



Makwa-Giizis
(Bear Moon)

TRIBAL OBSERVER

FEBRUARY
2026

Working Together For Our Future

www.sagchip.org/tribalobserver

Volume 37 | Issue 2



Tribal Operations and Migizi years of service awards

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Winter weather fails to deter membership from attending State of the Tribe annual meeting

JOSEPH V. SOWMICK

Public Relations Manager

On Jan. 17, an estimated 282 Tribal Members from all districts went out during a winter snowstorm to attend the 2026 State of the Tribe annual meeting held in the Soaring Eagle Entertainment Hall.

The event offered informative presentations from Tribal Council members. Several departments provided informational booths highlighting numerous services.

Chief Luke Sprague delivered his first State of the Tribe address.

Sprague said it's crucial that decisions are made that benefit the Tribe by taking into account the rich history and past decisions that have led to the present.

"Our Tribal Council recognizes the importance of acknowledging all the councils and employees who have dedicated their time, commitment, and vision to striving for a positive future, as Chief Davis highlighted in our last term," Sprague said. "Reflecting on our community's successes, we must remember that our journey began long before many of us were able to voice it."

The chief continued, "The impact of gaming has spurred the development of over 60



Chief Luke Sprague delivers his first State of the Tribe address on Saturday, Jan. 17 in the Soaring Eagle Entertainment Hall.



Sub-Chief Craig Graveratte

with 26 casinos across the state," he said.

"Because per capita levels had reached a peak that was ultimately unsustainable, it became imperative to seek alternative funding sources," Sprague said. "We began to draw down our trust accounts, some of which risked depletion if our approach did not shift. It became essential to pivot towards finding alternative investment strategies that focus on utilizing the interest earned from our trust accounts, rather than diminishing the principal and this strategic shift ensures the sustainability and growth of our trust accounts for generations to come."

Sprague also acknowledged new executives in both gaming and non-gaming sectors.

"Joe Nayquonabe Jr., CEO (Soaring Eagle/Saganing), and CFO Dawn McGrady have been diligently focusing on efficiencies and data-driven decision-making," he said. "They are utilizing key performance indicators to pinpoint necessary changes within our gaming operations. With their extensive experience in Indian Country, both understand the critical importance of gaming revenue and its role in supporting our community's needs."

Matt Felan, CEO of Migizi, was also introduced by the chief.

"Coming from the Great Lakes Bay Region with a wealth of experience, Matt is dedicated to investing in the SCIT nation," Sprague said.

"Matt will depend on the guidance of Chairman Brad Bennett and the Migizi Board of Directors as our leadership



The Blue House Singers provide a grand entry song.

strives to identify opportunities for diversifying our business portfolio."

With the challenges of infrastructure, Sprague cautions the tribe is in a critical period where it must look towards the future while addressing the immediate needs of aging buildings.

"Many of these structures have surpassed 20 years of existence, making it imperative for us to make thoughtful decisions to ensure their ongoing maintenance," he said. "Our approach to delivering services has evolved significantly, allowing us to reassess the requirements of our spaces and evaluate how effectively they are being utilized."

"We have partnered with the Wood Stone Group to tackle the pressing needs of our aging building infrastructure. They have played a pivotal role in formulating a strategic plan focused on prioritizing maintenance and extending the lifespan of our properties."

Sprague said moving forward, the current Council is actively exploring several key initiatives, placing a strong emphasis on the needs of our community.

"The development of a tribal community space and identifying buildings that require reinvestment are top priorities for us," he said.

"Throughout these efforts, we are committed to keeping the community informed every step of the way. It is an honor to represent the interests of all tribal members on the Tribal Council. We remain committed to making decisions that reflect the best interests of our tribe and community."

The Information Technology department reported there were 164 tribal members who were watching the event via live web stream.

The State of the Tribe meeting may be viewed in its entirety online at www.sagchip.org in the Tribal Members section.



Important Reminder:

MyMichigan and UHC have reached an agreement!

We are pleased to remind you that MyMichigan will continue to be a participating (in-network) provider in 2026. You should no longer be asked to pay up front or sign documents pre-procedure/pre-appointment. If you are being asked for anything like this, please contact the Benefits Team at 989-775-5770 before making any payment or signing anything.

M | **My Michigan Health**
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN HEALTH

PRESORTED STANDARD
US POSTAGE
PAID
GREENVILLE, MI
48838
PERMIT # 338

Obituaries



Darryl Clifford Jackson

February 16, 1963 – January 7, 2026

Darryl Clifford Jackson, age 62, of Mount Pleasant, passed away Wednesday, Jan. 7, 2026, at My Michigan Medical Center in Midland.

Darryl was born in Mount Pleasant, Mich., on Feb. 16, 1963, the son of Delmar and Karen (Britton) Jackson Sr.

He graduated as valedictorian from Flandreau Indian School with the Class of 1981. Following high school, Darryl joined the U.S. Marine Corp, serving his country from July 1981-July 1984.

Darryl married Theresa Lynn Peters on March 19, 1988, in Mount Pleasant, where they continued to live and raise their family.

A lifelong resident of Mount Pleasant, Darryl was a proud member of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe, serving his tribe as part of many boards and committees. He worked various positions within the tribe, his last was serving as tribal clerk.

Darryl enjoyed many hobbies; he was an avid outdoorsman, loved a good rock concert, going antiquing, and dancing at powwows. In his spare time, he liked crafting and watching "Jeopardy." His family was important to him; he will always be remembered for his encouraging advice and guidance.

Darryl is survived by his children, Joelle Peters (Kevin Shaw), Stephen Jackson, Robert Jackson, Maggie Jackson, all of Mount Pleasant; grandchildren Josclynn, Kenisynn, Anistynn, and Kamerynn Shaw, Leilani, Jace, and Amik Yahbay-Wooten; his bonus mom Julia Jackson; mother-in-law Helen Peters; brothers Delmer (Mary) Jackson Jr., Daniel (Alex) Jackson, Jeffery Rowland; sisters Angel Jackson, Salina Jackson, Tonya (Steven) Antoine; brother-in-law Lance (Kristen) Peters; sisters-in-law Renee (Bret) Yahbay and Julianne (Mitchell) Hinmon; many nieces, nephews, and lifelong friends.

Darryl always believed in giving back; it was his wish to help someone else by becoming a Gift of Life donor following his death. He and his family were very thankful for the kidney that he received in 2012 from Gift of Life, a gift that allowed him to spend many more years with his family.

Darryl was preceded in death by his parents Delmar (Karen) Jackson Sr.; wife, Theresa Jackson; brother Simon Jackson; father-in-law Julius Peters; and many grandparents and extended relatives and friends.

A Celebration of Life took place at the Tribal Gym on Monday, Jan. 19, 2026, at 2 p.m. with Sam McClellan officiating. Interment of cremains immediately followed at Woodland Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. Joseph's Indian School, P.O. Box 100, Chamberlain, SD 57325 or to Veterans 4 USA, 6107 W. Airline Rd., Weidman, Michigan, 48893.



Evelyn Joyce Grills

September 16, 1935 – December 27, 2025

Evelyn Joyce Grills, 90, passed away on Dec. 27, 2025.

Born on September 16, 1935, she lived a life defined by kindness, strength, humor, generosity, leadership, and patience. She devoted herself to her family and community; becoming a quiet source of comfort and support to all who knew her.

Evelyn was the ultimate caregiver.

If someone was unwell, grieving, or simply having a difficult day, she acted without hesitation – preparing soup, delivering it to the doorstep, and offering comfort with no expectation of recognition. Her kindness was not occasional; it was inherent.

She helped others before they needed to ask, and those humble gestures became the signature of her life. The family chose the accompanying photo because it reflects her as she was most remembered: smiling, present, and full of warmth. The joy in her expression captures the spirit she brought into every room—welcoming, gracious, and ready to lift others up.

She was preceded in death by her son, John A. Grills (2014). Evelyn is survived by her children Deborah Grills, Gary Grills, and Lorraine Dumas; four grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren, all of whom will carry forward her legacy of compassion and generosity.

Her family, and all who knew her, will remember her as a woman of unwavering heart, quiet leadership, and immense grace.

A service in her honor was held on Jan. 10, 2026, at Frazer Funeral Services in South Lyon, Mich. Visitation began at 10 a.m., followed by services at 12 p.m.

The family extends heartfelt appreciation for the support, prayers, and kindness shown during this time.

"Thank you, Evelyn, for every act of kindness, every laugh, every lesson, and every moment of grace. We will carry you with us, always."

Memorial donations may be made to: Tunnel to Towers Foundation, St. Joseph's Indian School.



Indigenous Youth Fashion Show

Theme: "Real Love Respects"
To support Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month

Sunday, Feb. 22, 2026

Where: SECR Entertainment Hall

When: Event held 1-5 p.m.



• Pizza served at 2:30 p.m.

• Spectator doors open at 12:45 p.m.

• A drum and dance social will follow the show.

• Door prize drawings will be held throughout the afternoon.



***Spectating youth under the age of 15, must be accompanied by a responsible adult.**

For more information, please contact:
989-775-4823 or fotto@sagchip.org

SCIT POWWOW COMMITTEE

Winter Package Raffle



TWO WINNERS:

• First prize: FIRMAN 4450W Gas Portable Generator

• Second prize: Dwalt 20V Brushless Cordless Snow Shovel

Drawing: Friday, Feb. 20, 2026

12 p.m. | Black Elk Building

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

Contact Powwow Committee members for tickets:

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

**All proceeds will benefit the Saginaw Chippewa and Saganan Powwows*

Contact: Powwowcommittee@sagchip.org



Anishinabe ARTISTS' EXPO

Saturday, Feb. 28, 2026

10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Door prize drawings throughout the day!
With purchase from artists.

Booth application:

• \$20 registration fee or donation of item*

*Items will be used for Ziibiwing silent auction

• \$10 for additional table

Set up time:

8-10 a.m.

Registration deadline:

Feb. 25, 2026

*** Open to tribal members of federally-recognized tribes and descendants**

For more information, please contact:
989-775-4744 or GHalliwill@sagchip.org

ZIIBIWING CENTER THE MIDWEST'S PREMIER AMERICAN INDIAN MUSEUM
6650 EAST BROADWAY, MT. PLEASANT, MICHIGAN 48858
989.775.4750 • www.sagchip.org/zibiwing

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

Tribal Education Advisory Board

VACANCIES

There are current vacancies for TEAB

Send letters/email of interest to:

- Mail: Tribal Education Administration
7500 Soaring Eagle Blvd.
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858
- Email: CSharp@sagchip.org

Deadline: Friday, Feb. 20, 2026

Requirements:

- 1) Must be a member of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe
- 2) Must be at least 18 years old
- 3) Must not be employed by the Education Department

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



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

- Feb. 3 • March 3 • April 7

Anishinaabe Language Revitalization Committee TWO VACANCIES

Seeking two individuals who are committed to revitalizing Anishinaabemowin.

Vacant positions:

Two tribal member community representatives age 25 & over

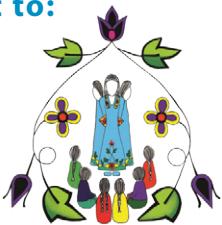
- Candidates must be a SCIT member and able to attend monthly meetings
- Meetings held monthly with dates/times/location TBD.

For more information, please contact:

Mary Perez at MAPerez@sagchip.org or 989-775-4026

Send letter of interest to:

Howard Webkamigad
ALRD program manager

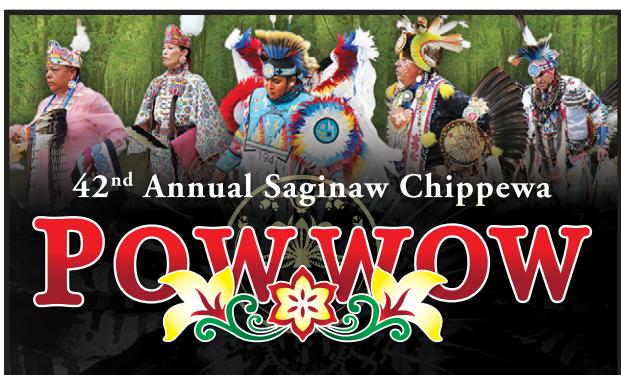


By email:

HWebkamigad@sagchip.org

By mail:

Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe
ATTN: Howard Webkamigad
2875 Gikendaaso Way
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858



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

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

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

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

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/mailing 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

Land Acknowledgement Plaques Call for Artists

As a part of its Land Acknowledgement commitment, the Ann Arbor District Library is seeking Indigenous artists from the Great Lakes region to create artwork for the land acknowledgement plaques that will be on display at each of the library's five branches as well as the AALF (Archives, Acquisitions, and Logistics Facility). Each selected artist will create an 18" x 24" piece of artwork in a 2D or 3D medium of their choice, incorporating the AADL land acknowledgement statement, which reads:

"The Ann Arbor District Library acknowledges that it benefits from the colonization of Indigenous lands. The Library pledges to support Indigenous people and culture through partnership with, and recognition of, Anishinaabek artists, writers, teachers, and performers."

TIMELINE:

- Open call: Jan. 19 – April 1, 2026
- Artists notified: May 1, 2026
- Projects due: Nov. 1, 2026
- Reception: Nov. 19, 2026

COMMISSIONS AND PAYMENT:

\$2,000 payment total. \$1,000 on selection and \$1,000 on completion. Additional funds may be available for production expenses.

TO APPLY, PLEASE VISIT:

<https://aadl.org/callforartists>



Check out the

Tribal Observer

ONLINE

www.sagchip.org/tribalobserver

ONLINE



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

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.

Minaadendamoowing – Respect

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

Zoongide'ewin – Bravery

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

Gwekwadiziwin – Honesty

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

Dibaadendiziwin – Humility

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

Debwewin – Truth

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

REQUEST FOR QUOTES: Lawncare Services (Mt. Pleasant)

Project overview:

The Saginaw Chippewa Housing Department (SCHD) is requesting quotes for professional lawn care services for the duration of the 2026 growing season. The Department is seeking a reputable firm to provide the following services only: fertilizer, weed control, grub and mole control. Service area will include approximately 17.2 acres at four (4) separate locations, listed below.

Project goals:

- Maintain lawn areas in a safe, timely and professional manner
- Communicate with the owner in a timely and professional manner

Project scope of work:

Scope of work will include four site locations as listed. Companies are encouraged to visit the locations to assess the areas to be covered. Please call Housing's front office reception at (989) 775-4595 to inform us when you plan to be on site. **Four locations in Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858:**

- Otto Park – 2379 Otto Drive
- Broadway Park – 2473 Nishnabeonong Drive
- Little Elk Park – 7701 Little Elk Drive
- Housing and Planning offices – 2451 Nishnabeonong

Submission procedures:

- Submit on sheets no larger than an 8½ x 11, clear and legible lettering.
- Email the requested information to: RoMaloney@sagchip.org and MiPelcher@sagchip.org or
- Send via US Mail or
- In-person delivery to the Saginaw Chippewa Housing Department, 2451 Nishnabeonong Drive, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858.
- Submissions must be received by the deadline listed below.
- Submission received later than the deadline will not be considered.

Provide the following information:

- The principal address of the firm
- Company profile (principals, years in business, key staff contact information)
- Copy of the firm's certificate of insurance (indicate level of professional and general liability coverage)
- Signed statement indicating the firm is not on the federal government's debarred list of entities debarred from doing business with the federal government of the United States. For more information visit the official website of the US Government - System for Award Management at <https://sam.gov/content/home>
- An itemized cost estimate for all services requested in this RFQ and a schedule showing frequency of applications

Submission deadline: March 2, 2026 by 5 p.m.

Drop off or mail proposals to:

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



Or emailed to:

- RoMaloney@sagchip.org
- MiPelcher@sagchip.org

For more information: 989.775.4581 or 989.775.4538

REQUEST FOR QUOTES: Lawncare Services (Standish)

Project overview:

The Saginaw Chippewa Housing Department (SCHD) is requesting quotes for professional lawn care services for the duration of the 2026 growing season. The Department is seeking a reputable firm to provide the following services only: mowing and weed whipping. Service area will include ten (10) separate locations, listed below.

Project goals:

- Maintain lawn areas in a safe, timely and professional manner
- Communicate with the owner in a timely and professional manner

Project scope of work:

Scope of work will include ten site locations as listed. Companies are encouraged to visit the locations to assess the areas to be covered. Please call Housing's front office reception at (989) 775-4595 to inform us when you plan to be on site. **Ten locations in Standish, MI 48658:**

1. 4522 Cedar Trail
2. 4542 Cedar Trail
3. 4256 Cedar Trail
4. 4272 Cedar Trail
5. 4283 Cedar Trail
6. 4271 Cedar Trail
7. 4259 Cedar Trail
8. 4545 Cedar Trail
9. 4268 Cedar Trail
10. 4502 Cedar Trail

Submission procedures:

- Submit on sheets no larger than an 8½ x 11, clear and legible lettering.
- Email the requested information to: RoMaloney@sagchip.org and MiPelcher@sagchip.org or
- Send via US Mail or
- In-person delivery to the Saginaw Chippewa Housing Department, 2451 Nishnabeonong Drive, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858.
- Submissions must be received by the deadline listed below.
- Submission received later than the deadline will not be considered.

Provide the following information:

- The principal address of the firm
- Company profile (principals, years in business, key staff contact information)
- Copy of the firm's certificate of insurance (indicate level of professional and general liability coverage)
- Signed statement indicating the firm is not on the federal government's debarred list of entities debarred from doing business with the federal government of the United States. For more information visit the official website of the US Government - System for Award Management at <https://sam.gov/content/home>
- An itemized cost estimate for all services requested in this RFQ and a schedule showing frequency of applications

Submission deadline: March 2, 2026 by 5 p.m.

Drop off or mail proposals to:

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



Or emailed to:

- RoMaloney@sagchip.org
- MiPelcher@sagchip.org

For more information: 989.775.4581 or 989.775.4538

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



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

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
- Website: www.Sagchip.org/TribalObserver



Winter Outdoor Recreation & Environmental Education Celebration



Photos courtesy of SCIT Planning

The Winter Outdoor Recreation & Environmental Education Celebration was held inside the main lobby of the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College on Friday, Jan. 9. It featured winter-themed activities, crafts, and educational booths, as well as door prizes and raffle drawings. The event was a collaborative effort between tribal departments including Planning, Language, SCTC and ACFS. Many local community organizations also contributed including Gratiot-Isabella RESD, Odyssey Trail Blazers, Central Michigan CISMA, Little The Forks Conservancy, Forest Hill Nature Area, Chippewa Watershed Conservancy and Shepherd Public Schools.



July 24, 25 & 26, 2026

Mt. Pleasant, Mich.

HONORING SAGANING
TRADITIONAL POWWOW

June 6 & 7, 2026

Standish, Mich.

Congratulations to our logo contest winners



Saginaw Chippewa Powwow
LOGO CONTEST WINNER:
Allyssa Shawboose



Saganing Traditional Powwow
LOGO CONTEST WINNER:
Kasey Droptiny

Elder Perishable Food Grab & Go

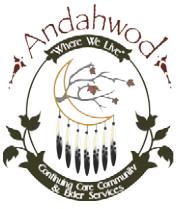
Giveaway dates:

- Feb. 4, 2026 | 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Andahwod CGA (During Elders Lunch)
- March 4, 2026 | 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Andahwod CGA (During Elders Lunch)

Andahwod CCC&ES

2910 S. Leaton Rd.
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

- While supplies last
- The purpose is to expand nutrition for Tribal Elders



For more information, contact:
Andahwod at 989.775.4300

REQUEST FOR QUOTES:
POWWOW CATERER

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



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 community-driven 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
Universityleonard1@msu.edu

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

Adopt a Pet



Brownie

Brownie is a medium female mixed breed. She is a sensitive girl who can be a little nervous when meeting new people. With kindness and patience, she truly blossoms. Once she feels safe, her goofy and quirky personality shines. She is the kind of dog who will form deep bonds with her people.



Cookies and Cream

Cookies and Cream is a young female Domestic Medium Hair. She is just as sweet as her name suggests. She is a little on the shy side and prefers taking her time when getting to know new people and places. She brings a soft, quiet presence to any room. Once she feels safe, her sweetness shines through.

Humane Animal Treatment Society • Hatsweb.org

Address: 1105 S. Isabella Rd., Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858 | **Phone:** 989.775.0830

Email: hats.caninesupervisor@gmail.com or hats.felinedepartment@gmail.com

Walk-in hours: M-F, 1-5 p.m. *Other times available by appointment*





Ojibwe elder, storyteller shares teachings at Seventh Generation

JOSEPH V. SOWMICK

Public Relations Manager

On Dec. 16, event attendees enjoyed teachings shared by respected Ojibwe elder and storyteller, Gerard Sagassige, at the Elijah Elk Cultural Center.

Sagassige is a Midewiwin Lodge spiritual healer and knowledge keeper from Curve Lake First Nation with ties to Serpent River. For more than 20 years, he has shared spiritual and traditional healing work serving Indigenous communities globally and locally, embodying ancestral teachings, and promoting wellness for veterans and others.

"When our babies are born and come to Mother Earth, one of the first things we do is bathe them. When our people leave this earth, we bathe them with giizhik (cedar)," Sagassige said. "When we use the gift of mashkodewashk (sage), we bathe ourselves with the smoke and cleanse our spirit. When we use the wiingaashk (sweetgrass) in our mashkiki (medicine) teachings, we honor our mind, body and spirit."

Sagassige said he has learned the traditional healing practices from his ceremonies



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

Traditional storyteller Gerard Sagassige shares a cultural teaching from his childhood on Dec. 16 at Seventh Generation.

in the Midewiwin Lodge and by drawing from Anishinaabe traditions.

Through his cultural teachings, Sagassige shares knowledge about the Indigenous ways of knowing, spiritual connection, and holistic well-being.

"You will see how the smudge medicine is used at the traditional powwows where those gifts are purified with smoke before they are shared with the community at the giveaway," Sagassige said. "Whenever you smudge, you

walked the path before him.

"It's important to know that our grandparents have gave us a gift that echoes through time... the gift of our beautiful language. This young man over here will find that his uncle has left him the good medicine of ceremony and if he chooses, he can walk into what we call Mino Bimaadiziwin," Sagassige said.

"We can forget that everybody can have access to good medicine. When we start to share in those talking circles

are bathing yourself and it brings you closer to the Creator. When we as Anishinaabe start using the gifts given to us by the Creator we begin to heal and feel confident about ourselves and our community..."

Living a sober lifestyle, Sagassige said he never had to go to an AA meeting or a treatment center because he started to follow the traditional ways of those elders who

and start having flashbacks, those memories will start coming back to us so the healing can begin because we are speaking in a good way."

Sagassige captivated young and old alike with his soft-spoken mannerisms. He reminded those in attendance that each elder has a story that others should learn from.

"Our community has a story, and as I came here I started thinking about the first time I came to Mount Pleasant. My very first visit was to be a part of the language camp in 1990," Sagassige said. "I remember there was no one there who could speak fluent Anishinaabemowin. And four days later, there were young people and old people reciting 'Boozhoo Gitchi Manitou' and hearing them speak the

language made me feel like I was home."

Sagassige said "when you begin to understand that learning Anishinaabemowin is good medicine, that knowing will keep you learning and will help bring you back to ceremonies."

"One of the healing qualities of going to ceremonies is it helps us to meditate on what is important. It makes everything new again where the infants are new, our gifts are new and the teachings are new," Sagassige said.

"There is a special experience that happens when we keep an open mind and let the meditation of ceremony teach us. We can travel during ceremonies without even moving because we let Gitchi Manitou move in us and through us."

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.

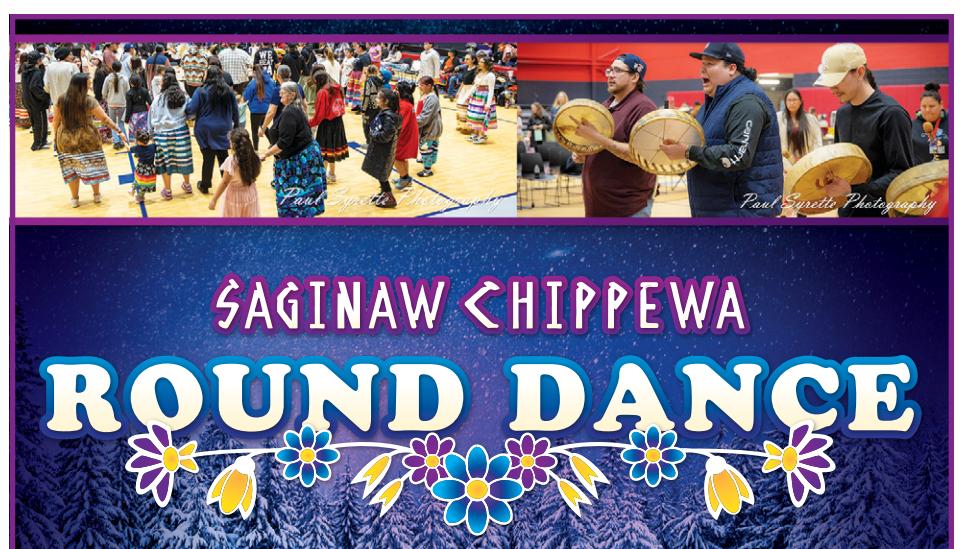


Working Together To Protect Our Environment

Available to all Tribal Member Households

Member must be present and show their Membership card for purchase

*available Sunday through Friday.
Excludes holidays and special events.



SAGINAW CHIPPEWA ROUND DANCE

Saturday, March 14, 2026

Wii Maajikwad Tribal School Gym

2875 Gikendasso Way, Mt. Pleasant MI 48858

Free admission

Doors open: 5:30 p.m.

Event schedule:

- 6 p.m. – Pipe Ceremony
- 6:30 p.m. – Feast
- 7 p.m. – Round Dance
- 8 p.m. – Student Honoring
- 9 p.m. – Memorial Dance
- 12 p.m. – Midnight snack
- 1 a.m. – Closing

VENDOR REGISTRATION

Scan QR code →

Deadline:
Feb. 20, 2026



For more information, contact:
Wii Maajikwad at 989.775.4453

Emcee: James "Bud" Day

Stickman: Jordan Mowat

Pipe Carrier: Steve Pego

Invited Singers:

- Harvey Dreaver
- Littleman Quintero
- Niizhik Quintero
- Zhaawan Smith
- Caden Pego
- Kwake Hale
- Owyn Zapata
- Aaron Chivis

Important information:

- All singers will be acknowledged.
- All children 17 and under must be accompanied by an adult.
- All youth required to sign in upon arrival.
- Bring photo of your loved one that passed on for memorial dance.
- Live-streamed by IT at www.sagchip.org



Wii Maajikwad

"WHERE WE GROW"





Native American

Rights

PUBLIC RELATIONS
DEPARTMENT

We recognize the significant uncertainty and challenges that many communities across the United States are currently facing. In response, we are diligently monitoring the situation and gathering relevant information to ensure that we can make well-informed decisions for our tribal community.

Our commitment to the safety and wellbeing of the SCIT community remains a priority as we continue to focus on the protection of our community members during these uncertain times.

It is important to acknowledge that Native Americans are citizens of the United States, entitled to the same rights and protections as any other citizen. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has detained members of tribal communities, which raises significant

Fund update

ICE

concerns regarding the application of immigration policies within these Native communities.

To empower tribal members in protecting their rights and ensuring their safety, we have included essential information that outlines how to effectively navigate interactions with ICE and understand the legal rights that are guaranteed to our tribal citizens.

For additional information and to access these resources, we encourage

you to visit the Native American Rights Fund at www.narf.org.

As we continue to monitor the situation, we will provide updates and further information as it becomes available.

We are committed to keeping our community informed. Thank you for your patience and understanding. By working together, we can ensure that all of our community members are well-informed and adequately protected in their rights as citizens of the United States.

Know your rights if you are approached by ICE at your home

At your home:

- Do not open the door unless ICE presents a valid judicial warrant signed by a judge. Most ICE warrants are administrative and do not allow them to enter your home without permission.
 - » *A valid judicial warrant: 1. Names a person in your residence and/or what specific areas are to be searched at your residence and 2. Is signed by a judge (must be a judge that is not an immigration judge)*
 - » *An administrative warrant is: signed by an ICE officer (If you need help determining what is a valid judicial warrant you can review this resource: <https://www.nilc.org/resources/know-your-rights-warrants/>)*
- Ask ICE to slide the warrant under the door for you to review. Do not open the door to receive the warrant.
- If an ICE agent enters your home without your permission or a valid judicial warrant, do not physically resist as that could subject you to potential criminal charges. But make it clear that you did not provide consent.
- If ICE begins to search your home, make it clear that you do not consent to the search.
- You do have a right to remain silent or state clearly: "I am exercising my right to remain silent."
- If you do not remain silent, do not lie to ICE agents as that may impact you in the future.
- Record the interaction if it is safe to do so or ask someone else to record it. If you record, do not interfere with the ICE operation.

At work:

- ICE can enter the public space of any workplace without any type of warrant.
- Public spaces can include an office lobby, a supermarket, retail store, or dining area of a restaurant.
- ICE cannot legally enter the private space of a workplace unless they have the permission of your employer or a judicial warrant. Private spaces include employee-only areas.
- If approached, do not panic. Stay calm and avoid running or making sudden movements.
- Ask if you are free to leave. If yes, calmly walk away. If you are not free to leave, ask if you are being detained. If you are being detained, you do not have to answer any questions. You always have the right to remain silent.
- If you are asked about another person's identification or for information pertaining to another person's whereabouts, you do not have to answer those questions.
- If you are being detained, you must show a form of identification. You can use your non-expired state-issued ID or Tribal ID to show your United States citizenship.
- If an ICE agent does not accept your Tribal ID, request to speak with their supervisor. Not all ICE agents are aware that a Tribal ID is a legal form of identification in the United States.
- Do not sign anything without consulting an attorney.
- If it is safe to do so, record the interaction or ask someone else to record it. Do not interfere with the operation.

In public:

- ICE can enter public spaces without any type of warrant.
- Public spaces include an office lobby, a supermarket, retail store or dining area of a restaurant.
- If approached, do not panic. Stay calm and avoid running or making sudden movements.
- Ask if you are free to leave. If yes, calmly walk away. If you are not free to leave, ask if you are being detained. If you are being detained, you do not have to answer any questions. You always have the right to remain silent.
- If you are being detained, you must show a form of identification.
- You can use your non-expired state-issued ID or Tribal ID to show your United States citizenship.
- If an ICE agent does not accept your Tribal ID, request to speak with their supervisor. Not all ICE agents are aware that a Tribal ID is a legal form of identification in the United States.
- If it is safe to do so, record the interaction or ask someone else to record it. Do not interfere with the operation.

If you are approached
by ICE in your car:

- There are many reports of ICE stopping cars or ICE approaching people in their cars.
- Things to keep in mind: 1. You have the right to remain silent, 2. Never lie to an ICE agent, 3. You can ask if you are being detained, if not, ask if you are free to go. If you are free to go, calmly drive away.
- ICE agents sometimes stop cars or approach cars based on a person's perceived ethnicity.
- In many states, you must pull over if you are stopped by any type of law enforcement officer, even if you do not think you did anything wrong.
- Because ICE agents sometimes use unmarked cars or wear plain clothes or clothes that say "POLICE," you may not know they are ICE when they approach you.
- If you cannot tell, you are allowed to ask the individual who they are and for their identification.
- You are only required to roll down your window if an officer asks you to. If you are asked to, roll down your window to allow for clear communication.
- » *You should be aware that there are many instances of ICE agents opening car doors or breaking windows.*
- If an ICE agent asks for your ID, and you are the DRIVER, you are required to show your driver's license.
- If an ICE agent asks for your ID and you are a PASSENGER, you do not have to show your ID or provide any personal information. However, ICE may still detain you, so it may be safest to show your identification or proof of citizenship.
- If an ICE agent asks you to get out of the car, before you get out, you should ask for a reason why you were stopped and ask the ICE agent to identify themselves.
- Remember, ICE generally cannot search your car or your person without a valid judicial warrant. If ICE searches your car without a warrant, you should tell them you do not consent to the search.
- There are also many reports of ICE detaining people who are following them, recording them, and monitoring their activity. Remember, it is not illegal to follow or film an ICE agent, but if you do so, you should do so from a safe distance and avoid interfering with ICE operations.

If you are approached by ICE
and you are a minor:

- Minors have the same protections as adults. They have the right to remain silent and not answer questions about:
- A simple response like, "I choose to remain silent. I want to speak to a lawyer." is enough and protected by law.
- Minors are not legally required to carry identification unless operating a vehicle. Carrying a copy of your Tribal ID, passport, birth certificate, or legal residency document should be done only if necessary and with safeguards (e.g., in a sealed envelope labeled "Confidential: Legal Documents – Access Only by Guardian").
- If you and/or your parent are detained, you have the right to be near and in-touch with your parent.

If you are detained by ICE, stay calm:

- You have the right to remain silent. You have the right to consult with a lawyer. If you choose to remain silent, clearly state: "I wish to remain silent and ask for a lawyer."
- You can tell ICE you have medical issues or need to arrange for childcare.
- If ICE agents do not speak your language, you can request an interpreter for any conversation with ICE.
- If you are being detained, you must show a form of identification.
- If you are a U.S. Citizen, you should say: "I am a U.S. Citizen" and ask why you are being detained.
- You can use your non-expired state-issued ID or Tribal ID to show your United States citizenship.
- Do not say anything, sign anything, or make any decisions without consulting a lawyer.

NATIVE AMERICAN
RIGHTS FUND

- Once detained, you have the right to make phone calls to family, friends, or a lawyer.
- If an ICE agent does not accept your Tribal ID, request to speak with their supervisor. Not all ICE agents are aware that a Tribal ID is a legal form of identification in the United States.
 - » *Their immigration status*
 - » *Where they were born*
 - » *Their parents' immigration status*
 - » *Their address*
- If you are in detention, you can receive visitors including family, friends, and lawyers, depending on specific detention facility rules. You can request a list of free or low-cost legal service providers to seek representation.
- Native Americans who believe ICE violated their rights, contact the Native American Rights Fund. Find more information at narf.org/ice-resources-2026.
- If arrested by police (not ICE), you have the right to a government-appointed lawyer for criminal proceedings.

If you believe you are at risk for
a potential ICE detainment:

- If you believe you may be at risk for an ICE detainment it may be helpful to create a safety plan. A safety plan should include:
 - » *Identifying your emergency contacts and memorizing their phone numbers.*
 - » *Providing your child's school or day care with an emergency contact to pick up your child.*
 - » *Keeping your important papers, like birth certificates, medical records, children's medical records, in a safe place and telling a loved one where you put those papers. (It may be helpful to keep a copy/photo of your birth certificate or proof of citizenship with you.)*
 - » *Written authorization for an emergency contact to make medical and legal decisions for your child.*
 - » *Information about ICE's online detainee locator: <https://locator.ice.gov/odls/#/search>*
- Sample safety plan: https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5a74cf7ef14aa1564b6a098b/t/67afb8e2d2d64e12cb6d09e5/1739569447250/Emergency+Plan_ENGLISH.pdf.

What to do when you're released:

- Write down what happened to you or ask someone to write it down for you. Include details like names and badge numbers of the ICE agents and anything that was said or done during the encounter.
- Discuss your encounter with an attorney.
- Native Americans who believe ICE violated their rights, contact the Native American Rights Fund. Find more information at narf.org/ice-resources-2026.

Sources:

- (1) <https://www.nilc.org/resources/know-your-rights-what-to-do-if-arrested-detained-immigration/>
- (2) https://denver.prelive.opencities.com/files/assets/public/v1/human-rights-amp-community-partnerships/divisions/immigrant-amp-refugee-affairs/documents/doira-docs/c4a_kyr_resource_document_denver_english.pdf
- (3) <https://immigrantjustice.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/KYR-Encounter-ICE-Nov.-2024-English.pdf>
- (4) <https://www.rmian.org/know-your-rights>



Tribal employees recognized with years of service awards during annual banquet

MATTHEW WRIGHT

Staff Writer

The Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe's annual employee banquet was held on Friday, Jan. 23.

The event honored all Tribal Operations and Migizi EDC employees, with longevity recognized through years of service awards. Held at 7 p.m. in the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort's Entertainment Hall, the event featured a masquerade ball theme.

The event featured a meal, a plethora of prize drawings, photo booths and even a performance by dueling pianos.

A total 108 employees were recognized for their longevity, with service ranging from five all the way to 40 years.

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

Louise Hunt, public works, was honored for achieving 40 years of service. Hunt began her career with the Tribe in 1984.

Years of Service | 9



Observer photo by Matthew Wright

Louise Hunt
40 years of service



Observer photo by Matthew Wright

Carla Sineway (right)
40 years of service



Observer photo by Matthew Wright

Bonnie Sprague
40 years of service



Observer photo by Matthew Wright

Carol Whitepigeon
40 years of service



Observer photo by Matthew Wright

Margaret Grewe
35 years of service



Observer photo by Matthew Wright

Carla Jeffrey-Hovey
35 years of service



Observer photo by Matthew Wright

Chris Pego
35 years of service



Observer photo by Matthew Wright

Earl Pelcher
35 years of service



Observer photo by Matthew Wright

Nicole Aasved
30 years of service



Observer photo by Matthew Wright

David Blaisdell
30 years of service



Observer photo by Matthew Wright

Gene Davidson
30 years of service



Observer photo by Matthew Wright

Susan Landon
30 years of service



Observer photo by Matthew Wright

Dennis Kequom III
30 years of service

TRIBAL OPERATIONS & MIGIZI Years of Service Award Recipients

FIVE YEARS OF SERVICE

Aleigha Allen
Behavioral Health
Cody Berk
Saganing Water Plant
Nathaniel Blanton
Tribal Police
Ginger Bradley
Migizi HR
Jenna Burgin
Behavioral Health
Markus Chamberlain
Facilities

Crystal Davidson
Human Resources
Tyler Davidson
Tribal Fire
David Eberlin
Migizi Administration
Brian Fermoyle
Behavioral Health
Jasmine Pelcher-Gonzalez
Public Health
Miranda Pelcher-Miley
Housing

Ronald Isham
Public Works
Theresa Jackson
Human Resources
Justin Knott
Tribal College
Careena Myers
Andabwod
Elizabeth Perez
Facilities

Amy Powell
Tribal College
Heather Rantanen
Saganok
Andrew Simmons
Saganing Water Plant
Mikayla Steele-Cyphert
Behavioral Health
Meletta Trepainer
Andabwod

Stacy Bauer
Nimkee Medical Records
Andrea Carlson
Dental
Mindy Durfee
Tribal Clerk
Margaret Flamand
Wii Maajikwaad Immersion
Christa Gomez
Behavioral Health

TWENTY YEARS OF SERVICE

Robyn Grinzingier
Public Health
Melissa Harnick
Human Resources
Steve Hostnik
IT
Christopher Hyde
Pharmacy

Lola Langlois
Pharmacy
Mark Ojeda-Vasquez
Education/K-12
Mary Quigno
Tribal Council
Erik Rodriguez
Public Relations

Shaila Sentes
Wii Maajikwaad School
Camille Sumpter
Behavioral Health
Mia Turnwald
Legal
Kelly Willis-Benally
Tribal College

TEN YEARS OF SERVICE

David Allen
Compliance
Vanessa Chaffee
Payroll
Earle Crosswaite III
Tribal College
Lee-Ann Disel
Tribal Library
Lindsay Drumm
ACFS
Chandra Ervin
IT

Gladys Gates
Tribal College
Christopher Graham
IT
Elaina Hernandez
SEWP Food & Beverage
Carrie Heron
ACFS
Montana Hunt
Andabwod
Matthew Kelcher
IT

Shelly Lamerand
SEWP Food & Beverage
Lacey Mandoka
7th Generation
Kathy Martin
Facilities
Norman McKenzie
SEWP Facilities
Craig Nelson
Tribal Police
Betty Norris
SEWP Housekeeping

Jamie Recker
Public Health
Amanda Riley
Legal
Theresa VanAlstine
Behavioral Health
Bruno Wemigwans
Andabwod
Theresa White
Behavioral Health
Jamie Wing
ACFS

Frank Cloutier
Tribal Council
Robert Hooper
Tribal Police
Cindy Fugiel
Migizi Administration

Daniel Jackson
7th Generation
Linda Potter
Legal

Tracy Reed
Tribal College
Troy Ridder
Saganing Compliance

FIFTEEN YEARS OF SERVICE

Kassandra Bageris
Nimkee Business Office
Felicia Bross
ACFS
Nadine Brzubewski
Purchasing
Lori Burch
Migizi Accounting

David Feger
Tribal Police
Kathleen Hart
Tribal College
Michael Ireland
Wii Maajikwaad School
Susan Jeffrey
Wii Maajikwaad School

Susan Kollman
Accounting
Mark LeFevere
IT
Isabelle Osawamick
Wii Maajikwaad Immersion
Charla Riley
Ziiibiwing

Robby Rybkowski
Compliance
Christina Sharp
Wii Maajikwaad School
Jonas Wilcox
Saganing Water Plant
Carla Jeffrey-Hovey
Human Resources

Margaret Grewe
Nimkee Business Office
Leonard James
Saganing Tribal Center
Earl Pelcher
Public Health

Chris Pego
Motor Pool
Louise Hunt
Public Works
Carla Sineway
Tribal College

Bonnie Sprague
Soaring Eagle Waterpark and Hotel
Carol Whitepigeon
Accounts Payable

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF SERVICE

Nicole Aasved
Nimkee Medical Records
Lisa Ayling
Human Resources
David Blaisdell
Compliance

Gene Davidson
Saganing Compliance
Dennis Kequom III
IT
Susan Landon
Payroll

Philip Lerma
Tribal Fire
Carolyn Reinking
Payroll
Joseph Sowmick
Public Relations

Tracy Reed
Tribal College
Troy Ridder
Saganing Compliance

THIRTY YEARS OF SERVICE

Gene Davidson
Saganing Compliance
Dennis Kequom III
IT
Susan Landon
Payroll

Philip Lerma
Tribal Fire
Carolyn Reinking
Payroll
Joseph Sowmick
Public Relations

Susan Sowmick
Public Health
Kenneth Sprague
Human Resources
Kelli Wisneski
Gaming Commission

FORTY YEARS OF SERVICE

Louise Hunt
Public Works
Carla Sineway
Tribal College

Bonnie Sprague
Soaring Eagle Waterpark and Hotel
Carol Whitepigeon
Accounts Payable



Council members receive tour, holiday concert from a school recipient of two percent funding

JOSEPH V. SOWMICK

Public Relations Manager

Sub-Chief Craig Graveratte and Tribal Council members Shirley Houle and Frank Cloutier witnessed the good the fundings from the two percent distributions can do when they received a tour and holiday concert from a grateful Au Gres-Sims school district on Dec. 10.

Public Relations Director Erik Rodriguez coordinated the visit with Au Gres-Sims Superintendent Chris Ming as the school wanted to express its gratitude by showing first-hand how they are utilizing the funding.

"Au Gres-Sims has an incredible band program because of the caring and dedicated people who have built it and contributed to it over the years," Ming said. "That group of people includes the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe, who have elevated our band program by removing the barriers that would inhibit student participation."

"Over \$94,000 in tribal grants have supported the refurbishment and purchase of new instruments, equipment,



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

Tribal Council representatives take a guided tour of Au Gres-Sims Public Schools on Dec. 10 (left to right: Councilman Frank Cloutier, Au Gres-Sims Superintendent Chris Ming, Sub-Chief Craig Graveratte and Council member Shirley Houle).

and uniforms, allowing for all students to contribute their musical talents by eliminating financial obstacles."

Graveratte said it was "very inspirational to hear the wonderful stories" that also went along with the reason the school requested the funds.

"I love to see and attend events like this; it makes it all worthwhile to see the smiles on the students' faces and watching them excel at an activity that means so much to them," Graveratte said.

Band Director Kim Gordon said over the past several years, the Au Gres-Sims Band

program has had the good fortune of updating many of its large percussion instruments.

"Due to the generosity of the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Council, we have been able to purchase a new bass drum, vibraphone, two snare drums, a drum set, tom-tom drums, a bass guitar, and several amplifiers," Gordon said. "We have also been able to update several of our smaller instruments for students who are unable to purchase an instrument on their own. We have updated flutes, clarinets, alto saxophones, trumpets, trombones, and percussion kits for student use."

Gordon said most recently, the two percent allocation provided the school district with funding to purchase a new set uniforms for the marching band.

"The grant will be used to purchase 75 uniforms to replace our current 26-year-old uniforms," Gordon said. "We are truly grateful for everything the Tribal Council has provided us, and will continue to use all of these gifts daily to help us create the joy of music."

District Two Council Representative Shirley Houle said the school facility "is beautiful and well designed."

"The Christmas choir concert was amazing and all the band students did an exceptional performance," Houle said. "They had their new band uniform on display for viewing and couldn't express enough how grateful they were for our recent two percent distribution that made the purchases possible. My heart was happy that their student needs were fulfilled."

District Three Council Representative Frank Cloutier said he has witnessed the difference the two percent funding has made since Saganing Eagles



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

The Tribe's two percent funding allowed purchase of these new band uniforms.

Landing Casino opened in 2008.

"It makes me proud when I can be a part of giving that builds and shapes the lives of so many young people," Cloutier said. "These small school districts would not be able to afford the items we provide and I'm hopeful that it all will build a productive and well-rounded future for all of us."

Years of Service

continued from page 8

Her supervisor, Paul Walker provided a statement: "It comes with great pleasure to talk about an employee such as Louise Hunt (Wheezy) who started working with the tribe in 1984 as a bingo floor worker, then moved up to bingo supervisor back during the bingo heydays! She enjoyed working with the other bingo workers and helping the bingo players."

Her niece, Diana, provided a statement: "I've only known her to go above and beyond the

call when asked. Loyalty and commitment are the first things that come to mind when she thinks about her Aunt Wheezy."

Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College President, Carla Sineway, was honored for achieving 40 years of service.

"Carla started her career in 1985 (in) social services. In 1992 she became the director of education when promoting, supporting and advocating education became her passion," Bruner said. "Carla Sineway was honored with the 2024-25

College Fund's President of the Year award in recognition of her exceptional leadership, vision, and unwavering commitment to student success.

"Throughout her tenure, she has demonstrated a deep dedication to expanding access to higher education, strengthening institutional partnerships, and championing initiatives that empower students and communities. This prestigious award reflects the lasting impact of Carla Sineway's leadership and her continued efforts to create meaningful opportunities for future generations."

The next 40-year honoree was Bonnie Sprague, general manager for the Soaring Eagle Waterpark and Hotel.

"Bonnie's first job was as tribal construction secretary in 1978; she must have come right from kindergarten! Bonnie's played a huge roll in many of the Tribe's successes. Being part

of the original bingo crew; assistant general manager for the opening of Soaring Eagle Gaming, interior design and opening of the Soaring Eagle Waterpark where she is the general manager," Bruner said.

Her daughter, Tribal Council Member Mary Quigno, shared the following: "What I admire most about my mom is her generosity toward others. As long as I can remember, she has been helping people in our community and caring for everyone in our family. Every Christmas, she opens her home to our entire family, hosting Christmas dinner and continuing my Grandma Bev's cherished annual Christmas Bingo tradition."

Carol White-Pigeon, accounts payable bookkeeper, was honored for 40 years of service.

"Carol started in 1985 as an assistant fiscal officer/bookkeeper and is still in our accounting department today," Bruner said. "One department for her entire career. It's no wonder the friendships she has



Observer photo by Matthew Wright
Kenneth Sprague
30 years of service



Observer photo by Matthew Wright
Joseph (left) and Sue Sowmick (right)
30 years of service



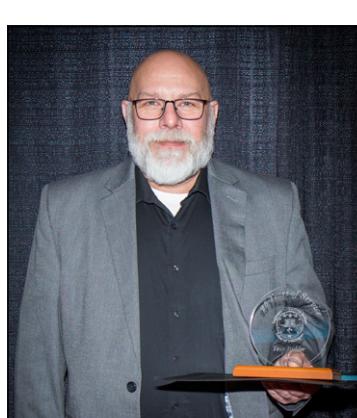
Observer photo by Matthew Wright
Jeannie Robinson
25 years of service



Observer photo by Matthew Wright
Frank Cloutier
25 years of service



Observer photo by Matthew Wright
Kelli Wisneski
30 years of service



Observer photo by Matthew Wright
Troy Ridder
25 years of service



Observer photo by Matthew Wright
Daniel Jackson
25 years of service



English rockers Bush deliver punchy, high-energy set to Soaring Eagle

MATTHEW WRIGHT

Staff Writer

The Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort hosted English rock band Bush on Saturday, Dec. 20.

The band took to the Entertainment Hall stage, delivering a punchy, high-energy set that leaned heavily in to their '90s grunge rock roots.

Bush jumped straight in to their hits with "Everything Zen," "60 Ways to Forget People" and "Chemicals."

Lead singer, Gavin Rossdale, commanded the stage with ease. His voice was equal parts raw and charismatic. This was on full display during spirited performances of "Machinehead," "The Land of Milk and Honey" and "Identity."

Rick Ross, Twista, the Ying Yang Twins featured in Dec. 29 concert

MATTHEW WRIGHT

Staff Writer

The Friday, Dec. 29 concert at the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort featured all of the excitement of rap and hip-hop. The night featured high-energy performances by Rick Ross, Twista and the Ying Yang Twins.

Headlining the night was American rapper Rick Ross with a dynamic set that showcased



The Ying Yang Twins, Eric "Kaine" Jackson (left) and Deangelo "D Roc" Holmes (right), begin their set with the hit song "Salt Shaker."

the rapper's commanding stage presence, booming voice and lyrical prowess.

He elevated the energy from the moment he stepped onto the stage, keeping the crowd hyped throughout the night.

Ross began with his hit song "The Boss," before transitioning in to "John" and "All I Do Is Win."

The set featured a mix of his biggest hits including "Hustlin'," "Aston Martin

Yang Twins featured in Dec. 29 concert

Music," "B.M.F. (Blowin' Money Fast)" and "Pull Up."

Other songs performed that night included "Purple Lamborghini," "9 Piece," "Diced Pineapples," "Hustle Hard" and "Buggatti."

Ross ended his set with the hits songs in "Here I Am," "God Did," "For The Money" and "Stay Schemin."

Overall, it was a memorable performance filled with great music. Rick Ross proved why he's a force in the rap scene.

Taking to the stage before Rick Ross, was American rap artist Twista.

He thrilled audience members with his fast-paced, rhythmic style.

Twista's set featured many of his biggest hits including "Adrenaline Rush," "It Feels So Good," "Slow Jamz" and "Overnight Celebrity."

Opening the night was American hip-hop



Rick Ross looks out to the crowd during "The Boss" at the Dec. 29 Soaring Eagle concert.

artists the Ying Yang Twins.

The duo of Eric "Kaine" Jackson and Deangelo "D Roc" Holmes set the tone for the night, hyping up the crowd with their lively hits "Salt Shaker," "Shake," "Wait (The Whisper Song)" and "Say I Yi Yi."

The Ying Yang Twins ended their set with a cover of Lil Jon & The East Side Boyz's hit single, "Get Low."

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

'Living it Up' with Ja with Ja Rule: The rapper brings the party during his live concert

NATALIE SHATTUCK

Editor

American rapper Ja Rule's first single came out back in 1999, and today, he sounds better than ever. Ja Rule brought his spirited performance live to the Soaring Eagle's Entertainment Hall on Friday, Jan. 16.

Hyping the crowd up, he began his show by walking into the venue from the back, and walking thru the audience at 8:30 p.m.

Never standing still, Ja Rule moved from one end of the stage to another and began his show with his hit "Livin'

It Up," followed by "Between Me & You" and Jay-Z's "Can I Get A..."

With a DJ on stage with him, the 49-year-old rapper performed his plethora of hits released with his friend and duet partner, R&B artist Ashanti. Those songs performed that evening included "Mesmerize," "Wonderful," "Down 4 U," and their biggest hit together, "Always on Time."

Discussing his hits and also songs he has written for others, he gave a shout out to rapper Fat Joe.

"This next record... I wrote it for my brother, I love him. So I couldn't have given it to a

better person," Ja Rule said of Fat Joe's record "What's Love," also recorded with Ashanti.

Ja Rule has sold more than 300 million records worldwide.

He kept the party going strong with the song he recorded with Mary J. Blige, "Rainy Dayz," and the songs he recorded with Jennifer Lopez: "Ain't It Funny" and "I'm Real."

Paying tribute to Ja Rule's hometown and to close out the night, the DJ played Billy Joel's "New York State of Mind" before Ja Rule dived right into his performance of his 2004 banger of a song, "New York."



Rapper Ja Rule performs to a lively crowd during his Jan. 16 Soaring Eagle show.



Clay Walker, Confederate Railroad perform evening of Country music tunes

NATALIE SHATTUCK

Editor

American country music artist Clay Walker and country music group Confederate Railroad brought an evening of their musical selections to the Soaring Eagle Entertainment Hall on Saturday, Dec. 27.

Setting the tone for the evening, Confederate Railroad began with a high-energy one-hour set.

Confederate Railroad formed in 1987 in Mariette, Ga.

The band is best known for their '90s country hits including "Trashy Women," "Daddy Never Was the Cadillac Kind," "Queen of Memphis," "Jesus and Mama" and more.

Facing significant concert cancellations due to the controversy surrounding of their name and logo, which features Confederate flags, lead singer Danny Shirley stands



Courtesy of 117 Entertainment

Clay Walker

strong on refusing to change the band's name and the band continues to tour.

Headlining that evening, 56-year-old Clay Walker performed a 90-minute set.

A platinum-selling country music artist, his debut album

was released in 1993.

Walker kicked off his portion of the show with his songs "Rumor Has It," "If I Could Make a Living," "Dreaming With My Eyes Open," "Live Until I Die" and "Hypnotize the Moon."



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

The evening's opening band, Confederate Railroad, performs a one-hour set.

The country artist included covers from other artists during the live show including "Don't Close Your Eyes" by Keith Whitley, "Purple Rain" by Prince, and more.

Walker saved several of his hit songs toward the end

of his show including "Then What," "Fall," "She Won't Be Lonely Long" and "This Woman and This Man."

Walker ended the evening with his signature song from his debut album, "What's It to You."

Yacht Rock the Dock featuring Ambrosia, John Ford Coley and Peter Beckett

MATTHEW WRIGHT

Staff Writer

Ambrosia was joined on stage by John Ford Coley and Peter Beckett for a memorable Soaring Eagle concert on Tuesday, Dec. 30. The artists and their Yacht Rock the Dock tour featured performances of their '70s and '80s classics.

Ambrosia delivered a smooth, polished show with their refined soft-rock sound. The band proved that great songwriting and musicianship age well; offering a set that felt equal parts warm, nostalgic, and enjoyable.

Between songs, the band's relaxed stage presence and light banter added to the intimate, feel-good atmosphere.

Ambrosia began with the hit singles "How Long (Has This Been Going On)," "Nice, Nice, Very Nice" "You're the Only Woman" and "Hot Summer Nights."

John Ford Coley took lead during the performances of his songs "Nights Are Forever Without You," "We'll Never Have to Say Goodbye Again" and "I'd Really Love to See You Tonight."

Peter Beckett was featured during his hit songs "This Time I'm In It For Love" and "Baby Come Back."

A highlight of the night was the performance of the Beatles' "Magical Mystery Tour."

Ambrosia covered their full catalog, with a variety of hits including "The Way It Is," "Holdin' On to Yesterday,"



Observer photo by Matthew Wright

Ambrosia perform their biggest hits alongside John Ford Coley and Peter Beckett on Dec. 30 at the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort.

"The Night Owls," "Magnet and Steel" and "Biggest Part of Me."

The night came to a close, with Coley again taking the lead for "Love Is the Answer" and "Love Is Alive."

DJ Steve Aoki entertains with high-energy EDM evening

NATALIE SHATTUCK

Editor

Fans of the music genre EDM were treated to a high-energy evening with Steve Aoki at the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort on Sunday, Dec. 28.

Aoki is known for his intense, energetic, and interactive performances featuring pyrotechnics and his signature cake-throwing at the crowd.

Aoki is a multi-platinum DJ and record producer. He holds the Guinness World Record for "Most Traveled Musician in a Single Calendar Year."

It was a big party in the Entertainment Hall as Aoki brought electro-house sounds to the venue.



Steve Aoki



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Benefits of an organized home for elders

Home organization is about more than appearances. It directly supports safety, comfort, and well-being. An organized home provides many benefits for elders. But especially, it plays a key role in fall prevention and daily safety. Clear pathways reduce tripping hazards, while proper storage minimizes the need for elders to climb, reach, or bend. Keeping medications organized also lowers the risk of missed doses or medication errors. For elders aging in place, thoughtful organization supports both physical safety and confidence at home.

Organizing an elder's home is not about achieving perfection. It's about creating a safe, functional space that supports independence, dignity, and peace of mind. By understanding the challenges elders face and taking a gradual, compassionate approach, families can make meaningful improvements that enhance daily life.

Even small changes can have a big impact on safety and comfort for both elders and those who care for them. For family caregivers, an organized home also makes it easier to provide support efficiently and notice changes in routine or health.

- Reduced fall risk by keeping walkways clear
- Easier navigation for mobility aids like walkers or wheelchairs
- Less stress and anxiety caused by visual clutter
- Faster access to medications, glasses, and daily essentials
- Greater independence by placing items within easy reach.

Addressing the emotional side of decluttering

- Listen and validate emotional attachments.
- Offer alternatives, like photographing sentimental items.
- Focus on safety, not judgment.
- Involve elders in decision-making whenever possible.
- When hoarding behaviors or safety concerns arise, working with a professional organizer who specializes in elder homes can provide valuable guidance and reduce family conflict.

Eight home organization tips

- 1 Start small and build momentum:** Large projects can feel overwhelming. Begin with one drawer, one shelf, or one countertop. Small wins build confidence and make it easier to continue.
- 2 Sort items into simple categories:** Use the "keep, donate, discard" method with clearly labeled bins. For sentimental belongings, consider creating a memory box that allows elders to preserve items with sentimental value without keeping everything.
- 3 Prioritize frequently used spaces:** Focus first on areas elders rely on every day.
- 4 Review and declutter regularly:** Set a seasonal reminder to reassess the home. Regular check-ins prevent clutter from building up again and allow organization systems to adapt as needs change.

Source: <https://caringseniorservice.com/blog/home-organization-tips-for-seniors/#>



Andahwod Valentine's Gift Basket Silent Auction

Andahwod is having a silent auction to raise money for programming. We are asking each department to consider putting together a gift basket to donate.

1. Please mark on the bottom of the basket your name or department and the approximate value of the basket.
2. Baskets are due on Feb. 10 by 4:30 p.m.
3. Nonperishable only (no fruit, flowers etc.)
4. There is no minimum or maximum basket value.

Bidding starts: Feb. 11 at 8:30 a.m.

Bidding ends: Feb. 11 at 4:30 p.m.

- Winners will be announced by email/phone on Feb. 12.
- Baskets must be paid for before leaving
- Arrangements should be made to have your basket picked up by 4:30 p.m. on Feb. 12.
- We will **not** deliver baskets

Contact: depelcher@sagchip.org or 989.775.4339



Friday, Feb. 13, 2026

4:30 - 6:30 p.m. | Andahwod CCC & ES

Pre-registered and pre-paid required

- Room for 50 elders and one adult guest

Deadline to register: Noon on Monday, Feb. 2

Cost: \$15 per person

Menu: Prime Rib, Loaded Baked Potato, Vegetables, Salad and Cheesecake

For more information, contact: Sandra at 989.775.4300

FEBRUARY 2026 Tribal Elder Birthdays

1)	Todd Bergevin John Kampf Jr. Bonnie Sprague Gail Smith Cathy Floyd	16)	Kathy Dintaman Darryl Jackson Florence Sprague Jason Quigno
2)	Deborah Meskill Angela Jenkins Robert Shawboose Troy Chamberlain	17)	De Anna Baker Lori Mazur Luis Abella Jr. Nicole Hovey Elizabeth Smith
3)	Kelly Hartwell Mark Martin Martha Pudvay Tom Waynee Robin Martin	18)	Timothy Jackson Richard Byce
4)	Wayne Ritter Roland Jackson Juanita Slater Melinda Coffin	19)	Milton Pelcher Walter Slavik
5)	Mary Graveratte	20)	Ronald Bonnau Peggy Goebel Nancy Miller
6)	Barbara Brodie Timothy Davis Mark Grischke Esther Bailey Virgil Munson Kirk Walraven	21)	Greggory Dutton Savannah Morning Star-Rice
7)	Patrick Nahgahwon Shannon Danie	22)	Tracy Mays Chester Cabay III Rebecca Rittmaier
8)	Linda Craig Debra Marler Linda Martin	23)	Susan Bettista Betty Brief Dorothy Brown Kevin Fallis Kelly Kendall
9)	Raymond Davis James Burnham Linda Powell Jackie Donovan	24)	Kathie Kozuch Ralph Mays Bunny Roth
10)	Paul Rueckert Sr. Christopher Williams	25)	Dianna Chamberlain David McConnell Sabrina Paulo Bernard Wright
11)	Mark Schafer Karen Cantlin Kyle Garlick Sharrie Moses Daniel McCreery	26)	Cynthia Quigno Shirley Robertson Deborah Guillen Nathan Ritter Frederick Harris
12)	Bonnie Ekdahl Sonny Jackson	27)	Leah Carmody Anthony Hunt
13)	Paul Bailey Evelyn Castaneda Sheri Lairson	28)	Willie Bailey Jr. Lorna McDonald Edward Phelps Leon Reed
14)	Rachel Walker Frances McGraw Terry Vasquez Mark Steele	29)	Dawn Chippewa Alvin Jackson Julie Chamberlain Willie Bailey III
			Evelyn Sharon

February 2026 Andahwod events

Coffee break | Daily | 2:30 p.m.
Sewing | Tuesdays | 10:30 a.m.
Euchre | Thursdays | 5:30 p.m.
Elders Lunch | Feb. 4, 18 | 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Saganning Bingo with Friends | Feb. 10 | Leaving at 9 a.m.

Elders Breakfast

Feb. 11, 25 | 9-10 a.m.

Birthday Celebration

Feb. 12 | 2:30 p.m.

Elders Valentines Dinner

Feb. 13 | 4:30-6:30 p.m.

St. Patty's Day Craft

Feb. 19 | 4:30-6:30 p.m.

Bingo with Friends

Feb. 20 | 1-3 p.m.

Name that Tune

Feb. 23 | 2:30 p.m.

Language Bingo

Feb. 24 | 1-3 p.m.

Potluck and Birthday Bingo

Feb. 28 | 12-3 p.m.

**Activities and events are subject to change.

February 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
1 Chef's Choice	2 Tomato Soup & Grilled Cheese Fried Chicken Dinner	3 Zuppa Soup Pork Roast	4 Elder Lunch Taco Bar Chicken Dumpling Soup	5 Egg Salad Beef Stroganoff	6 Sloppy Joes Tater Tot Casserole	7 Chef's Choice
8 Chef's Choice	9 Chicken Alfredo Pork Chops w/Mashed Potato	10 Goulash Shrimp Basket	11 Elders Breakfast Chicken Noodle Soup Beef Stir Fry	12 Ham & Cheese Melt Chili Dog	13 Bean Soup Sweet & Sour Chicken	14 Chef's Choice
15 Chef's Choice	16 Patty Melt Meat Balls & Noodles	17 Breakfast Casserole White Chicken Chili	18 Elder Lunch Lasagna & Salad Famous Bowl	19 Fish & Chips Herb Chicken	20 Bagel Pizza Indian Taco	21 Chef's Choice
22 Chef's Choice	23 Spaghetti & Garlic Bread Chicken Tender Basket	24 Tuna Noodle Casserole Pancakes & Sausage	25 Elders Breakfast Broccoli Soup Grilled Burgers	26 Open Face Beef Sandwich Chicken Taco	27 Chicken Salad Wrap Turkey Ala King	28 Chef's Choice
Menu subject to change		<small>*Warning: Consuming undercooked foods or eggs could lead to a food borne illness. **Warning: Please inform cashier/staff of any severe food allergies you may have prior to sitting down. Thank you.</small>			<small>Sugar free available upon request. Call kitchen for lunch and dinner at 989-775-4314.</small>	



Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College
STEAM AG
 Summer Day Camp

Offering fun, hands-on, engaging activities in Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Mathematics and Agriculture, incorporating traditional knowledge.

June 22-26, 2026

9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
 Saginaw Chippewa
 Tribal College

(5805 E. Pickard Rd., Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858)

- ▶ Registration open to the first 20 to sign up
- ▶ Open to middle school students (entering 6th grade or leaving 8th grade)
- ▶ Schedule: Field trips and outdoor activities
- ▶ Snacks and lunch will be provided

To register, please contact:
 Kathleen Hart at 989.317.4827
 or khart@sagchip.org

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.

Anishinaabe
BINGO
 Game Night

For more information, contact: Kathleen J. Hart at 989.317.4827 or khart@sagchip.org

Feb. 9, 2026

6-8 p.m.
 SCTC Community Room
 (5805 E. Pickard Rd., Mt. Pleasant MI, 48858)

Join us for some fun and learn how to count in Anishinaabe. Win some prizes!

Sponsored by STEAM AG Student Organization and Connected Community Coalition.

Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College
ARCHERY
 PROGRAM

For more information, contact: Kathleen J. Hart at 989.317.4827 or khart@sagchip.org

For Current SCTC Students

Practices held:

- Mondays: 3-5 p.m.
- Wednesdays: 3-5 p.m.
- Fridays: 12-2 p.m.



Location: Eagles Nest Tribal Gym
 (7070 E. Broadway, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858)

Join us for some fun and socialization, while learning about range safety and proper shooting techniques.

Inspirational Messages for Students

"What you have accomplished this semester is not easy. Your strength and resilience is inspiring and motivating. Watching so many of you grow is why so many of us have dedicated our professional lives to education. It's times like these, and students like you, that push us to continue to work as hard as I can to create the conditions for college students to learn and succeed."

- Justin Knott - Student Success Center

"Keep showing up. Keep doing the work. You got this."

- Jayme Green - Success Coach

"You only fail when you stop trying. Don't stop when you're tired, stop when you're done!" You are almost done, keep going!"

- Joe Genia - Success Coach

"The beautiful thing about learning is that nobody can take it away from you." - A Wagner - Admissions

Judy Pamp "Tribal Grandma"

Family is our Support System

Boozhoo, My name is Judy Pamp. I am the culture and language tutor and specialist. I am very active in the tribal community as an Anishinaabe educator, traditional dancer, storyteller, author, black ash artist, woodland regalia designer and artist, and beadwork artist. I am a CMU graduate student and believe in lifelong education. I can't wait to meet you and help you with any culture or language class. Contact Judy via email at JPamp@sagchip.edu



IMPORTANT DATES



- February 16 | President's Day: No classes, campus closed
- March 2-6 | Midterm week
- 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 21 | SCTC Graduation at SECR

WELCOME
Back

Graduation Commencement

Thursday, May 21, 2026





FEBRUARY 2026 | Tribal Community Event Planner

Anishinaabe Bingo Game Night

Feb. 9 | 6-8 p.m.

- SCTC Community Room (5805 E. Pickard Rd.)
- 989-775-4827 or khart@sagchip.org**
- Join us for some fun and prizes, and learn how to count in Anishinaabe!

Gikinawaabi (Cooking with Kids)

Feb. 12 | 5:30-7:30 p.m.

- Nimkee Public Health Kitchen (2591 S. Leaton Rd.)
- Registration required: 989-775-4626 or JaGonzalez@sagchip.org**
- Class meets once per month
- Family cooking group that will support families in their efforts to guide children in developing their understandings of cultural connections of the Anishinaabe 13 moons as it relates to seasonality, land, water, and the gift of cultural foods.
- Each family will receive one kids-safe cooking kit.

Traditional Food Workshop

Feb. 12 | 5:30-7 p.m.

- 7th Generation (7785 E. Remus Rd.)
- 989-775-4780 or TJackson@sagchip.org**
- With Indigenous Chef Sam Anglin

Wii Maajiikwad Bake Sale

Feb. 13 | 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

- Black Elk Building (7500 Soaring Eagle Blvd.)
- 989-775-4453**

TCG (Trading Card Game) Night

Feb. 17 | 6-8 p.m.

- 7th Generation (7785 E. Remus Rd.)
- DAJackson@sagchip.org or 989-775-4782**
- Pokémon, Lorcana, Magic the Gathering and more!

Youth & Family Traditional Healing Clinic

Feb. 18 | 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

- Behavioral Health (2800 S. Shepherd Rd.)
- 989-775-4870**
- Youth between ages 10 to 24 will take priority
- Family and community are also welcome

STEAM^{AG} Breakfast Burrito Fundraiser

Feb. 18 | Sales begin: 9:30 a.m. (until gone)

- SCTC Community Room (5805 E. Pickard Rd.)
- 989-775-4827 or khart@sagchip.org**
- One for \$6 or two for \$10

People's Powwow Breakfast Fundraiser

Feb. 20 | 8 a.m. - 11 p.m. (or until gone)

- 7th Generation (7785 E. Remus Rd.)
- 989-775-4780 or TJackson@sagchip.org**

Lunch & Learn: Cyber Safety Class

Feb. 20 | 1 p.m.

- ACFS (2591 S. Leaton Rd.)
- 989-775-4991 or CHeron@sagchip.org**
- The class is open to all clients who receive services from the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe.
- Instructor: Anthony Kraudelt, Special Agent, FBI

Indigenous Youth Fashion Show

Feb. 22 | 1-5 p.m.

- SECR Entertainment Hall
- 989-775-4823 or fotto@sagchip.org**
- Theme: "Real Love Respects"
- Spectator doors open at 12:45 p.m.
- Pizza served at 2:30 p.m.
- A drum and dance social will follow the show.
- Door prize drawings
- Spectating youth under the age of 15, must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

Two-Spirit Talking Circle

Feb. 23, March 23, April 27 | 6-8 p.m.

- 7th Generation (7785 E. Remus Rd.)
- LeRuffino@sagchip.org or kt@greatlakesbaypride.org**

Give Kids a Smile Day

Feb. 26 | 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

- Nimkee Clinic (2591 S. Leaton Rd.)
- Appointments required: 989-775-4657**
- Open to kids under the age of 18 who are eligible to be seen at the Nimkee Dental Clinic.
- Kids may receive a dental exam, X-rays, sealants, fluoride treatment, and/or fillings based on individual need and time available.

Anishinabe Artists' Expo

Feb. 28 | 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

- Ziibiwing Center (6650 E. Broadway)
- Registration: 989-775-4744**
- Registration deadline: Wednesday, Feb. 25
- Booth application: \$20 fee or donation of item.
- Items will be used for Ziibiwing silent auction
- \$10 for additional table
- Set up time: 8-10 a.m.
- Open to tribal members of federally-recognized tribes and descendants

Saginaw Chippewa Round Dance

March 14 | 6 p.m. - 1 a.m., doors open at 5:30 p.m.

- Wii Maajiikwad Gym (2875 Gikendasso Way)
- 989-775-4453**
- Free admission
- All singers will be acknowledged.
- Children 17 and under must be accompanied by an adult.
- Bring a photo of your loved one that passed on for memorial dance.

FEBRUARY 2026 | Tribal Community Calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat./Sun.
 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SECR Payroll SCIT Per Capita SCIT Payroll Curbside Recycling 	 <p>Check out the Tribal Observer ONLINE www.sagchip.org/tribalobserver</p>				1
<p>2</p> <p>Sewing in Saganing 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Saganing</p> <p>Recovery Group 1-2 p.m. B. Health</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Recovery on the Rez 2-3 p.m. Zoom</p> <p>Drums Out 7:30-9 p.m. 7th Gen</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Elders Lunch 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. Andahwod</p> <p>Recovery Talking Circle 9 a.m. B. Health</p> <p>Eagle Feather Teachings 1:30-2:30 p.m. B. Health</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Sacred Fire Lunch 12-1 p.m. 7th Gen</p> <p>Community Sewing Nights 5-8 p.m. 7th Gen</p> <p>Peer 360 at BH Lodge 6-7 p.m. B. Health</p>	<p>6</p> <p>March TCWP Deadline by 5 p.m.</p> <p>Fireside on the Rez 11:30 a.m. B. Health</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Fireside on the Rez 6 p.m. B. Health</p>
<p>9</p> <p>Dice/Euchre 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Saganing</p> <p>STEAM^{AG} Meeting 12-1 p.m. SCTC</p> <p>Recovery Group 1-2 p.m. B. Health</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Recovery on the Rez 2-3 p.m. Zoom</p> <p>Drums Out 7:30-9 p.m. 7th Gen</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Elders Breakfast 9-10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Andahwod</p> <p>Recovery Talking Circle 9 a.m. B. Health</p> <p>Eagle Feather Teachings 1:30-2:30 p.m. B. Health</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Storytelling & Soup Day 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Saganing</p> <p>Community Sewing Nights 5-8 p.m. 7th Gen</p> <p>Peer 360 at BH Lodge 6-7 p.m. B. Health</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Fireside on the Rez 11:30 a.m. B. Health</p> <p>Elders Valentines Dinner 4:30-6:30 p.m. Saganing</p> <p>Spirit Bear Talking Circle 7 p.m. Andahwod</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Fireside on the Rez 6 p.m. B. Health</p> <p>AOVWS Meeting 2 p.m. Ziibiwing</p>
<p>16</p> <p>Tribal Observer DEADLINE</p> <p>Recovery Group 1-2 p.m. B. Health</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Recovery on the Rez 2-3 p.m. Zoom</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Elders Lunch 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. Andahwod</p> <p>Recovery Talking Circle 9 a.m. B. Health</p> <p>Eagle Feather Teachings 1:30-2:30 p.m. B. Health</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Sacred Fire Lunch 12-1 p.m. 7th Gen</p> <p>Movie & Pizza Day 1-3 p.m. Saganing</p> <p>Peer 360 at BH Lodge 6-7 p.m. B. Health</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Fireside on the Rez 11:30 a.m. B. Health</p> <p>Spirit Bear Talking Circle 7 p.m. Andahwod</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Fireside on the Rez 6 p.m. B. Health</p>
<p>23</p> <p>Dice/Euchre 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Saganing</p> <p>STEAM^{AG} Meeting 12-1 p.m. SCTC</p> <p>Recovery Group 1-2 p.m. B. Health</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Recovery on the Rez 2-3 p.m. Zoom</p> <p>Drums Out 7:30-9 p.m. 7th Gen</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Elders Breakfast 9-10 a.m. Andahwod</p> <p>Recovery Talking Circle 9 a.m. B. Health</p> <p>Eagle Feather Teachings 1:30-2:30 p.m. B. Health</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Soup Day 1-2 p.m. Saganing</p> <p>Community Sewing Nights 5-8 p.m. 7th Gen</p> <p>Peer 360 at BH Lodge 6-7 p.m. B. Health</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Fireside on the Rez 11:30 a.m. B. Health</p> <p>Spirit Bear Talking Circle 7 p.m. Andahwod</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Fireside on the Rez 6 p.m. B. Health</p>



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.

Classifieds

100 Employment
105 Lost and Found
110 For Rent
115 For Sale
120 Announcements

125 Miigwetch
130 Services
135 Events
140 Giveaways
145 Miscellaneous

100 Employment

Tribal Operations

Executive Health Director

Open to the public. Under the supervision of Tribal administration, responsible for the organizational, financial, operational, and planning functions of Nimkee Memorial Wellness Center, which includes Medical Clinic, Public Health, Dental, Pharmacy, Business Office, and Health Information Management (HIM) department. All Nimkee staff must adhere to mandated reporting laws. Master's degree in health administration or related field. Five years' experience in health care administration. Three years in a supervisor capacity. Knowledge and experience working with Indian communities. Experience with IHS, PL 93-638 (Indian Self Determination Act), and State of Michigan Human Service agencies. Experience with contract management including contract development, budget administration and reports.

Social Services Specialist

Open to the public. Bachelor's degree in social services or human services. Must be able to effectively communicate and have good computer skills. Desired qualifications: Two years social

services, families first worker, or family preservation experience.

Student Support Tutor

Open to the public. High school diploma or GED. College level math. Must be able to pass math test with a score of 70 percent or better. Desired qualifications: Experience working with youth. Experience with local school programming, requirements and policies.

Healing to Wellness Juvenile Court Project

Coordinator/Case Manager PT

Open to the public. Bachelor's degree in social work, human services, criminal justice, public administration, business administration, education, or related field. Two years experience working in the human services or education environment. Experience in working collaboratively across multiple organizations and community systems. Experience related to the appropriate recipient population.

SCTC Learning Assistant PT

Open to the public. At least 60 completed credits towards a college degree with an overall GPA of 3.0 or above. Under the supervision of the dean of students, learning assistant leaders offer one-on-one support to facilitate interactive study sessions to help identified students learn course

concepts, prepare for exams, and learn effective study skills.

Registered Medical Assistant - Andahwod

Open to the public. High school diploma or GED. Registered or Certified Medical Assistant License. One-year experience in long term care or clinic setting desired.

Registered Medical Assistant

Open to the public. High school diploma or GED. Registered or Certified Medical Assistant License. Minimum of one year experience working as a medical assistant in an outpatient medical clinic (family medicine preferred.) Must be knowledgeable in CPT and ICD 10 codes and medical terminology.

Water Quality Specialist

Open to the public. Bachelor's degree in environmental science, biology, fisheries and wildlife, or a related field. One year of independent or program management work experience. Three years of experience in environmental monitoring including the use of GPS equipment, environmental sampling methods, and data collection. One year of experience in environmental policy and data analysis.

Family Advocate Specialist

Open to the public. Associate degree in social services, human services or related field. Desired qualifications: Two years social services or human services experience. Experience with Native American communities. Obtain HIPAA certification within five business days of hire.

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.

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.

Interim Clinical Therapist

Open to the public. Licensed master's degree in counseling, social work, human services or related field. Limited licensed individuals who can obtain full licensure within two years from date of hire. Experience with co-occurring diagnosis and treatment. Experience in working collaboratively across multiple organizations and community systems. Excellent computer and communication skills. Must be willing to work a flexible/adaptable schedule as meets the needs of the program and clients served.

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.

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. Desired qualifications: Master's degree. Special education teaching experience. Proficiency in speaking Ojibwe language. Experience working with native students and communities.

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.

Housekeeper

Open to SCIT Members only. Must be at least 18 years of age. Housekeeping or custodial experience desired.

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. Desired qualifications: Culinary degree from an American Culinary Federation (ACF) accredited school. One year supervisory experience.

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. Must have a valid State of Michigan driver's license, with the proper designation required for the vehicle utilized to perform the job duties, and qualify for coverage by SCIT auto liability insurance carrier. A Tribal driver's license will also be required if a motor pool vehicle is used in the course and scope of the required job duties.

Inventory Control Warehouse Driver

Open to the public. High school diploma or GED. One year of experience in driving vehicles and rigs that require a Chauffers Drivers license. Experience with operating warehouse equipment including forklifts and riding cleaning machines. Experience on stand-up or sit-down forklifts or ability to be certified within 90 days of hire/transfer.

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. Must be able to attend annual ServSafe Food handler training classes.

Guest Room Attendant PT

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

Saganing

Supervisor Front Desk

Open to the public. Must be at least 18 years of age. High school diploma or GED. Two years hotel front office or hospitality experience or one year Saganing hotel front office operations experience.

Guest Services Supervisor

Open to the public. Must be at least 18 years of age. High school diploma or GED. Three years guest relations or players club experience.

F&B Supervisor

Open to the public. Must be at least 18 years of age. High school diploma or GED. Three years food and beverage experience. Point of Sale (POS) experience.

Beverage Waitstaff FT

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

Beverage Waitstaff PT

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

Line Cook

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

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.

Bartender PT

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

Technical Services Technician I

Open to the public. High school diploma or GED. Two years help desk experience or bachelor's degree in information technology, computer science, or related field. Experience with Windows Server and Desktop OS and Microsoft Office Suite.

Security Officer

Open to the public. Must be at least 18 years of age. Security or surveillance experience desired.



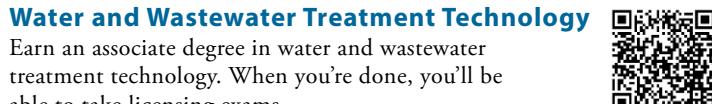
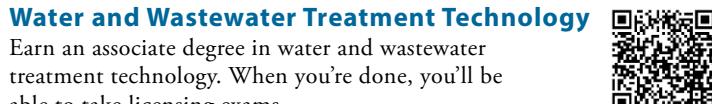
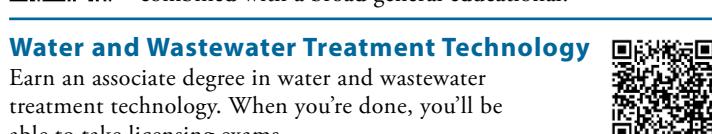
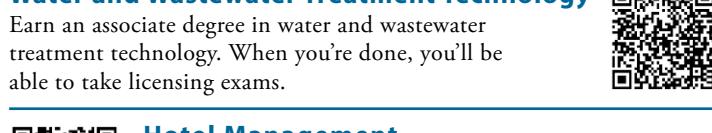
Associate Degree Dental Hygiene Program

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.



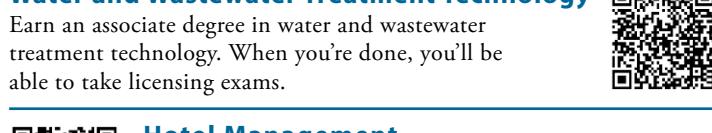
Water and Wastewater Treatment Technology

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.



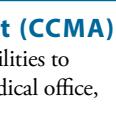
Certified Clinical Medical Assistant (CCMA)

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 | OM Manitowabi@sagchip.org





Wii Maajiikwad holds Biboon Waabanda'iwewin (Winter Program)

ALICIA RAPHAEL

Public Relations
Leadership Apprentice

The Wii Maajiikwad immersion and kindergarten through fifth grade students proudly presented it's annual Biboon Waabanda'iwewin

(Winter Program) in the Wii Maajiikwad Tribal Gym on Thursday, Dec. 18, 2025.

The program was a celebration of Anishinaabe culture as students proudly showcased their language skills and cultural teachings through holiday songs and skits, all performed in Anishinaabemowin. Each

grade level took the stage, sharing what they have learned throughout the school year leading up to winter break in an engaging and meaningful way.

Families and community members filled the gym to support the students, applauding their confidence and commitment to preserving language

and culture. The performances reflected the importance of passing down Anishinaabe teachings to the next generation through education, storytelling, and song.

Attendees were also treated to a special appearance by a traditional Gingerbread Dancer, who brought more

laughter and excitement to the celebration.

The annual Winter Program continues to be a cherished tradition for the Wii Maajiikwad community, honoring Anishinaabe identity while celebrating student growth, cultural pride, and community connection.

Observer photos by Alicia Raphael



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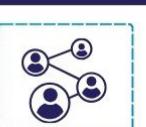
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nwdne@nemcsa.org
8:30 am - 4:30 pm, M-F

This project has been made possible through a grant awarded to NEMCSA Region 9 AAA by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.

New
Program!

www.nemcsa.org