



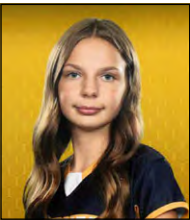
TRIBAL OBSERVER

JANUARY
2026

Working Together For Our Future

www.sagchip.org/tribalobserver

Volume 37 | Issue 1



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Tribal Operations will reopen after the holiday break on Monday, Jan. 5, 2026.

Chief Sprague Administration sworn in during Tribal Council's regular session meeting

PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPT.

The Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Council-elect was sworn into office on Tuesday, Dec. 2, 2025 during the monthly Regular Session Council Meeting.

The meeting was held in the Entertainment Hall inside The Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort.

Tribal Court Chief Judge Michelle Horn administered the Oath of Office to the council elect and then opened the floor for nominations for chief.

Luke Sprague was voted in and will serve as the newly-elected chief of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe for the 2025-2027 term.

"As we enter this term, we understand the impacts that our



Courtesy of Marcella Hadden, Niibing Giizis Photography

The 2025-2027 Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Council: (left to right) Tim J. Davis, Ronald F. Ekdahl, Gayle Ruhl, Chaplain Jennifer L. Wassegijig, Treasurer Alice Jo Ricketts, Sub-Chief Craig Graveratte, Chief Luke Sprague, Secretary Christina Otto, Sergeant-at-Arms and District Three Representative Frank J. Cloutier, Mary Quigno, District Two Representative Shirley Houle and Brad Bennett.

previous councils have made in the growth of our community," said Chief Luke Sprague. "They have provided the foundations

that allow us to remain successful throughout Michigan. We will look at continuing their vision and want to thank them

for all they have contributed. We also look forward to the continued collaboration with our teams internally and will

continue to prioritize the efforts of our community partners."

Tribal Council | 10

The 2025-2026 Saginaw Chippewa youth council sworn in on Dec. 9

JOSEPH SOWMICK

Public Relations Manager

On Dec. 9, Chief Luke Sprague and Tribal Council welcomed the newly-elected youth council members and their families in chambers for a swearing in ceremony.

Public Relations Director Erik Rodriguez presided over

the proceedings as emcee and Youth Council Advisor Tonya Antoine provided opening remarks. Former youth council members Mgizi Wemigwans and Sydnee Kopke also serve with Antoine as advisors.

The members elected Zhaawan Martell and Azhiyen Wemigwans to serve as co-presidents. Other executive positions included Kaya Rose elected as secretary; Gnaajwi Pego as treasurer and Jaycee Sheahan-Kahgegab as social director.

Youth Council | 10



Observer photo by Alicia Raphael

The newly-elected Youth Council members pose for a photo after being sworn in on Dec. 9 in the Tribal Council chambers (left to right: Miah Perez, Secretary Kaya Rose, Faye Wemigwans, Co-President Azhiyen Wemigwans, Co-President Zhaawan Martell, Gracin Montoya, Treasurer Gnaajwi Pego, Social Director Jaycee Sheahan-Kahgegab, Waaskones Pego and Morgan Pelcher.)

State of the Tribe Annual Meeting

Saturday, Jan. 17, 2026

Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort Entertainment Hall

Doors open at 9 a.m. | Breakfast at 10 a.m.



- The 2026 State of the Tribe will also be live streamed on the SCIT Tribal Members-only section of sagchip.org. Please log in to view the meeting if you are unable to join us in person.
- Open to SCIT Members of all ages. Tribal ID required.
- Kids Quest at SECR will open at 9 a.m.



Richard D. Smith

May 23, 1941 – October 31, 2025

Richard D. Smith of Waterford passed away Oct. 31, 2025, age 84.

A loving husband of Pauline Cesaro Smith for 62 years; beloved father of Lisa (David) Zangara, Deanna (Gerald) Baker, Richard Smith Jr., and Joseph Smith; son of the late Hilon and Viola Smith; cherished grandfather of Amanda (Keith), David, Daniel (Morgan), Marie, Mallorie, Shawn, Hanna (Marcus), R.J., Kaira and Kaeli; great-grandfather of Kora, Mila and Ella; also loved by many nieces and nephews.

Richard is preceded in death by his siblings, Shirley Powell, Beverly Brown, Hilon Smith Jr. and Mel Smith.

Richard retired as a tool and die engineer with the automotive industry. He was a member of St. Perpetua Catholic Church, the Pontiac-Waterford Elks Lodge #810, and the Knights of Columbus.

A Memorial Mass was held on Monday, Nov. 10, 2025 at 11 a.m. at St. Perpetua Catholic Church, 134 Airport Road, Waterford. Interment followed at the Mass at All Saints Cemetery, 4401 Nelsey Road, Waterford. Following the committal service, a reception was held at Alex's Market, 4707 White Lake Road, Clarkston.

Memorials may be made to the American Cancer Society.



Trisha Lynn Nahmabin

October 18, 1971 – December 3, 2025

Peacefully, surrounded by loving family on Wednesday, Dec. 3, 2025, at LHSC Victoria Hospital, Trisha Lynn Nahmabin passed away at the age of 54.

Loving mother of Jaymee (Adam), Cassidy (Dylan), Paige, Tristen, and Rihanna. Cherished grandmother of Journey, Maverick, Alayna, and Noelle. Dear sister of Natalie, Laurie, Angie, Mark, and Juanita. Special friend to and of Nick "Tunna" Plain. Remembered by many nieces and nephews.

Trisha is predeceased by her mother and father, Betty and Morris Nahmabin.

Trisha was a selfless soul and would give the shirt off her back for anyone in need. She was known as a caring and giving person with a nurturing maternal essence. Trisha had a great sense of humor. She will be dearly missed by all those who knew and loved her.

Cremation has taken place. A memorial service was held at Maawn Doosh Gumig Community Centre, 1972 Virgil Ave, Sarnia, Ontario, on Tuesday, Dec. 9, 2025 at 2 p.m.

Sympathy may be expressed through donations to Ryan's House.



Remember

Fill not your hearts with pain and sorrow,
but remember me in every tomorrow.

Remember the joy, the laughter, the smiles,
I've only gone to rest a little while.

Although my leaving causes pain and grief,
my going has eased my hurt and given me relief.

So dry your eyes and remember me,
not as I am now, but as I used to be.

Because, I will remember you all
and look on with a smile.

Understand, in your hearts,

I've only gone to rest a little while.

As long as I have the love of each of you,

I can live my life in the hearts of all of you.

Antonio Jay Rodriguez

October 31, 1959 – December 6, 2025

Antonio J. "Tony" Rodriguez, aka "Willy the Wolverine" or "Jose," age 66, of Mount Pleasant, Mich. passed away peacefully with family by his side on Saturday, Dec. 6, 2025.

Tony was born to parents Lupe and Shirley (Neyome) Rodriguez in Grand Rapids, Mich. on Oct. 31, 1959. He graduated from Union High School with the Class of 1977, and immediately joined the U.S. Navy.

During his service time aboard the USS Miller, Tony earned a Navy Expedition Medal, an Initial Sea Service Ribbon, a Second Sea Service Ribbon, and a Battle Efficiency Medal. He was honorably discharged in 1983.

Tony was united in marriage in Petoskey to Mary Shananaquet. He was a member of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe, and was an avid sports fan – specifically of the Detroit Lions, Detroit Tigers, and the Michigan Wolverines.

Tony is survived by his son, Antonio "Tony" Rodriguez Jr., of Grand Rapids; stepchildren Dakota Shananaquet and Curtis McFall Jr.; grandchildren Sara, Carolina, Antonio, Abigail, Kasheena, Elana, Carlitos, Santiago, Deshanta, Tahla, Lyrus, Luna, Lettie, Justice, Zurihana, Reyna, Curtis III, Henry, Ayana and Nimkii; sisters Lisa (Abraham) Snyder of Mount Pleasant and Trisha (Chet) Trasky of Mount Pleasant; and many nieces, nephews, cousins, extended family and friends.

A celebration of life service for Tony was held at Clark Family Funeral Chapel in Mount Pleasant on Friday, Dec. 12, 2025, at 3 p.m. with J.D. Gibson officiating. Tony will be laid to rest at a later date.

Memorial considerations may be made to Karma Kat Cafe & Rescue.



Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan

Housing Department Advisory Committee

*If you are a leasehold home owner or a
tenant of the SCIT Housing Program*

**THIS IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE
A VOICE IN THE PROGRAM.**

The Housing Department is currently accepting letters of interest from Leasehold Home Owners and HUD Residents for the Housing Advisory Committee (HAC).

Please include the following:

Name, address, phone number, photo, membership number (if applicable), and a letter of interest.

Letters of interest can be submitted:

► **In person at the Housing front office**
Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

► Or mailed to:

SCIT Housing Department
2451 Nish Na Be Anong Rd.
Mount Pleasant, MI 48858



For more information:

• **Call:** 989-775-4595 • **Or visit:** www.sagchip.org/housing

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH Holiday Closure Resources

**Behavioral Health (except RTC) will be
closed: Dec. 24, 2025 – Jan. 2, 2026**

Reopening on Jan. 5, 2026 at 8 a.m.

Behavioral Health Crisis On-Call:

On-call will be available by calling (989) 775-4850 and following the prompts to reach the on-call. Or Tribal Dispatch can also reach the BH on-call worker in case of phone outage or other technical issue.

Support Groups at BH will continue with normal schedule over the holiday closure:

- **Drop-in Group:** Mondays at 1 p.m. (12/29/2025)
- **Peer 360 Recovery on the Rez:** Thursdays at 6 p.m. (12/25/2025 and 1/1/2026)
- **Peer 360 Fireside on the Rez:** Fridays at 11:30 a.m. (12/26/2025 and 1/2/2026)
- **Peer 360 Fireside on the Rez:** Saturdays at 6 p.m. (12/27/2025 and 1/3/2026)

Virtual Peer 360 Meetings include:

- **Recovery on the Rez virtual group:** 2 p.m. on Tuesdays
Meeting ID: 829 1218 8791 Password: 123456
- **DAILY virtual groups four times per day**
 - 9 a.m. Meeting ID: 856 4133 4708 Password: 123456
 - 12 p.m. Meeting ID: 842 3325 5388 Password: 123456
 - 6 p.m. Meeting ID: 842 3325 5388 Password: 123456
 - 9 p.m. Meeting ID: 856 4133 4708 Password: 123456

More information on Peer 360, including events and links to the virtual meetings can be found at www.peer360recovery.org or by scanning the red QR code ➔



Additional resources/crisis lines:

- **Peer 360 Recovery Alliance:** Text "ZOOM MEETINGS" to 989-245-5324 for a list of direct links to all Peer 360's Zoom meetings.
- **Virtual Recovery Groups:** www.intherooms.com has virtual recovery groups including White Bison Wellbriety Groups.
- **Listening Ear Crisis:** 1-989-772-2918
- **Crisis Text Line:** Text "HOME" to 741741
- **Strong Hearts Native Helpline:** 1-844-762-8483
- **National Suicide Prevention Lifeline:** 1-800-273-8255
- **National Teen Dating Abuse Hotline:** 1-866-331-9474
- **National Human Trafficking Hotline:** 1-888-373-7888
- **National Domestic Violence Hotline:** 1-800-799-7233



Scan the
QR code to
visit the BH
website ➔



Office of Tribal Licensing & Regulations Announcement

Elder Parking Permits

Elder Parking Permits for 2026-2028 are available at the Office of Tribal Licensing and Regulations.

Policy update

Please be aware of the following changes:

- First replacement permit is free
- All replacements after will be \$5 each.

Mno Shkiziwin Internal Audit

All Tribal Members who opted-in to the Mno Shkiziwin program may be subject to be randomly selected for audit per Ordinance 38.

Please be aware 2026 Audit selections will take place in February. If you are selected for Audit you will be notified by mail. Please have all required documentation of spending ready to submit to the Office of Tribal Licensing & Regulations as the **deadline for submitting those documents will be May 1, 2026.**

If you have questions regarding the Audit, please call the office at 989-775-4122.

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, physical/mailling address, or Driver's License renewal.

For more information, please contact:

Office of Tribal Licensing & Regulations

- **Phone:** 989-775-4175 or 989-775-4105
- **Email:** OTLR@sagchip.org



ADA American Dental Association®

Save the Date: Feb. 26, 2026
8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. | Nimkee Clinic

- Children under the age of 18 who are eligible to be seen at the Nimkee Dental Clinic (2591 S. Leaton Rd., Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858) are invited to join us.
- Kids may receive a dental exam, X-rays, sealants, fluoride treatment and/or fillings based on individual need and time available.
- All participants will receive a goodie bag!
- Appointments must be made by calling (989) 775-4657 any time up to, and including the day of the event.



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





"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

• Jan. 6 • Feb. 3 • March 3

March 1, 2026

Tribal Child Welfare Affidavits or Child Mino Shkiziwin Applications

Forms available beginning Jan. 5, 2026
**You must fill out ONE form completely.*

Deadline: Friday, Feb. 6, 2026 by 5 p.m.

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

Notarization is required

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

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

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



HAPPY BIRTHDAY ALFIE & BRENDA
From your family at Faith Indian



Well & Septic PROGRAM

Free to Tribal Members who reside within the IHS service area: Isabella, Clare, Midland, Arenac Missaukee counties

If you are experiencing problems with your well or septic, please contact the Planning Department. *You must own your home.

To make an appointment, please contact:
Planning Department at 989-775-4014.



Working Together To Protect Our Environment



HOLIDAY HOURS

Nimkee Memorial Wellness Center

WILL BE CLOSED:

DEC. 24, 2025 - JAN. 2, 2026

Nimkee Medical labs, Pharmacy, Dental and Public Health open from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.:

- Dec. 26, 2025 • Dec. 30, 2025
- Dec. 29, 2025 • Jan. 2, 2026

Nimkee medical providers will be on call (989-317-2088) from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., after 5 p.m. and weekends.

Nimkee Fitness Center Open 24/7
Access with employee badge or key fob. Staff on site from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. on Dec. 26, 29 & 30, 2025 & Jan. 2, 2026

Nimkee Optical open:

- **Dec. 23, 2025:** 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. & 1-3 p.m.

Urgent Care: If you need to utilize urgent care during the closure, please make sure to call the PRC Hotline at 989-775-4633.

Teledoc is available

General Medicine only:
Free for UMR-registered patients, scan the QR Code below to download the app.



Prescriptions

Nimkee patients can fill Teladoc prescriptions during open clinic hours at Nimkee Pharmacy.

If a patient requires medication when Pharmacy is closed, Meijer Pharmacy is free of charge for eligible patients (patient must let Meijer pharmacy know they are a Nimkee patient) or a pharmacy of their choice can be used, patient will be responsible for the co-pay.

TRIBAL OPERATIONS

Holiday & Administrative Closures

TRIBAL OPERATIONS WILL BE CLOSED:

Wednesday, Dec. 24, 2025 – Friday, Jan. 2, 2026

**Excluding 24/7 departments and those below.*

- **ACFS:** Closed, on-call worker: **989-775-4700**
- **Andahwod:** Open 24/7 including Elder Services Programs. Elder Services Programs will be open on the following dates and times:
 - Friday, Dec. 26: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
 - Monday, Dec. 29: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
 - Tuesday, Dec. 30: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
 - Friday, Jan. 2: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
- **Behavioral Health Outpatient:** Closed, on-call therapists: **989-775-4850**
- **Behavioral Health RTC:** Open, fully staffed. **989-775-4850**
- **Education:** Wii Maajikwad front office, Higher Ed office and Project AWARE office open Dec. 22-23.
- **Facilities:** Coverage every other day.
- **Fire Department:** Open 24/7, fully staffed. **989-775-4866**
- **Gaming Commission:** Compliance offices located at SECR & SELCH will be available 24/7. All Gaming commissioners will be on-call at all times.
- **Housing:** Closed. Mt. Pleasant 24/7 emergency line: **989-621-2669**
- **Information Technology:** Open, regular coverage.
- **Licensing and Regulations:** Closed, staff on-call: **989-775-4175**
- **Nimkee Dental, Medical Labs, Pharmacy, and Public Health:** Open from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. on Dec. 26, 29 & 30, 2025 & Jan. 2, 2026. Nimkee medical provider on-call (989-317-2088) from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., after 5 p.m. and weekends: **989.317.2088**
- **Nimkee Fitness Center:** Open 24/7, access with employee badge or key fob. Staff on site from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. on Dec. 26, 29 & 30, 2025 & Jan. 2, 2026.
- **Nimkee Optical:** Open Dec. 23, 2025 from 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. & 1-3 p.m.
- **Per Capita:** Closed, staff available: percapita@sagchip.org
- **Police Department:** Open 24/7. Dispatch available at: **989-775-4700**
- **Prosecutor:** Prosecutor's and VOCA offices available Dec. 26, 29 & 30 and Jan. 2 from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Prosecutor on call: **989-775-4809**
- **Public Works:** Snow removal: **989-533-8670**
- **Recreation:** Closed. After school programming and other program to resume on Monday, Jan. 5, 2026.
- **Saganing Outreach:** Closed. Tuesday Medication pick-up and deliveries: **989-980-4213**. Snow removal Dec. 23-30: **989-737-7337**. Snow removal Jan. 1-2: **989-313-2614**.
- **Seventh Generation:** Closed, staff on-call: **989-621-0887 or 989-621-9375**
- **Tribal Clerk/Enrollment:** Closed, for burial assistance: **989-775-4072**
- **Tribal College:** TBD
- **Tribal Court:** Closed, staff on-call: **989-775-4801**

Most closed departments will be monitoring their emails and voicemails to provide services throughout the closure, be sure to leave a message.

REQUEST FOR QUOTES

The SCIT Powwow Committee is looking for a tribal-preference caterer for the Honoring Saganing Traditional Powwow.

- **When:** Saturday, June 6, 2026
- **What:** Dinner feast for 200-400 people

Please submit your quote to:
Powwowcommittee@sagchip.org



Tribal Council

Chief

Luke Sprague | District One

Sub-Chief

Craig Graveratte | District One

Secretary

Christina Otto | District One

Treasurer

Alice Jo Ricketts | District One

Sergeant-at-Arms

Frank J. Cloutier | District Three

Chaplain

Jennifer L. Wassegijig | District One

Council Member

Brad Bennett | District One

Council Member

Tim J. Davis | District One

Council Member

Ronald F. Ekdahl | District One

Council Member

Shirley Houle | District Two

Council Member

Mary Quigno | District One

Council Member

Gayle Ruhl | District One



July 24, 25 & 26, 2026

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

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

www.sagchip.org/pow-wow

*Free Admission **Drug and Alcohol Free Event

For more information, please contact:
PowwowCommittee@sagchip.org or 989.775.5643

Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan

HONORING SAGANING TRADITIONAL POWWOW

June 6 & 7, 2026

Powwow Grounds — 2750 Worth Rd. Standish, MI
Next to the Saganing Eagles Landing Casino & Hotel
and the Saganing Tribal Center

Saturday, June 6

• Dancer/Drum Registration: 12-12:45 p.m.
• Grand Entry: 1 p.m.
• Retiring of Flags

Sunday, June 7

• Breakfast at Saganing Tribal Center: 9 a.m.
• Dancer/Drum Registration: 12-12:45 p.m.
• Grand Entry: 1 p.m.
• Hand Drum Contest
• Retiring of Flags

Admission:

• \$3 Daily/\$5 Weekend
• \$1 for Children

*Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult.



For more information, please contact:
PowwowCommittee@sagchip.org or 989.775.5643

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.

Tribal Member Loan Application Timeline:

Applications received between Dec. 12 and Jan. 8 have an anticipated loan check distribution of Jan. 15.

Calling: Tribal Members, Descendants

Are you looking for medical or behavioral health services in Detroit?

We offer the following services:

- **Medical Care:** Primary care, pediatrics, sick and well visits for all ages, diabetes management, physicals, referrals, immunizations and more!
- **Behavioral Health:** Family and individual counseling, psychiatric services, case management, outpatient substance abuse treatment and more!



Now offering Telehealth and prescription delivery

CALL FOR MORE INFO: 313-846-6030



4880 Lawndale
Detroit, MI 48210
www.aihfs.org

Indian Child Welfare Committee Vacancy

The Indian Child Welfare Committee (ICWC) has been established to provide community input on the welfare of children of the Tribe. They make recommendations to the Tribal Court regarding termination of parental rights, guardianships, and/or adoptions, and the appropriate disposition of any minor in need of care. The ICWC also license foster homes and child care centers. The ICWC meets twice a month with special and/or emergency meetings occurring on occasion.

There is currently one vacancy:

► **One regular/permanent position**

*Open to SCIT Tribal Members only

Letters of interest must be submitted to:

Anishnaabeg Child & Family Services
by Friday, Jan. 16, 2026

• Please include your contact information and a brief statement about why you would like to be on the ICWC in your letter.

For more information, contact:

Winnona Flowers-Murch
989-775-4914 | WFlowersMurch@sagchip.org

Send letter of interest to:

Anishnaabeg Child & Family Services
7500 Soaring Eagle Blvd.
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858



TRIBAL OBSERVER

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

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

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

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



Subscription rates are \$30 per year.

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

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

Tribal Observer Advertising

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

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

Political ads - All political ads will be 1/4 page and have a red border stating as such. The cost is \$250. Political ads may include, but are not limited to, any opinion or advertisement that is political in nature and/or any Letter to the Editor that does not conform to guidelines.

Tribal Observer Subscription Form

Please send \$30 for the annual subscription. Make checks out to SCIT.

Name: _____

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
www.Sagchip.org/TribalObserver



SECR hosts Star of Excellence Awards 2026

KELLY BRYANT

SECR Executive Assistant to the CEO

Congratulations to the BIG WINNERS of the 16th annual Star of Excellence Team Member of the Year that took place Nov. 13 in the Entertainment Hall.



Courtesy photo

(Left to right: Team Member of the Year winner Garrett White, table games dealer; CEO Joe Nayquonabe; and Team Member of the Year Runner-Up Austin VanWagner, environmental services.)



Courtesy photo

Supervisor of the Year winner Amber McQueen (right), cage and count, is photographed with the runner-up Caleb Silorey (left), table games supervisor, and CEO Joe Nayquonabe.

High school senior Zhaawan Martell gains co-op experience with Tribal Police Department



Courtesy photo

Mt. Pleasant High School senior Zhaawan Martell (fourth from left) poses for a photo with Tribal Police officers as he serves as a co-op, gaining hands-on experience with the Tribal Police Department.



Courtesy photo

Martell (second from left) poses for a photo with his fellow SCIT youth members and Oiler teammates.

KAMIE MANDOKA

HR Tribal Development Coodinator

Mt. Pleasant High School senior Zhaawan Martell isn't waiting for graduation to launch his professional career. As one of three youth co-op students placed within the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe's Human Resources department, Martell is currently gaining invaluable, hands-on experience through a strategic placement at the Tribal Police Department.

The co-op position serves as a robust launchpad for Martell's aspiring career in law enforcement. His commitment to the field is already solidified; he has been accepted into Ferris State University's Criminal Justice program, where he will begin his formal studies next fall.

Martell's dedication to his community is as prominent as his professional ambition. He has served as a representative on the Youth Council for five years; holding the

position of co-president for the last three. His leadership extends to the national stage through his four-year involvement with UNITY (United National Indian Tribal Youth), where he campaigned for the role of Midwest representative last year.

A standout athlete for the Mt. Pleasant Oilers, Martell exemplifies discipline and teamwork. He earned the Varsity Tri-Sport Athlete award last year for his contributions to the football, basketball, and baseball teams. This past season, he was a key factor in leading the Oilers football team to historic District and Regional titles, culminating in a State Championship appearance at Ford Field, finishing as the state runners-up.

Beyond sports and academics, Martell is a vocal advocate for wellness. He recently appeared in an anti-vaping commercial produced by the Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan, promoting healthy lifestyles for Indigenous youth.

With a resume built on leadership, teamwork, public service, and academic focus, Martell is well on his way to serving his community as a future police officer.

Attention Tribal Members: Notice of Public Hearing

NOTICE: There will be a public hearing held on Monday, Jan. 12, 2026 at 8:30 a.m. in the Chambers at the Black Elk Building, 7500 Soaring Eagle Blvd., Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858. This hearing will address the application for a renewal of a Retail Off-Premise Beer and Wine License presented to Tribal Council by Theresa Giorlando, area retail manager of the Migizi Economic Development Company. The application which will be reviewed and discussed at the hearing is as follows:

Renewal of Retail Off-Premise Beer and Wine License for the Isabella Sagamok, located at 2428 S. Leaton Rd., Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858. Such license if renewed, would cover the sale of packaged beer and wine to be consumed by buyers off premise for the duration of one full year from Jan. 27, 2026 to Jan. 26, 2027, with hours of alcohol service consistent with Chapter 8.7 Liquor Control Act and the license issued by the Michigan Liquor Control Commission.

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

SCIT BURIAL BENEFIT

Eligibility: All SCIT Members

Process: The personal representative and/or the heirs of the deceased Tribal Member shall be responsible for promptly notifying the Tribe of the Member's death by contacting the Tribal Clerk's Office at 989.775.4051

After initial contact with the Clerk's Office, a burial packet will be available for pick up or overnight mail for those residing outside Isabella County.

For more information regarding the breakdown of the Burial Assistant Program, please contact: The Tribal Clerk's office at 989-775-4051

Indigenous Food Sovereignty Summit April 6-8, 2026 Kellogg Hotel & Conference Center (East Lansing, Mich.)

Co-Hosted by Michigan State University and the University of Michigan

Join us for a powerful gathering that celebrates Indigenous food systems, cultural resilience, and communitydriven solutions for food sovereignty. The Indigenous Food Sovereignty Summit will focus on sharing food sovereignty initiatives and traditional foodways to inspire learning and strengthen communities. The gathering will define the future of Indigenous food sovereignty in the Great Lakes region while equipping participants with practical skills and highlighting collaborative efforts that unite communities, build capacity, and support sustainable, just food systems. Funding is available to support registration costs for tribal community members.

Attendees can expect:

- Keynote speakers from Indigenous communities leading food sovereignty efforts
- Workshops on traditional food and harvesting practices, seed saving, land stewardship, and policy advocacy
- Participant conversations and intergenerational storytelling
- Local Indigenous Vendors
- Cultural performances and ceremonies honoring the land and its people

Why It matters

Food sovereignty is more than access: it's about reclaiming ancestral knowledge, protecting sacred relationships with the land, and ensuring that future generations thrive. This conference is a space to uplift Indigenous voices and build pathways toward sustainable, self-determined food systems.

To register, please visit: canr.msu.edu/IFSS2026

Or scan QR code →



Contact us:

Dr. Kevin Leonard, Conference co-Chair
Director, Native American Institute at Michigan State University
Universityleonard1@msu.edu

For more information, please contact: ANR Event Services at events@anr.msu.edu.

CALL FOR VENDORS We are now welcoming vendor applications.

Seeking vendors in the following areas:

- FOOD & NUTRITION
- EDUCATIONAL BOOTHS
- ARTS & CRAFTS

Vendor application deadline: Feb. 1, 2026

Vendor fee (if accepted): \$100

To register, scan QR code →

Michigan State University Extension programs and materials are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, religion, age, height, weight, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, family status or veteran status. Issued in furtherance of MSU Extension work, acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Quentin Tyler, Director, MSU Extension, East Lansing, MI 48824. This information is for educational purposes only. Reference to commercial products or trade names does



Grant-funded project to assist indigenous farmers with soil health sampling

ELISA GROSSMAN

Extension Tribal Educator

A newly-funded project, “Replenishing the Beings, the Soil Beneath our Feet,” is working through a partnership with Michigan State University Extension and Michigan Inter-Tribal Land Grant Extension System (MILES) educators, community partners, technical assistance networks, U.S. Department of Agriculture staff and Natural Resources Conservation Service tribal liaisons to assist indigenous farmers with soil health sampling.

The project seeks to understand how soil health and indigenous farming practices interact and influence soils’ capacity to grow food, enhance fertility and withstand weather extremes.

Currently, 15 farms have signed up and are actively participating in soil sampling throughout the State of Michigan. The rest of this publication can be found on: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/indigenous-farmers-needed-for-soil-health-testing>.

The Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College would like to introduce Olivia Craig, the new MSU-Extension soil technician. Olivia is stationed at the SCTC’s Land Grant Office in Mount Pleasant, Mich.



Courtesy photo

Olivia Craig, soil technician

Craig provided an introduction:

“ᏌᏌᏌ! My name is Olivia Craig; I am a member of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma but grew up in northern Nevada on Washoe territory. For college, I attended the University of California, Santa Barbara and earned a Bachelor of Science in environmental studies with an emphasis in ecology and evolutionary biology.

“During my time at UCSB I was highly involved with the American Indian and Indigenous Students Association, where I served as a general officer. I was also a student facilitator for a traditional ecological knowledges lab course in the Environmental Studies



department, where I worked in a team of three to host a once-a-week class in one of our Indigenous managed garden spaces that highlighted relationship building with our more than human relatives. In addition to being in community on campus, I completed a senior thesis project with the local Chumash community that studied the effects of prescribed fire on Ku’w or Coast Live Oak, an important food species in the Santa Barbara region. All these experiences have developed my own connection to my Indigeneity and passion for supporting Indigenous food sovereignty through the use of local traditional knowledges.”

The soil health of the land we occupy and cultivate food and plants from is critical to the way we survive as a nation. Healthy soils and traditional farming practices provide people with food security, supports biodiversity,

preserve cultural traditions and climate resilience.

The one thing that is clear within Indigenous communities is that food is more than sustenance. It is our identity; it is our way of life, our language, and culture. Foods cultivated in healthy soils nourish both growers and consumers, fostering communities that thrive physically, mentally and spiritually. In addition, it nurtures a healthy biome within an ecosystem that supports the farmers’ communities.

Much of Olivia Craig’s work has been traveling to Indigenous farmlands and building a reciprocal relationship with tribal communities throughout upper and lower Michigan. When she isn’t sampling soils in the lab and learning alongside Monica Jean, MSU-Extension agronomist and supervisor, she is working with the LGO team on their food sovereignty efforts. This program honors data sovereignty, and Craig does a good job at respecting this and building trusting communication



Courtesy of Nickole Keith, NHBP Food Sovereignty

Craig gathers soil to conduct a test. Her work includes traveling to Indigenous farmlands and building a reciprocal relationship with tribal communities throughout upper and lower Michigan.

with everyone she meets. She has been a wonderful asset to our MSU-E and LGO team at the tribal college.

If you have any questions about this program or need assistance in obtaining farmer resources, please contact MSU-Extension Tribal Extension Program Coordinator Elisa Grossman at EGrossman@sagchip.edu or Elisa117@msu.edu.

We are currently not taking any more farmers for the soil testing program. Miigwech.

Justin Knott of the Student Success Center provides thank you message

JUSTIN KNOTT

Student Success Center

I hope you have had a wonderful winter break and an opportunity to recharge as you work through this academic year. Your presence brings so much energy and enthusiasm to our brand-new campus and we are glad you have chosen the Tribal College.

Each semester creates fresh, possibly transformative, opportunities for our

educational community. Thank you for all you do to make our community thrive; your commitment to our values, and your dedication to our mission. I am honored to be on this journey with you.

I hope your spring semester is filled with positive academic and cultural experiences and memorable campus interactions.

We are powered by scholarship, innovation, excellence, and, most importantly, extraordinary faculty and staff.

We look forward to the opportunities ahead and celebrating your achievements. Enjoy your semester!

My team and I are dedicated to your success. We can assist you with writing papers, presentations, brochures, flyers, videos, or any kind of assignment.

If the office times do not work for your schedule, please e-mail me your project and I would love to review it. I love proof-reading papers.

Love, Respect, and Writing.

Justin Knott’s college success pro-tips

Time management: Being a successful student is largely based on your ability to manage your time effectively. Utilizing time management tools like your smartphone is a great way to keep track of and manage your time. Set reminders, alarms, and your calendar to allow your phone to notify you when your deadlines are approaching.

Check out professor office hours. Office hours are a chance to catch up or get a better understanding of class material. Office hours are great way to show the professor that you care about your education and the class material. Plus, if you ask for a letter of recommendation, the professor will know you.

Enjoy your coffee.
Earn your rewards.

ICCU Isabella Community Credit Union

Subject to Credit Approval

ICCUonline.com • 989-773-5927

Justin Knott - Supplemental Instructor Lead

Welcome to the 2026 spring semester at Tribal College. I hope you had a wonderful holiday and an opportunity to recharge as we begin your first semester of this academic year. Your presence brings so much energy and enthusiasm to our brand new campus and we are glad you have chosen the Tribal College.

Each semester creates fresh, possibly transformative, opportunities for our educational community. Thank you for all you do to make our community thrive, your commitment to our values, and your dedication to our mission. I am honored to be on this journey with you. I hope your semester is filled with positive academic and cultural experiences and memorable campus interactions.

If the office times do not work for your schedule - please e-mail me your project and I would love to review it.



Justin Knott
Student Success Center

E-mail:
JKnott@sagchip.edu

Phone:
989-317-4757



SAGINAW CHIPPEWA TRIBAL COLLEGE
2026 SPRING SEMESTER CLASSES

Academic Year 2025-2026
Spring 2026 registration open: until Jan. 9, 2026

✓	Code	S	Course Title	CR	Day	Room	Time	Instructor
F2F	AIS 2XX	1	History of the Saginaw Chippewa Tribe	3	T/R	214	10:00-11:20 AM	Peters
O-A	ACC 216*	1	Managerial Accounting	3	ONLINE			Long
F2F	ART 120\$	1	Painting I	3	W	243	5:30-8:20 PM	Shea
F2F	ART 211\$*	1	Beadwork II	3	W	245	5:30-8:20 PM	Jackson
O-A	AST 110	1	Astronomy	3	ONLINE			Miller
O-A	AST 110A	1	Astronomy Lab	2	ONLINE			Miller
F2F	BIO 105*	1	Introduction to Biology	3	M/W	235	5:00 -6:20 PM	Weisendanger
F2F	BIO 105A\$*	1	Introduction to Biology Lab	2	W	232	6:30-8:20 PM	Weisendanger
O-A	BUS 110	1	Introduction to Business	3	ONLINE			Fowler
F2F	BUS 150	1	Business Law	3	T/R	313	5:30-6:50 PM	Antrobius
F2F	BUS 170	1	Principles of Management	3	T/R	249	10:00-11:20 AM	Fowler
F2F	BUS 200	1	Principles of Marketing	3	M/W	330	5:30-6:50 PM	Wagner
F2F	BUS 215*	1	Business Communication	3	M/W	340	10:30-11:50 AM	Fowler
F2F	BUS 270*	3	Small Business and Entrepreneurship Mgmt.	3	M/W	249	1:30-2:50 PM	Fowler
F2F	CHM 105*	1	Introduction to Chemistry	3	T/R	235	5:30-6:50 PM	Majorski
F2F	CHM 105A\$*	1	Chemistry Lab	2	T/R	235	7:00-7:50 PM	Majorski
F2F	CPT 112*	1	Introduction to Computers	3	M	340	5:30-8:20 PM	Klopf
F2F	CS 299	1	Graduate Seminar - Business	1	M	249	9:00-10:00 AM	Fowler
F2F	CS 299	1	Graduate Seminar - Liberal Arts	1	T	238	3:30-4:30 PM	Boleman
F2F	CS 299	1	Graduate Seminar - Native American Studies	1	M	238	10:30-11:30 AM	Haviland
O-A	ECO 202	1	Principles of Microeconomics	3	ONLINE			Wagner
F2F	ENG 101*	1	Composition I	3	M/W	331	10:30-11:50 AM	Boleman
F2F	ENG 010*	1	Composition I Lab	2	M/W	331	12:00-12:50 PM	Boleman
F2F	ENG 110	1	Introduction to Communication	3	T/R	331	1:30-2:50 PM	Boleman
O-A	ENG 125*	1	Children's Literature	3	ONLINE			Boleman
O-A	ENG 202*	1	Composition II	3	ONLINE			Boleman
O-A	GEL 101\$	2	Introduction to Geology w/Lab	5	ONLINE			Miller
F2F	GEO 100	1	Introduction to Geography	3	M/W	235	10:30-11:50 AM	Miller
F2F	GEO 201\$	1	Weather & Climate w/Lab	5	T/R	235	10:30-11:50 AM	Miller
					R	232	1:00-2:50 PM	
F2F	MTH 105	1	Intermediate Algebra	4	T/R	330	9:00-10:50 AM	Rich
O-A	MTH 012*	1	Quantitative Reasoning Lab	2	ONLINE			Crosswait
O-A	MTH 120*	1	Quantitative Reasoning	3	ONLINE			Rich
F2F	MTH 140*	1	Pre-Calculus	4	T/R	330	1:30-3:20 PM	Rich
O-A	MTH 023*	1	Introduction to Statistics Lab	2	ONLINE			Crosswait
O-A	MTH 230*	1	Introduction to Statistics	3	ONLINE			Crosswait
O-A	NAS 103	1	Survey of Native American Studies	3	ONLINE			Haviland
O-A	NAS 230	1	Reclaiming and Revitalizing Anishnaabemowin	3	ONLINE			Haviland
F2F	NAS 238	1	Native American Law and Policy	3	T/R	214	1:30-2:50 PM	Haviland
F2F	NAS 242	1	Topics in Native American Literature	3	M/W	214	1:30-2:50 PM	Peters
O-A	NAS 250	1	Anishinaabe Art	3	ONLINE			Jackson
O-A	NAS 254	1	Contemporary Native American Art	3	ONLINE			Jackson
F2F	NAS 260	1	Anishinaabe History: 1600 to Present	3	W	214	5:00-7:50 PM	Haviland
F2F	NAS 263	1	Contemporary Native American Issues	3	T/R	314	1:30-2:50 PM	Peters
F2F	NAS 271	1	Indigenous Storytelling	3	T/R	214	5:30-6:50 PM	Gonzalez
F2F	NAS 273\$	1	Herbal Medicines	3	T/R	243	10:30-11:50 AM	Kostus
F2F	NAS 286*	1	Anishinaabemowin Immersion	3	M/W	243	3:30-4:50 PM	Roy
F2F	OJB 101	1	Ojibwe I	3	M/W	243	10:30-11:50 AM	Roy
F2F	OJB 102*	1	Ojibwe II	3	M/W	243	1:30-2:50 PM	Roy
F2F	OJB 201*	1	Ojibwe III	3	T/R	243	10:30-11:50 AM	Roy
F2F	OJB 202*	1	Ojibwe IV	3	T/R	243	1:30-2:50 PM	Roy
F2F	PSC 120	1	American Government	3	T/R	314	5:00-6:20 PM	Knott
F2F	PSY 101	1	Intro to Psychology	3	T/R	330	5:30-6:50 PM	Landen
O-A	SDV 102	1	Foundations for Student Success	3	ONLINE			Green

M/W = Monday & Wednesday
T/R = Tuesday & Thursday
* = Check co-requisite or pre-requisite requirements
\$ = Additional Course or Lab Fees Apply
All courses are scheduled in Eastern Standard Time (EST).
Classes with an enrollment of fewer than 5 students may be canceled
Course Delivery Definitions:**
• **F2F (Face to Face):** A course that has regularly scheduled class times and meets in person.
• **ON-A (Online Asynchronous):** A course that meets via web-based technologies without regularly scheduled meeting times.ON-S (Online Synchronous): A course that meets via web-based technologies and has regularly scheduled class times.
• **H (Hybrid):** There will be regularly scheduled face-to-face meeting times and online components within a hybrid course. The online components may be delivered synchronously or asynchronously. Both face-to-face meeting times and online delivery methods must be scheduled in the syllabus.
****Course delivery methods are subject to change at any time.**

SPRING SEMESTER 2026

- **Jan. 9:** Spring registration closes at 11:59 p.m.
- **Jan. 12:** Spring classes begin
- **Jan. 16:** Drop/add ends at 11:59 p.m.
- **Jan. 19:** MLK Jr. Day - No classes campus closed
- **Feb. 16:** Presidents Day - No classes campus closed
- **March 2-6:** Mid Term week
- **March 9:** Mid Term grades due
- **March 20:** Last day to withdraw
- **March 30-April 3** SCTC break: No classes
- **April 6:** Easter Monday: No classes campus closed
- **May 4-8:** Exam week
- **May 8:** Spring semester ends
- **May 11:** Final grades due to registrar
- **May 21:** SCTC Graduation at SECR

ATTENTION NEW STUDENTS:

In order to register for classes you must take an Accuplacer® placement test and have at complete admission file.

Please call 989- 317-4760 to set up your Accuplacer® test or contact student services by email at studentservices@sagchip.edu or online: www.sagchip.edu



Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College (SCTC) and its Board of Regents is committed to providing a non-discriminatory and harassment-free educational and working environment for all members of the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College community, including students, faculty, administrators, staff, and visitors. It is the policy of SCTC that no person shall be discriminated against, excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination, including harassment, in employment and admissions, in education, or in any program or activity for which the College is responsible, on the basis of race, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, gender, gender identification, sexual orientation, disability, age, religion, medical condition, veteran status, marital status or any other characteristic protected by institutional policy or tribal or federal law. Contact: Mary Pelcher, Civil Rights Coordinator, mapelcher@sagchip.edu.

WELCOME
Register Now!

CREATE
= Your Own =
FUTURE

Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College is a tribally controlled land grant institution that reflects and promotes the unique culture of the Anishinaabek Community, designed with educational excellence to empower learners to reach their educational goals.

College Success Coaches - Joe Genia and Jamie Green

Joe Genia

Jayme Green

SCTC is excited to have TWO student success coaches this year! Each success coach will have a cohort of students that will focus on goals related to SCTC's Strategic Planning goals. The success coaches will be reaching out to you and your students this week. If you have any questions, please contact Jayme Green or Joe Genia.

5805 E. Pickard St. Mount Pleasant

Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College

Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College is a tribally controlled land grant institution that reflects and promotes the unique culture of the Anishinaabek Community, designed with educational excellence to empower learners to reach their educational goals.

Online Courses Now Available

***ACC 216**
Managerial Accounting
AST 110 - 110A
Astronomy with Lab
BUS 110
Intro to Business
ECO 202
Microeconomics
ENG 125
Children's Literature
*ENG 202
English Comp II
NAS 250
Anishinaabe Art
NAS254
Contemporary Native American Art
SDV 102
Foundation for Success
* Require Pre-requisite

Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College

OPEN TO PUBLIC

For More Info
(989) 317- 4821

GEL 100 & 101A
Introduction to Geology with Lab
MTH 120 & 012
Quantitative Reasoning with Lab
MTH 230 & 023
Introduction to Statistics with Lab
NAS 103
Survey of Native American Studies
NAS 230
Reclaiming Anishnaabemowin

Register Now!

Late registration and Open House
Wednesday, Jan. 7, 2026

WELCOME to our BONFIRE
where friends and marshmallows get

SAGINAW CHIPPEWA TRIBAL COLLEGE

5805 E. Pickard St.
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

From 4-7 p.m

Open to the public
Free snacks

Success Is Within Reach

GED
Adult Education Program
5805 E. Pickard St. Mount Pleasant

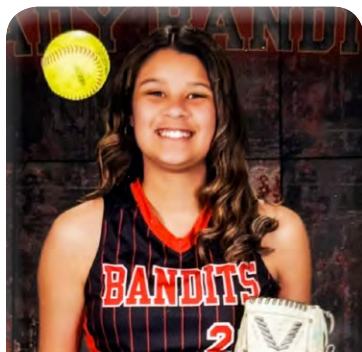
GED Meet and Greet
Wednesday Jan. 7, 2025
3-5 p.m.
Light refreshments

OPEN TO PUBLIC

For more Info:
Lori Vincent
GED Program
Phone: (989) 317-4963



Active Native Youth



Kaya Owl
Mt. Pleasant Middle School
Grade: 7th
Softball, Volleyball, Basketball, Track



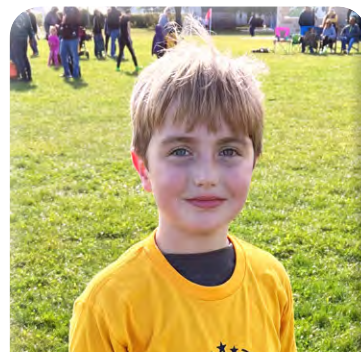
Duke Schocko
Fancher Elementary
Grade: 5th
Baseball, Football, Basketball



Ace Schocko
Ganiard Elementary
Grade: 1st
Hockey, Football, Baseball



Braylon Allen
Renaissance PSA
Grade: 4th
Basketball, Football



Dean Garcia
Shepherd Elementary
Grade: 2nd
Soccer



Miskwaabine Kahgegab
Shepherd Elementary
Grade: 3rd
Football



Adrienne Pelcher
Shepherd | Grade: 8
Football



Daniel Mena
Shepherd High | Grade: 11
Football, Track



Eleanor M.
Wii Maajikiwad | Grade: 1
Gymnastics



Zhaawan Martell
Mt. Pleasant High School |
Grade: 12
Baseball, Football, Basketball, Tennis



Erich Lehman Jr.
West Intermediate
Grade: 6th
Football, Wrestling, Track



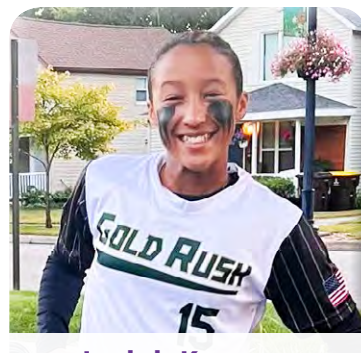
Vegas Lehman
Pullen Elementary
Grade: 2nd
Football



Connor Wrath
Alpena Public Schools
Grade: 1st
Hockey



Lukas Smith
Northeast
Grade: 7th
Football, Baseball



Jaylah Kequom
Shepherd Middle School
Grade: 6
Softball, Basketball, 4-H,
Dirt Track Racing



Abbie & Ellie Wrath
All Saints Catholic
Grade: pre-K
Dance



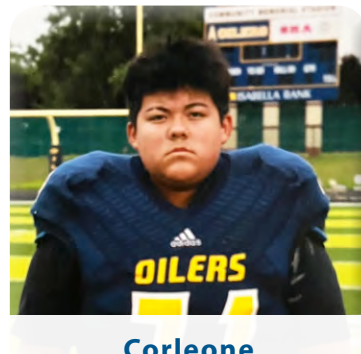
Paxton Owl
Owl Academy
Grade: 5th
Hockey, Baseball, Fishing



Isaiah Chippeway
Renaissance PSA
Grade: 4th
Basketball, Soccer



Michael Cuellar Jr.
Renaissance PSA
Grade: 2th
Basketball, Soccer



Corleone Castillo-Sprague
Mt. Pleasant High School
Grade: 9th
Football



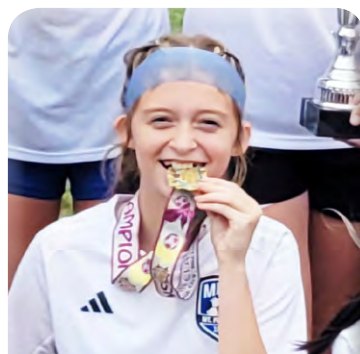
Aubrey Pelcher-Bonstelle
Shepherd High School
Grade: 9th
Basketball



Caleb Sprague
Mt. Pleasant High School
Grade: 9th
Hockey



Waabigwan Peters
Mt. Pleasant Middle School
Grade: 8th
Dance, Jingle Dress Dance



Aria Drain Garcia
Mt. Pleasant High School
Grade: 9th
Soccer, Track



Kinsley & Keagan Andy
Grade Hayward School
Grades: 4th, 2nd
Figure Skating, Dance, Logrolling



David Bennett III
Mt. Pleasant Middle School
Grade: 8th
Football, Wrestling



Waaskones K
Mt. Pleasant Middle School
Grade: 8th
Volleyball



Mnookmi K
Mt. Pleasant Middle School
Grade: 7th
Volleyball



Dannie Bennett
Mt. Pleasant Middle School
Grade: 8th
Taekwondo



Daymien Bennett
Fancher Elementary
Grade: 3rd
Taekwondo



Emma Junis
Farms Intermediate School
Grade: 6th
Softball



Liam Rentner
Hartland Middle School
Grade: 8th
Football



Easton Junis
Farms Intermediate School
Grade: 6th
Football



Wyatt Rentner
Hartland Middle School
Grade: 8th
Football



Faye Wemigwans
Shepherd Middle School
Grade: 7th
Basketball



Mishiikenh Sprague
Shepherd High School
Grade: 9th
Football



Ziigwan Callaway
Shepherd Middle School
Grade: 7th
Volleyball, Basketball



Tahlia Alonzo-Villanova
Mt. Pleasant High
Grade: 11th
Dance Team, Figure Skating



Elijah Quigno
Shepherd Middle School
Grade: 7th
Football, Basketball



Christopher Sayers
Lakeview High School
Grade: 12th
Cross Country



Silas Jackson
Pullen Elementary
Grade: 1st
Basketball



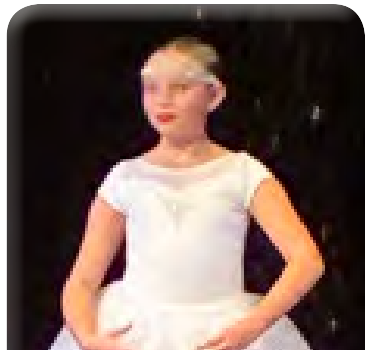
Aiden Raphael
Shepherd High School
Grade: 9th
Football, Basketball, Golf



Kingsley Davis
Mt. Pleasant Middle School
Grade: 6th
Soccer, Volleyball



Abram Davis
Mary McGuire Elementary
Grade: 3rd
Flag Football, Basketball



Hailey Foley
Grade: 5th
Ballet



Abigail Farrell
Shepherd Middle School
Grade: 6th
Cross Country



Sariah Farrell
Shepherd Middle School
Grade: 8th
Basketball



Jasmine Jewell
Shepherd Middle School
Grade: 6th
Cheer, Softball



Gabriel Jewell
Shepherd High School
Grade: 9th
Cross Country, Wrestling



Albert Chingman-Tijerina
Dewitt High School
Grade: 9th
Football, Wrestling



Billie Jo Jackson
Mt. Pleasant Middle School
Grade: 7th
Basketball



Alayna Jackson
Shepherd Elementary
Grade: 5th
Volleyball



Shelby Smith
Beal City High School
Grade: 10th
Volleyball



Connor Smith
Beal City High School
Grade: 9th
Basketball, Baseball



Jackson Flachs
Beal City High School
Grade: 10th
Basketball



Youth Council continued from front page

General youth council representatives include: Gracin Montoya, Waaskones Pego, Faye Wemigwans, Morgan Pelcher and Miah Perez.

Several members introduce themselves below:

"I am Youth Council Co-President Azhiyen Wemigwans, a 17-year-old student from Mt. Pleasant High School. I ran for youth council to build life skills, be more involved with my community, and be a positive influence for others."

"My name is Kaya Rose, I am 17 years old, and currently

a senior at Sacred Heart Academy. I am the 2025-2026 newly elected youth council secretary. I ran for youth council because I love being involved and serving in my community along with getting the privilege to learn more about our culture."

"Hi, my name is Jaycee Sheahan-Kahgegab and I am 15-year-old sophomore at Mt. Pleasant High School. I am honored to serve as the youth council social director. The reason I signed up for youth council is because I enjoy having something to do and being more known and social with my community. I think it's a really fun experience that helps me not have so much anxiety after

talking to so much people."

"Aanii, my name is Faye Wemigwans and I am 13 years old and attend Shepherd Middle School. I ran for youth council to be a positive role model for kids my age and try something new. I love basketball and, most of all, I love the community I grew up in. I am super excited to be selected and look forward to participating in the community and events as well as meeting new people along the way."

"Boozhoo Kina Gwaya! My name is Gracin Montoya. I am 17 years old and attend Mt. Pleasant High School. I am a general representative on the 2025-2026 youth council. I ran for youth council because I have ideas on ways we can support our community youth. I'm excited to listen, learn, share, be involved in community events, represent our Tribal Nation, and make a positive

impact. Miigwetch to everyone that voted for me. Without your vote, I wouldn't have this opportunity."

"I am Morgan Pelcher. I am 13 years old and go to Mt. Pleasant Middle School. I am a general representative and I ran for youth council because I wanted to make a change in our Tribal community and it looked fun."

"My name is Miah Perez and I am a 17 year old senior at Oasis Alternative School. This is my second term being a general representative. I take a lot of pride and honor in the Tribe and our people, which is why I decided to run again. It has also definitely kept me on a good path, doing the right things, and keeping myself busy."

"Aanii Boozhoo, my name is Gnaajwi Pego and I ran for treasurer, as I have in the past, because I enjoy the fundraising and planning aspect of this role.

This is my fourth year as treasurer, and I am so grateful to be working alongside my fellow Native youth community members setting a good example for my peers. I am a 15-year-old sophomore at Mt. Pleasant High School and love painting, spending quality time with my friends, acquiring knowledge about my culture, and astronomy and psychology."

"Aanii Boozhoo, my name is Waaskones Pego. I ran for youth council general representative in hopes to gain social and group skills. I am grateful to be part of youth council and can't wait to work with youth from my Tribe to set a good example in our community. I am currently a 13-year-old student in eighth grade at Mt. Pleasant Middle School. My hobbies include drawing, listening to music, spending time with friends and playing volleyball."

Saganing Holiday Bingo brings in family, friends, fellowship



Observer photos by Joseph Sowmick

JOSEPH SOWMICK

Public Relations Manager

The holiday spirit was in full swing as a capacity crowd enjoyed family, friends and fellowship at the Saganing Outreach Center on Dec. 9.

Outreach Services Manager Sandra Compau served as emcee and bingo caller for the event that featured a buffet of fried

chicken with desserts.

Nimkee Public Health Nurse Sue Sowmick was on hand for blood pressure screenings and providing health information.

ACFS Child Welfare Prevention Specialist Julie Pego offered a blessing for the meal and was joined by Social Services Support Tech Gilbert Williams who provided information regarding their services.

Tribal Council continued from front page

Nominations then opened up with secret ballots being cast with the following council members selected for the remaining executive

positions: Sub-Chief Craig Graveratte, Secretary Christina Otto and Treasurer Alice Jo Ricketts.

Frank Cloutier (District III representative) was elected to serve as the sergeant-at-arms and Jennifer Wassegijig was

elected to serve as chaplain.

Brad Bennett, Tim J. Davis, Ronald F. Ekdahl, Shirley Houle (District II representative), Mary Quigno and Gayle Ruhl are the additional newly seated Tribal Council members.



Newly-elected Chief Luke Sprague (back) is sworn in by Chief Judge Michelle Horn.



Chief Sprague swears in newly-elected Sub-Chief Craig Graveratte (right).

Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

New Tribal Police Officer sworn in on Dec. 10



New Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Police Officer Rebeka Lombard is sworn in to begin her duties with the police department. Lombard was sworn in on Monday, Dec. 10 by (Sub-Chief at the time) Luke Sprague in the Tribal Council chambers.

Observer photo by Erik Rodriguez

Active Native Youth continued



Joseph Harley Bennett
Shepherd Middle School
Grade: 6th
Football



Kristy Palacios
Eastern High School
Grade: 12th
Basketball, Volleyball, Softball



Leah Palacios
Eastern High School
Grade: 12th
Basketball, Volleyball, Softball



Morgan Pelcher
Mt. Pleasant Middle School
Grade: 8th
Youth Council, Band (saxophone)



Zhaawshkobne Wemigwans
Wii Maajikwad
Grade: 3rd
Football



Editorial: SCIT grandmother shares heartfelt message on Grandparents’ Code

DAWN CHIPPEWA
Contributing Writer

I haven’t had my heart broken in a long time but when you can’t see someone you love, it really has a negative effect on you. I’m talking about being kept from my grandchildren. When it first happened, I sat around waiting for the other party to cool off for whatever slight that was

suffered this time. Then when days turned to months, I could not just sit around and do nothing while they were growing up. Not only was I being punished but so were my grandkids. They didn’t know or understand why they couldn’t see their grandmother, who they loved dearly. I spoke to other Native grandparents to ease my burden but then only realized

that they, too, were suffering. That’s when a fire was lit in my soul. It was time to take action and help this suffering. I started by calling several tribes across the country to see what they were doing to keep Native families together. Traditionally, grandparents play a huge role in the upbringing of their grandchildren. They teach them, care for them, provide transportation, and play with them. All without having the “right” to do so. This had to be fixed and I may as well be the one to do it.

Once I received all the information I requested from these tribes, I took the best parts from each code and put together a rough draft as a starting point. Then this draft was presented to the Elders Advisory Board. They were very receptive and excited about this code. Some of them spoke about their own troubles and relieved themselves of their burdens. The next meeting was with the Elders Advisory Board, Indian Child Welfare Committee members and the Legal department. We hashed out changes in the draft and forwarded it to Tribal Council. I was constantly in contact with Tribal Council making sure they didn’t forget about it.



Courtesy photo

Dawn Chippewa

Finally, a year and a half later, we got the Grandparent and Extended Family Visitation Codes. To make sure everything went smoothly, I applied at Tribal Court, along with my son who was accommodating. I was asked some questions by Chief Judge Michele Horn and the whole thing took about ten minutes.

I am pleased to mention I now have a set schedule and know when they will be with me if my son ever decides to move out. For now, though, the Universe was good enough to give them to us fulltime. They keep the house lively and the holiday’s fun. I really don’t have time for anything else. Even now when they are at school, it’s too quiet. I want to thank everyone that was involved with the passing of these codes, we really made a difference in so many lives. Please remember these codes are not just for grandparents; they are for aunts, uncles and pretty much any family members that are missing loved ones. We want to keep our Native families together like it’s supposed to be. Now that you know... go get your babies!

SAGINAW CHIPPEWA ROUND DANCE

Saturday, March 14, 2026

Wii Maajikwad Gym
2875 Gikendasso Way, Mt. Pleasant MI 48858
► **Doors Open:** 5:30 p.m.
Vendor application coming soon

Donations needed

Drop off items at Wii Maajikwad

- **Now until March 9, 2026 (8 a.m. - 4 p.m., Monday - Friday)**
- Please attach a name to the donated item
- **Donations can be picked up. Call: 989.775.4453**
- **Examples include:** Ribbon skirts, beaded items, gift cards, swag bags, play sets (toys), lanyards, gas cards and merchandise baskets
- **Donations will be used as gifts, spot dance and prizes**

For more information, please contact: 989.775.4453

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- Public or private university
- Career training

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SCAN TO LEARN MORE OR VISIT
mi.gov/ACHIEVEMENT

MICHIGAN ACHIEVEMENT SCHOLARSHIP

MI Student Aid



Andahwod Continuing Care Community and Elder Services
Elders' January 2026 Newsletter

Boozhoo elders! Snowplowing applications are now being accepted until all spots are filled. Everyone must fill out an application. Priority goes to Tribal elders over 70 years of age and living alone. Under 65 years old must have medical documentation. There is a \$50 fee for the season. Applications are available at Andahwod or on the website.

Andahwod would also like to welcome Dana Neyome as the elder homemaker provider. Dana is able to assist Tribal elders with light cleaning, shopping, transports, and other in-home tasks. Please call Andahwod to schedule an appointment for in-home services 989-775-4300.

Elder grant assistance

The following are still available for eligible SCIT elders. Please call Andahwod for more information or stop by for an application. Funding for the EMAP and FCAP programs are made available by the Administration of Community Living Older Americans Act Title VI. LIHEAP funding is provided by the Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan.

- ▶ **Elders Minor Assistance Program: EMAP**
- ▶ **Family Caregiver Assistance Program: FCAP**
- ▶ **Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program: LIHEAP**

Tips for keeping safe in the winter

A senior's winter checklist includes prepping the home (heating, CO detectors, clear walkways), stocking an emergency kit (food, water, meds, batteries, flashlight, radio), ensuring warm clothing/layers, planning for power outages (backup heat, chargers), and focusing on fall prevention (non-slip mats, sturdy footwear, handrails) for safety and comfort.

Home safety and eating:

- **Heating system:** Get furnace/heating serviced; check insulation, windows, doors.
- **Carbon monoxide (CO) detectors:** Install/test near bedrooms.
- **Fall prevention:** Clear snow/ice from paths; use salt/sand; non-slip mats/shoes.
- **Lighting:** Ensure good indoor lighting and easy access to flashlights.

Emergency preparedness kit

- **Food and water:** Non-perishable items, water (several days' supply).
- **Medications:** Extra supply of prescriptions.
- **Power outage items:** Flashlights, extra batteries, battery-powered radio, portable phone charger.
- **First aid:** Fully stocked kit.
- **Other:** Whistle/bell, can opener, pet supplies if applicable.

Health and comfort

- **Clothing:** Layers (sweaters, thermals, warm socks), hats, gloves, scarves, slippers.
- **Hydration and nutrition:** Encourage water, warm drinks; balanced meals.
- **Mobility:** Sturdy, slip-resistant shoes; use handrails/canes.

Power outage plan

- **Backup heat:** Blankets, sleeping bags, or safe space heaters (with auto-shutoff).
- **Medical equipment:** Backup power source if needed.
- **Communication:** Fully charged cell phone, emergency contact list.

JANUARY 2026
Tribal Elder Birthdays

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1) Wendy McGregor
James Smith
William Smith Jr. | Terri Darling |
| 2) Meletta Trepanier
Robyn Henry
Robyn Quinn | 18) Audrey Falcon
Richard Ritter
Iva Chimoski |
| 3) Tracie Gearhart-Pack | 19) Sue Durfee
Scott Moses |
| 5) Donald Wing Sr.
Lorne Jackson | 20) Robin Bonneau |
| 6) Alan Henry | 21) Billy Starkey |
| 7) Paula Chippewa
Samuel Pego
Warren Stone
Kandy Ojeda | 22) Barbara Arzola
Traci Town
Richard Nahgahgwon Jr. |
| 8) Ronda Jones
Alstyn Peters
Michelle Shaw-Cyr | 23) Renee Peters
Vicki Brown
Michelle Deaton
Joseph Kequom
Michael Ziehmer |
| 9) Ronald Defoy
Cary Nahgahgwon | 24) Norma Rapp
Tweedie Vancise
Mark Chamberlain
Jacqueline Cyr
Christopher Johnson |
| 10) Susan Kequom
Ronald Battice
Brenda Brouder
Mary Green
Donald Slavik
Susan Sturock
Robin Waynee | 25) Scott McLellan
Tonia Town |
| 11) Esther Helms
Kathy Martin
Linze Ritter
Philemon Bird | 26) Darlene Highley
James Trepanier
Jeffery Reed |
| 12) Norman Davenport | 27) Jeffrey Jackson
Renee Anderson
Paul Robinson
Ricky Shawano |
| 13) Sandra Barron
Lyle Collins
Pamela Slifco | 28) David Merrill Sr.
Alex Ritter Sr.
Sheena Swanigan
Gloria King |
| 14) Lillian Olson
Lucy Shawano
Dennis Horton | 29) Jacquelyne Meir Jr.
Vincent Gallegos
Becky McLenon |
| 15) Jayne Keating
Lisa Slattery
Michael Zygmunt | 30) Karen Naganashe |
| 16) Jodi Friend
Joann Clark | 31) Mary Walker
Jessica Brannon
Gerald Cloutier
Vicki Sandlin
Nancy Funnell |
| 17) Ramon Alaniz | |

Elder Perishable Food
Giveaway

Three giveaway dates:

▶ Feb. 11, 2026 ▶ March 11, 2026

11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. | **Andahwod CGA**
2910 S. Leaton Rd., Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

An additional food giveaway will be at the conclusion of the **State of the Tribe Annual Meeting** Jan. 17, 2026 | SECR Entertainment Hall

Tribal elder must be present

- First 100 Tribal elders will receive 8-10 pounds of fresh produce at each event.

- The purpose of the giveaway is to expand nutrition for Tribal elders

* *Produce giveaways funded by the Older Americans Act - Nutrition Services Incentive Program (NSIP) Grant.*



For more information call: 989.775.4300

January 2026 Andahwod events

Coffee break

Daily / 2:30 p.m.

Sewing

Tuesdays / 10:30 a.m.

Euchre

Thursdays / 5:30 p.m.

Elders Lunch

Jan. 7, 21 / 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Elvis birthday party with Movie

Jan. 7 / 2:30 p.m.

Birthday Celebration

Jan. 8 / 2:30 p.m.

Elders Breakfast

Jan. 14, 28 / 9-10 a.m.

Name that Tune

Jan. 14 / 2:30 p.m.

Valentine's craft

Jan. 15 / 1 p.m.

BH Bingo with Friends

Jan. 16 / 1-3 p.m.

Language Bingo

Jan. 20 / 1-3 p.m.

Potluck and Birthday Bingo

Jan. 24 / Potluck held from 12-1 p.m.

For more information, please call Andahwod at: 989.775.4339

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

January 2026 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
Menu subject to change <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>		Sugar free available upon request. Call kitchen for lunch and dinner at 989-775-4314.		1 Chef's Choice	2 Potato Soup w/Half Sandwich Swedish Meatballs	3 Chef's Choice
4 Chef's Choice	5 Split Pea Soup Meatloaf w/Mashed Potato	6 Fried Bologna w/Fruit Chili & Fry Bread	7 Chef's Choice Chicken Pot Pie over Biscuits Elder Lunch	8 Ribs w/Red Potato Pot Roast	9 Polish Dog Spaghetti & Salad	10 Chef's Choice
11 Chef's Choice	12 Taco Salad w/Beans Creamed Chipped Beef on Toast	13 Chili Dog w/Fries Beef & Noodles Veggie	14 Elders Breakfast Chicken & Noodle Soup Chicken Tetrzzini	15 Fish N Chips BBQ Ribs w/Potato Salad	16 Roast Beef w/Potato & Gravy Tomato Soup & Grilled Cheese	17 Chef's Choice
18 Chef's Choice	19 Shrimp Rice & Egg Roll BLT & Chips	20 Meat Loaf w/Baked Potato Beef Stew	21 Pizza Buffet Herb Roasted Baked Chicken Elder Lunch	22 Chicken Pot Pie Goulash	23 Tuna Noodle Casserole Chicken Sandwich w/Tator Tots	24 Chef's Choice
25 Chef's Choice	26 Cheeseburger w/Fried Potatoes Chicken & Rice Soup	27 Baked Chicken w/Green Bean Casserole Scalloped Potatoes w/Ham	28 Elders Breakfast Pizza Buffet Steak w Baked Potato	29 Meat Sub w/Chips BBQ Pork Chop w/Mashed Potato	30 Tostada w/Mexican Rice Wing Dings	31 Chef's Choice



Skillet, Pop Evil deliver rock hits to Soaring Eagle



Observer photo by Matthew Wright

Skillet’s John Cooper (left) and fellow band members perform “Awake and Alive,” during the Nov. 29 Soaring Eagle concert.

MATTHEW WRIGHT
Staff Writer

The Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort hosted the heavy-hitting duo of Skillet and Pop Evil on Saturday, Nov. 29.

Headlining the indoor concert was American Christian rock band Skillet.

Skillet came out of the gates swinging, with the high-energy hits “Surviving the Game,” “Feel Invincible” and “Rise.”

Bassist and lead singer John Cooper next equipped dual CO2 fog cannons to his arms; spraying out into the screaming crowd.

A highlight of the night saw guitarists Corey Kooper

and Seth Morrison join drummer Jen Ledger on an elevated platform during “Awake and Alive.” The two guitarists played on separate moving podiums which rose above the Entertainment Hall stage.

Skillet continued with “Sick of It,” “Legendary,” “Ash in the Wind” and “Never Surrender.



Observer photo by Matthew Wright

Pop Evil members perform “Trenches” on the Entertainment Hall stage.

Next up was “Whispers in the Dark,” “Hero,” “Not Gonna Die,” “Unpopular,” “Psycho in My Head” and “Comatose.”

The night closed with the heavy guitar riffs of “Monster,” followed by an encore performance of the energetic hit song “The Resistance.”

Taking the stage before Skillet, the Muskegon, Mich.-based rock band Pop Evil showcased their homegrown talent while playing their biggest hits.

Pop Evil led with a trio of fan favorites, starting with “Eye of the Storm,” followed by “Trenches,” and “Deathwalk.”

Other songs performed that night included “Paranoid (Crash & Burn),” “Deal With the Devil,” “Skeletons,” and “What Remains.”

Saving the best for last, Pop Evil energized the crowd with performances of “Waking Lions,” “Torn to Pieces,” “Breathe Again” and “Footsteps.”

Wynonna Judd makes her return to Soaring Eagle during The Greatest Hits tour

NATALIE SHATTUCK
Editor

American country music mega star and powerhouse voice, Wynonna Judd, returned to the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort for a sold-out show on Saturday, Dec. 13 in the Entertainment Hall.

The show kicked off at about 8 p.m., and Wynonna and her band delivered a 90-minute set. As soon as the spotlight hits her, Wynonna instantly

commands the stage and performs an emotional delivery of fan favorite hits.

Launching her career as one-half of the iconic mother-daughter duo, The Judds, with her mother Naomi, Wynonna grew up as “America’s favorite musical daughter.” She rose to fame in the 1980s.

In 1992, Wynonna released her self-titled solo debut and her musical success continued.

Wynonna has achieved five Grammy Awards.

Her soulful, country vocals shine in the recordings of her popular hits: “No One Else on Earth,” “Tell Me Why,” “Love Can Build a Bridge,” “Grandpa (Tell Me ‘Bout the Good Old Days),” “Turn It Loose,” “Burning Love,” “Girls with Guitars,” “Have Mercy,” “She is His Only Need,” “I Saw the Light” and much more.

Wynonna has a huge fan base of loyal, dedicated fans. On and off stage, Wynonna continues to connect with fans and show a deep gratitude for them and for being able to continue to perform live.



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

Wynonna Judd performs to a sold-out show during The Greatest Hits tour stop at the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort in Mount Pleasant, Mich. on Dec. 13.

“I’ve been waiting for you all day. Now that we’re together, I’m feeling very sassy,” Wynonna said to the audience after a few songs in to her set. Her sass is on full display in her movements, facial expressions and vocal delivery.

Wynonna performs with a full band, including with

her husband and drummer, Cactus Moser.

The audience was visibly captivated through the entirety

of Wynonna’s performance – Wynonna has that mesmerizing stage presence that makes fans unable to look away.

Comedian Sebastian Maniscalco brings “It Aint Right” Tour to SECR



Observer photo by Matthew Wright

Sebastian Maniscalco performs the first of two Soaring Eagle shows on Friday, Nov. 21.

MATTHEW WRIGHT
Staff Writer

Comedian and actor Sebastian Maniscalco visited the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort on Friday, Nov. 21.

As part of his “It Ain’t Right” Tour, the night featured two performances in one evening – the first show began at 7 p.m. and the other at 10 p.m.

Maniscalco is a leading figure in the comedic scene, with six major network special and his television series “Bookie” airing on Max.

He weighed in on parenthood, the troubles of growing old, marriage and more. His witty observations and over-the-top gestures had the audience frequently laughing.

Fellow comedian Mike Young served as the opener.

Soaring Eagle hosts 22 fighters for Bare Knuckle Fighting Championship

MATTHEW WRIGHT
Staff Writer

The Bare Knuckle Fighting Championship (BKFC) made its debut in the State of Michigan at the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort on Nov. 1.

The main match saw 22 fighters take to the circular ring for 11 fast-paced, exciting bouts.

In the main event, Esteban Rodriguez of Grand Rapids, Mich., defeated his challenger Zac Cavender via TKO in Round 1.

For more information on upcoming BKFC events, please visit www.bkfc.com.



Observer photo by Matthew Wright

The Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort hosts the Bare Knuckle Fighting Championship on Nov. 1.



JANUARY 2026 | Tribal Community Event Planner

SCTC GED Adult Education Meet and Greet
Jan. 7 | 3-5 p.m.
• SCTC (5805 E. Pickard Rd.)
• 989-317-4963

Winter Outdoor Recreation & Environmental Education Celebration
Jan. 9 | 2:30-5:30 p.m.
• SCTC (5805 E. Pickard Rd.)
• 989-775-4585 or khager@sagchip.org
• Winter-themed: Door and raffle prizes, craft activities, and environmental outreach and education

People’s Powwow Lunch Fundraiser
Jan. 9 | 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
• 7th Generation
• 989-775-4780 or TJackson@sagchip.org

Traditional Food Workshop
Jan. 15 | 5:30-7 p.m.
• 7th Generation
• 989-775-4780 or TJackson@sagchip.org
• With Sam Anglin

State of the Tribe Annual Meeting
Jan. 17 | Doors open at 9 a.m., breakfast at 10 a.m.
• Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort Entertainment Hall
• 989-775-4096 or PublicRelations@sagchip.org
• Open to SCIT Members of all ages, Tribal ID required
• Live streamed on the SCIT Tribal Members only section of sagchip.org.

Two-Spirit Talking Circle
Jan. 19, Feb. 23 | 6-8 p.m.
• 7th Generation (7785 E. Remus Rd.)
• LeRuffino@sagchip.org or kt@greatlakesbaypride.org

TCG (Trading Card Game) Night
Jan. 20 | 6-8 p.m.
• 7th Generation
• DAJackson@sagchip.org or 989-775-4782
• Pokémon, Lorcana, Magic the Gathering and more!

Healing Event
Jan. 22 | 5-9 p.m.
• 7th Generation
• Appointments: 989-775-4780 or TJackson@sagchip.org

NF NimkeeFitness

NEW YEAR'S Challenge

Start off your new year early and on track with Nimkee Fitness!

Sign the sign-up sheet at the front desk and receive the following:

- A standardized strength program
- Cardio exercise zone chart
- Volume/load charts for resistance training
- Target heart rate zones for cardio health graph

With this information provided for you and with the help of our Fitness Coordinator, Seth, you can get after your health goals starting today! Sign up today!

Baby Celebration
Jan. 28 | 6-8 p.m.
• 7th Generation
• 989-775-4780 or TJackson@sagchip.org

Saginaw Chippewa Round Dance
March 14 | Doors open at 5:30 p.m.
• Wii Maajikwad Gym (2875 Gikendasso Way)
• 989-775-4453

ZIIBIWING CENTER
of Anishinabe Culture & Lifeways

50/50 RAFFLE Fundraiser

Tickets go on sale: Wednesday, Dec. 3, 2025
Drawing held: Saturday, Jan. 17, 2026
During the State of the Tribe Annual Meeting

Ticket cost: One for \$5 or five for \$10
Purchase tickets at: Ziibiwing Center Gift Shop, or during the State of the Tribe Annual Meeting

- Do not need to be present to win.
- Winner has 30 days to claim their prize.
- If winner is not present, the winning ticket will be posted on ZC Facebook, our Webpage and via intra-emails.

*All proceeds will support the Ziibiwing Center and it's programming and activities.

ZIIBIWING CENTER
of Anishinabe Culture & Lifeways

THE MIDWEST'S PREMIER AMERICAN INDIAN MUSEUM
8650 EAST BROADWAY, MT. PLEASANT, MICHIGAN 48858
989.775.4750 • WWW.SAGCHIP.ORG / ZIIBIWING

JANUARY 2026 | Tribal Community Calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat./Sun.
<div><div><div>●</div>SECR Payroll</div><div><div>●</div>SCIT Per Capita</div><div><div>●</div>SCIT Payroll</div><div><div>●</div>Curbside Recycling</div></div>	<div>Anishinabe Performance Circle Spring Adult & Youth Classes</div> <div>Sign up now through Jan. 13</div> <div>Classes held Jan. 6 - March 24 from 5-6 p.m.</div> <div><i>*Cost: \$30 *Space is limited</i></div> <div>Contact: rcadotte@sagchip.org or 989-775-4757</div>		<div>1</div> <div>Tribal Ops Closed</div> <div>New Year's Day</div> <div>Peer 360 at BH Lodge</div> <div>6-7 p.m. B. Health</div>	<div>2</div> <div>Tribal Ops Closed</div> <div>Administrative Closure</div> <div>Fireside on the Rez</div> <div>11:30 a.m. B. Health</div> <div>Spirit Bear Talking Circle</div> <div>7 p.m. Andahwod</div>	<div>3</div> <div>Fireside on the Rez</div> <div>6 p.m. B. Health</div>
<div>5</div> <div>Sewing in Saganing</div> <div>9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Saganing</div> <div>Recovery Group</div> <div>1-2 p.m. B. Health</div>	<div>6</div> <div>Recovery on the Rez</div> <div>2-3 p.m. Zoom</div> <div>Drums Out</div> <div>7:30-9 p.m. 7th Gen</div>	<div>7</div> <div>Recovery Talking Circle</div> <div>9 a.m. B. Health</div> <div>Eagle Feather Teachings</div> <div>1:30-2:30 p.m. B. Health</div>	<div>8</div> <div>Sacred Fire Lunch</div> <div>12-1 p.m. 7th Gen</div> <div>Community Sewing Nights</div> <div>5-8 p.m. 7th Gen</div> <div>Peer 360 at BH Lodge</div> <div>6-7 p.m. B. Health</div>	<div>9</div> <div>Fireside on the Rez</div> <div>11:30 a.m. B. Health</div> <div>Spirit Bear Talking Circle</div> <div>7 p.m. Andahwod</div>	<div>10</div> <div>Fireside on the Rez</div> <div>6 p.m. B. Health</div> <div>AOVWS Meeting</div> <div>2 p.m. Ziibiwing</div>
<div>12</div> <div>STEAM^{AG} Meeting</div> <div>12-1 p.m. SCTC</div> <div>Recovery Group</div> <div>1-2 p.m. B. Health</div>	<div>13</div> <div>Recovery on the Rez</div> <div>2-3 p.m. Zoom</div> <div>Drums Out</div> <div>7:30-9 p.m. 7th Gen</div>	<div>14</div> <div>Recovery Talking Circle</div> <div>9 a.m. B. Health</div> <div>Eagle Feather Teachings</div> <div>1:30-2:30 p.m. B. Health</div>	<div>15</div> <div>Tribal Observer DEADLINE</div> <div>Community Sewing Nights</div> <div>5-8 p.m. 7th Gen</div> <div>Peer 360 at BH Lodge</div> <div>6-7 p.m. B. Health</div>	<div>16</div> <div>Fireside on the Rez</div> <div>11:30 a.m. B. Health</div> <div>Spirit Bear Talking Circle</div> <div>7 p.m. Andahwod</div>	<div>17</div> <div>Fireside on the Rez</div> <div>6 p.m. B. Health</div>
<div>19</div> <div>Tribal Ops Closed</div> <div>Martin Luther King Jr. Day</div> <div>Recovery Group</div> <div>1-2 p.m. B. Health</div>	<div>20</div> <div>Recovery on the Rez</div> <div>2-3 p.m. Zoom</div>	<div>21</div> <div>Recovery Talking Circle</div> <div>9 a.m. B. Health</div>	<div>22</div> <div>Sacred Fire Lunch</div> <div>12-1 p.m. 7th Gen</div> <div>Movie & Popcorn Day</div> <div>1-3 p.m. Saganing</div> <div>Peer 360 at BH Lodge</div> <div>6-7 p.m. B. Health</div>	<div>23</div> <div>Fireside on the Rez</div> <div>11:30 a.m. B. Health</div> <div>Spirit Bear Talking Circle</div> <div>7 p.m. Andahwod</div>	<div>24</div> <div>Fireside on the Rez</div> <div>6 p.m. B. Health</div>
<div>26</div> <div>STEAM^{AG} Meeting</div> <div>12-1 p.m. SCTC</div> <div>Recovery Group</div> <div>1-2 p.m. B. Health</div>	<div>27</div> <div>Recovery on the Rez</div> <div>2-3 p.m. Zoom</div> <div>Drums Out</div> <div>7:30-9 p.m. 7th Gen</div>	<div>28</div> <div>Breakfast Burrito Fundraiser</div> <div>Sales begin at 9:30 a.m. 7th Gen</div> <div>Recovery Talking Circle</div> <div>9 a.m. B. Health</div>	<div>29</div> <div>Community Sewing Nights</div> <div>5-8 p.m. 7th Gen</div> <div>Peer 360 at BH Lodge</div> <div>6-7 p.m. B. Health</div>	<div>30</div> <div>Fireside on the Rez</div> <div>11:30 a.m. B. Health</div> <div>Spirit Bear Talking Circle</div> <div>7 p.m. Andahwod</div>	<div>31</div> <div>Fireside on the Rez</div> <div>6 p.m. B. Health</div>



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

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

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

100 Employment

Tribal Operations

Residential Support Tech FT

Open to the public. Must be at least 18 years of age. High school diploma or GED. Proficient in Microsoft Office Suite. Previous experience in the substance abuse field desired.

Residential Support Tech PT

Open to the public. Must be at least 18 years of age. High school diploma or GED. Previous experience in the substance abuse field desired.

Tribal Code Compliance Officer

Open to the public. Five years' relevant experience including building construction, inspection and ordinance enforcement. Communication and interpersonal skills to deal effectively with property owners, State, local, and tribal governmental representatives, builders, contractors, other office staff and community-at-large.

Victims of Crime Advocate

Open to the public. Grant-funded position through Sept. 30, 2026. Bachelor's degree in counseling, social work, sociology, psychology, law enforcement criminal justice, law or related field. Counseling experience within Native American communities, including victims of crime counseling programs, or social work.

Accountant

Open to the public. Bachelor's degree in accounting. One year of experience in general accounting. Desired qualifications: Tribal government accounting experience. Completed and passed a governmental accounting class as part of college curriculum.

Natural Resources Specialist II

Open to the public. Must have a bachelor's degree in the science field such as environmental science, environmental studies, biology, or related field with four years of relevant environmental experience. Must have two years of grant writing experience.

Maintenance Worker

Open to the public. Must be 18 years of age. One-year experience with basic maintenance and grounds keeping. Must have a valid State of Michigan Driver's License.

Dental Assistant

Open to the public. High school diploma or GED. Graduate of a dental assisting program or two years of dental assisting experience. Certification to expose dental radiographs. Ability to obtain HIPPA Certification.

Police Officer

Open to the public. Arenac County. Must be a U.S. citizen and at least 21 years of age. Must be able to pass departmental fitness evaluation. Must not have criminal history that would prevent applicant from acquiring any certification or

qualification required. MCOLES certified or MCOLES certifiable.

Student Support Tutor

Open to the public. College level math. Must be able to pass math test with a score of 70 percent or better. Experience working with youth desired.

STC Adjunct Instructor - History

Open to the public. Master's degree required in identified discipline. Previous teaching experience preferred. Under the supervision of the dean of instruction, responsible for the preparation, presentation, and evaluation of classroom instruction and related activities during the day, evening, or weekend.

Data & Evaluation Analyst

Open to the public. Grant funded position. Associate degree in social sciences or related field. Six months of experience in data analysis. Experience with database design and best practice helpful. One year experience in administration of federal grants and contracts, and grant writing.

Certified Nursing Assistant

Open to the public. Must be able to effectively communicate with residents and all members of the health care team and have good computer skills. Desired qualifications: One year nursing experience. Experience with older adults.

Interim Clinical Therapist

Open to the public. Licensed master's degree in counseling, social work, human services or related field. Experience with co-occurring diagnosis and treatment. Experience in working collaboratively across multiple organizations and community systems.

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.

Special Education Teacher

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

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.

Clinical Therapist Child and Family Services

Open to the public. Licensed master's degree in counseling, social work, human services or related field. One year demonstrated mental health and co-occurring therapy experience with youth, children, and families.

AWARE SMHA Project Co-Coordinator

Open to the public. Grant funded 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.

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.

Soaring Eagle

Sous Chef

Open to the public. High school diploma or GED. Three years kitchen experience in a quality operation specializing in food production. One year in a supervisory capacity. Must have ability to comprehend house training and pass by 65 percent standardized written culinary competency test and by 70 percent product I.D. and cooking practical test.

Culinary Supervisor

Open to the public. Three years of restaurant or banquet cooking experience with increasing levels of responsibility. Must be able comprehend house training and pass standardized written culinary competency test by at least 60 percent.

Journeyman Electrician

Open to the public. Must be a Journeyman Electrician. Six years of experience working as an electrician or completion of a formal electrical apprentice program. Must be able to interpret electrical schematics, one-line diagrams and blueprints, and be able to operate basic electrical diagnostic tools.

Master Plumber

Open to the public. Ten years of experience as a licensed plumber which includes a combination of apprentice, journeyman and master plumber. Must have a current and maintain a State of Michigan Master Plumbers License.

Kitchen Equipment Technician

Open to the public. Three years of experience in commercial food equipment repair. Must have a current and must be able to maintain a current Universal Refrigerant Certification.

Line Cook

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

Guest Room Attendant PT

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.

Saganing

Beverage Waitstaff FT

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

Beverage Waitstaff PT

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

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.

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 Rep FT

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

Players Club Rep PT

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

F&B Cashier FT

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.

Inventory Control Driver Warehouse

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

F&B Custodial Worker

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

Bartender PT

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

Maintenance Worker PT

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

HUMAN RESOURCES: Training/Certification Opportunities

Associate Degree Dental Hygiene Program
The Dental Hygiene degree program at Ferris State is the largest in the State of Michigan and one of the largest Dental Hygiene AAS degree programs in the nation.

Criminal Justice Law Enforcement
The Delta College Criminal Justice program is designed to give you specialized knowledge of the criminal justice field combined with a broad general educational.

Water and Wastewater Treatment Technology
Earn an associate degree in water and wastewater treatment technology. When you're done, you'll be able to take licensing exams.

Hotel Management
You will gain a solid understanding of the growing hospitality business — from historical context to the current trends.

Clinical Dental Assistant
This course will provide you with the essential skills and knowledge needed to become a dental assistant, including every aspect of professional dental assistance.

Certified Clinical Medical Assistant (CCMA)
You will learn the professional traits and responsibilities to become a vital part of the healthcare team in a medical office, clinic, hospital, and other healthcare settings.

Medical Billing & Coding Certification
Train for an in-demand healthcare career in medical billing and coding and prepare for industry certification.

Pharmacy Technician
This online certification course will prepare aspiring pharmacy technicians to effectively assist the pharmacist in the packing and distribution of medication.

For more information, please contact:

Kamie Mandoka
989-775-5247 | KMandoka@sagchip.org

Olivia Manitowabi-Mccullough
989-775-4505 | OManitowabi@sagchip.org

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SUMMONS AND COMPLAINT NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS IN THE MATTER OF GENEVIEVE KAY NEYOME-CHIPPEWAY:

The Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Court, 6954 E. Broadway Rd., Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858, Phone: (989) 775-4800. In the Matter of the Estate of Genevieve Kay Neyome-Chippeway. Date of Birth: Sept. 5, 1953. Notice to creditors: The decedent, Genevieve Kay Neyome-Chippeway, who resided at 1417 Lincoln Ct., Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858, died Feb. 9, 2025. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Starla Fuller, or the Tribal Probate Court at 6954 E. Broadway Rd., Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858, and the personal representative within four months after the date of publication of this notice. Personal Representative: Starla Fuller of 7535 Ogemaw Dr., Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858. Phone: (989) 423-6887



ZIIBIWING CENTER

of Anishinabe Culture & Lifeways

6650 E. Broadway, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858 | Phone: 989.775.4750 | www.sagchip.org/ziibiwing

Annual Report (October 2024 - September 2025)

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

Our Year

The Board of Directors for the Ziibiwing Cultural Society/ Ziibiwing Center of Anishinabe Culture & Lifeways is honored to present the accomplishments of our staff and organization within its Annual Report. We are committed to serving the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan, the Great Lakes Anishinabek and the general public. Our commitment is demonstrated through our daily work and

our dedication is manifested through the advancement of our cultural identity for future generations. We are determined to represent the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan and the Ziibiwing Center to the highest ideals of our Tribe and organization. We are truly blessed to be keepers of the culture in our time. The Ziibiwing Center would like to thank the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan's Tribal Council, Tribal Administration, Tribal Departments and our families and friends for the support that we're blessed with each and every day.

The Ziibiwing Staff

- **Mindy Bailey**, Digitization Specialist
- **Judy Brittain**, Retail Clerk
- **Raymond Cadotte**, Visitor Services Representative
- **Amos Cloud**, Maintenance Worker
- **Marcella Hadden**, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer

- **Glenna Halliwill**, Sales & Events Coordinator
- **Anita Heard**, Research Center Coordinator
- **Sydney Jackson**, Retail Clerk
- **William Johnson**, Curator & Operations Manager
- **Charla Riley**, Funding & Development Specialist
- **Miingin Starkey**, Maintenance Worker
- **Noelle Wells**, Administrative Assistant II

Accomplishments

- 10,644 visitors came to experience all the Center has to offer. An additional 2,333 people received educational services at 18 different offsite bookings by our staff. Onsite and offsite combined total 12,977 visitors for FY2025.
- Ziibiwing hosted 122 tours totaling 3,864 people and 119 events with 4,675 people in attendance for combined special events, and cultural programs for the Tribal community and the general public.
- The ZCS maintains seven Tribal Cemeteries, including Baseline Cemetery (Isabella & Union Townships, Isabella County), Flint Stone Street Cemetery (Flint Township, Genesee County), Mission Creek Cemetery (Union Township, Isabella County), Nibokaan Cemetery (Chippewa Township, Isabella County), Nippinsing Cemetery (Isabella Township, Isabella County), Nottawa Cemetery (Nottawa Township, Isabella County), Swartz Creek Cemetery (Gaines Township, Genesee County), in addition to the Ziibiwing Center's three-acre lawn (14.41 acres per week).
- The Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums honored the Ziibiwing Center with its Community Impact Award. This international award is given for the ZC's Reclaiming the Narrative: Harvesting and Digitizing the U.S. Indian Industrial Boarding School Records project. The Community Impact Award recognizes the Ziibiwing Center for its commitment to community engagement, innovation, and overall excellence.
- Ziibiwing conducted NAGPRA consultations with City of Detroit, Dayton Society of Natural History, Detroit Institute of Arts, Marshall University, Michigan Department of Natural History, Michigan History Center, Michigan State Historic Preservation Office, Michigan State Police – Diamondale, Michigan, Michigan State University, Ohio History Connection, Peabody Museum of Archaeology & Ethnology, University of Michigan, University of Toledo, and Vassar College.
- The THPO completed 171 cultural resource reviews. These reviews are required under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and protect the cultural resources/ traditional cultural properties of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan. In addition to the completion of the cultural resource reviews, the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer participated in 23 activities/events, two out of state, five hosted at the Ziibiwing Center, six presentations about MIIBS, three at the MIIBS location, multiple conferences and updates to the ZC Board of Directors.
- Through generous support from NATHPO and per our five-Year Strategic Plan and building staff capacity, we hired part-time THPO interns, India Perez and Gage Colwell.

- Eva Collins served as a Cultural Resource Management Intern through CMU's Museum Studies Program
- Awarded six of nine grants submitted in FY25 include:
 - 1) *US Department of Treasury-* \$102,558
 - 2) *NATHPO FY25 Grant-* \$5,870
 - 3) *ATALM Community Impact Award Grant-* \$2,478
 - 4) *NPS NAGPRA Repatriation Grant-* \$19,480.77
 - 5) *Mt. Pleasant Area Community Foundation Grant-* \$18,720
 - 6) *National Park Service HPF THPO FY25 Grant-* \$110,761, \$259,867.77 (total)
 - 7) *Max & Victoria Dreyfus Foundation-* \$19,999.42 (pending)
 - 8) *ACLS Fellowship Grant-* \$60,000 (pending)
 - 9) *LEO State Grant-* \$999,999.99 (not awarded) Other grant funding in FY25 available to spend from previously awarded grants was \$250,949.58, for a combined total of \$510,817.35.
- There were approximately 46,446 individual contacts made by our team, including physical visits, phone calls, and emails. Ziibiwing also maintains a social media presence on Facebook.
- The Research Center served 1,325 in-person visits for research related activity and/or guidance.
- Marcella Hadden (THPO) is the Chairwoman of the MIIBS Committee, and provides leadership for the Architecture and MIIBS Website Committees.
- Anita Heard (Research Center Coordinator) serves on the Saginaw Chippewa Data Governance Board and is a member of the Society of American Archivists.
- William Johnson (Curator and Operations Manager) serves on the Michigan Anishinaabek Cultural Preservation & Repatriation Alliance (MACPRA), serving his fourth consecutive four-year term as Chairman and the University of Michigan's Advisory Committee on Culturally Unidentifiable Human Remains under NAGPRA (since 2011).
- Charla Riley, Funding & Development Specialist, serves on the Anishinabe Language Revitalization Committee.
- Noelle Wells, Administrative Assistant II, serves on the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan's Powwow Committee.
- ZC Gift Shop sales totaled \$188,028.42 for FY2025. The Gift Shop continues to liquidate old merchandise and increase merchandise selections from Indigenous vendors and Indigenous artists.
- Grant funding provided salary and fringe for Digitization Specialist, Mindy Bailey for full-time employment at the Ziibiwing Center.
- ZC held its first Summer Concert Paid Parking Fundraiser raising \$4,875. Proceeds are being used to replace the carpet in our discussion rooms.

Our Members

- Anderson, Renee
- Anglin, Sam
- Burke, Charlie & Peggy
- Chippewa River District Library

- Cross, Dr. Suzanne
- Dow Jr., David
- Gilbert, Marke
- Gonzalez, Guadalupe
- Grills, Gary
- Jackson, Michael
- Lance, Jamie

- Lincoln, Ron
- Margaris, Amy
- Martin, Minnie
- McCreery, Michael
- McInnis, Brady
- Meskill, Deborah
- Michener, David &

- Strickland, Wil
- Peters, Alstyn
- Reinert, Gerald
- Riley, Charla
- Robertson, James
- Senter, Mary
- Severson, Eric

2025-2026 Calendar of Events

September 2025

- 9/11: Grandparent's Day (*Free admission for all Grandparents*)
- 9/18: Monarch Butterfly Day
- 9/19: Community Cultural Teaching (*At the Sanilac Petroglyphs, sponsored by SCIT THPO*)
- 9/25: MIIBS Youth Pow-Wow (*Sponsored by SCIT THPO*)
- 9/29-10/3: Ziibiwing Center Silent Auction
- 9/30: Performance Circle Sign-Up & Class

October 2025

- 10/13: Indigenous Peoples' Day Film Screening

November 2025

- 11/3: Collection Showing
- 11/8: Make & Take Ribbon Skirt (*Sponsored by SCIT THPO*)
- 11/13: Author Talk - Amanda Peters

December 2025

- 12/1 - 12/5: MIIBS Silent Auction (*Sponsored by SCIT THPO*)
- 12/4: Annual Appreciation & Membership Dinner (*By invitation*)
- 12/11: Anishinabe Santa
- 12/23: Performance Circle Graduation

January 2026

- 1/6: Performance Circle Sign-Up & Class

February 2026

- 2/2: Collection Showing
- 2/7: Senior Soup & Sew Social (*Sponsored by SCIT THPO*)

March 2026

- 3/2 - 3/6: Artist in Residence (TBD) (*Sponsored by SCIT THPO*)

April 2026

- 4/20: Changing Exhibition

May 2026

- 5/4: Collection Showing

June 2026

- 6/5: Honoring, Healing & Remembering (*At the Mt. Pleasant Indian Industrial Boarding School*)
- 6/20: Community Cultural Teaching (*At Sanilac Petroglyphs, Sponsored by SCIT THPO*)

July 2026

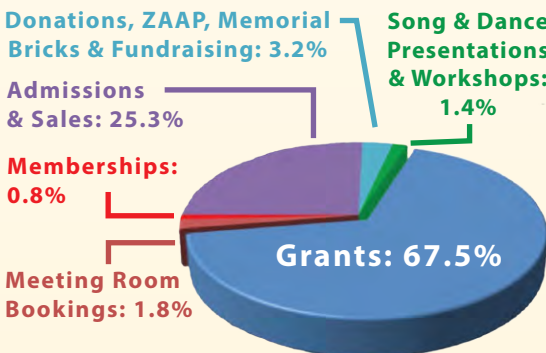
- 7/20: Native Fest - Collection Showing
- 7/21: Native Fest - Car Bingo
- 7/22: Native Fest - Kid's Night

August 2026

- 8/7: World Indigenous Peoples Day)

Financials

External Revenue Total: \$741,823



Your Support

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

- Discounted admission for military personnel, school children, college students, and educators
- Funding for outreach programs which take our teachings and collections into schools throughout Michigan
- Preservation of our artifacts and collections, ensuring that our culture will be preserved for future generations
- Building upkeep, maintenance, and promotion of our exhibits so that our heritage and culture can be enjoyed by everyone
- Repatriation and reverential reinternment of Anishinabek ancestors and their belongings

Join Our Community of Supporters!

Every contribution makes a difference. Whether big or small, your generosity keeps our doors open and our community thriving.

Scan the QR code now and be part of something special!



Thank you for your continued support and dedication!

- Slasinski, Mike
- Spencer, Bernard
- Stevens, Evonna
- Stiner, Lester
- Tchorzynski, Stacy
- Thurston, James & Patricia
- Tomson, Nathan
- Waynee, Craig
- Wemigwans, Mgzizi
- Wickerham, Floyd & Sue
- Young, Lisa