Broadway)
- [Prevention@sagchip.org](mailto:Prevention@sagchip.org)
- Freedom Walk T-shirts and swag bags to the first 250 people!
- 7:30 a.m. – Welcome and opening prayer
- 8 a.m. – Invited speakers in recovery
- 9 a.m. – Walk begins

JULY 2025 | Tribal Community Calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat./Sun.
<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div> <div>SECR Payroll SCIT Per Capita SCIT Payroll Curbside Recycling</div>	<div>1</div> <div>Regular Council Session 9 a.m.   Council Chambers Native Farmers Market 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.   Market Pavilion Recovery on the Rez 2-3 p.m.   Zoom</div>	<div>2</div> <div></div> <div>Recovery Talking Circle 9 a.m.   B. Health Eagle Feather Teachings 1:30-2:30 p.m.   B. Health Drums Out 7-9 p.m.   7th Gen</div>	<div>3</div> <div></div> <div>Peer 360 at BH Lodge 6-7 p.m.   B. Health</div>	<div>4</div> <div></div> <div>Tribal Ops Closed Independence Day Fireside on the Rez 11:30 a.m.   B. Health Spirit Bear Talking Circle 7 p.m.   Andahwod</div>	<div>5</div> <div>Fireside on the Rez 6 p.m.   B. Health</div> <div>6</div> <div></div>
<div>7</div> <div>Recovery Group 1-2 p.m.   B. Health</div>	<div>8</div> <div>Native Farmers Market 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.   Market Pavilion Recovery on the Rez 2-3 p.m.   Zoom</div>	<div>9</div> <div>Recovery Talking Circle 9 a.m.   B. Health Eagle Feather Teachings 1:30-2:30 p.m.   B. Health Drums Out 7-9 p.m.   7th Gen</div>	<div>10</div> <div>American Indian Dance 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.   Ziibiwing Sacred Fire Lunch 12-1 p.m.   7th Gen Peer 360 at BH Lodge 6-7 p.m.   B. Health</div>	<div>11</div> <div></div> <div>Saganing Blood Drive 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.   Saganing Fireside on the Rez 11:30 a.m.   B. Health Spirit Bear Talking Circle 7 p.m.   Andahwod</div>	<div>12</div> <div>Fireside on the Rez 6 p.m.   B. Health AOVWS Meeting 2 p.m.</div> <div>13</div> <div></div>
<div>14</div> <div>Sewing in Saganing 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.   Saganing Recovery Group 1-2 p.m.   B. Health</div>	<div>15</div> <div>Native Farmers Market 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.   Market Pavilion Recovery on the Rez 2-3 p.m.   Zoom</div>	<div>16</div> <div></div> <div>Recovery Talking Circle 9 a.m.   B. Health Eagle Feather Teachings 1:30-2:30 p.m.   B. Health Drums Out 7-9 p.m.   7th Gen</div>	<div>17</div> <div></div> <div>Tribal Observer DEADLINE Peer 360 at BH Lodge 6-7 p.m.   B. Health</div>	<div>18</div> <div></div> <div>Fireside on the Rez 11:30 a.m.   B. Health Spirit Bear Talking Circle 7 p.m.   Andahwod</div>	<div>19</div> <div>Fireside on the Rez 6 p.m.   B. Health</div> <div>20</div> <div></div>
<div>21</div> <div>Recovery Group 1-2 p.m.   B. Health</div>	<div>22</div> <div>Native Farmers Market 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.   Market Pavilion Recovery on the Rez 2-3 p.m.   Zoom</div>	<div>23</div> <div>Recovery Talking Circle 9 a.m.   B. Health Community Frog-bit Pull 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.   Crumby Property Eagle Feather Teachings 1:30-2:30 p.m.   B. Health Drums Out 7-9 p.m.   7th Gen</div>	<div>24</div> <div>Community Sewing Nights 5-8 p.m.   7th Gen Peer 360 at BH Lodge 6-7 p.m.   B. Health</div>	<div>25</div> <div></div> <div>Tribal Ops Closed Saginaw Chippewa Nation's Holiday Fireside on the Rez 11:30 a.m.   B. Health Spirit Bear Talking Circle 7 p.m.   Andahwod</div>	<div>26</div> <div>Fireside on the Rez 6 p.m.   B. Health</div> <div>27</div> <div></div>
<div>28</div> <div>Recovery Group 1-2 p.m.   B. Health Traditional Shaker Workshop 1-4 p.m.   Saganing</div>	<div>29</div> <div>Native Farmers Market 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.   Market Pavilion Recovery on the Rez 2-3 p.m.   Zoom</div>	<div>30</div> <div>Recovery Talking Circle 9 a.m.   B. Health Eagle Feather Teachings 1:30-2:30 p.m.   B. Health Drums Out 7-9 p.m.   7th Gen</div>	<div>31</div> <div>Community Sewing Nights 5-8 p.m.   7th Gen Peer 360 at BH Lodge 6-7 p.m.   B. Health Traditional Shaker Workshop 1-4 p.m.   Saganing</div>	<div>Overdose Awareness &amp; Remembrance Day</div> <div>Save the date: Sunday, Aug. 31, 2025</div> <div>1-3 p.m. • Eagles Nest Tribal Gym</div> <div>For more information: <a href="mailto:Prevention@sagchip.org">Prevention@sagchip.org</a></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.

- |                           |                          |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>100</b> Employment     | <b>125</b> Miigwetch     |
| <b>105</b> Lost and Found | <b>130</b> Services      |
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| <b>120</b> Announcements  | <b>145</b> Miscellaneous |

100 Employment

Tribal Operations

Waste Water Operator I

Open to the public. Three years' experience in wastewater/water field or directly related experience in plumbing or mechanical plant operations. Must be willing to take classes in microbiology, advanced math and beginning algebra courses.

Waste Water Operator II

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

Waste Water Operator III

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

Water Operator I

Open to the public. Three years of water operator or related experience. Training in hydraulics, physics, biology, science, or related field will help in learning this field. Must have mechanical skills, not limited to automotive, such as pumps, or shaft-driven equipment.

Water Operator II

Open to the public. Training in hydraulics, physics, biology, science, or related field will help in learning this field. Must have mechanical skills, not limited to automotive, such as pumps, or shaft-driven equipment.

Water Operator III

Open to the public. 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.

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.

General Labor Pool

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

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.

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.

Pharmacy Technician

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

Physician

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

Victims Advocate

Open to the public. Associate degree in human services related field, or an equivalent combination of education, training, and experience.

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.

Interim Clinical Therapist

Open to the public. Interim position. Licensed master's degree in counseling, social work, human services or related field.

Clinical Therapist

Open to the public. Licensed master's degree in counseling, social work, human services or related field.

Assistant Prosecutor PT

Open to the public. Juris Doctor from an ABA accredited law school. Minimum of one year experience as a practicing attorney or equivalent work experience working in a legal capacity or with a licensed attorney.

Registered Medical Assistant PT

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.

Maintenance Worker

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

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.

Residential Treatment Support Technician

Open to the public. Must be at least 18 years of age. Proficient in Microsoft Office Suite.

Registered Medical Assistant

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

Powwow Worker - Stipend

Open to SCIT Members only. \$150 a day for eight hours worked. Must be able to work all five days: July 23-27. This is a temporary position.

Elementary Counselor/Family Outreach AWARE

Open to the public. Bachelor's degree in social work or counseling from an accredited program. One year experience in mental health services working with children and families of children with severe emotional disturbances.

Payroll Manager

Open to the public. Bachelor's degree in accounting, business administration, human resources or related field.

Admissions Office/Registrar

Open to the public. Bachelor's degree in business administration, student services, educational administration, or related field.

SCTC Supplemental Instructor

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

Student Financial Aid Officer

Open to the public. Bachelor's degree in business administration, student services, educational administration, or related field.

SCTC Adjunct Instructor - History

Open to the public. Master's degree required in identified discipline. Previous teaching experience preferred.

Tribal Code Compliance Officer

Open to the public. Five years' relevant experience including building construction, inspection and ordinance enforcement.

Dentist

Open to the public. DDS/DMD degree from an accredited school. Michigan licensed dentist. Must be able to pass background check.

Dental Hygienist PT

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

Special Education Teacher

Open to the public. Bachelor's degree in special education, education or related field.

Special Education Teacher

Open to the public. Bachelor's degree in special education, education or related field. Teaching certificate with special education endorsement.

Registered Medical Assistant Andahwod

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.

Certified Nursing Assistant

Open to the public. High school diploma or GED. One year of direct care experience desired.

Soaring Eagle

F&B Supervisor Banquet

Open to the public. Must be at least 18 years of age. Three years of food and beverage experience.

Line Cook

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

Guest Relations Rep PT

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

Sous Chef - Banquet

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

F&B Chef

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

Kitchen Equipment Technician

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

Crowd Control PT

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

Maintenance Worker

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

Line Server PT

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

F&B Cashier PT

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

Guest Room Attendant PT

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

Saganing

Inventory Control Driver Warehouser

Open to the public. One year experience in driving vehicles and rigs that require a CDL license.

Slot Technician

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

F&B Attendant FT

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

F&B Attendant PT

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

Master Plumber

Open to the public. Must be at least 18 years of age. Ten years of experience as a master plumber.

Bartender PT

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

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.

Players Club Representative PT

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

Guestroom Attendant

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

F&B Custodial Worker

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

F&B Cashier

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

SUMMONS AND COMPLAINT NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF ROBERT NOWGEESHIG HENRY:

The Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Court, 6954 East Broadway Road, Mount Pleasant, MI 48858 (989) 775-4800. Estate of Robert Nowgeeshig Henry. Date of Birth: Nov. 2, 1950. Notice to creditors: The decedent, Robert Nowgeeshig Henry, who lived at 26050 Nagel St., Roseville, MI 48066, died Jan. 4, 2025. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Judy Henry, personal representative, or to both the Tribal Probate Court at 6954 E. Broadway, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858 and the personal representative within four months after the date of publication of this notice. Personal Representative: Judy Henry, 26050 Nagel St., Roseville, MI 48066. 586-216-2104.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF STANLEY MITCHELL SINEWAY JR.:

The Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Court, 6954 East Broadway Road, Mount Pleasant, MI 48858 (989) 775-4800. Estate of Stanley Mitchell Sineway Jr. Date of Birth: March 8, 1979. Notice to creditors: The decedent, Stanley Mitchell Sineway Jr., who lived at 524 W. Grand Ave., Mt. Pleasant, 48858 died May 4, 2025. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Christopher Sineway, personal representative, or to both the Tribal Probate Court at 6954 E. Broadway, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858 and the personal representative within four months after the date of publication of this notice. Personal Representative: Christopher Sineway, 900 E. Maple St., Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858. 989-980-4285.



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## Honoring Saganing Traditional Powwow 2025 held June 14-15

**MATTHEW WRIGHT**  
Staff Writer

The 2025 Honoring Saganing Traditional Powwow was held Saturday, June 14 and Sunday, June 15.

The annual event was held at the Saganing powwow grounds in Standish, Mich., located just across the road from the Saganing Eagles Landing Casino and Hotel.

Both days began with grand entries at 1 p.m., with a hand drum contest occurring Sunday.

During the grand entries, Head Veteran Raymond Cadotte led the way in the arena with members of the Anishinabe Ogitchedaw Veterans and Warriors Society and flag carriers following.

Head dancers were chosen each day. On Saturday, Julie Whitepigeon and Steve Oldman Jr. served as head dancers. Sunday's head dancers were Gary Gibson and Manyan Pitawanakwat.

Joe Medicine served as master of ceremonies, with Gabe Cleveland as arena director.

Ribbon Town served as host drum, with Sturgeon Bay as



Observer photo by Matthew Wright

**Head Veteran Raymond Cadotte (far right) leads the Anishinabe Ogitchedaw Veterans and Warriors Society and flag carriers during the Saturday, June 14 grand entry.**



Observer photo by Matthew Wright

**Julie Whitepigeon (left) and Steve Oldman Jr. (right) serve as head dancers on Saturday.**



Observer photo by Matthew Wright

**Host Drum Ribbon Town**

co-host. Other invited drums included Woodland Stream.

New this year was a movie night featuring "Moana 2."

The movie was shown in the powwow arena at dusk on Saturday with popcorn and snacks provided.



Observer photo by Matthew Wright

**Powwow dancers and community members join together during an intertribal dance.**

