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# TRIBAL OBSERVER

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

## CHECK THESE OUT

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**Halloween fun**  
*Trunk or Treat and Halloween Haunt prove to be a spooky good time.*



**Active Native Youth**  
*Youth throughout the community are proudly showcased.*



**Intergenerational Story Hour**  
*Children, parents and elders gather at Andahwod for activities.*



**Veterans Day events**  
*Anishinabe Ogitchedaw veterans honored at SECR events.*

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## Tribe distributes more than \$3 million in two percent funds

**JOSEPH V. SOWMICK**

Photojournalist

On Nov. 17 and 18, the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe distributed more than \$3 million to local municipalities and schools in Isabella, Arenac and Bay counties during the semi-annual distributions.

The fall 2016 Isabella County distribution took place in the Tribal Operations Seniors Room on Nov. 17 and at the Saganing Outreach Center in Standish, Mich. on Nov. 18.

The \$3,003,454.67 of funds distributed is derived from Class III gaming at the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort and Saganing Eagles Landing Casino.

Isabella County received \$2,195,656.19 – a \$55,869.49 increase from last year’s figures.

The Standish areas received \$807,798.48 – a \$27,761.47 increase from last year.

The Tribe distributed \$1,159,892.93 to units of government and \$1,035,763.26 for local area schools in Isabella County.

Arenac and Northern Bay counties received \$242,339.54 for education and \$565,458.94 for local units of government.

Chief Frank Cloutier said Tribal Council spent many hours reviewing the number of requests that tend to increase every year.

“The Tribal Council takes great pride in being able to award over \$3 million to our

local schools and governments this fall. We remain committed to maximizing these dollars by making sure that the impacts can be felt by members in all communities,” Cloutier said. “We are able to help create state-of-the-art learning environments by providing the latest technology in our local schools preparing all youth to become our future leaders.”

Erik Rodriguez, interim public relations director, presided over both distributions and announced the amounts to the appreciative community leaders.

Rodriguez credits the successful gaming operations and employee customer service is behind the increase.

“The sell-out crowds who came to the SECR outdoor summer concert series and the continued popularity of Saganing Eagles Landing Casino was the economic driver attributing to the increase,” Rodriguez said. “It shows we do gaming and entertainment well, and with the upcoming expansion and other business developments in Saganing, the future looks bright.”



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

**Chief Frank J. Cloutier welcomes representatives from local governments and schools at the Isabella County two percent press conference.**

Two percent | 4

## Two Percent Fall Distribution 2016

### Isabella Government

- Isabella County \$363,903.94
- City of Mount Pleasant \$590,815
- Gratiot/Isabella RESD \$14,344.66
- Chippewa Township \$20,489.73
- Coe Township \$60,456
- Deerfield Township \$15,000
- Denver Township \$15,000
- Isabella Township \$15,000
- Nottawa Township \$47,933.60
- Wise Township \$16,950

**Total Government: \$1,159,892.93**

### Isabella Education

- Beal City Public Schools \$61,890
- Chippewa Hills Public Schools \$37,592.33
- Mount Pleasant Public Schools \$711,712.93
- Shepherd Public Schools \$171,905
- Gratiot/Isabella RESD Schools Districts \$50,150
- Renaissance Public Schools \$2,513

**Total Schools: \$1,035,763.26**

**Isabella Total: \$2,195,656.19**

### Saganing Government

- Arenac County \$406,722.98
- City of Au Gres \$10,000
- City of Omer \$7,984.92
- City of Pinconning \$28,327
- Arenac Township \$3,959.04
- Au Gres Township \$8,000
- Deep River Township \$1,000
- Lincoln Township \$1,000
- Mason Township \$14,250
- Pinconning Township \$17,000
- Sims Township \$1,000
- Standish Township \$38,700
- Turner Township \$11,515
- Whitney Township \$1,000
- Village of Twining \$15,000

**Total Government: \$565,458.94**

### Saganing Education

- Arenac Eastern School District \$40,177
- Au Gres-Sims School District \$92,491.46
- Pinconning School District \$54,899.48
- Standish-Sterling School District \$54,771.60

**Total Schools: \$242,339.54**

**Saganing Total: \$807,798.48**

## Tribal Members, employees receive notice of health care provider change

**JOSEPH V. SOWMICK**

Photojournalist

On Oct. 27, letters were mailed to the Tribal Membership and more than 4,000 employees notifying them of a change of health care providers.

Compensation/Benefits Manager Connie Sprague said effective Jan. 1, the Tribe will no longer be with the Blue Cross/Blue Shield network.

The Tribe will now be enrolled with the Aetna-owned Meritian Health, which is a new third party administrator, replacing Blue Cross.

“It’s important for everyone to remember we will be using the Cofinity Network,” Sprague said. “This is the term that needs to be used when visiting your health care providers. Our plan is still the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe plan, but we are simply switching from the Blue Care Network to Cofinity Network, this will also mean a change in our vision carrier.”

Sprague said the VSP vision plan will now be changed to EyeMed.

“When Tribal Members and employees need to access the optical services, they will

need to ask their optical care provider if they participate with EyeMed,” Sprague said. “It is also important to know that in discussion with Tribal Council before implementing the change to assure all involved that the plan coverage is not changing.”

Current deductibles, co-pays and coinsurance will remain the same in 2017 and this pertains to medical, prescription drug, dental and vision plans.

Dental benefits will not be affected by this change and will still be administered by Delta Dental of Michigan.

Sprague said discussions with Meritian Health have been taking place since 2014, and they have expanded their network in the last two years specifically in hopes of this change taking place.

“The Cofinity Network is only second to (Blue Cross) in Michigan so I am confident that this should be a smooth transition for everyone,” Sprague said.

Sprague said Members and employees should watch for mailings from the Tribe, Meritian, and EyeMed which

Health care | 4





## Frank Gallegos Jr.

April 26, 1954 – Nov. 5, 2016

Frank Gallegos Jr., age 62, of Mount Pleasant passed away Saturday, Nov. 5, 2016, at the University of Michigan Hospital in Ann Arbor.

Frank was born on April 26, 1954, in Saginaw; the son of Frank and Vivian (Collins) Gallegos Sr. He served the country in the United States Marine Corps.

Frank was self-employed for more than 20 years in the design construction industry. He was a member of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe and Victory Christian Church.

He enjoyed doing leather work, playing the slots and bowling. He was a Golden Gloves boxer.

Frank is survived by his children, Frank Gallegos of Cedar Springs, Soniqua (Joshua) Semasko of Waterford and Eric Gallegos of Grand Rapids; grandchildren Lucas Gallegos, Mischa Semasko and Niko Gallegos; mother Vivian (Paul) Jackson of Mt. Pleasant; brother Vincent Gallegos of Grand Rapids; sisters Barbara (Simon) Arzola of Mt. Pleasant, Gail (Rory) Smith of Sparta, and Shelly Rickert of Grand Rapids; and many nieces and nephews.

Frank was preceded in death by his father Frank Gallegos Sr., his sister Sheila Gallegos, and his grandparents.

Funeral services were held on Wednesday, Nov. 9, 2016, at Clark Family Funeral Chapel with Rev. Joseph Gilbert officiating.



## Keith Mandoka

Feb. 20, 1933 – Nov. 12, 2016

Keith Mandoka, age 83, of Mount Pleasant passed away surrounded by family on Saturday, Nov. 12, 2016, at his home under the care of MidMichigan Hospice.

Keith was born on Feb. 20, 1933, in Denver Township, the son of George and Lucy (Nottawa) Mandoka.

Keith proudly served his country in the United States Army during the Korean War. He was also a proud member of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe.

He worked for Doer Myer Construction for five years, served several terms as a Tribal Council member for the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe, a security guard at the waterpark, and retired as a truck driver from the Isabella County Road Commission, working for 29 years.

Keith was a member at the Wheatland Church of Christ and enjoyed racing cars. Keith also enjoyed watching football and high school wrestling, as well as other sports.

Keith is survived by his children, Greg (Tonya) Mandoka of Clare, Jeanette Mandoka Carpenter of Mt. Pleasant, Brad (Michelle) Mandoka of Clare, Rachel Mandoka of Lansing, Lisa (Richard) Starkey of Shepherd, and George Mandoka of Mt. Pleasant; daughter-in-law, Darcy (Mandoka) Taylor; 28 grandchildren; 55 great-grandchildren; one great-great-granddaughter; and special friend/caregiver, Wilma Chamberlain.

Keith was preceded in death by his parents; mother-in-law, Florence B. Pelcher Kahgegab; sisters, Ruth Peters and Sharon Naganashe; and son-in-law, Derwin "Darryl" Carpenter.

Funeral services were held at Clark Family Funeral Chapel on Wednesday, Nov. 16, at 2 p.m. with Pastor JD Saunders from the Wheatland Church of Christ officiating. Memorial contributions may be made to the family for funeral expenses.



## Rebecca Virginia Fuller

Dec. 3, 1956 – Nov. 6, 2016

Rebecca Virginia Fuller, age 59, of Niles, Mich., died at 9:46 a.m. on Sunday, Nov. 6, 2016 at the University Hospital in Ann Arbor, Mich. following an extended illness.

Rebecca was born on Dec. 3, 1956 in Saint Joseph, Mich. to Melvin J. and Jeanette (Bishop) Ehas Sr.

She graduated from Brandywine High School, and has lived in Niles all of her life.

She has been employed in several customer service positions in the South Bend and Niles area.

Becky was an active volunteer at the Niles Haunted House Scream Park, and personally donated to several worthy causes. She was also an active member of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe and participated in its reunions and powwows. She enjoyed vegetable and flower gardening, and had traveled throughout the southwest United States.

On Aug. 25, 1978 in Niles, she married Stephen Kent Fuller with whom she celebrated the 34th anniversary of their wedding prior to his death on Oct. 6, 2012. She was also preceded in death by her father, Melvin Ehas Sr. and a sister, Julia Covington.

Surviving family includes her children, Brandy (Kevin) Bybee Gerken of Napoleon, Ohio; Joshua Shea Bybee of Virginia; Tyson Kent (Marlena Altwine) Fuller of Niles; and Thomas John Fuller of Michigan City, Indiana; grandchildren, Nykoma, Dakota, Brea, Shea, and Abby; great-grandchildren Brodyn and Nevaeh; Becky's mother, Jeanette "Beth" Velez of Niles; a sister, Marietta Stanley of South Bend, Indiana; and brother, Melvin Ehas Jr. of Niles and several nieces and nephews.

Becky's family hosted a celebration of her life on Friday, Nov. 11 at the Bell Professional Building.

Contributions in memory of Becky may be made to the "Haunters for Hope" American Cancer Society Relay for Life team c/o 101 South Broadway, Cassopolis, Michigan 49031.



## James E. Reynolds

June 29, 1940 – Nov. 16, 2016

James E. Reynolds, of Stockbridge, Mich., age 76, passed away at home on Wednesday, Nov. 16, 2016.

James was born on June 29, 1940, in Charlotte, Mich., the son of Loris and Cecelia (Stevens) Reynolds.

On June 11, 1960, he married Sally L. Ring and she preceded him in death on April 25, 2005.

He had lived in the area for the past 60 years.

James had worked as a carpenter and retired from Spence Brothers after 34 years. He enjoyed deer hunting, gambling, and tinkering with tractors.

He is survived by his daughter Tamera Reynolds of Stockbridge, granddaughter Amber (Ronnie) Dexter, great-granddaughter Ayla L. Dexter, and sister Vivian Carpenter of Monroe.

In addition to his wife, he was preceded in death by two sons, James and Rex, and his brother Harry.

A memorial service was held on Saturday, Nov. 19, 2016, at the Caskey-Mitchell Funeral Home, Stockbridge. Expressions of sympathy may be made to Great Lakes Hospice.



## Well and Septic Checks

Free to Tribal Members who reside in the IHS service areas: Isabella, Clare, Midland, Arenac and Missaukee counties.

- Wells and septic systems will be inspected.
- Septics will be pumped free of charge.

Call 989.775.4014 or stop in at the Planning Department office located at 2451 Nish-na-be-anong.

Leave your name, address and phone number to be put on the Private Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (POWTS) list. \*You must own your home.\*

## Attention Members

Please remember to report your deer or turkey harvest in person at the Planning department or online at:

[www.sagchip.org/Planning/Conservation](http://www.sagchip.org/Planning/Conservation)

This information will allow the Planning department to determine game harvests and set future hunting seasons. Thank you and have a safe and successful season!



## TRIBAL MEMBERS

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



Check out the Tribal Observer **ONLINE**

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

## In Loving Memory of Patricia Stinson

11-17-1958 to 12-13-1986

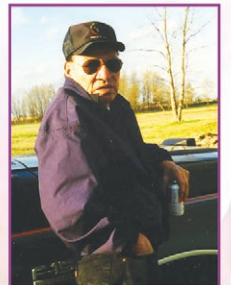


## In Loving Memory of Richard Earl Davis

Richard Earl Davis (Snooks) went away five years ago on Dec. 20, 2011. No words can express how much we miss and love you. My heart breaks every time I think of you, especially when the holidays are here and when my birthday comes, knowing that you left me that very next day.

*Love & Miss you, Connie*

*Dear Grandpa, I miss you dearly especially on Christmas, you would say those amazing words "I love you." I love and miss you so much, sometimes it's unbearable. Love, Jasmine.*



**Children:** Buzz, Casey, Lil Man and Lisa  
**Grandchildren:** Brandy, David, Jonathan, Jasmine, Richard Earl, Miles and Clayton.  
**And those he never got to meet:** Bella, Emma, Christopher; and great-granddaughter Osyka.

**Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Police**  
 6954 E BROADWAY, MT PLEASANT, MI  
 TEL: 989-775-4700

**OWN IT? RESPECT IT. SECURE IT.**  
 Project ChildSafe.org

Project ChildSafe is a nationwide program promoting safe firearm handling and storage practices through the distribution of free, cable-style locks. We are doing our part to promote safe storage, but we need your help! Call for details!

LOCKS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE TRIBAL POLICE DEPARTMENT WHILE SUPPLIES LAST.

**Nimkee Memorial Wellness Center**  
**PHARMACY**  
*Holiday Hours*  
**Dec. 27, 28 & 29**  
 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
*Holiday Closures*  
 Nimkee Medical Clinic, Dental, Public Health & Fitness Center  
**Will be closed Dec. 26-30, 2016**  
 On-call after hours number: 989.317.2088  
Please utilize Ready Care or Urgent Care Express before you go to the ER, unless it's a true emergency.

**Powwow Committee One Vacancy**

The Saginaw Chippewa Powwow Committee currently has one vacancy. Open until Filled.

**Send letters of interest to:**  
 Attention: Powwow Committee  
 7070 E Broadway Rd., Mt. Pleasant MI 48858





## BIA to remove liens on tribal lands returning more than \$14 million in proceeds to tribes

BY NEDRA DARLING

U.S. Department of the Interior Office of Public Affairs

As part of President Obama's commitment to help American Indian leaders strengthen self-sufficiency and self-determination, U.S. Department of Interior officials will remove liens placed on thousands of acres of tribal lands acquired under the Indian Land Consolidation Act (ILCA) program and return the revenues generated by these liens to tribal communities to use for reacquiring tribal homelands.

The announcement was made Nov. 17 by U.S. Deputy Secretary of the Interior Michael Connor, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Lawrence S. Roberts, who leads the Office of the Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs, and Michael S. Black, senior advisor to the BIA director.

Because the ILCA land acquisition program is no longer in operation, the waiver of the liens ensures that the economic productivity of those restored tribal lands directly benefits the tribes.

The return of more than \$14 million existing lien proceeds will be used by the 20 tribal nations that participated in the ILCA acquisition program to purchase lands from willing sellers within their reservations to further consolidate tribal homelands.

"Our action today is a result of our engagement and meaningful consultation with tribal leadership, respecting their judgment that waiver of ILCA liens and return of lien proceeds will spur economic development within their territories and enable them to restore tribal homelands," Connor said. "Our trust and treaty responsibilities include ensuring that federal programs are tailored to work effectively and efficiently for Indian Country. Tribal nations spoke clearly about the benefits of waiving ILCA liens and their effective and efficient ability to reacquire tribal homelands from willing sellers."

On the lien waiver and return of lien proceeds, Roberts said, "Tribal nations have repeatedly proven that if an administration works with them, tribal solutions can ameliorate the impacts of now repudiated policies that sought to end tribal culture and communities. Our action today is another example of tribes determining what is best for their communities."

"By releasing the outstanding liens and returning lien proceeds, we are supporting the tribes in determining the best use of their lands, and continuing opportunities for economic development, housing, and restoring tribal homelands," Black said.

Congress enacted the ILCA land acquisition program in 2000, authorizing the Interior Secretary to acquire fractional interests in trust or restricted lands and requires the secretary to place a lien on those lands to recoup the purchase price.

Since the program was established, more than 427,313 fractional land interests were restored to the 20 participating tribes.

In 2009, administration settled *Cobell v. Salazar* and in 2010, Congress enacted legislation approving the settlement.

The settlement and legislation established Land Buy-Back Program acquiring trust and restricted interests from willing sellers and transferring those interests to tribes.

While Congress intended the ILCA acquisition initiative to be ongoing and self-sustaining, the program was unable to sustain itself because many of the lands with liens generated little or no income.

The proceeds generated from lands acquired for a particular tribe were used to acquire more lands for that tribe. The program liens reduced the ability of tribes to obtain financing to promote economic development on those lands. The program ceased operations in 2014 because it lacked funding and the Cobell Land Buy-Back Program was implemented.

Several tribes approached Department officials to request a waiver of the ILCA liens and to determine how to dispose of the proceeds collected from the liens.

In 2016, the Department consulted with tribes on whether to waive the liens established through the ILCA program and return any existing ILCA program funds to the tribes to be used for land acquisition.

Tribal leaders supported the waiver of ILCA liens and the return of any ILCA funds remaining in tribal accounts. Waiver of liens will enable tribes to fully utilize those tribal lands and to devote future income from such lands to advance the health and welfare of tribal communities.

The Department has notified Congress of the secretary's decision to waive the liens and transfer the proceeds remaining in the ILCA Acquisition Fund to the appropriate tribe via their trust account for their use and benefit.

Fractionation of American Indian lands was caused by the now repudiated 19th century policy of breaking up tribal homelands into individual allotments or tracts and then the division of ownership among more and more owners after the death of the original owner or allottee.

Fractionation has grown exponentially throughout generations. As a result, many allotted tracts now have hundreds or even thousands of individual owners.



### Congrats Norm D. Cyr

#53 on a great 4 yrs.

at Concordia Univ. Football

Love, Mom and Dad

### Tribal Education Advisory Board (TEAB) Vacancy Announcement

We are looking for SCIT Members with a love for learning and a willingness to share your wisdom to guide our cultural-based youth educational programs.

#### Requirements:

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

Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each Month at 9 a.m. in the TEAB Conference Room

Letters/emails of interest will be accepted until: **Jan. 4, 2016 at 12 p.m.**

Please send letters of interest/e-mails to: Tribal Education Administration  
7070 E. Broadway, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

Or E-mail letter to: [MMontoya@sagchip.org](mailto:MMontoya@sagchip.org)

For further information call **Christina Sharp at 989-775-4501**

## Tribal Operations Will Be Closed:

- Monday, Dec. 26
- Tuesday, Dec. 27  
*(In observance of Christmas Eve)*
- Wednesday, Dec. 28
- Thursday, Dec. 29
- Friday, Dec. 30  
*(In observance of New Year's Day)*

24/7 departments will be open as always.

Appointments for that Tuesday and Thursday will be rescheduled.

### Tribal Operations employees:

Call-ins on Friday, Dec. 23 or Monday, Jan. 2 will forfeit any holiday pay for Dec. 26, 27, 29 and 30.

Payroll checks for the Dec. 28 pay day will be available for pick up at the SECR Main Cage beginning Wednesday, Dec. 28 at 8 a.m. through 9 a.m. on Jan. 2.

## Report Suspicious or Criminal Activity!

### Do Your Part In Stopping Crime!

Assist Your Local Law Enforcement and Narcotics Enforcement Teams in Protecting the Future of Your Community!

Protecting your children, family, community and future should be a priority!



**Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Police**  
Dispatch: 989-775-4700  
Tip Line: 989-775-4775

**Bayanet (Narcotics Enforcement)**  
Tip Line: 989-779-9697  
Anonymous and Confidential

## ATTENTION HUNTERS Display Your Hunting Trophy!

Submit your photos to [Observer@sagchip.org](mailto:Observer@sagchip.org) to display your buck on the January 2017 Tribal Observer's Buck Pole.

**Deadline: Dec. 15, 2016**

## Adult 2017 Annual Reports are available now

**They are due May 4, 2017 by 5 p.m.**  
Sorry no post-marked mail accepted.

## ATTENTION

Anishinabe Ogitchedaw  
Veteran & Warrior Society Members

Now Recruiting New Members



### Meetings Will be Held

The 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the Month in Seniors Room  
Time: 6 p.m. | For More Information: 775-4175





## Tribal Council

### Chief

Frank J. Cloutier, District 3

### Sub-Chief

Brent D. Jackson, District 1

### Treasurer

Gayle Ruhl, District 1

### Secretary

Michelle R. Colwell, District 1

### Sergeant At-Arms

Ronald F. Ekdahl, District 1

### Tribal Chaplain

Diana Quigno-Grundahl, District 1

### Council Member

Candace B. Benzinger, District 1

### Council Member

Tim J. Davis, District 1

### Council Member

Lindy Hunt, District 1

### Council Member

Amanda Oldman, District 1

### Council Member

Kenneth Sprague, District 1

### Council Member

Ron Nelson, District 2

## Notice of Public Hearing

Notice is hereby given that the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe will be conducting a public meeting for the purpose of receiving comments from all interested Tribal and non-Tribal residents within the boundaries of the Isabella Reservation and lands in the Saganing District (Arenac County) on the Tribe's intent to apply for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Brownfield's Clean up Grant(s) to help support the cleanup needed at the former Stop & Go property located at 4708 South Huron Road, Standish Township, MI 48658.

### The meeting will be held at the following location, date and time:

**Standish: Thursday, Dec. 8, 2016**

4 - 6 p.m.

Saginaw Chippewa Saganing Tribal Center

5447 Sturman Rd.

Standish, MI 48658

If awarded, the EPA Brownfield Clean up Grant will be used to conduct environmental cleanup activities and possible demolition activities at the former Stop & Go property.

The grant funding, if awarded, will allow the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe to receive up

to \$200,000 in EPA funds. If awarded, funding requires a 20 percent cash and/or in-kind match contribution by the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe (approximately \$40,000.)

Draft copies of the grant application and draft Analysis of Brownfield Cleanup Alternatives detailing the activities proposed and related costs will be available for review at the Grants Office located in the Tribal Operations Building at 7070 E. Broadway, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858 between the hours of 8 a.m. 5 p.m., Monday through Friday beginning Monday, Nov. 28, 2016. A Written Comments Form will be available to provide written comments.

Written comments may be submitted through 5 p.m., Friday, Dec. 9, 2016 and may be sent to the Saginaw Chippewa Grants Office, 7070 E. Broadway, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858. Additionally, written comments can be emailed to [mfisher@sagchip.org](mailto:mfisher@sagchip.org). Comments received before the public meeting record is closed on Friday Dec. 9, 2016 will receive a response with said comments included in the grant application submitted to EPA.

If you require this information in an alternative format, or wish to request a reasonable accommodation because of a disability, contact: **989.775.4083** or **989.775.4029** or **TTY 7-1-1**.

## Seven Grandfather Teachings

### Nbookaawin ~ Wisdom

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

### Zaagidowin ~ Love

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

### Minaadendamoowin ~ Respect

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

### Zoongide'ewin ~ Bravery

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

### Gwekwadiziwin ~ Honesty

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

### Dibaadendiziwin ~ Humility

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

### Debwewin ~ Truth

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



## Two percent

*continued from front page*

Isabella County submitted 293 requests that would have required more than \$282 million to fund.

All Saganing-area requests would have totaled more than \$2.3 million to fund all 88 requests.

Tribal Council carefully reviews and evaluates each request, while being mindful of the impact

each can have in the community, before final decisions are made.

This year there were a combined 381 individual requests. Local governments turned in 105 and 276 were handed in from local schools.

SCIT Media offers a web stream broadcast of the two percent proceedings, available to watch online at [www.sagchip.org](http://www.sagchip.org).

## Health care

*continued from front page*

may contain insurance cards needed or other important documents.

Chief Frank Cloutier said the decision to change insurance administrators was not taken lightly.

"We take the health of our Tribal Members and employees seriously and a smooth transition in service coverage was one of our primary concerns when looking for new providers," Cloutier said. "After reviewing all viable options, the choice to move forward with Meritian Health and EyeMed was made as result of their dedication to providing equal, if not better, benefits to our

Tribal Members and employees. We appreciate your dedication and want you to know that we take great pride in offering a competitive benefits package to everyone."

Sprague said Members and employees can expect to receive the new insurance cards prior to the Jan. 1 change over.

Tribal associates with any questions may contact the Benefits representatives Leanne Worgess at **989-775-0040**, Brandy Pelcher at **989-775-5618** or Jodi Friend at **989-775-0064**. Their offices are located in the Black Elk building.

Tribal Members covered under this plan may contact the At-Large/Member Services Department at **989-775-4943** with questions.

## Tribal Observer

Boozhu! The Tribal Observer, a monthly newspaper, is published on the first of each month. To contact Tribal Observer staff, please call 989-775-4010, or email: [observer@sagchip.org](mailto:observer@sagchip.org). To change your mailing address, please contact the Tribal Clerk's office at 989-775-4055. Community advertisements will not be accepted over the phone.



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

Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe  
c/o Tribal Observer  
7070 E. Broadway Rd.  
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

### Subscription rates are \$30 per year.

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

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

## Tribal Observer Advertising

If you would like to advertise your business, please contact the Tribal Observer at **989-775-4010** for more information.

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

**Political ads** - All political ads will be 1/4 page and have a red border stating as such. The cost is \$500. Political ads may include, but are not limited to: any opinion or advertisement that is political in nature, and/or any Letter to the Editor that does not conform to guidelines.

## Tribal Observer Subscription Form

Please send \$30 for the annual subscription. Checks may be made out to SCIT.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

### Please mail form to:

Tribal Observer  
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## Legal Department reorganization assigns new duties for Avery and Klein

**JOSEPH V. SOWMICK**

Photojournalist

As the Tribe enters fiscal year 2017, many departments are looking at creative ways to streamline duties.

Legal General Counsel Sean Reed said the Tribal Council recently approved a reorganization of the Legal Department.

“As a result of Council action on Oct. 10, Sharon Avery assumed the position of general counsel for Tribal Operations, and Leslie Klein is now the Legal Department office manager,” Reed said. “Sharon is responsible for management... and oversight of associate and senior attorneys. Leslie is responsible for the direct supervision of legal department staff and for day-to-day administrative management of the office.”

Both Avery’s and Klein’s appointments are a testament to the hard work and dedication they have exhibited throughout their years of service, Reed said.

Avery has worked on and off for the Tribe since she was 16. She has more than 14 years of service, and has worked in the Legal department for seven years.



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

**General Counsel Sharon Avery poses for a photo in her office in Tribal Operations.**

“My intention was to receive my law degree from Michigan State and to work for the Tribe,” Avery said. “It is not a long distance from home, but it was far enough away that it took me away from my boys for longer periods of times than I was used to. I connected with a great community of other Native American law students at MSU and that really helped me to get through the difficult times.”

When she graduated from law school, her songs were in school and she was ready to begin her career.

“As luck would have it, there was an opening within the Legal



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

**Leslie Klein, office manager for the Legal Department, scans over congressional documents at her workstation.**

department, and I was able to start right after taking the bar exam,” Avery said.

Avery said working for the department “offers many rewarding challenges.”

“I have met some wonderful people within the department and throughout the entire organization,” Avery said. “I always enjoy learning more about how the Tribe functions. And, I appreciate the support of the community in representing the Tribe in this capacity.”

She said in a “legal sense, tribal sovereignty is bigger than any one tribe.”

“Tribal sovereignty is impacted by the actions of other tribes or indigenous peoples,” she said. “Sometimes tribal sovereignty is impacted by actions of indigenous peoples at an international level. It existed prior to us and it will outlive all of us. Certainly, an individual singing with a hand drum makes an impact. But when drummers come together, the voices of the drummers and sound of the drums become very rich and powerful.”

She said her goal is to produce the highest quality legal work for the Tribe.

“It is always a team effort. We owe that to the generations that have preceded us and the generations that will follow us,” she said. “We also owe that to Indian Country.”

Klein started working for the Tribe in 1995 and took a hiatus so she could be at home with her children.

Klein resumed in 2005 as a full-time employee for the Legal department.

In the 11 years she has worked in the department, she has held

four different positions including administrative assistant I and II, legal executive assistant and now office manager.

“As office manager, I try to lighten up the administrative workload of our general counsels,” Klein said. “As the Tribe has continued to grow over the years so has the work load for the attorneys. I am honored to be a part of this team and am currently responsible for daily operations of our department, all requests for legal work and trying to keep up with other administrative duties.”

Reed said inquiries for legal services should be made via the legal review e-mail whenever possible and Avery will assign work as needed within the department.

“I continue to work in the department on project-based matters involving treaty rights issues, federal litigation, enrollment, expansion projects, large construction projects and certain gaming-related matters,” Reed said.

Legal review requests should continue to be directed to [legalreview@sagchip.org](mailto:legalreview@sagchip.org).

## Editorial: A December Migizi Economic Development Company update

**FREDRICK KUHLMAN**

Migizi Marketing Manager

The sudden drop in temperature has unmistakably announced the arrival of the holiday season.

With barely a chance to unpack the cold weather gear, we find ourselves fully engaged in the onset of Christmas.

Throughout the last few weeks, the Migizi Economic

Development Company Christmas elves (Will, Barry, Barry, and Larry) have been busily hanging lights and spreading cheer.

If you and your family need a boost in finding the holiday spirit this season, come enjoy a walk through Soaring Eagle Waterpark and Hotel.

Upon entering the hotel, you will be greeted by a beautifully decorated 15-foot Christmas

tree; the centerpiece of the waterpark’s festive setting.

Walk a bit further and you will think you have entered a Christmas wonderland: The hotel is hosting a Festival of Trees and roughly 30 three-foot trees are displayed throughout the building.

Tribal departments and local businesses have created beautiful trees that will be auctioned with proceeds benefitting the Residential Treatment Center.

Soaring Eagle Waterpark and Hotel would like to extend a warm thank you to all departments who generously took time to contribute to the festival which will benefit a great program.

On Dec. 3, Chief Frank Cloutier will bring the hotel to life as he officially lights the tree and the exterior of the property.

On Dec, 10, Santa and his reindeer make a return to the waterpark and will be in the courtyard to welcome families and hear children’s last minute Christmas wishes. It’s a great opportunity to get a photo with Santa.

The month-long celebration of the holidays will end with a New Year’s Eve filled with entertainment.

The theme this year is “Circus! Circus!” The hotel

will be filled with performers that will leave our guests amazed as sword swallows, fire eaters, jugglers, and stilt walkers mingle with our guests. They will be roving through the crowds demonstrating their astounding talents and ushering in the New Year.

In addition, dance music will fill the air, and at the stroke of midnight, a giant balloon drop will herald 2017.

Enjoy a month of marvel with us at the Soaring Eagle Waterpark and Hotel and enjoy one of your wonderful Tribal properties. The holiday season won’t be the same if you don’t drop by for a visit.

From everyone at Migizi Economic Development Company, Mno Niibaanaamaan!

## Splash Away Hunger raises nearly 12,000 pounds of food for local soup kitchen

**NATALIE SHATTUCK**

Editor

In another effort to give back to the Mount Pleasant community, the Soaring Eagle Waterpark and Hotel held its Splash Away Hunger food drive on Monday, Nov. 7 and Tuesday, Nov. 8.

For the two days only, waterpark guests could donate two food item donations (non-expired and non-perishable) in exchange for one waterpark pass.

All donations benefitted the Isabella Community Soup Kitchen.

All of the Soup Kitchen’s donations are weighed before being stored. This year, 11,933 pounds of food was collected.

Waterpark and Migizi Economic Development Corporation also had departmental competitions to see which office could collect the most food items.



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

**The Soaring Eagle Waterpark and Hotel gathered food for the Isabella Community Soup Kitchen as part of its Splash Away Hunger food drive.**

“(Soaring Eagle Waterpark staff) also did (their) intra-departmental food drive like last year but Migizi were included this time,” said Melissa Mullard, marketing specialist for Migizi. “Last year we raised 3,033 pounds of food donations for the Isabella Community Soup Kitchen. This year we raised a whopping 11,933 pounds of food!”

The passes were valid on that day only, and donations

were collected from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

“A huge thank you to everyone who helped make this event such a success,” Mullard said.

The Soup Kitchen’s needed items include: peas, corn, green beans, carrots, chicken and beef broth, tuna, spaghetti sauce, ravioli, soup, mayonnaise, saltine crackers, peanut butter, jelly, macaroni and cheese, instant potatoes, ketchup, salad dressing, powdered coffee creamer and various juices.

The Waterpark’s next fundraiser is “Swimming & Giving,” a promotion for Toys for Tots, scheduled during Dec. 8. Guests can bring in one unwrapped toy of \$5 or greater value per day pass for the charity.

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## Trunk or Treat and Halloween Haunt declared a frightfully fun family affair

**JOSEPH V. SOWMICK**

Photojournalist

For anyone who was up for a frightfully fun family affair on Oct. 28, the place to be was on the hill at the Saginaw Chippewa Powwow grounds.

"I know this was the first year where we tried computer registration with the help of I.T., but not everyone registered," said Lucas Sprague, interim director for the Recreation Department. "When this event went viral all over town through Facebook, I would bet we had over a thousand people who came."

The event occurred on a 68-degree Indian summer evening.

"The haunted tunnel by SCIT Housing was a huge plus and, again, proved to be a big hit for both the kids and adults," said Lindsey Sprague, organized sports specialist. "I enjoyed seeing everyone's awesome ideas for costumes as individuals and families alike. The 'fear factor' (eating contest) was hard and fun to watch at the same time. I'd like to give a big shout out to the brave participants that fought their way through it!"

This year's fear factor contest included crickets, marshmallows, ketchup, tabasco hot sauce and a full diaper of creamy peanut butter as the audience had their cell phones out to capture the hilarity.

"My favorite part of the night was watching the family dance off to the Michael Jackson song 'Thriller.' Everyone brought their best moves to the Halloween Haunt on the hill this year," Lindsey Sprague said.

Jonathan Updegraff of the Recreation Department said he enjoyed seeing both children and adults dressed up.

"Parents and grown-ups did a great job in getting into the whole vibe of the event," Updegraff said. "My favorite costume had to be the little man in the Optimus Prime setup. It was not only cool, it was homemade and the whole family was involved in making it."

Staffer Kyle Shomin said the event provided children with a safe environment to trick or treat.

"I also really like the candy donation system we had in place. It allows us to refill the trunks that run out of candy and that way all the kids are able to get a really good amount of candy," Shomin said.

Growing up with the Halloween Haunt occurring, staffer David Merrill Jr. said he remembers the community would look forward to the event year after year.

"I remember (the Halloween Haunt) being in the Eagles Nest when they used to drape the walls with black plastic. It has gotten so huge we had to move it to the powwow grounds," Merrill said. "This is our second year at the hill, and it has turned out great, and it gets better every year. Just the tremendous amount of candy given out just shows the generosity of our Tribe and the community."

Merrill said the event is important because it builds on the community cohesiveness.

"I like to think of it as one big family reunion," Merrill said. "I am glad to have helped coordinate this event for the community."



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

**SCIT Housing created a realistic and interactive looking graveyard for their haunted tunnel.**



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

**There's more than meets the eye when the Transformers won the family costume contest.**

Housing Manager April Borton said for her and her staff, making the haunted tunnel is one of their favorite events each year.

"The large turnout of the community families sharing in laughing, squealing, participating in the activities and everyone just having a good time with each other is a great reward for us," Borton said. "It's been fun growing our haunted feature each year from the back of our housing van to the large pavilion now and we are already planning to expand it again next year."

For a lot of Tribal events, a chorus of "wait until you see it next year" comes out – the Trunk or Treat, Halloween Haunt and the Housing's haunted tunnel promise to deliver on that guarantee.



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

**SCIT Recreation employee Kyle Shomin (right) awards Celebration Cinema tickets to Tribal elder Marie Kequom as she won the Best Trunk or Treat contest two years running.**



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

**Mariana Vasquez sure makes for a beautiful bride at the Halloween Haunt.**



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

**Fear Factor asks, "Would you be able to eat this ketchup and tabasco covered marshmallow with a side of crickets?"**



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

**The crowd gathered and smartphones captured Facebook and Snapchat moments during the fear factor competition.**



**Attention Tribal Members**

The Ziiwing Cultural Society Board of Directors needs to fill a 2-year term vacancy. Please submit a letter of interest and resume to:

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## Tribe hosts Mount Pleasant Area Chamber of Commerce fall legislative breakfast

**JOSEPH V. SOWMICK**

Photojournalist

On Oct. 28, the Tribe welcomed the Mount Pleasant Area Chamber of Commerce back to the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort for its fall legislative breakfast at the Three Fires Room.

Chamber President Bret Hyble introduced Chief Frank Cloutier and three other guest speakers that included Rep. John Moolenaar (R-Midland), Sen. Judy Emmons (R-Sheridan) and Michigan Speaker of the House Kevin Cotter (R-Mt. Pleasant).

"I've had the honor of serving on the Mount Pleasant Chamber Executive Board, the Michigan Chamber of Commerce and went through the Chamber's Rollie Denison Leadership Institute," Cloutier said to the representatives. "All of those organizations taught me how important working with other government leaders and the business community is an essential part of progress and economic success. Our Tribal Council administration embraces that by hosting events like this and we are glad to have you back on the Reservation for the fall legislative breakfast."

Moolenaar was on the campaign trail during the legislative breakfast and was elected to his congressional seat on Nov. 8.

"It's important that we can focus on what we can do at the federal and state level to encourage an environment that will create jobs and promotes prosperity all citizens in the State of Michigan and particularly mid-Michigan," Moolenaar said. "I think we always need to have good infrastructure whether that is roads and bridges, making sure we can get our goods transported throughout the state and country."

"Underground infrastructure is also important whether drains or pipes, and we've seen that situation in Flint where the underground infrastructure has eroded," he said. "I think as we continue to look at core issues addressed within the business community, those concerns need to be at the forefront of economic development."

Emmons has raised awareness for countless social concerns of human trafficking. She said she appreciates the support she has received from various Tribal Council administrations throughout the years.

"Any business is integral to the community and I think it's great that we can all work together to promote the businesses and to continue the growth of the economy of mid-Michigan. It's helpful to see the Tribal Council and Chief Frank Cloutier share those same interests," Emmons said.

Emmons said there is a distinct challenge to get more engagement of young people to join in the political process of serving the community in elected positions.

"We need to have more involvement because of a term limited Michigan legislature. People realize they are going to take a big chunk out of their life to serve and embrace a political career," Emmons said.

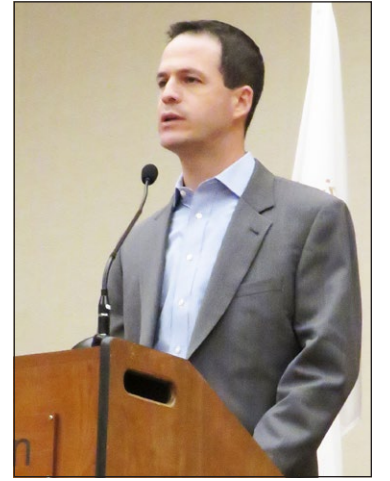
"It is rewarding and it is a privilege to serve our community," she said. "It's important to know that everything we do has a potential impact to affect everyone who lives here in the State of Michigan. It's a tremendous responsibility and I hope chamber events like this can inspire young business leaders to seek public office."

Because Cotter did not seek office this election cycle, he said this has given him more time to focus on policy issues.



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

**Chief Frank Cloutier provides government and community leaders an overview on Tribal economic development opportunities at the Fall Legislative Breakfast on Oct. 28.**



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

**State Rep. Kevin Cotter thanks the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe and the Mount Pleasant area business community during his time in the legislature.**

"Just like Sen. Moolenaar and his colleagues in Washington, we continue to work on the budget process. When we started the journey to balance the budget, Sen. Moolenaar was a supportive voice for reducing the debt in the State of Michigan budget," Cotter said. "The track record he showed helped us to complete that budget process in June. That is an important milestone and a lot of things can get stuck in the log jam of budgets. I believe we passed a good and responsible budget

that will continue to pay down the state debt."

Cotter served most of his year in the legislature on the appropriations committee and drew some laughter with a political euphemism.

"In my first term in the legislature, I realized we had a lot of bad debt," Cotter said. "As we look at the budget process, I learned we have a fancy term for that. We call it unfunded liability. Maybe that can make us feel better, but as a business community, you know debt is debt."

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## Ziibiwing Center ancestral repatriation observance brings loved ones home

**JOSEPH V. SOWMICK**

Photojournalist

The Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan and its Ziibiwing Center of Anishinabe Culture & Lifeways held an Anishinabe ancestral repatriation observance on Nov. 12 to bring loved ones home.

The "Recommitment to the Earth" ceremony for 51 ancestors (originating from Alpena and Saint Clair counties) took place at the Tribe's Nibokaan Indian Cemetery.

Ziibiwing has been working diligently on behalf of the Tribe in cooperation with the Michigan Anishinaabek Cultural Preservation & Repatriation Alliance, to bring home ancestors and their associated funerary objects from the numerous museums, universities, and institutions across the country since the passage of the 1990 Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA).

The planned repatriation and reburials were executed in collaboration with Harvard University's Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology and the Michigan Anishinaabek Cultural Preservation & Repatriation Alliance.

William Johnson, curator for Ziibiwing and MACPRA



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

**Community volunteers smudge and bathe their hands with cedar medicine before placing the sacred bundles into Mother Earth.**

committee chair, said Nibokaan was established in 1995.

"The reburial for the remaining 47 ancestors was undertaken by the other five authorized transfer recipient tribes and will be within their respective tribal territories," Johnson said.

The Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatomis Indians, Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Pottawatomis, Pokagon Band of Pottawatomis Indians, and Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians were also involved with the recent repatriation effort.

"The ancestral human remains of 51 Native American individuals for the SCIT repatriation came from Harvard University's Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology," Johnson said. "All

repatriation activities are being supported by a grant from the Department of Interior, National Park Service and the National NAGPRA Program."

Shannon Martin, director for Ziibiwing, thanked Midewewin tribal elders George and Sydney Martin and Charmaine Shawana as they shared their teachings and spirit with those involved in the morning "Preparing for the Journey" ceremony.

"(The ancestors') last physical gift to creation was to give their bodies back to Mother Earth; honoring all she provided during their lifetime," Shannon Martin said. "This give away ceremony was interrupted when their remains were pulled out of the earth. Their flesh, bones, blood and water and their being should have been allowed to go

back to Mother Earth in that good way."

Unfortunately, that has not been a basic human right extended to Native American people.

"Of all the people of the world, we are the ones in the human race that have been desecrated the most by archaeologists and grave robbers," Shannon Martin said.

Steve and Mae Pego honored the ancestors with the Little Boy Water Drum and their songs.

A delegation from Ziibiwing went to Harvard University on Nov. 8, and other Michigan tribal representatives flew into Boston to join them on Nov. 9.

The actual transfer of possession between the Michigan tribes and Harvard University took place later that afternoon.

"It's a good day to be Anishinabe," Johnson said. "Dr. Sonya Atalay from the University of Massachusetts Amherst reminded us repatriation is the reburying of ancestors over 1,000 years old. It's a real beautiful thing when our Tribe comes together and works as hard as we can on behalf of those who made the path for us to follow."

Johnson said this is the culmination of a five-year endeavor.

On Oct 4, 2011, the MACPRA Tribes submitted a simultaneous

joint request for disposition for the repatriation of all the ancestors at the University of Michigan and 18 museums nationally.

"...The Peabody Museum was one of the most obstructionist museums we have ever had to deal with," Johnson said. "It has been the most spiritually and physically challenging repatriation that we have ever been involved in. And we are at where we are today because we, as an Anishinabe people, do not take no for an answer."

Tori McGeshick, member of the Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewas, made the journey and attended the Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatomis Indians (Gun Lake Tribe) ceremony the day before.

"This week is my first experience with repatriation and one thing I would like for a lot of youth members to know is this process is very humbling. It really connects you back to your identity," McGeshick said. "Doing the preparation and recommitment ceremony helped me to really connect with my ancestors. I felt proud to be Anishinabe Kwe. I wish other youth members could experience this for themselves as well."



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## Standing Rock Sioux Tribe Member Germaine Tremmel speaks at CMU event

**NATALIE SHATTUCK**

Editor

It's been nearly five months since Native groups and activists from across the country began flocking to a camp set up in North Dakota near the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe's reservation to protest the Dakota Access Pipeline.

Roughly 150 days later and #NoDAPL continues to make headlines in the media.

As part of Central Michigan University's Native American Heritage Month, in collaboration with the Tribe, the Nov. 8 Soup and Substance program concentrated on the topic with guest speaker Germaine Tremmel.

Approximately 130 people filled the Bovee UC Terrace Rooms for Tremmel, a member of the Standing Rock nation and an American Indian lawyer with an international law degree from Cambridge University.

Tremmel is an activist who has worked with the U.S. State Department on solutions to hostage situations. She is a recipient

of the Indigenous United Nations Peacemaker Award and a former judge with the U.N. International Court of Justice in The Hague, Netherlands.

"It's like a war zone out there," Tremmel said of the protest site.

More than 14,000 people are currently at the protest site, which contains only nine major kitchens, and five major camps. There are four emergency tents, all ran by volunteers, Trummel said.

"We're not protestors, we're protectors," Tremmel said. "And there's a difference. I don't like the comparison."

On that same morning, Tremmel said more than 20 protestors went to court.

"If we lose this battle, we lose our identity," she said. "We will never be able to claim it. Your identity is connected to your land and who you are."

She reported 427 arrests have been made total; from 8 year olds to elders.

Tremmel said the protestors have been peaceful and unarmed. Yet, violence is occurring. Two

of her horses have been killed, she said. When protestors are arrested, they are frequently put in animal kennels, and elders are often mistreated, and even beaten.

Her granddaughter was shot in the leg while on horseback, she said.

"Our young people are hurting... and there is a lot of (post-traumatic stress disorder) in camp so we have put up mental health camps," she said.

The protest has brought on one advantage: The unity of tribes throughout the nation.

"This is the first time in history that 380 tribes have come together that we've been enemies with," she said.

The demonstrators have been "live streaming" videos on Facebook, but their Wi-Fi has recently been shut down.

The camp is currently run by solar power.

Tremmel reported North Dakota's governor demanded any business that sells its products or services to protestors will be closed down. She said water has

been taken away, along with their food supply. People are persistently trying to figure out how they can bring in food and necessary medicine.

Rain water has been collected to be converted into drinking water.

She mentioned some of the donations items needed include food, blankets, winter gear, calamine lotion for wounds, tarps, flashlights and batteries.

Jade Johnson, graduate assistant for CMU's Office of Diversity Education, attended.

"The most significant takeaway was Tremmel's emphasis on community building," Johnson said. "Tremmel discussed the ways people have contributed to the movement, as well as the intergroup support. No matter what barriers arise, the people involved with the movement persevere."



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

**In Central Michigan University's Bovee UC Terrace rooms on Nov. 8, Standing Rock Sioux Tribe member Germaine Tremmel speaks at the Soup and Substance event in honor of Native American Heritage Month. Tremmel discussed her experiences with the Dakota Access Pipeline protests.**

Johnson also said she was surprised to learn of the collaborative efforts at the protest site between different generations.

"Many young people started the (protest) movement, but the structure and guidance has come from older generations."

## Sculptor Dennis R. Christy Sr. donates "Sacred Circle" to Ziibiwing Center

**JOSEPH V. SOWMICK**

Photojournalist

On Nov. 17, William Johnson, curator for the Ziibiwing Center, traveled to Rosebush Thunder Hammer Studios as Tribal elder Dennis R. Christy Sr. donated his new creation "Sacred Circle" to the museum.

"The Sacred Circle sculpture has the teachings of the medicine wheel and the four indigenous races (yellow, red, black and white) represented," Christy said. "I consider it a piece that honors the teachings of our Tribe and the races that are a part of the Sacred Circle."

The medicine wheel in the piece is made out of black slate and has a medicine pouch in it, along with four migizi miigwans (eagle feathers), Christy said. The colors are placed on a real buffalo skull.

Christy donated his piece to the Tribe during the Ziibiwing



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

**The Dennis R. Christy Sr. gift of the "Sacred Circle" to the Ziibiwing Center is displayed at the Nov. 18 Circle of Indigenous Arts for the public to enjoy.**

Center's Nov. 17-19 Circle of Indigenous Arts festival.

The donation was a surprise to Johnson and he said he considers it an honor.

"To receive a world-class sculpture by a master artist is truly a blessing," Johnson said. "Dennis has always been kind to us. Time and time again, he answers the call for help whenever we need him. His kindness is only surpassed by his gentle demeanor and professionalism."

Christy grew up in central Michigan near the Reservation.

His grandmother was a master basket maker and he used to sit with her carving things from wood.

"My grandmother taught me culture can only survive from its language and its art; that is how people will recognize us in the future and that's why it's important to keep it alive," Christy said. "The pieces of stone I have done over the years, I know will last for centuries. I've had many pieces

that found their way into museums and private collections, but this donation is my way of giving something back to keep our story alive at Ziibiwing."

After graduating from high school, Christy went to Santa Fe, N.M. in the seventies where he received his associate of fine arts degree from the Institute of American Indian Arts. It was there where Christy learned to hone his craft by watching some of the best Native American carvers in North America.

He returned to Michigan and his Saginaw Chippewa culture for inspiration. He taught stone carving.

"SCIT artists Jason Quigno and Daniel 'Gomez' Mena were students of mine and I always want to encourage our people to be proud to tell the story of our people in their art," Christy said. "I really enjoyed heading to Delta College earlier this year when my student Jason was recognized for

his 'Gete Ookomisan' (Ancient Grandmother) creation."

Christy has used a variety of stone, from alabaster to marble, in his 42 years of being a sculptor.

"The slate I used for the medicine wheel is easier to carve than some other stones, he said. "Anything beyond marble takes specialized carving tools."

"We have so many talented people within our SCIT community and we need to continue to encourage and nurture them to keep these good teachings moving forward," he said. "If everyone showed their gifts, the art world would really be looking at the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe and our artists for indigenous inspiration."

Christy recently did a show in Jackson, Mich. and he frequently does commissioned work.

Christy may be contacted by appointment at [thunderhammerdrc@charter.net](mailto:thunderhammerdrc@charter.net).

### Journey of Body Acceptance Study

**Have you ever been considered obese?**

(Body Mass Index > 30 kg/m<sup>2</sup>)

**Have you ever tried to accept your body at a larger size?**

Central Michigan University researchers would like to learn from you. We are looking for people who are 18 or over, identify as a woman, and speak and understand English.

You will be interviewed 3 times every 3-4 months for about 1 hour.

You will be asked about your thoughts on health, weight, and

life to help us better understand body acceptance.

Participation is voluntary. You may quit at any time.

The interview will be scheduled for a time convenient for you at CMU's Health Professions Building. Your information will be kept confidential.

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**Please contact the researcher:**

**Dr. Andrea Bombak**

Assistant Professor, School of Health Sciences

Phone: 989.774.3607 or Email: [bodyacceptance@cmich.edu](mailto:bodyacceptance@cmich.edu)

### Life after Weight Loss Surgery Study

**Have you undergone any kind of weight loss surgery?**

**Are you interested in talking about your thoughts and feelings about the surgery and your health and life after surgery?**

Central Michigan University researchers would like to learn from you. We are looking for people who are aged 18 or older, have had any form of weight loss surgery in the past, and speak and understand English.

You will be interviewed 3 times every 3-4 months for about 1 hour. You will be asked your thoughts on surgery, health, weight, appearance, and quality

of life to help us better understand life after weight loss surgery and maybe help others thinking about weight loss surgery or after their own surgeries.

Participation is voluntary. You may quit at any time. The interview will be scheduled for a time convenient for you at CMU's Health Professions Building. Your information will be kept confidential.

**CMU**  
CENTRAL MICHIGAN  
UNIVERSITY

**Please contact the researcher:**

**Dr. Andrea Bombak**

Assistant Professor, School of Health Sciences

Phone: 989.774.3607 or Email: [wlsurgerystudy@cmich.edu](mailto:wlsurgerystudy@cmich.edu)





## Tribe honored during Central Michigan University's Oct. 29 Traditions Day

**NATALIE SHATTUCK**

Editor

As part of Central Michigan University's Traditions Day, the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe was recognized throughout the Saturday, Oct. 29 football game day.

Youth Tribal Members along with the Nijikewehn Mentoring Program were welcomed on the Kelly/Shorts Stadium football field to form a tunnel to cheer on and greet the CMU Chippewas athletes onto the turf.

Prior to kick off, Mino Ode drummers performed a three-minute warrior song to honor the Creator, athletes and local community.

"The Tribal community drum is significant in that it represents that never-ending circle of life," said the announcer. "The sounds that resonate from the drum are the heartbeat of our ancestors sharing their wisdom and their prayers for strength, agility, mutual respect and sportsmanship."



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

**Nijikewehn Mentoring Program representatives, youth and CMU representatives gather around the Mino Ode drummers as they perform a warrior song.**

To recognize the Tribe and CMU's longstanding, progressive relationship, Tribal Council members Candace Benzinger and Amanda Oldman, and Public Relations Director Erik Rodriguez were recognized on the field with CMU President George Ross, Athletic Director Dave Heeke and lacrosse coach Sara Tisdale during the first media timeout in the first quarter.

"Built on mutual respect and admiration for one another, both (the Tribe and CMU) stand

committed to supporting one another while striving to make a difference in the lives of others," the announcer said.

This past year, CMU added women's lacrosse as the newest varsity sport.

The addition was another opportunity for CMU to celebrate collaboration with the Tribe as the sport was founded by Native Americans.

Ross, Heeke and Tisdale presented the Tribal representatives with a gift commemorating the inaugural season of the CMU Lacrosse team and Anishinabe blessing ceremony that took place in April.

"The gifts were a framed picture of first year women's lacrosse team players and coaches with SCIT Tribal Council, President Ross and representatives from CMU athletics," Rodriguez said. "The box presented contained a lax head with the basket strung in respect to the colors of the medicine wheel, the inaugural ball that was dropped to commemorate the stadium, and a team cleat."



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

**In an effort to keep the collaboration strong, Saginaw Chippewa Tribal representatives were recognized by Central Michigan University delegates on the Oct. 29 Traditions Day in honor of the new CMU women's lacrosse team. (Left to right: CMU President George Ross; Erik Rodriguez, interim public relations director; Tribal Council members Amanda Oldman and Candace Benzinger; lacrosse coach Sara Tisdale; and CMU Athletic Director Dave Heeke.)**

Oldman said it was an honor to represent the Tribe at the occasion.

"As a nation that works closely with the CMU Chippewas, we need to continue to be seen and heard in a positive manner within the greater communities," Oldman said. "This provides a platform to educate individuals that we

are not objects; we are human beings with a rich history, culture, tradition while enjoying a mutual interest in all sports. I am proud that we had our community drum present, and (spectators did respect protocol) we had Tribal community members present including the Nijikewehn participants who attended the game."

## Seventh Generation's Ghost Supper remembered, honored deceased loved ones

**JOSEPH V. SOWMICK**

Photojournalist

As the autumn leaves continued to fall, family, friends and community members came into the circle as the Nov. 9 Ghost Supper gave pause for remembering, feasting and honoring loved ones who have passed on.

The ceremony took place at Seventh Generation's Elijah Elk Cultural Center where a sacred fire was lit for the ancestors.

Cultural Representative Ben Hinmon shares teachings with the understanding that ceremonies vary from tribe to tribe, community to community.

"Individual(s) may receive teachings from a respected elder or teacher, and the manner and way knowledge is given is according to the individual who imparts this knowledge," Hinmon said. "The Ghost Supper, or Spirit Feast,



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

**Seventh Generation employees Lee Ann Ruffino, Lacey Mandoka and Trent Trepanier arrange community dishes for the Ghost Supper.**

is a tradition of acknowledging those family members who have passed from the physical world to the spirit world."

"It is a time to remember those who have walked on and feed their spirits, even though they are no longer with us, they

still enjoy their favorite foods and seeing relatives," he said.

Hinmon said the deceased loved ones are honored by serving their favorite foods and sharing stories of them.

"Usually a family will announce a ghost supper and invite friends and relatives to share in the meal, usually in the evening—around dusk—when a sacred fire is lit to make spirit plate offerings," he said. "It is up to the sponsoring family or organization to light the fire and prepare a spirit plate, making sure that the offering of food is done before attendees take part in the meal."

Birchbark pieces, tobacco and cedar are made available when making the spirit plate.

"For some, (this course) will mark the end of the mourning process although there is no official time frame to end mourning," he said.

This event was not offered last year, but Administrative

Assistant II Lee Ann Ruffino said this has been an annual event in previous years.

"...Holding this ceremony... keeps our cultural traditions and memories of our loved ones alive," Ruffino said. "Traditionally, ghost suppers are offered from many different families around the community, some are even on the same day, so this is not unusual."

A message shared by the late SCIT elder and storyteller Simon Otto said Native Americans have always had a harvest feast, but his tribe's tradition is celebrated closer to the Nov. 2 All Souls Day as a result of Catholic influence.

"When the Christian missionaries came in the 1600s, there were churches everywhere, and they saw all of these Indians having harvest feasts," Otto said. "They noticed that we didn't have much room in our houses, so they gave us room and the

food for our feasts. It was truly done in a way to convert us. That's why you have a lot of Catholic Indians around the Great Lakes."

Ruffino said no dish is eaten until the prayer and spirit plates for each loved one are offered.

"There will be no tasting of the dish to be shared in this event, and all food is to be offered to those who have passed away first," Ruffino said.

The preparation and protocol does not allow any salt to be added to the dishes because of the difference between geographical locations around Michigan. Salt is widely considered a blocking agent to the spirits.

"Overall, bringing these types of spiritually relevant events back into our community are a good thing," Ruffino said. "They are meant to bring us together as we acknowledge the Anishinaabe culture and bring unity."

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count	agindasso
down	niisayi'ii
candy	ziinziibaakwadoons
snow	goon
hill	mangadinaa
home	endaad
cinnamon	meskwannagekozid
sugar	ziinziibaakwad
cookies	bakwezhighaans
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church	anam'ewigamig
God	gizhemanidoo

## ANISHINAABEMOWIN WORD SEARCH



MNO MIIBAANAMAAN! MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Nichols, John, D, & Nyholm, Earl. A Concise Dictionary of Minnesota Ojibwe. University of Minnesota Press. Minneapolis. 1995. Title by Isabelle Osawamick.

## WIGWAM WISDOM

The Wigwam has sheltered our ancestors from storms and bad weather since the dawn of time. The wigwam has witnessed the hardships our people have had to endure not only through the hands of change and war, but upon our strongest enemies, ourselves. The spirit of the wigwam does not forget and keeps with it the wisdom to guide the souls that have strayed back to a peaceful life.



Comments or feedback can be sent to: wigwam\_wisdom@yahoo.com

\*(WW is intended entertainment purposes only. Please make sure to seek professional counseling when necessary.)

**Dear WW:** I'm not sure how to handle this but I don't want my sister's boyfriend to come to my house for Christmas dinner this year. I know that sounds bad but he's a loser and I'm done playing games. They are off and on again and nothing changes. She'll say all kinds of bad things about him and of course, let him crawl back to her because she "loves" him. It's just so pathetic and she deserves way better than him. The only way of not having him over is to not invite my sister but I don't want to do that. I want to invite her and tell her to come alone. **Only You**

**Dear You:** You certainly can decide who gets to come into your house but I would recommend against it if he hasn't done anything directly to you. The next time she starts talking badly about him, tell her you do not want to hear it. Encourage her to go to counseling for it. That way you don't know any of the details and may be able to tolerate him better. In the spirit of Christmas, I would not turn anyone away. Just be polite and don't judge. Smudge if you have to but don't judge!

**Dear WW:** I messed up and sent a wrong text to a casual friend instead of my girlfriend. The text was pretty personal but the friend responded as if I meant it. I meant to tell my girlfriend that she looked pretty that morning and was looking forward to spending time with her. I immediately let the friend know that it was to the wrong person. However, do I tell my girlfriend about it? My casual friend is one of her close friends and she is interested in me. I'm sure it would ruin their friendship. **Wrong Text**

**Dear Text:** Honesty is the best policy. She probably doesn't need a "friend" like that anyways. On a side note, she could have asked her friend to respond that way to see if you would go for it. If that is the case, I would worry that she felt the need to test you. Either way, be direct about it and don't hide anything because people who have nothing to hide. Hide nothing.

**Dear WW:** I have a good job but have been offered a better job about two hours away. It is in a bigger city which means better opportunity and better schools for my kids. However, the problem is that my wife's family lives in the town we live in now. Job opportunities like the one I've been offered don't come up very often. I could see the sadness on her face at the thought of leaving her family. Not sure how we are going to resolve this. **Opportunity Knocks**

**Dear Knocks:** Her relationship to you needs to come first. It's two hours not two states. You can still have every holiday and birthday together. I'm sure there will be an adjustment period in which she will have time to get used to it. Keep in mind all of the pros and mention them whenever she starts to feel sad about it. It might even make her closer to her family by living further from them. I would not regret moving for better schools and the advantages that a bigger city can offer.

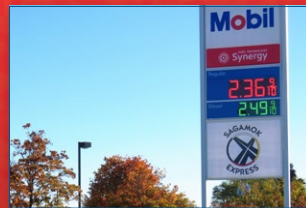
## WHERE ON THE REZ?



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## LAST MONTH:



Sagamok Express Sign

**Last Month's Winner:**  
Gilbert Williams

## Tribal Library encourages Native American pride during heritage month

**NATALIE SHATTUCK**

Editor

In celebration of Native American Heritage Month in November, the Tribal Library invited community members to share why they are proud to be Native American or what they love about Native American heritage.

Participants could stop by the library in Tribal Operations during its hours of operation throughout the month to share their thoughts, and have their photo taken.

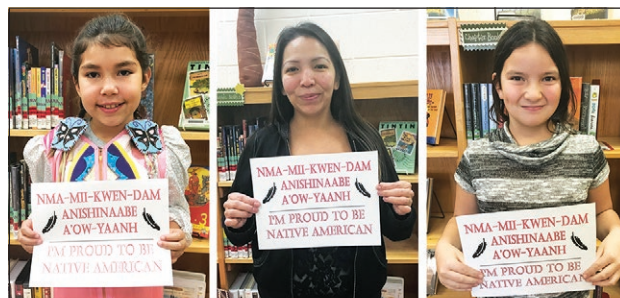
Librarian Assistant Lee-Anne Disel said the idea stemmed from watching her two daughters, Alayna and Sadie, dance in the K-12 educational powwow, and seeing how proud they were to showcase their heritage in front of other children.

"Also, growing up, I dealt with a lot of racism and I remember being ashamed of being Native American and that's sad," Disel said. "Now that I am older, I see how beautiful we are as a people and that we are nothing to be ashamed of but something to be celebrated and proud of. I want my children to know that we, as Native Americans, are beautiful! Especially with everything going on in the world these days; there is so much hate and racism. I thought it would be nice to share a little love and pride."

David Syckle II, environmental resources technician, stopped in the library to exhibit his Native pride.

Syckle said he is proud to be a descendent of the Oneida Nation of the Thames, and was heavily involved with Native American Heritage Month during his years with Central Michigan University's Native American Programs.

"While growing up, I saw that my family had Native pride within a family and personal context, but past generations did not show this Native pride to general American society as a whole," Syckle said. "I think it is important to show our younger Native generations there are reasons to be proud to be Native and not to feel like second-class citizens."



Courtesy of Lee-Anne Disel

**More than 30 proud Native Americans dropped by the Tribal Library in celebration of heritage month to showcase why they are proud of their heritage. The event occurred throughout November, and individuals could have their photo taken and/or write down what they love most about their Native American culture.**

"As Native Indigenous peoples, we have made worthwhile contributions to American society, which include governmental models, modern foods, medicines, armed forces, and traditional knowledge of the natural world to name a few," he said. "Our Medicine Wheel teachings tell us that we are part of the whole and that the circle would be broken if we ceased to contribute to the world around us."

Disel said she believes it is important for Native Americans to display their culture.

"Because if we don't, who will? Our heritage is beautiful. Our people are beautiful! We need to tell people and show people what it is that we are proud of," Disel said.

Librarian Assistant Kimberly Condon also got into the festivities to celebrate her Native values.

"I feel it's important to show I'm proud (of my heritage) in hopes of being a good role model for the younger generations," Condon said. "I think it helps for them to see adults showing pride, and it makes them feel proud about being Native American as well."

More than 30 individuals participated and were entered into a drawing for prizes.





## SCTC student Chase Stevens shares military experience on Veteran's Day

**NATALIE SHATTUCK**

Editor

The Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College honored Veteran's Day on Thursday, Nov. 10 with a celebration, luncheon and guest speaker at noon in the West building in rooms one and two.

Shuna Stevens, extension office project coordinator for SCTC, greeted the audience and introduced her cousin, veteran Chase Stevens as the guest speaker.

Chase Stevens is a Shepherd High School graduate and a current SCTC student.

He served 12 years in the U.S. Marine Corp. from 2002 to 2014.

He said he completed three tours in Iraq and two in Afghanistan.

"Serving in the military helped me serve as a protector," Chase said.

He learned a great deal on brotherhood with the other marines he got to know, who became like family to him.

"The bonds (amongst marines) start immediately and last forever," he said.

The brotherhood and teamwork he experienced helped him take away life lessons, he said.

"No matter what, you can't accomplish everything by yourself," he said. "The Marines taught me that it is not

a weakness to rely on others and to be a part of a team."

Chase also mentioned the Seven Grandfather Teachings came into play while practicing humility.

"I am truly grateful for my time as a marine, but I'm also grateful to move on as a husband and a father," Chase said.

Chase said he has a supportive wife, Cecilia, and five children.

Shuna Stevens suggested to Kathy Hart, recruiter for SCTC's STEM, that she hosts an outreach event with the students, pertaining to a couple who are veterans.

"I think that it's important for people to be able to

share their stories as they can provide strength to others, can be inspirational, can be humbling, or can provide valuable lessons yet to be realized," Shuna Stevens said. "Storytelling and story sharing are all a part of who we are as Anishinaabe. Chase shared one of his and it may help someone along their way."

"Our grandfather Red Arrow Stevens was a great storyteller and there was usually a life lesson involved whether it was applicable at the time or if it became apparent years later, it was valued," Shuna Stevens said. "I'm glad to hear people carrying on this important oral tradition of storytelling."



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

**Former U.S. Marine Chase Stevens, SCTC student, shares his military experience during the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College's Veteran's Day luncheon on Nov. 10.**

## Editorial: You're never too old to go back to school

**JENNIFER LEWIS**

SCTC Student

Most people have heard the phrase, "you're never too old to go back to school." That phrase was always in the back of my mind. I would always tell myself, that I would go back to school and get a college education... someday.

In the fall of 2015, I rose to the challenge. What was once a lifelong dream so many

years ago finally became reality for me.

I knew when I walked into the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College to register for classes, I would sign up for classes aimed toward obtaining an associate degree in business.

My experience as a freshman at SCTC has been enlightening.

I have to admit, after being out of school for so many years, the thought of going back was frightening and

intimidating. However, with the small class sizes and the wonderful professors and staff, it has made the transition of going back to school much easier.

Now that I'm enrolled in classes, I get asked all the time, "what took you so long to go back to school?" My answer is always the same, "I should not have taken a couple years off of school and I should have gone straight to college fresh out of high school."

During that time off, I had three beautiful children and decided to put my life and dreams on hold to become a full-time, dedicated mother.

Now, my son is in college and my twin daughters will also be attending college soon. I have instilled in my children how important a college education is and it is one of the most important things you can do for yourself. As a mother, I want to lead by example and now I am doing that.

After I obtain my business degree, I intend to find an excellent culinary school and pursue a degree in culinary arts.

Cooking is a passion of mine and I enjoy cooking for family and friends. I would love to become a chef or open a restaurant of my own. It is a dream I have had since I was a little girl.

I know I have the passion, and with the education and many hours of hard work, my dream will one day come true.

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## Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College holds Nov. 9-10 traditional skirt workshop

**JOSEPH V. SOWMICK**

Photojournalist

Anishinaabe creativity and stories came together at the two-day traditional skirt workshop at the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College.

Shuna Stevens, extension coordinator for SCTC, said the Nov. 9-10 workshop was made possible from funding through the USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture Special Emphasis grant focusing on Anishinaabe art and crafts and emerging entrepreneurs.

"I felt that the teaching of the traditional skirt is important for all girls and women to know and wanted to offer this workshop in the hopes that these women would have them completed in time for spirit feast season and winter ceremonies," Stevens said.

Stevens reached out to Waabanoqua (Judy Pamp) who was able to not only give the teaching but also assist participants with making the skirts.

"There were 13 women who joined the workshop for the teaching component and 12 women who made traditional ribbon skirts," Stevens said. "We had one woman who attended SCTC Extension's applique workshop last month and used both her prior knowledge and newly-acquired skills to add a floral applique design to her ribbon skirt."

Waabanoqua discussed the skirts' significance and said



Courtesy of Shuna Stevens

**Misty Pelcher, early childhood manager for the Anishinaabe Language Revitalization Department shows her creation.**

Anishinaabe kwe are encouraged to wear skirts to ceremonial gatherings.

"(Women) are offered a skirt or sometimes even turned away if we do not have on a skirt," Waabanoqua said. "Most Anishinaabe girls have received skirt teachings and are encouraged to follow these beliefs. Most boys and men identify which of our young ladies follow our Anishinaabe teachings by identifying with their clothing or lack of skirt at ceremony."

Tribal elder Robin Spencer, research center specialist for the Ziibiwing Center, said she chose purple for her skirt because she was gifted a purple shawl after taking Ziibiwing's

Performance Circle courses with her grandson Christopher in the spring.

"As a new dancer, I am trying to build my regalia, and I thought, at least this gives me two pieces," Spencer said. "I loved taking the skirt class; it was fun and I was so pleased with the way my skirt turned out... I am excited now about trying to make skirts for my daughters and grand-daughters. This means I have at least seven more to make!"

Snowbird singer Roxanne Sawade, member of Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians, said her skirt fabric is called "The Starry Night," referring to the painting by Vincent Van Gogh.

"My story behind the choice of my fabric is that it reminds me of my grandmother, Mary (Delmas) DeMoines. She was born in Cross Village, Mich....," Sawade said. "The church on the fabric looks like the church she went to as a child in Harbor Springs (The Holy Childhood Catholic Church). The colors reflect my spirit name (Gentle Rain) and the love of the water."

Sawade also includes the creation story with her ribbon colors: green for Mother Earth, blue for the water of life



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

**Anishinaabe Kwe (left to right) Robin Spencer, Roxanne Sawade, Judy Pamp and Christa Gomez show off their colorful, traditional skirts they made at the SCTC workshop.**

and orange and yellow for her Eagle Clan colors.

Snowbird singer Christa Gomez, case manager for Behavioral Health, shared the meaning behind her creation.

"The silver represents the spirit world, the blue is for my Clan (wolf), and the feather ribbon to show appreciation and reverence to migizi," Gomez said. "Purple is one of my spirit name colors and I used yellow and orange to honor the sacred fire and green to honor Mother Earth."

SCTC alumnus Sheila Leauteaux, travel coordinator, said she enjoyed the workshop.

"We learned how to make (the skirts) while learning some history about why Anishinaabe kwe wear full-length skirts to ceremonies," Leauteaux said. "Chi-miigwetch to Judy for sharing her knowledge, and to SCTC and Shuna for offering the workshop."

Stevens hopes the workshops can continue to build upon each other in order for the learned skills to transfer to other projects.

To provide ideas for future workshops, please contact Stevens at [sstevens@sagchip.org](mailto:ssstevens@sagchip.org) or call SCTC at 989-775-4123.

## Fallis sworn in to SCTC Board of Regents



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

On Tuesday, Nov. 22, Jordan Fallis (right) was sworn in to begin serving his duties on the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College's Board of Regents. Chief Frank Cloutier (second from left) swore in Fallis, with Council members Brent Jackson, Amanda Oldman and Lindy Hunt looking on.

**Academic Calendar 2016 Fall Semester**

March 28 | Fall '16 Registration Opens  
 August 24, 25, 26 | Late Registration (Fee \$25)  
 August 26 | Last Day to Register For Classes  
 August 29 | Fall classes begin  
 September 2 | Drop/Add ends  
 September 5 | Labor Day (no classes)  
 September 16 | Constitution Day  
 September 23 | Michigan Indian Day (no classes)  
 October 17-21 | Mid-term Exam Week  
 October 24 | Spring '17 Registration Opens  
 November 4 | Last day to withdraw from Fall '16  
 November 23 | Thanksgiving Break begins at 5pm  
 November 28 | Classes Resume  
 December 9 | Fall classes end  
 December 12-16 | Exam Week  
 January 6 | Spring Registration ends

**2017 Spring Semester**

January 4,5,6 | Late Registration (Fee \$25)  
 January 6 | Last day to register for classes  
 January 9 | Spring classes begin  
 January 13 | Drop/Add ends  
 January 16 | MLK Jr Day (no classes)  
 February 27-March 3 | Mid-term Exam week  
 March 6-10 | Spring Break  
 March 19-21 | AIHEC Student Conference  
 March 24 | Last day to withdraw from Spring '17  
 April 29 | Spring classes end  
 May 1-5 | Exam week

**\*ATTENTION NEW STUDENTS**  
 In order to register for classes you must take the ACT Compass \* placement test and have a complete file

Please call (989) 775-4123 to set up your ACT Compass \* test

email: [sctcinfo@sagchip.edu](mailto:sctcinfo@sagchip.edu)  
 Website: [www.sagchip.edu](http://www.sagchip.edu)

SCTC ~ 2017 SPRING SEMESTER CLASSES						
Code	Course Title	Cr	Day	Location	Time	Instructor
ACC 115	Accounting Principles I	3	MW	WEST 1	10:30-11:50	Corlis
ACC 116*	Accounting Principles II	3	W	EAST COMP	5:30-8:20	Corlis
ANT 122	Intro to Physical Anthropology	3	MW	WEST 1	3:00-4:20	Pelton
ART 291	Art Design	3	MW	EAST 4 (ART)	1:30-2:50	L. Doke
ART 292**	Beadwork II	3	W	WEST 2	5:30-8:20	TBD
ART 132	Sculpture	3	M	EAST 4 (ART)	5:30-8:20	K. Doke
BIO 105*	Intro to Biology	3	TR	SCI BLDG	9:00-10:20	TBD
BIO 105A*	Biology Lab-Section 1	2	TR	SCI BLDG	10:30-11:20	TBD
BUS 110	Introduction to Business	3	MW	WEST 1	9:00 - 10:20	Corlis
BUS 150*	Business Law	3	T	WEST 2	5:30-8:20	Antrobus
BUS 200*	Principles of Marketing	3	W	WEST 1	5:30-8:20	Hoffman
BUS 215*	Business Communications	3	M	WEST 1	5:30-8:20	TBD
BUS 295*	Strategic Management Capstone	3	MW	WEST 1	12:00-1:20	Corlis
CPT 112	Introduction to Computer Technology	4	TR	SRC 2 COMP	5:30-6:50	Sanford
CS 299*	Graduate Seminar	1	R	WEST 2	12:00-12:50	Gotaaas
ECO 201	Principles of Economics I	3	M	EAST 3	5:30-8:20	Fox
ENG 097	College Reading and Writing	4	TR	EAST 3	9:00-10:50	Drumm
ENG 099*	Strategies and College Writing	4	MW	EAST 3	1:30-3:20	Drumm
ENG 101*	Composition I	3	TR	EAST COMP	10:30-11:50	Knight
ENG 102*	Composition II	3	TR	EAST COMP	10:30-11:50	Knight
ENG 130	Public Speaking	3	MW	EAST COMP	10:30-11:50	Knight
ENG 212*	American Literature I	3	MW	WEST 2	1:30-2:50	Knight
GEO 101	Introduction to Geography	3	MW	SCI BLDG	3:00-4:20	Miller
GEO 201*	Introduction to Weather and Climate	5	MW	SCI BLDG	9:30-11:50	Miller
GEL 101*	Geology	3	TR	SCI BLDG	1:30-2:50	Miller
GEL 101A*	Geology Lab	2	TR	SCI BLDG	3:00-3:50	Miller
HUM 140	Introduction to Film	3	MW	WEST 1	1:30-2:50	TBD
HUM 299A*	Liberal Arts Capstone	3	TR	SRC 1	12:00-1:20	Drumm
MTH 095	Fundamentals of Math	3	TR	EAST 2	9:00-10:20	Crosswait
MTH 099*	Beginning Algebra	4	TR	WEST 1	1:30-3:20	Crosswait
MTH 105*	Intermediate Algebra	3	TR	EAST 3	1:30-2:50	Rich
MTH 120*	Quantitative Reasoning	3	TR	SRC2 COMP	10:30-11:50	Rich
MTH 135*	College Algebra	3	MW	EAST 3	10:30-11:50	Rich
MTH 230*	Introduction to Statistics	3	MW	EAST COMP	1:30-2:50	Rich
NAS 218	NA Environmental Issues	3	M	WEST 2	5:30-8:20	M. Fisher
NAS 238	NA Law and Policy	3	MW	EAST 2	10:30-11:50	Haviland
NAS 261*	Survey of Native American History	3	MW	EAST 2	1:30-2:50	Haviland
NAS 263	Contemp. Native American Issues	3	TR	EAST 2	10:30-11:50	Haviland
NAS 270*	Globalization	3	TR	EAST 2	1:30-2:50	Haviland
NAS 295*	Traditional Foods & Food Sovereignty	5	TR	SRC 1	1:30-3:40	Sprague
OJB 101	Ojibwa Language I	3	TR	SRC 1	10:30-11:50	Roy
OJB 102*	Ojibwa Language II	3	MW	SRC 1	1:30-2:50	Roy
OJB 201*	Ojibwa Language III	3	MW	SRC 1	10:30-11:50	Roy
OJB 202*	Ojibwa Language IV	3	TR	SRC 1	9:00-10:20	Roy
PHL 212	Intro to Ethics	3	MW	WEST 2	10:30-11:50	White
PHY 101*	General Physics I	3	TR	SCI BLDG	5:30-6:50	Majorski
PHY 101A*	General Physics Lab	2	TR	SCI BLDG	7:00-7:50	Majorski
PSY 202	Human Development	3	TR	WEST 2	9:00-10:20	Mysilwiec
PSY 293*	Abnormal Psychology	3	MW	WEST 2	9:00-10:20	White
SOC 120	Contemporary Social Problems	3	M	EAST 2	5:30 - 8:20	Ruhl
SOC 240	Gender and Social Roles	3	W	EAST 2	5:30-8:20	Ruhl
SDV 099	Academic Methods	3	TR	WEST 2	10:30-11:50	Gotaaas
SPN 101	Spanish I	3	TR	WEST 1	1:30-2:50	Brock
SPN 102*	Spanish II	3	TR	WEST 1	3:00-4:20	Brock

\*Check co-requisite or pre-requisite requirements  
 \*\*Additional Course Fees apply

M= Monday W= Wednesday MW = Monday & Wednesday  
 T= Tuesday R= Thursday TR = Tuesday & Thursday

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**New Students:** Please contact the admissions office to schedule a time to complete admissions paperwork and placement testing. You will need approximately 1.5 hours to complete these tasks.

**Current Students:** If you are in need of an audit, please contact Nate Lambertson at [NLambertson@sagchip.edu](mailto:NLambertson@sagchip.edu) to make your request.





Recognizing the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan's

# Active Native Youth

Chippewa Hills Grade: 4

Football, Basketball, Baseball

Devin  
Neyome-Schoenborn

Chippewa Hills Grade: 7

Football, Basketball, Baseball

Jayden Neyome

Mount Pleasant Grade: 12

Football, Basketball, Track

Bailey Mitchell

Mount Pleasant Grade: 11

Varsity Cheer Sideline and Competitive

Tainelle Bailey

Shepherd Grade: 3

Soccer, Basketball

Katilyn Cantu

Pullen Elementary Grade: 3

Football, Basketball, Baseball, Lacrosse

Zhaawan Martell

West Intermediate Grade: 7

Football, Basketball, Baseball, Lacrosse

Giizhig Martell

Mary McGuire Grade: 6

Football, Basketball, Baseball, Lacrosse

Jimaganish Martell

Mount Pleasant Grade: 10

Soccer, Basketball

Lexi Weekley

Shepherd Grade: 4

Flag Football

Jonathan Bailey

Renaissance Grade: 5

Rocket Football, Soccer, Grass Dancer

Richard Delacruz Jr.

Chippewa Hills Grade: 8

Cheerleading, Basketball, Volleyball

Alexandria Sawmick

Mount Pleasant Grade: 11

Cross Country

Allen Crockett

Shepherd Grade: 2

Soccer

Samuel Cloud

Shepherd Grade: 5

Volleyball

Nevaeh Badger

Caro Grade: 7

Wrestling

Blake Spencer

Caro Schall Grade: 5

Dance

Kyla Spencer

Shepherd Grade: 7

Grass Dancer, Drummer, Singer, Lacrosse, Band

Christopher  
Spencer-Ruiz

Creative Beginnings Child Development Center Grade: Pre-K

Hunting, Grass and Traditional Dancing

Aakodewin Prout

Pullen Grade: 3

Soccer, Jingle Dress Dancer

Miikawadizi Prout

Shepherd Grade: 12

Fancy Feather Dancer, Culinary Arts, 4H Club, Snow Club

Gegek K. Pamp

Shepherd Grade: 9

Traditional Dancer, 4H Club, Basketball

Tobias Thomas Pamp

Mount Pleasant Grade: 10

Football

Hunter Kequom

Pullen Grade: 3

Football, Basketball

Nikodin Davis

Mary McGuire Grade: 6

Baseball, Football, Basketball

Tayden Davis



Mount Pleasant | Grade: 12

Volleyball, Basketball

Kallena Ricketts

Mary McGuire | Grade: 6

Football, Soccer, Dodgeball

Kayden Weekley

Coleman | Grade: 6

Band, Boy Scouts of America

Ian Johnson

Northeast MS | Grade: 7

Choir

Israel Trepanier

Victory Christian | Grade: pre-K

Gymnastics

Mariana Vasquez

Mount Pleasant | Grade: 11

Traditional Dancer, Softball

Tristin Jackson

Shepherd | Grade: 7

Hockey, Grass Dancer, Youth Council

Quincey Jackson

Mount Pleasant | Grade: 10

Cheerleading, Basketball, Fancy Dancer, Youth Council

Jasmyne Jackson

Mount Pleasant | Grade: 12

Hockey, Traditional Dancer, Youth Council, Zibiwing Youth Worker

Zackary Jackson

W. Intermediate | Grade: 8

Drumline

Mason Peterson

W. Intermediate | Grade: 8

Lacrosse, Cross Country

Lars George

Mount Pleasant | Grade: 11

Lacrosse

Cauy George

Shepherd | Grade: 3

Volleyball, Dance, Cheerleading

Bree Sprague

Beal City | Grade: 7

Hockey, Government, Chess Club, FFA

Bella Benzinger

Sacred Heart Academy | Grade: 1

Dance, Gymnastics, T-ball

Ella B. Fox

Mount Pleasant | Grade: 9

Basketball

Tyrone Rios

W. Intermediate | Grade: 8

Basketball

Jenna Rios

Mount Pleasant | Grade: 11

Basketball, Baseball

Phillip Peters III

Shepherd | Grade: 7

Softball, Basketball

Andee Raphael

Shepherd | Grade: 11

Basketball

Alicia Raphael

Ganiard | Grade: 1

Soccer, Softball, Dance

Brihanna Dunham

Shepherd | Grade: 9

Volleyball, Softball, Track, Choir, Cultural Dancer and Beadworker

Aiyanah Borton

Mary McGuire | Grade: 6

Football, Baseball, Basketball

Malakai DeMoines

University of Minnesota

Ultimate Frisbee, Marathon Runner

Lindy Sowmick

Swartz Creek | Grade: 8

Football

Simon R. Quigno

Terrace Elementary | Grade: 5

Regional Bible Quiz Competition, Cello

Leslie McCoy

Liberty Christian | Grade: 7

Regional Bible Quiz Competition, Basketball, Girls on the Run

Sandile McCoy  
(Back center)

Mount Pleasant | Grade: 12

Varsity Basketball, Jingle Dress Dancer

Dajia Shinos

W. Intermediate | Grade: 8

X-Treme Soccer, Basketball

Hazen Shinos

Renaissance Academy | Grade: 7

Soccer, Basketball

Elijah Otto-Powers





## New Tribal Court probation officers discuss past roles in Healing to Wellness

**JOSEPH V. SOWMICK**

Photojournalist

Former Healing to Wellness Coordinator Cathy Matthews and former Tribal Court Clerk Jennifer Wasegijig began their new positions as probation officers for the Tribal Court on Oct. 18.

“All my life I have always had the desire to help people from when I wanted to be a nurse when I was a teenager,” said Matthews, who is also a Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College alumnus.

Matthews said, Healing to Wellness clients know that she is available 24/7, and she will be for probationers as well.

“There is a healing process the brain has to go through in order for someone to get and stay sober,” Matthews said. “Patience and understanding is the key to helping people.”

Wasegijig said she has “always had a passion for the criminal justice and the court system.”



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

**New Tribal Court probation officers Cathy Matthews (left) and Jennifer Wasegijig (right) share a moment with Magistrate Carol Jackson in the courtroom.**

She has been working toward a criminal justice degree at Central Michigan University.

“I have had the experience working with Helping Hands as a summer youth worker, Behavioral Health as an intake specialist, (from) the education I have received at CMU, working at Tribal Court and as a representative for the Healing to Wellness committee,” Wasegijig said. “I feel I have compassion, and I want to encourage people to move forward and (I have) the want to help our community heal, one person at a time.”

The focus of Healing to Wellness, or Nooj-i-maang-Wii-mno-yaang, is to encourage participants toward making “the right choice to leading a good life.”

Tribal Court Judge Patrick Shannon said he believes the program is moving in the right direction.

“The mission of Healing to Wellness is designed to reduce recidivism, family violence and death caused by substance abuse by leading them down the spiritual teachings of the red road,” Shannon said.

“The spiritual recovery we build into the program gives (those in the program) another chance at life and a renewed sense of pride and responsibility to their Tribal community.”

“Healing to Wellness encompasses multiple disciplines and they are able to give our clients tools that are right here in their community,” Wasegijig said.

Matthews and Wasegijig will also be a part of the program, which is administered by a multidisciplinary team.

“The team meets every Monday in the magistrate chambers for a roundtable discussion on the progress and compliance of each participant,” said Carol Jackson, magistrate.

The HTW team includes the Court judge, magistrate, prosecutor, probation officers, Healing to Wellness coordinator, Chief of Police, Behavioral Health administrator, Residential Treatment Center coordinator, Behavioral Health clinical therapist, cultural representative, Healing to Wellness alumni, Human

Resources employment representative, Elders Advisory representative and a Tribal Council representative.

Matthews has been involved with Healing to Wellness since it was introduced on the Reservation two and a half years ago.

“I hope to bring some, if not all, of (the programs) elements to probation,” Matthews said.

Probation officers play the role of accountability in this process.

Wasegijig said, “Addiction isn’t something that you can just stop, it’s truly an illness and people need to be treated through the various departments to help guide them and give them support.”

The program is jointly funded by the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan, U.S. Department of Justice and the Bureau of Justice Assistance. In order to be eligible to participate, the defendant must be charged with a non-violent alcohol or drug-related criminal offense.

## Editorial: Wikwemikong community moose hunt 2016

**CHARMAINE SHAWANA**

Contributing Writer

There is such an event in Canada, more specifically Wikwemikong, where you can actually go to a community moose hunt. Attending the event for the sake of adventure, I wanted to see what it was all about.

We packed up the tent we bought at a rummage sale this

summer, you know the one: It’s the one I said to Zozeq, “Now honey, why you buying that stupid tent, probably has pieces missing?”

But for \$25 it actually turned out to be a good buy. We gathered up some sleeping bags, a box of blankets, the propane heater, some food, put my hiking boots on and away we went.

When we got there about four hours later, I was amazed at how organized everything was.

The kitchen was already set up, there were several prospector tents (inside wood stove attached to tent), and lots of people. Everyone found a job to do.

The main cook was stewing up some hot soup, and before long, it was a little outdoor community complete with tents, kitchen, community fire with a large teepee and several other tents lining the road.

Everyone was excited about the hunt, and lots of people were gathering woods for their tents, putting together the cots and gathering supplies to make the camp livable for the next few days. The next day, the big adventure was when a fox wandered into someone’s tent and got shot. His beautiful hide was hanging from a makeshift porch. It was a constant reminder of how close we all were to the great outdoors.

The temperature was just right when we arrived, but later that night, it got cold. I mean really cold.

Endless pots of coffee and tea were consumed in the effort to warm up.

I got busy helping in the kitchen and people just offered their help with cooking and cleaning.

There were propane stoves that had to be constantly filled and maintained and lots of outside burners as well as a huge barbecue grill. There were lots of coffee pots, tea pots and food and cleaning stations.

Everyone was expected to bring their own feast bundle and clean up after themselves.

There were lots of things to do: Some people were fishing, a few young people were

canoeing, and most of all, the moose hunting. Now, I am no moose hunter, but if you have ever eaten moose meat, you will be convinced it’s the best wild meat you can eat.

We were all excited and waiting for the first moose. Even though the hunters were out every day, several times a day, no moose was spotted. Sightings of tracks were numerous, but no moose.

Finally, on the next to the last day, the moose started to come in. Word spread like wildfire the first moose had been shot.

A big table had been set up to butcher it. They usually gut it in the field and skin it. It was just a big bag of meat to be quartered, cut up and divided up.

It was cold in the camp, but visiting and camping out in a tent is something I will not forget.

One morning we had snow coming down.

One community member was a trapper and he trapped beaver, so, of course, there were plenty of beaver jokes and I swear I never laughed so hard.

We went to a little gas station down the way and I saw a baby bear cub. I quickly grabbed my phone camera and made a video of the bear walking along the road looking at us so leisurely. It was so cool.

We all got to try our hand at skinning a beaver.

We all got to cook and clean, but if you were not there when the food was served, you had to eat it cold.

There were lots of bologna sandwiches and I think I am sick of boiled eggs. But all-in-all it was great bonding with the people, visiting and helping each other was a great adventure.

And I am sure I will be going to next year’s event just for the sake of adventure, you know.

### Recognizing the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan's Active Native Youth

Shepherd | Grade: 8

Football, Baseball

Camron Pelcher

Shepherd | Grade: 3

Flag Football

Jayden Pelcher

W. Intermediate | Grade: 7

Violin

Alina M'Gizi-kwe Ruffino

Maine West H.S. | Grade: 9

Latino Club, African American Club, Math team

Carol McCoy

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*Experience:* Former Prosecuting Attorney Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan, and Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Indian Reservation; Former Public Defender Assiniboine Sioux Tribe; Criminal Defense Attorney

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

**Contact:** (989) 772-6277  
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Mt. Pleasant MI 48858





## Library assistant Kimberly Condon receives "Educator of the Month"

*Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe's Education Administration would like to take this opportunity to showcase the shining stars in the department! We are proud of each and every team member within our department and think the community should know about you!*

Congratulations to Kimberly Condon, library assistant for the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Library, for being selected as the November Educator of the Month. The following is a questionnaire completed by Condon:

**What is your favorite part of working in this department?** I love to help patrons search for books. Whether it's non-fiction

that may be used for research or a nice fiction story that peaks their interest, I enjoy doing my best to help them find it. We may not have what they are looking for here in our library, but I will reach out to partner libraries along with searching the state-wide interlibrary loan service known as MeLCat and that's what makes it exciting.

**How long have you worked for the Education Department?** Just over two years.

**What is the one thing that you love to do? Why?** You'd probably never guess that I love to read. It's a way to escape this world and travel to another time and place for a little while.

**What is your favorite candy/snack?** I can't turn away a tasty looking doughnut.

**Do you have any pets?** I have two dogs, five cats, a Quaker parrot, and a rabbit.

**What is your favorite Disney movie?** "Zootopia"

**What is one of your favorite quotes?** Michigan author Johnathan Rand/Christopher Knight frequently states, "Reading is not something you do. Reading is a place that you go."



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

Library Assistant Condon receives her award. (Left to right: Tribal Librarian Anne Heidemann, Condon, and Public Relations Manager Sandy Sprague.)

**What is your favorite vacation spot and why?** Maine. I enjoy the ocean, the scenery, and the food!

## More than 2,000 students take a fieldtrip to the Tribal Gym for K-12 educational powwow

JOSEPH V. SOWMICK

Photojournalist

More than 2,000 students took a fieldtrip to the Eagles Nest Tribal Gym on Nov. 3 and 4 for the 16th annual K-12 educational powwow.

Deb Smith, youth education manager, said there were about 1,000 students from Mount Pleasant, Shepherd, Renaissance, and Beal City schools alone.

Students from the Saginaw Chippewa Academy and Sasiwaans Immersion School also participated.

"The K-12 staff involved in planning the powwow did an excellent job coordinating all the workshops with the help of our student volunteers," Smith said. "Thank you to everyone who participated to make it (educational powwow) a success."

Tribal students and SCA Senior Princess Annie Lada and Alberta Trepanier joined SCA Junior Princess Sadie Disel at the jiingtamok.

Youth Empowerment Aide Gail Huber said there were a total of 45 youth dancers, and 24 youth workers from Shepherd and Mount Pleasant schools volunteered.

"I've been (attending this powwow) all 16 years and believe these public schools are blessed to see and understand traditional Native American culture in their community first hand," Huber said. "The powwow is a great compliment that ushers in Native American month in the public schools."

Elder Ben Hinmon, cultural representative for Seventh Generation, also known by his Spirit Name Kingfisher of the Mukwa Dodem, has actively spent more than 35 years on the powwow trail singing, dancing and emceeing.

He served as emcee this year.

"I haven't done emcee duties for a few years but when (Tribal) Education called; I knew this is where I needed to be. This is where these students can learn about indigenous culture and our Tribal students can show them their personal pride of being Anishinaabe," Hinmon said. "It's part of their identity because their families have worked hard to build this regalia for the students and that becomes a center point of their pride, integrity and identity. These are formative years for our young people and they get a chance to embrace who they are where the other local students can see that."

Hinmon said it is a different experience for the dancers' peers to see them in their traditional regalia, in a powwow setting.

"(This powwow is) great exposure for both the dancers and their classmates. Native students who get to showcase to others what their culture is about is inspirational to me," Hinmon said. "It's a positive experience on both sides and



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

Hundreds of local area students pack the Eagles Nest Tribal Gym as youth dancers lead them in the round dance at the 16th annual K-12 educational powwow.

really something for our community to see for themselves."

The K-12 Educational Powwow offered students a series of workshops featuring storytelling, regalia, lodge teachings, craft and a workshop from Public Relations Director Erik Rodriguez and Public Relations Manager Sandy Sprague titled "Everything you wanted to know about the Tribe but was afraid to ask."

Michael Pung, superintendent for Mt. Pleasant Public Schools, was also in attendance.

"I learn something new each time I attend... and look forward to next year's event already," Pung said. "The Indian Taco was delicious, and on behalf of the Mt. Pleasant Public School students and staff, we were honored to be a part of this exciting event hosted by the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe."

### McGuire

The following students earned perfect attendance for October: Bailey Burger, Ryan Flaughter, Andrew Kequom, Whisper Mandoka, Nicholas Poolaw, Arianna Altman, Jasmine Kopke, Emily Stevens, La'Anna Trudeau, Alexis Taylor, Kyrh Bennett, Arianna Bird, Mackenzie Burger, Jonathan Davis, Tayden Davis, Adrianna Garcia, Julianna Garcia, Isaiah Harris, Maggi Martell, Kayden Weekley-Dean and Adrianna West.

### Ganiard

The following students earned perfect attendance for October: Lilly Chamberlain, Brihanna Dunham, Jay Fleming-Foster, Asher Green, Rosemarie Green, Annabelle Hart, Isabella Jackson, Dehmin Kahgegab, Nadia Mills, Tahya Morales, Ramon Negrete-Ledesma, Mya Osawabine, Ethan Reed, Caleb Sprague, Jordan Teller and Ethan Treichel.

### Renaissance

The following students earned perfect attendance for October: Gracie Flores, Jacob Delacruz, Novaly Hinmon, Syriana Smith, Erica Hinmon, Tyler Snyder, Nixie Snyder, Joselynn Shaw, Tylor Linville, Oscar Smith, Bruno Wemigwans, Tiera Ash, Bryson Chamberlain, Elijah Otto and Kathlyn Dunn.

### Fancher

The following students earned perfect attendance for October: Dylan Bennett, Darien Haggard, Mariana Mays, Tiara Oswabine, Elijah Teller, LahRae Wilson, Hannah Fleming-Foster, Gavin McCreery, Areyu Sineway, Zoey Haggard and Nautica Mena-Strait.

### Pullen

The following students earned perfect attendance for October: Tahlia Alonzo, Ella Altman, Xavier Alvarez, Jaidyn Barnes, Braeden Bennett, Logan Bird, Caleb Burger, Miles Davis, Nikodin Davis, Leticia Hawkins, Emma Hinmon, Madison Isham, Heath Jackson-Hofer, Olivia Lerma, Zhaawan Martell, David McClain, Gnaajwin Pego, Javanni Perry, Arilynn Peters, Tius Peters, Miikawadizi Prout, Tru Quigno-Vaughn, Armando Quiroz, Helena Sargent, Alex Taylor, Isaiah Taylor, Jayden Taylor, A'Shanique Traver, Cruz Vaquerz, Johnny Vertz, Kiarah Vertz, Lakiah Vertz, Micah Wagner, Remy Weldon and Ogininihs Zerbe.

### Vowles

The following students earned perfect attendance for October: Adamina Bailey, Aolani Gibbs, Aviana Gomez, Mateo Harris, Kaden Kjolhede, Isabell Lerma, Ian Martin and Mia McCreery.

### Shepherd

The following elementary students earned perfect attendance for October: Lyric Owl, Chayton Chatfield, Johnathan Cogswell, Trey Bross, Samuel Cloud, Jared Myers, Layla Pigeon, Maya Ryan, Kyleigh Scarlott, Jaden Schout-Pelcher, Lakota Jackson, Karma Pelcher-Scarlott, Madalynn Sineway, Xander Starr, Angelica Hinmon-Sanchez, Isabella Leksche and Angelina Smith. The following middle school students earned perfect attendance for October: Aiyana Bross, Hunter Johnson, Brandon Seegraves, Olivia Sineway, Miah Chatfield, Foster Crampton, Akiveo Hawkins, Malayla Marko, Mana Pelcher, Adam Saboo, Christopher Spencer-Ruiz, Sienna Chatfield, Jarrad Johnson, Zackary Lezan, Cheyanne Odem, Camron Pelcher and Emma VanHorn. The following high school students earned perfect attendance for October: Christina Benz, Nathan Isaac, Damien Martinez, Uriah Main, Abbie Master, Ogema Taylor, Kira Fox, Adam Jewell, Kia Niezgod, Alicia Raphael, Scott Sura and Leo Bennett. The following Odyssey students earned perfect attendance for October: Brooklyn Jackson, and Guadalupe Pelcher.

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## REO Speedwagon head “back on the road again” with a Mount Pleasant tour stop

**NATALIE SHATTUCK**

Editor

American rock band REO Speedwagon was “back on the road” again traveling right into Mount Pleasant for a boisterous Nov. 4 Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort show.

The group formed in 1967 and achieved major success through the ‘80s.

Current members include Kevin Cronin (lead vocals, rhythm guitar), Bruce Hall (bass, lead and harmony vocals), Neal Doughty (key-board), Dave Amato (lead guitar) and Bryan Hitt (drums).

Doughty is the sole founding member in the current lineup, according to reospeedwagon.com.

REO began their concert with “Don’t Let Him Go” and the well-known “Take It On the Run.”

“Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort, check yourselves



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

**REO Speedwagon rocks on “Don’t Let Him Go” during the Nov. 4 Soaring Eagle show. Left to right: Bruce Hall (bass), Neal Doughty (keys), Kevin Cronin (lead vocals, rhythm guitar), Dave Amato (lead guitar) and Bryan Hitt (drums).**

out,” Cronin said to the audience. “It’s great to be back... You look like you’re up to a party tonight.”

“When things get crazy, I mean real crazy, you’ve got to keep pushin’ on,” Cronin said.

“Keep Pushin’” was featured on REO’s sixth studio album, released in June 1976.

Cronin reflected on his upbringing. He said he was

the first born male to his Irish, Catholic parents. His family thought he would become a priest.

He said he was glad he didn’t take that route.

“If I never met a girl, I would have never fell in love. If I never fell in love, I would have never wrote this song,” he said of the hit “Can’t Fight This Feeling.”

“Time For Me to Fly” and “Back on the Road Again” were also performed.

Cronin said “Ridin’ The Storm Out” is on their first album, which was released in 1971.

“When you feel like you’re at the end of the road and you don’t know what to do, keep the faith and something good will happen,” Cronin said, emerging back on the stage for a much-requested encore.

He said he was having a rough time musically, and anticipating great success.

He said it was during one night when he couldn’t sleep that he created his success story.

“I woke up at 4 a.m. and went to my studio to make this demo,” he said of “Keep on Lovin’ You.”

The song was REO’s first single to break the top 50 on the U.S. Billboard Hot 100, reaching number one for a week in 1981. The single

became certified platinum for U.S. sales with more than one million copies.

It was the big break Cronin had been hoping for, he said.

The encore also included “Roll with the Changes” from their seventh studio album “You Can Tune a Piano, but You Can’t Tuna Fish” (1978).

On the screaming lead guitar, Amato joined REO in 1989 for the album “The Earth, A Small Man, His Dog, and a Chicken” after playing with Ted Nugent and Bon Jovi’s Richie Sambora. He has also toured extensively with Cher, according to the website.

With Cronin attesting that he gave the night’s performance his all and his “throat was trashed,” he let Amato take over on lead vocals and the band rocked on Nugent’s “Stranglehold.”

Following the final bow, the band lingered on stage to shake hands with fans, hand out guitar picks and sign autographs.

## Comedian George Lopez makes second Soaring Eagle return to a sold-out show

**NATALIE SHATTUCK**

Editor

“Tonight is sold out, so thank you... and to all of you who lost money (gambling) and got a free ticket, thank you too,” said comedian George Lopez to his Nov. 19 audience.

Lopez made his second return to Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort with another sold-out show.

“It’s always nice to be on Native soil,” Lopez said. “If you are not Native American, you do not have the right to tell anyone to go back to their country.”

Lopez’s multi-faceted career comprises of television, film, standup comedy and late-night television.

His groundbreaking television hit sitcom “George Lopez” ran for six seasons on ABC.

Lopez’s jokes were based on his political stances, his upbringing and race and ethnic relations of his Mexican American culture.

Lopez said he gets a kick out of Chipotle customers who order “a burrito in a bowl.”

“That is NOT a burrito!” he said intensely. “A burrito is wrapped in a tortilla.”

“Also, it’s guacamole, not ‘guac,’” he joked. “Are you so busy that you can’t say the whole word?”

Lopez has received several honors for his work and contributions to the Latino community.

Time magazine named him one of the 25 Most Influential Hispanics in America.

Setting his jokes aside, Lopez saved room for his genuine political concerns.

Lopez said “any act of terrorism in the United States has never been an act committed by a Latino.”

“We don’t need walls because we’ve already got tunnels,” he said. “Diversity is the future of this country.”

“Native Americans belong in this country with their water and no pipelines,” he said referring to the ongoing Dakota Access Pipeline protests.

“Everybody thought I would end up on the streets. And they’re right, I did... on the Hollywood Walk of Fame,” he said proudly. He received the star in 2006.

Regular opener for Lopez, comedian Bryan Kellen used

his passionate mix of storytelling, observational humor and physical comedy to capture the audience.

Kellen joked if he wasn’t already married, he could never consider online dating, specifically Match.com.

“I’m a white guy with a weird nose... my match is a pterodactyl,” he said flailing his arms and making dinosaur noises.

From Kellen to Lopez, audience members were gasping to catch their breath from their over-the-top laughter all night long.

## British rockers The Moody Blues make fifth Soaring Eagle appearance

**JOSEPH V. SOWMICK**

Photojournalist

English rock band The Moody Blues asked fans to “fly me straight and fly me high” as they rocked the stage for their fifth sold-out appearance at Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort on Oct. 29.

As one of Britain’s major musical exports from the sixties, singer/songwriter and guitarist Justin Hayward; bassist John Lodge; and drummer Graeme Edge have been on the road since March 2016 promoting their “Fly Me High” tour (named after the first single they released after Hayward and Lodge replaced Denny Laine and Rodney Clark in 1966.)

This year marked the 50th anniversary of Hayward and Lodge joining the band.

Edge is the original Moody who been with the band since its inception in 1964.

Flautist Ray Thomas retired from the band in 2002 and was replaced by the multi-talented

Norda Mullen (flute, guitar, percussion and vocals.)

Fellow band members Julie Ragins (flute, guitar, saxophone and vocals), Alan Hewitt (keyboards and vocals) and Billy Ashbaugh (drums and percussion) provided a wall of sound and the ambiance of an orchestra.

Considered part of the original British invasion of progressive rock, the band from Birmingham, England and their orchestra-like compositions have tallied 18 platinum and gold albums with more than 70 million in record sales.

The Moody Blues had the stage bathed in blue as they launched into “Gemini Dream” and “The Voice” from their 1981 album “Long Distance Voyager.”

Lodge took the microphone and led the band through the 1978 progressive rock anthem “Steppin in a Slide Zone.”

Fan Janet York from Clinton Township, Mich. attended the show with her husband Kenneth.

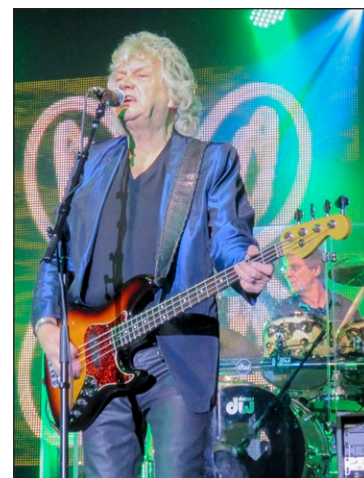
“We have seen the Moodies at the DTE Energy Music

Theatre in Clarkston six times but this show at Soaring Eagle was the most spectacular show ever,” York said. “Their performance of “Late Lament/Nights in White Satin” (from the 1967 classic Days of Future Passed) was the best of the night.”

Liz N. from Sterling Heights, Mich. said she enjoyed the outstanding acoustics.

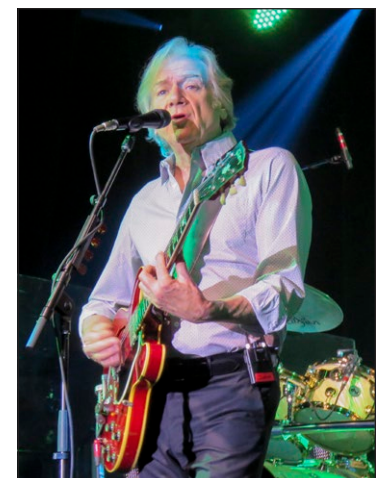
“This is the first concert I have ever attended where the audio was perfectly set up for maximum enjoyment at every seat level,” Liz said. “Having been trained as an audio engineer and professionally having used those skills for decades at the broadcast multimedia level, I compliment the talented experts who took the extra steps to tend to and fine tune all the numerous details necessary when they designed the auditorium. Whoever set up the audio, lighting and staging for the event did a superb job.”

The Moody Blues performed “Peak Hour,” Tuesday Afternoon”



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

**Bassist John Lodge takes the lead as The Moody Blues perform “Steppin’ in the Slide Zone.”**



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

**Guitarist and lead vocalist Justin Hayward sings “Wildest Dreams.”**

and “I’m Just a Singer (In a Rock and Roll Band).”

The band also offered the 1986 chart topper “Your Wildest Dreams” and the sequel of the song off the 1988 “Sur La Mer” album, “I Know You’re Out There Somewhere.”

The audience was begging for more as The Moody

Blues didn’t disappoint as they closed in evening with the 1970 classic “Question” and the encore from their “In Search of the Lost Chord” 1968 release, “Ride My See-Saw.”

If the standing ovation and crowd reaction was any indicator, fans could fully expect The Moody Blues to be invited for a Soaring Eagle return.



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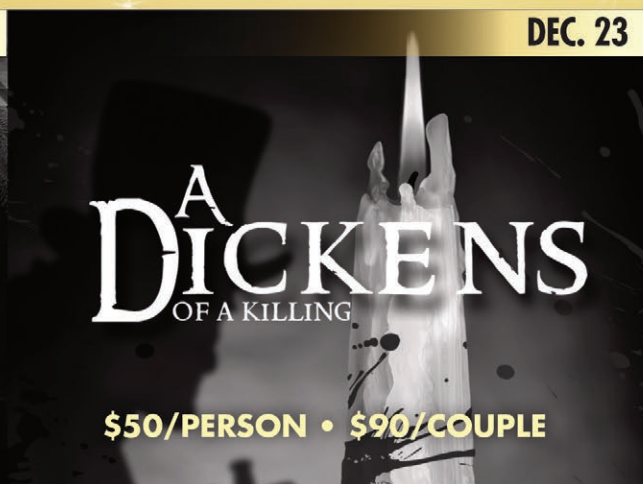
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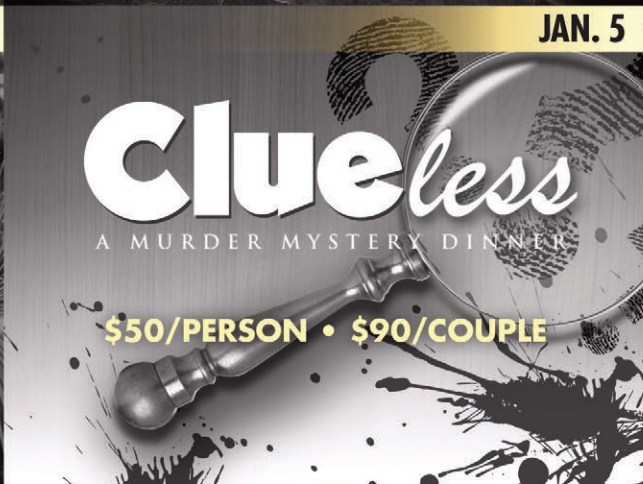
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## Photographer visits more than 400 tribes, all 50 U.S. states for Native America project

**NATALIE SHATTUCK**

Editor

Most people only dream of traveling through all 50 U.S. states for their career. For Native American photographer Matika Wilbur, it's reality.

Wilbur, of the Swinomish and Tulip Tribes (Washington), is currently working on Project 562, a national documentary project that is dedicated to photographing contemporary Native America.

As part of Central Michigan University's Native American Heritage Month, Wilbur served as keynote speaker on Nov. 18 in Warriner Hall's Plachta Auditorium.

"I believe that there is an open space that is yet to be filled – that space is authentic images and stories from within Native America," she said.

Project 562 addresses and remedies historical inaccuracies, stereotypical representations and the absence of Native American images and voices in mass media and the national consciousness.

Wilbur is capturing original photos and oral narratives from tribal communities throughout the nation. However, the common theme to each photo story is the injustice Native Americans face.



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

**Native American photographer Matika Wilbur, of the Swinomish and Tulip Tribes, discusses Project 562, a national documentary that is dedicated to photographing contemporary Native America. Wilbur served as keynote speaker on Nov. 18 in Plachta Auditorium as part of Central Michigan University's Native American Heritage Month.**

She is capturing compelling stories and portraits from elders, culture bearers, linguists, teachers, activists, artists, professions and many contemporary Indians, according to project562.com.

"My goal is to represent Native people from every tribe," she said, according to her website. "By exposing the astonishing variety of the Indian presence and reality at this juncture, we will build cultural bridges, abandon

stereotypes, and renew and inspire our national legacy."

Wilbur also discussed her political views and shared stories of hope from the communities visited. She also revealed a plentiful amount of her captured photographs.

"It's terrifying to go to a new place and not know anyone..., but I learned we all have this incredible interconnectedness, and we all want the same things," she said.

She encouraged the audience to research Native American history and culture.

She asked how many audience members could name all 50 U.S. states. She then asked who could list two or more Indian tribes. Raised hands decreased significantly.

She said it is considered social injustice that so many cannot identify a number of tribes.

"If we can learn all 50 U.S. states and their capitals, we can also learn native nations that live amongst us," she said.

Fellow Native American photographer Marcella Hadden attended and said she recommends for others to hear Wilbur speak.

"What I liked about Matika's presentation was the way she presented it," said Hadden, SCIT elder. "I love

her bubbly personality, energy and intelligence. Most of all, I enjoyed the stories behind each of the subjects. She captures the mind of her audience with her storytelling."

Hadden said she noticed Wilbur uses a different photo editing technique which she has never seen.

"Most of her photos have a very, very subtle tint or color to one area," Hadden said. "You also have to keep looking to see if a photo is in color or just black and white."

To date, Wilbur said she has visited more than 400 tribes.

"I admire any woman who can just go off on their own

mission and do what she has done," Hadden said.

Before concluding her speech, Wilbur offered a blessing.

"I'm going to say a prayer because where I come from, that's what we do," she said to the audience. "I'm going to ask all of you to stand up and pray or think good thoughts. Pray for all people, for Standing Rock, for our people, for your community..."

She sang a prayer.

"Turn to the person next to you, shake their hand and tell them, 'I'll protect you,'" she said, wrapping up her lecture.

To view Wilbur's photo gallery, visit [www.project562.com](http://www.project562.com)

### New Tribal police officer sworn in



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

On Monday, Oct. 31, Chief Frank Cloutier administered the swearing in of new Saginaw Chippewa Tribal police officer Nathaniel Blanton in Council chambers. Blanton is a recent Oct. 27 graduate from the Grand Rapids Community College Police Academy.



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*Anishinaabemowin assistance from Isabelle Osawamick, ALRD*

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- January 31 Performance Circle Sign-Up



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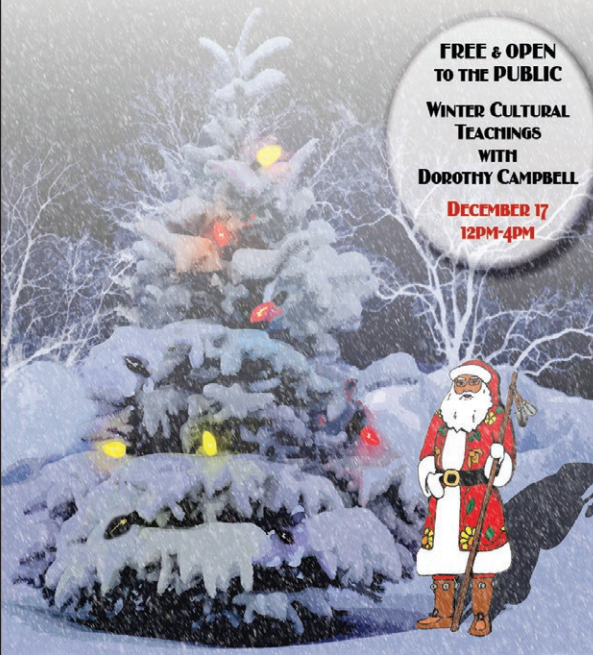
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## ContextMedia assists Nimkee Memorial Wellness Center with health technology upgrade

**JOSEPH V. SOWMICK**

Photojournalist

A recent partnership with ContextMedia is allowing Nimkee Memorial Wellness Center patients to access health information while waiting to see their physician. This service is a part of a health technology upgrade.

Susan Sowmick, nurse for Nimkee Public Health, first saw the ContextMedia system at a West Michigan Cardiology visit in Grand Rapids, Mich. and said she was impressed by what she saw.

"I noticed the iPad talking about cardiac health and it provided a wealth of information for patients right there in the waiting room," Sowmick said. "The ContextMedia system I initially saw had updated health information about

a number of subjects from national health organizations.

ContextMedia is interactive for patients to choose a topic from diabetes to healthy snacks for children.

"It also fills in downtime when you are waiting for the doctor," Sowmick said. "I shared the experience and technology at a Nimkee staff meeting and they liked it."

Medical Clinic Director Margaret Steslicki said ContextMedia installed iPad tablets in each of the 10 exam rooms.

"The tablets have very valuable with up-to-date health information on a wide variety of topics," Steslicki said. "We are also able to customize and personalize what we would like to have added to the tablets."

Nimkee Clinic will be providing other health information as it becomes available for review,

including Native-specific health information and videos.

"We also have two anatomy boards that were recently installed in the medical clinic," Steslicki said. "These boards will allow the providers and staff to show patients various pictures of the anatomy to help explain health-related issues and disease processes."

The anatomy chart board can pull up a picture of the heart and demonstrate, for example, where there are abnormalities in the blood vessels and help patients to understand and visualize better regarding different medical conditions they are being treated for, said Barry Kissoondial, MD, physician for Nimkee Clinic.

Televisions were also installed in the three waiting rooms to provide patients with information on various health topics.

"We have received many very positive comments from patients who have tried out the new technology," Steslicki said. "(Kissoondial) told me he was listening in on some of the topics and was very pleased with the quality of the content of the information. It is very up-to-date."

Kissoondial said the ContextMedia service is a very interactive system and user friendly, covering many different topics such as asthma, heart disease, blood pressure, and more.

"It is a very unique system that is not found in many offices and really takes us to a cutting edge of improving the education that we provide. We hope to add more topics and make it unique to Nimkee to serve our patients better," Kissoondial said.



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

**Nimkee Physician Dr. Barry Kissoondial (right) demonstrates to Medical Assistant Jamie Recker the interactive capabilities of the ContextMedia electronic boards.**

Registered Medical Assistant Jamie Recker said "patients seem to enjoy having the option to use interactive education in assisting with their health care needs, and the ContextMedia tablets are easy to navigate for access."

ContextMedia, Inc. was featured Oct. 25 at the 15th annual Chicago Innovation Awards and was recognized for its work.

## Nimkee Memorial Wellness Center updates pain management surveillance policy

**JOSEPH V. SOWMICK**

Photojournalist

In a recent development affecting Tribal health care, Karmen Fox, executive health director for the Nimkee Memorial Wellness Center, said the clinic has updated their pain management surveillance

policy as of Oct. 16.

"We are trying to prevent misuse and abuse in our community with the support of the Tribal Health Board," Fox said. "Nimkee already completes oral drug screens but we have also increased the use of Michigan Automated Prescription System (MAPS)." MAPS is a prescription monitoring program in Michigan that allows physicians, dentists, pharmacists, nurse practitioners and physician's assistants to query the database for patient-specific reports which allow a review of the patient's controlled substance prescription records.

Each provider must run a MAPS report quarterly on each of their patients in the pain management program. Patients entering the program must provide an initial drug screen, and random drug screens will be completed during the year. "We work very closely with Indian Health Services,

they put a call out to all clinics asking us to help curb the opioid crisis," Fox said. "We take prescribing and dispensing very seriously at Nimkee Clinic, the medical providers and pharmacists work hand-in-hand daily to provide the best service and protect our patients."

Each provider must run a MAPS report quarterly on each of their patients in the pain management program. Patients entering the program must provide an initial drug screen, and random drug screens will be completed during the year. "We work very closely with Indian Health Services,

## Healthful holiday eating: Ten tips to avoid overindulgence

*(Editor's note: The following article is from Environmental Nutrition, October 2006, written by Adrienne Forman, MS, RD, and submitted by Sally Van Cise, RDN, nutritionist for the Tribe.)*

It's no mystery why worries about putting on pounds go hand-in-hand with the holidays: All that good food! And yet, a study by the National Institutes of Health found that the average weight gain between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day is only about one pound.

That's the good news. The bad news? That one pound often stays put, hanging around until next year's holiday blowout, waiting for you to add insult to injury. And so, as the years go by, the weight adds up.

How can you put the brakes on holiday overeating? Environmental Nutrition offers these tips:

**1. Be realistic.** The holiday season may be a good time to

reconsider your weight-loss targets. Maintaining your weight, rather than losing weight, may be a more reasonable goal during this high-temptation time. Don't deprive yourself of favorite holiday foods, but do look for ways to eat smart and in moderation. After the holidays, you can switch back to a healthier eating mode and/or continue eating for weight loss.

**2. Don't wait to eat.** That is, don't save up for the big meal. Skipping breakfast or lunch to save room—and calories—for a festive dinner is unwise. If you start out hungry, chances are you'll eat more than if you had your meals plus a snack beforehand. Try a high-fiber cereal with low-fat milk, Greek yogurt or cheese sticks with fresh fruit, or fresh fruit and half a sandwich on whole-grain bread.

**3. Be discriminating.** Eat small servings of the foods you really love and pass on foods that don't tempt your taste buds.

**4. Plate size.** If your eyes are often bigger than your stomach, using a smaller plate can help to cut down on calories. At a party, size up the plates and pick up the smallest you can find.

**5. Sneak in calorie savings.** If you're the cook, choose calorie-saving preparation methods and ingredients that will hardly be noticed by your guests. Some suggested culinary sleights of hand:

Stuff the turkey for show. But also bake bread stuffing separately, which won't soak up turkey fat during roasting. Serve the out-of-bird stuffing topped with some of the "real stuff."

Use low-fat evaporated milk instead of whole milk or cream when you make gravy and prepare pumpkin pie.

Mash potatoes with low or fat-free milk instead of whole milk. Or try adding some cooked cauliflower when mashing: cooked cauliflower mashes up well, is not noticeable, and

Instead of:	Choose:	And Save:
6 oz wine	6 oz wine spritzer	75 calories
6 oz eggnog	6 oz low-fat eggnog	60 calories
12 oz soft drink	12 oz unsweetened seltzer	150 calories
4 oz Caesar salad	4 oz tossed green salad with 1 Tbsp low-fat dressing	155 calories
4 oz roasted dark meat turkey with skin	4 oz roasted light meat turkey without skin	70 calories
Basting with 2 Tbsp meat drippings	Basting with 2 Tbsp broth	75 calories
4 oz candied sweet potato	4 oz baked sweet potato	60 calories
2½-inch biscuit	2½-inch whole wheat dinner roll	115 calories
1 slice pecan pie	1 slice pumpkin pie	225 calories

cuts the carbohydrate- and calorie-count!

Chill soup or gravy overnight, then scoop off the hardened fat. Faster yet, fill the gravy boat using a fat separator.

**6. Spritz your drinks.** Stretch your alcohol calories by mixing seltzer or diet soda with your drinks. Have a wine spritzer made with half wine and half club soda. Better yet, limit alcohol intake; it releases inhibitions and increases hunger, which adds up to alcohol-fueled overeating.

**7. Talk it up.** Make family and friends, not food, the focus of the holidays. Spend your time socializing—away from the table.

**8. Help the host—and yourself.** Bring a healthier, delicious homemade dish to your host's

table, but don't feel obligated to announce that it's good for you!

**9. Give your guests options.** If you're the host, offer healthful choices for guests. Consider crudité with yogurt dip, shrimp cocktail, whole-grain crackers with reduced-fat cheese, baked salmon, grilled vegetables or fresh fruit cups.

**10. Burn it off.** Tempting foods are too hard to resist; rescue yourself by burning off some of those extra calories. While you probably can't exercise off all the extra calories (walking or running a mile burns approximately 100 calories), you can add extra physical activity. Double your walking time in the morning or make an extra trip to the gym for a few weeks. The extra activity will help you feel more energetic too.

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8 a.m.	Aqua Fit Sharon		Aqua Fit Sharon		Aqua Fit Sharon
12:10 p.m.	Muscle Makin' Monday - Jaden	Suspension Training - Jayme	Warrior Wednesday - Jaden	Fat Blast Jayme	
1:10 p.m.			Turbo Kick Beth		
5:30 p.m.		Yoga Tammy	Belly Dance Deanna	Yoga Tammy	





## Nimkee Pharmacist Eric Decker speaks on abuse of prescription opioids and heroin

**JOSEPH V. SOWMICK**

Photojournalist

Eric Decker, pharmacist for the Nimkee Memorial Wellness Center, offered vital information on abuse of prescription opioids and heroin to 63 participants at the Eagles Nest Tribal Gym on Nov. 10.

In his opening remarks, Decker said statistics reveal prescription opioid drug overdoses have quadrupled since 1999.

“Recent efforts by the government and health care providers have attempted to curb the abuse of prescription opioids. These efforts, in some states, have led to a decline in overdose deaths due to prescription opioids,” Decker said.

However, there has been an increase in heroin use and overdoses during this time, Decker said.

“The shift from prescription opioids to heroin is partly due to the easier access to heroin,” he said.

Prescription opioids (often regarded as pain relievers) and heroin are similar in the effects they have on the brain and body. This is why many people misuse prescription opioids and may switch to heroin, he said.

“Heroin will produce similar effects as prescription opioids,

but it is often cheaper, easier to obtain, and may produce a better high,” Decker said. “Heroin use has an increased risk for injection-related diseases such as hepatitis C and HIV. Heroin may also be laced with other medications that increase the risk of overdose, and the potency of heroin batches may vary. As with any illegal drug, there is no method of quality control with heroin.”

Donielle Bannon, chief of police for the Saginaw Chippewa police department, commended Decker’s presentation.

“We need to get the information out as to the dangers of drug use. It’s also just as important to get information to individuals who may need help so they know that help is available and where to find it,” Bannon said. “Everyone in the community needs to come together to fight for a safe and drug-free community.”

Decker said the Tribal Police department is one of many law enforcement agencies with access to a life-saving drug that, in some instances, prevents overdoses.

“Many EMS and police officers now carry emergency overdose response kits with Naloxone (Narcan) to help with any opioid overdose

situations,” Decker said. “The medication is used to reverse the effects of an overdose. There is much evidence where this medication has been shown to reduce rates of deaths due to overdose. It is important to remember that opioid addiction is a disease and a person does not choose to be addicted. Treatment options available may include medication, counseling, and behavioral therapy.”

Jennifer Crawford, prevention coordinator for Behavioral Health, said opiate addiction is a problem throughout the nation, and it “is an addiction that does not discriminate.”

“How often do we get dental work or have pain and receive a prescription for pain relievers, which are most often opiates (Vicodin, Oxycontin or Hydrocodone)? It is not uncommon, and it is not a bad thing if they are used only as prescribed, only by the individual whose name is on the prescription,” Crawford said. “While these medications are needed at times, they are so addictive and can pull anyone into their grip. Not all opiate abusers begin their relationship with opiates through their own prescriptions.”

Some people are given prescriptions from a family

member or friend who feels it is harmless to share, thinking they are helping whatever is ailing the individual, Crawford said.

“Some buy (opiates) on the street and take them to escape whatever situations they are trying to get away from through self-medication, and others take them with friends by choice or as a result of peer pressure just seeking a high,” Crawford said. “Prescriptions that are not monitored or stored in a safe place can very easily get into the hands of curious youth or others trying to fuel their addiction.”

Decker said many new heroin users have first abused prescription opioids.

“Young adults and children may believe prescription opioids are safe since they are prescribed by a doctor,” Decker said. “A child may first abuse a prescription opioid obtained from a friend or family, and then may switch to heroin due to easier access and cheaper cost.”



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

**Pharmacist Erik Decker (left) shows Prevention team members (left to right) Alice Jo Ricketts, Jennifer Crawford and Carrie Carabell an example of prescription opiates at Nimkee Clinic.**

Decker said it is also important for people who medically need prescription opioids keep the drugs secure and dispose of them properly.

Prevention Specialist Alice Jo Ricketts said she believes it is important for parents to educate their children and get to know their circle of friends.

“Keep your children and grandchildren active, whether that is in sports, drama, arts or music, for example,” Ricketts said. “Find their interest and do everything you can to foster their creativity. Love them and let them know that they are important no matter what. They need to know the impact drugs and alcohol have on families and communities as a whole.”

### Nimkee Memorial Wellness Center Optical Policy

#### Optical Policy

- Patients 18 and under are eligible for an eye exam once a year.
- Patients 50 and older are eligible for an eye exam once a year.
- Patients 19 – 49 are eligible for an eye exam every two years.
- Diabetic Patients must have their blood sugar under control as evidenced by an Hgb A1C of 7.9 or less to be eligible for an annual eye exam. If a diabetic patient has an Hgb A1C greater than 7.9 the Medical Provider may recommend an eye exam for glasses and/or contacts based upon the patient’s medical history (Contacts are NOT covered). *Note: Diabetic patients will need an annual dilated eye exam regardless of their Hgb A1C.*
- PRC will pay for a pair of eye glasses costing no more than \$106 and for a pair of bifocals costing no more than \$139; anything over and above these amounts will be the patient’s responsibility for the payment.

#### Procedure

- 1) The patient will call PRC for referral eligibility for an eye exam.
- 2) The patient will call the eye Doctor to schedule the appointment.
- 3) The patient will call PRC within three days of the scheduled appointment with the date and time of the appointment.
- 4) The patient must pick up the referral before the appointment.
- 5) If the patient receives a bill after their eye appointment; it is the patient’s responsibility to bring the bill to PRC.

#### Patients Responsibility

- 1) Contact lenses, tints, scratch coating, anti-reflection coating, extra thin lenses, progressive lenses and digital retinal imaging will be the patients responsibility.
- 2) Anything other than a routine exam, must be pre-approved through PRC, or will be the patient’s responsibility.

#### Eligible Optical Places

<b>ABP Eye Site</b> 1535 E Broomfield Mt Pleasant, MI	<b>Pleasant Optics</b> 500 S Mission4164 Mt Pleasant, MI	<b>Traverse Vision</b> E. Bluegrass Rd. Mt. Pleasant, MI
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### Purchased Referred Care Referral Policy & Guidelines

The Purchased Referred Care (PRC) Program is for medical/dental care provided away from an IHS or tribal health care facility. PRC is not an entitlement program, an IHS referral does not imply the care will be paid. If IHS is requested to pay, then a patient must meet the residency requirements, notification requirements, medical priority, and use of alternate resources ([www.ihs.gov](http://www.ihs.gov)).

#### Referrals

1. If you are referred by Nimkee Medical or Dental to an outside provider you must take a referral every time.
2. If the outside provider cannot treat you and refers you to another provider, you must take a different referral to your appointment. Call PRC three days in advance to allow the paperwork to be prepared.
3. PRC will not pay for your doctor bills without a referral.
4. Durable Medical Equipment: nebulizer, crutches, etc. must have PRC approval.

#### Surgery

1. If you need surgery, you must give PRC at least two week notice prior to any surgery.
2. Must notify PRC within 72 hours (three days) if you have had emergency surgery.

#### After Hours

1. Please call the on-call provider at 989-772-8227 before going to any outside provider, unless it is an absolute emergency.
2. An Emergency Room visit must be reported to PRC within 72 hours (three days) after your visit. **Elders 50 years and older have 30 days to call in to PRC from the date of visit.**

#### Labs, X-ray & Ultrasounds

1. A referral is not required but you must call and notify the PRC department within 72 hours.
2. If your scheduled appointment changes you must notify the PRC department within 72 hours of any changes made.
3. Without proper notification, PRC will not pay for your bills.

#### Bills with a referral

1. When you receive any bill(s) after your appointment, they must be brought into the clinic to be dropped off at the front desk window.
2. Bills cannot be older than 18 months from service date for PRC to pay.
3. Credit bureau statements will not be accepted for a bill, the patient must have an itemized bill.

**Purchased Referred Care: 989.775.4633, Shelly Bailey: 989.775.4635, Marge Elliott: 989.775.4634, Jean Robinson: 989.775.4636**

## Two Members Needed

For the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Health Board.  
Two Health Advisory Board Members are needed.

- 1.) Must be a member of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe.
- 2.) Must be at least 18 years of age.
- 3.) Must have strong interests in the health services provided and the health problems within the Saginaw Chippewa community.

Meetings are held once a month and a stipend is given for each meeting attended (if eligible). Will need Tribal Council approval.

If you have any questions, please call Michelle at 989.775.4602

#### If interested:

Write a short letter stating why you feel you would make a good Health Board member.

#### Mail or bring to the Nimkee Clinic:

Attention: Michelle George  
2591 South Leaton Rd.  
Mt. Pleasant, MI. 48858

*\*Please include your phone number or a contact person.*

*\*When the letters are received at the end of the time period, they are given to Tribal Council to make the final decision.*





## Diabetes awareness: Healthy eating with manoomin and ninaatigwa-ziiwaakmide

**NATALIE SHATTUCK**

Editor

Tribal community members gathered to attend a traditional eating event on maple syrup and wild rice as a diabetes awareness program. The “Honoring How We Used to Eat” event took place on Tuesday, Nov. 1 in the Nimkee Public Health Kitchen from 5 to 7 p.m.

More than 25 participants attended to learn from the guest speakers and to enjoy a healthy meal.

Tribal Member Bonnie Ekdahl described her experience with tapping trees and making ninaatigwa-ziiwaakmide (maple syrup).

Ekdahl said she taps roughly 100 trees.

The process requires a bit of traveling and hard work for Ekdahl because the sap is in Beal City and she lives in Midland County.



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

**Lee Sprague, of the Crane Clan, discusses his traditional knowledge of Anishinabe ricing techniques during the “Honoring How We Used to Eat” Public Health event on Nov. 1.**

“(The process takes) six weeks out of the year of our whole lives,” Ekdahl said. “That’s nothing.”

Kathy Hart, STEM recruiter, at the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College, spoke of the traditional foods course offered at the college.

Hart said individuals interested in the course are welcome

to sign up; it doesn’t have to be taken to earn a degree.

This past year, Hart got involved with the process of harvesting manoomin (wild rice).

“It’s nice to be out enjoying nature,” Hart said on the process.

Lee Sprague of the Crane Clan was on hand to share his traditional knowledge of Anishinabe ricing techniques.

Sprague said his father was a diabetic, and he is pre-diabetic.

“I was fortunate to lose 50 to 60 pounds recently,” Sprague said. “My goal was to have one calorie a day of healthy, home-grown food.”

He slowly increased his number of healthy calories, with consumption of manoomin certainly helping.

Sprague said ricing helps get him in tune with the environment.

“I turn my phone and my computer off,” Sprague said. “I don’t keep track of the hours, days... I disconnect, and connect with nature.”

### Basic Manoomin Recipe

Makes 6 servings.

#### Ingredients:

- ½ cup of dry wild rice
- ½ teaspoon of salt
- 1 teaspoon of butter (optional)
- 2 cups of water (2 cups of chicken broth can be substituted)

*Note: Wild Rice uses a 4:1 ratio. 4 cups of water for one cup of wild rice.*

#### Instructions:

1. Add all ingredients to a two-quart pot, with a lid, and bring to a slow boil.
2. Cook approximately 30 to 45 minutes checking frequently, or follow specific directions provided with wild rice.
3. Remove from stove, and drain any remaining liquid.

*Recipe courtesy of Lee Sprague*

Sprague said he has also taught his children ricing techniques and they are in the water with him every year.

He said there are 40 to 50 Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe canoes on Tawas Lake right now for harvesting manoomin.

“The Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe is one of the leaders

in Michigan for coming back to wild rice,” Sprague said.

The event was sponsored by the Special Diabetes Program for Indians Grant and Nimkee Public Health, in collaboration with the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College and Anishinabe Language Revitalization Department.

## Diane Littel joins the Residential Treatment Center as new coordinator

**JOSEPH V. SOWMICK**

Photojournalist

A new face has graced Behavioral Health programs as Diane Littel has begun her journey as Residential Treatment Center coordinator.

Behavioral Health Administrator David Garcia welcomed Littel to the team.

“Diane has over 13 years in the field of counseling and

substance abuse treatment and five of those years are working in residential treatment. She is a proud Native American woman and follows the traditional teachings of the red road,” Garcia said. “Through education, trainings and cultural awareness, Diane has been able to incorporate Western treatment methods and traditional teachings into developing a comprehensive

approach to sobriety. Diane’s beliefs are a perfect match with the treatment philosophy of the RTC program.”

Littel said she believes in the phrase “sobriety is traditional” because it follows the Seven Grandfather Teachings, living that good way.

“Spirits (whiskey) was used at trading and treaties in a way to influence Anishinabe people,” Littel said. “Anishinabe

people did not even know of alcohol until the Europeans arrived; so drinking alcohol was not the Anishinabe way.”

Littel said she appreciates how RTC embraces cultural teachings and teachers like Midewewin elders Donnie Dowd, traditional healer and Steve Pego, helping healer, to assist the clients in their recovery.

“Donnie and Steve bring a background of traditional teachings from the Three Fires Society,” Littel said.

“Donnie comes from 35 generations (his own family blood line) of traditional healing,” Littel said. “Incorporating the teachings and the healing of traditional medicines is an effort to awaken the blood memory of the RTC clients to decolonize their thinking and awaken the Anishinabe within them. RTC is very fortunate to have two individual with the wealth of information and experience they have and they are willing to share it with the community.”

Dowd is available by appointment to the community, not just RTC residents.

Littel said RTC is unique in the recovery community.

“RTC has access to cultural components and ceremonies that other programs do not, and these ceremonies have proven to benefit those that participated and moved them closer to understanding what Anishinabe life means,” Littel said. “I would like to see RTC grow in numbers and the word in the community will be that RTC worked because it brought them to a better understanding of what it means to be Anishinabe: that Anishinabe people are



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

**RTC Coordinator Diane Littel commended the Behavioral Health Programs for keeping the cultural teachings of the medicine wheel as part of their Red Road to Wellbriety program offering.**

strong and can overcome the colonized way of thinking.”

Littel said her personal journey entails 17 years of sobriety, and she said it was not easy.

With the assistance of the Creator and her sponsor, her recover has led her to find beautiful things, she said.

“One of which is my true name, Ginew Noodin, and my clan, which helped me understand the nature of who I am: A person that will fight for what is right and just,” Littel said. “My blood memory and recovery led me to the Midewewin Lodge where I found myself even more. That is also where I found my spirit family.”

Littel comes from the Menominee Tribe of Keshena, Wis. and her Spirit Name comes from her great-great-grandmother Ginew Noodin (Golden Eagle Wind.)

“I am a namesake and proud to know this,” Littel said. “My clan is Waabizhashi (Marten) which explained a lot of who I am.”

### Nimkee Memorial Wellness Center Emergency Room Policy

All bills from the Emergency Room (ER) must be deemed a true emergency. If insurance does not deem it an emergency based on diagnosis code, Purchased Referred Care (PRC) will not process the bill for payment. PRC is the payor of last resort, it’s not guaranteed. The patient will be responsible for the amount of the ER visit.

#### Listed below are the IHS guidelines:

**Priority 1A:** All Medical Emergencies, Eye (Acute, painful or visually threat conditions), Dental (control bleeding, airway compromise, severe pain, fractures), Mental Health (immediate danger to self or others, regardless of “voluntary or involuntary status”; includes physical neglect/abuse, sexual assault).

**Priority 1B:** Acute Illness, Pre-natal/Obstetrics, Diagnostic Testing (Contract Lab, Bone Marrow Biopsy, EEG, Endoscopy, Colonoscopy/Sigmoidoscopy (diagnostic & screening), Radiologic Testing (MRI, CT, Ultrasound), Health Promotion/Disease Prevention, Immunizations, Mammography (diagnostic), Pap Smears, Gyn Coloposcopy, Area of program specific objectives, Non-Emergency surgery for “high risk categories”, Tubal Ligation (post-partum & high risk), Vasectomy (high risk).

#### Procedure

1. The claim will be reviewed by PRC Clerk.
2. The PRC Clerk will verify the patient is eligible and followed policy.
3. If Insurance paid based on the Diagnosis code the bill will be submitted for payment.
4. If the Insurance didn’t pay due to the diagnosis code
  - The bill will be denied
  - The PRC Clerk will send a denial in the mail
  - The patient will be able to appeal the decision to:
    - Managed Care team
    - Health Board
    - Tribal Council



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## Andahwod residents and elders were winners with chicken dinners at the Bavarian Inn

**JOSEPH V. SOWMICK**

Photojournalist

The old catchphrase “winner, winner, chicken dinner” receives literal meaning when it comes to the experience at the historic Frankenmuth Bavarian Inn.

Estella Halliwill, assistant elders advocate for Andahwod CC and ES, said there were three staffers, 35 elders and a few of their guests that made the one-hour trip on Nov. 10.

“Our annual trip had a slight change this year; we started with lunch at the Bavarian Inn with their

world famous chicken dinner,” Halliwill said. “From there, we went downstairs to do some follow-up shopping in the Castle Shops below and a brief stop at Bronners Christmas Wonderland.”

Halliwill said she enjoys the trip because it gives the elders a chance to catch up.

“The elders who sat with me reminisced about past trips they went on together,” Halliwill said. “It was a fun-filled day in Frankenmuth as we had some beautiful November weather for the drive there and back.”

Andahwod resident Guy Fallis smiled as the cornucopia of Thanksgiving family

food finery came and graced his Edelweiss Room table.

“I came for the food,” Fallis said. “They give you a lot and I love it.”

Andahwod resident Juanita Slater said the event was her first elders’ trip.

“I think it’s great that the Tribe continues to fund (trips) like this because I have never been able to join the elders before,” Slater said.

Tribal elder Judy Bannister also attended.

“I am very thankful during this time of year and thankful for the Tribal Council and their continuing support of elders programs,” Bannister said. “This is truly a wonderful get

together for all of us. To have a great meal at a great place with our elders is a lot of fun and the laughter in the room shows that.”

Andahwod resident Dwayne Snyder was impressed during his first visit to Frankenmuth and was pleasantly surprised at all the holiday festivities they had going.

“I was on the top of the list when it came to sign up for this trip because I really wanted to go see this place after hearing so much about



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

**Tribal elders (left to right) Ellie Van Horn, Judy Bannister, Duane Pelcher, Barb Sprague, Betty Ashmun and Dwayne Snyder make Thanksgiving a family affair.**

it,” Snyder said. “Everything that they served was real good but, personally, I liked the acorn squash best.”

## Editorial: Children, parents, elders join together for Intergenerational Story Hour

**TOMARRAH GREEN**

CMU Human Development & Family Studies Intern

On Monday, Nov. 14, 18 participants ranging in ages 1 to 91 years old gathered in the Maple Lodge of Andahwod CCC and ES for the Intergenerational Story Hour.

It is important for caregivers to facilitate the opportunity for elders and young children to interact.

At story hour, elders and babies enjoyed bird watching together at the bird aviary.

We sang songs about autumn, acted out hand motions, and read fall-themed stories. For the song, “The Leaves on the Trees,” (to the tune of “The Wheels on The Bus”) participants were given laminated leaves to act out the song with.

After the songs and stories, time was set aside to play in sensory stations.

There was a shape sorting station, a coloring station, a sensory bin full of 1,000 cut colorful straws, and a sensory bin full of 20 pounds of uncooked rice with cardboard tubes to run the rice through.

Sensory activities are intended to stimulate a specific sense. They are beneficial to young children’s developing brains, and improve the emotional and physical health of elders living with dementia.

Parents and grandparents were given a handout with other opportunities for brain building.

Two-year-old Elleonna White’s mother, Ginna, said her daughter had a blast at story time. She said she has been looking for activities like this to prepare her for preschool.

Elder Barbara Sprague said “watching the babies learn and

play brought joy to her heart.” She said she was impressed with how well the children got along with each other.

The story hour was the final project for my Human Development & Family Studies internship class at Central Michigan University.

The idea was inspired by my 1-year-old son Emmanuel and his love for both storytime and visiting with elders.

Although story hour was my final project at Andahwod, I hope to return each season as a volunteer to teach future intergenerational story hours.



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

**Young children, parents and elders join in Andahwod’s Maple Lodge for the Nov. 14 Intergenerational Story Hour.**

## DECEMBER 2016 Tribal Elder Birthdays

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 William Leksche   | 16 Sylvia Zelinski   |
| 3 Alvin Chamberlain, Alfreda Jenkins, James Bailey, Nancy Rossbach, Patricia Sprague                        | 17 Shirley Burch, Stephanie Peters, Deborah Colley, Donna DeLap  |
| 4 Sandra Charles, Cynthia Cisneros, Dawn Meredith, Brenda Rubin   | 18 Alfred Dennis, Eleanor Hawk, Vivian Meredith, Cynthia Sprague   |
| 5 Julie King, Tony Stevens  | 19 Carol Jackson, Pamela Shawboose   |
| 6 Teri Bennett, Lorraine Dumus, Margaret Worsham  | 20 Clinton Pelcher Jr., Richard Davis, Deborah Jackson, Jason Slater   |
| 7 Tracy Chamberlain, Le Etta Hansen, James Osawabine Sr.  | 21 David Bonnau, Faith Davis, Jacqueline Roach, Janice Walker  |
| 8 Mary Floyd, Norman Snyder, Wayne Johnson Sr.  | 22 Lori Rickie   |
| 10 Suzanne Cross, James Maki, Douglas Zocher  | 23 Jim Davis   |
| 11 Paul Jackson, Sandra Smith   | 24 Brenda Miller, Michael Poolaw   |
| 12 Bradford Mandoka, Ruth Moses, Beverly Pamp-Ettinger, Kenneth Sprague, Albert Wayne, John Brown           | 25 Terry Bonnau, Steven Pelcher, Mary Rosebrock  |
| 13 Randall Bennett, Stella Pamp, Alma Mitchell, Timothy Stevens   | 26 John Bennett, Bernice Hendrickson, Lu Ann Phillips, Patricia Wemigwans, Helen Black, Frank Cloutier, Earlene Jackson, Timothy Smith Jr. |
| 14 Marlene Collins, Ronald Johansen, Ida Lenhart, Marjorie Gordon, Ruth Mullins, Cheryl Roy, John Trepanier | 27 Yolanda Gonzalez, Paul Stevens, Carol White-Pigeon  |
| 16 Ronald Douglas, Darlene Munro, Lanette Zaleski, Virginia Hoon, Gilbert Williams                          | 29 Judy Bryant, Thomas Kequom, William Castle  |
|   | 30 Virginia Zocher, Jerome Whitepigeon Sr.   |
|   | 31 Marie Saboo   |

### 2017-2019 Elder Parking Permits

**Beginning Jan. 1, 2017 all current elder parking permits will be expired and new ones will need to be in place on the vehicle before using elder parking.**

To receive your 2017-2019 permit, please request an application from any of the elder program offices to the right.

#### Elders can receive their permit:

- In person at any of the three locations.
- Call to request an application by mail.
- Or visit [www.sagchip.org/Member%20Services/images/pdfs/ParkingPermitApplication.pdf](http://www.sagchip.org/Member%20Services/images/pdfs/ParkingPermitApplication.pdf)

*Remember: A copy of your vehicle registration is required to obtain a permit. Also, only two permits are allowed per elder. Elders are encouraged to obtain a new permit as soon as possible; using an expired permit or a permit that was issued to another vehicle can result in further action being taken by security. Security has requested that all new permits be placed in the front window on the driver’s side.*

#### At-Large/Member Services

7070 E. Broadway  
Mt. Pleasant MI, 48858  
800-884-6271

#### Saganing Tribal Center

5447 Sturman Rd.  
Standish MI, 48658  
989-846-1539

#### Andahwod CCC & ES

2910 S. Leaton Rd  
Mt. Pleasant MI, 48858  
989-775-4330

### December 2016 | Andahwod CCC & ES Events

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <b>Euchre</b><br>Mondays   6 p.m.         | <b>Jewelry with Kay</b><br>Dec. 6   1 p.m.    | <b>Elders Christmas Dinner</b><br>Dec. 21   SCIT Elders eat free<br>• Dinner times: 4:30 p.m., 5:15 p.m. & 5:45 p.m.<br>• Guests 12 and older: \$13<br>• Guests 11 and younger: \$5 |
| <b>Open Crafts</b><br>Tuesdays   5-8 p.m. | <b>Elders Breakfast</b><br>Dec. 14   9 a.m.   | <b>Elders New Year's Eve Balloon Drop</b><br>Dec. 31   5-7 p.m.   |
| <b>Language Bingo</b><br>Dec. 1   1 p.m.  | <b>Bingo with Friends</b><br>Dec. 21   1 p.m. |   |

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





## DECEMBER 2016 EVENT PLANNER

### Beading & Craft Class

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

- Location: Behavioral Health
- Contact: 989-775-4818
- All materials will be provided.

### Menopause & Beyond

Dec. 2 | 12 - 3 p.m.

- Location: Nimkee Public Health Kitchen
- Contact: 989-775-4654
- Lunch provided
- Crafts, sharing, questions and concerns.

### Drop-in Lacrosse

Dec. 5, 12, 19, 26 | 5:30 - 7 p.m.

- Location: Eagles Nest Tribal Gym
- Open to boys, ages 13 and older.

### Weight Room Workouts

Dec. 6, 13, 20, 27 | 5:30 - 7 p.m.

- Location: Eagles Nest Tribal Gym
- Ages: 13 - 19

### Free Auricular (Ear) Acupuncture

Dec. 7 | 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

- Location: Saganing Tribal Center

Dec. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 | 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

- Location: Behavioral Health
- Contact: 989-775-4895
- Treatment sessions last about a half hour.
- Walk-ins welcome

### Drums Out "Singing for Fun"

Dec. 7, 14, 21, 28 | 7 - 9 p.m.

- Location: 7th Generation
- Contact: 989-775-4780
- Come together, and share knowlege around the drum.

### Benefit Soup Dinner/Euchre Tournament for Ruben Vallejo (SECR employee)

Dec. 7 | 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.

- Location: Mt. Pleasant American Legion Post 110  
209 S. Oak St. (corner of Michigan and Oak)
- Contact: 989-292-8874
- All proceeds go to Ruben to assist with growing medical bills for cancer treatment.

### Medicine Wheel Teachings

Dec. 7 | 5 - 8 p.m.

- Location: 7th Generation
- Contact: 989-775-4780

### Winter Feast

Dec. 8 | 5:30 - 8 p.m.

- Location: 7th Generation
- Contact: 989-775-4780

### The Reason for the Season

Dec. 9 | Doors open: 5:30 p.m., Food served: 5:45 p.m.

- Location: Eagles Nest Tribal Gym
- Take your photo with Santa and Mrs. Clause.
- Bring a dessert to be entered into a prize drawing.
- Join in fun games.
- Central Michigan Catering will serve a full dinner.

### Housing Financial Workshop

Dec. 15 | 12 p.m.

- Location: Housing Conference Room
- Contact: 989-775-4552

### Star Wars Comic-Con

Dec. 13 | 3 - 6 p.m.

- Location: SCTC East Building
- Free event
- Food, games, crafts and family fun.

### Family Movie Night: Star Wars "Rogue One"

Dec. 18 | 12:30 p.m.

- Location: Celebration Cinema
- Contact: 989-775-4115
- \$5 per pair of tickets
- Limit two per Tribal ID
- Tickets go on sale Friday, Dec. 16 in the Tribal Operations Seniors Room.

### Christmas Family Bingo

Dec. 19 | 6 p.m., doors open at 5:30 p.m.

- Location: Eagles Nest Tribal Gym
- Contact: 989-775-4149

### Public Law 93-638 Training

Feb. 22-24 | 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

- Location: Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort
- Contact: 989.775.4003
- Visit www.sagchip.org to register.
- This course covers the intent and scope of the law, federal support and ongoing inherent federal responsibility and the standards, oversight, and administration of the model agreement.

### ALRD Language Classes

M/W/TH | 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. | Drop-in sessions

T/TH | 6 - 7 p.m.

W | 12 - 1 p.m.

- Location: ALRD Office, 7170 Ogemaw Dr.
- Contact: 989.775.4110

### 2017 Rez Basketball Men's League

Mondays | 5 - 9 p.m.

- Location: Eagles Nest Tribal Gym
- Contact: 989.289.7576
- League starts Jan. 8, 2017

## TRIBAL COMMUNITY CALENDAR | DECEMBER 2016

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT./SUN.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● SECR Payroll</li> <li>● SCIT Per Capita</li> <li>● SCIT Payroll</li> <li>● Waste Collection* <small>*Bins must be curbside by 6:30 a.m.</small></li> </ul>	<b>Local Community Fitness Events</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dec. 1: <i>Midland</i>   Jingle Bell Run</li> <li>• Dec. 3: <i>Lansing</i>   Scrooge Scramble</li> <li>• Dec. 10: <i>Alma</i>   Jingle Bell Run/Walk</li> <li>• Dec. 17: <i>Bay City</i>   BARC Christmas 5K</li> </ul>		<b>1</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Talking Circle 7th Generation   3 p.m. - 5 p.m.</li> <li>D. Dowd Traditional Healer B. Health   10 a.m. - 4 p.m.</li> <li>Tribal Library Closed</li> </ul>	<b>2</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New Spirit Moon Andahwod Conference   1 p.m.</li> <li>AA/NA Spirit Bear Meeting Andahwod Maple Lodge   7 p.m.</li> <li>D. Dowd Traditional Healer B. Health   Teachings: 5 - 8 p.m. Lodge Ceremony: 9:30 p.m.</li> </ul>	<b>3</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Talking Circle Andahwod   10 a.m.</li> </ul>
<b>5</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Women's Traditions Society B. Health   5 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.</li> </ul>	<b>6</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ogitchedaw Meeting Seniors Room   6 p.m.</li> <li>Substance Abuse Meeting B. Health Lodge   7 p.m.</li> <li>Weight Room Workouts Tribal Gym   5:30 - 7 p.m.</li> <li>Active Parenting Now Class ACFS   10 - 11:30 a.m.</li> </ul>	<b>7</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Talking Circle Andahwod   7 p.m.</li> <li>Open Gym Tribal Gym   6 p.m. - 9 p.m.</li> <li>Youth Council Meeting Old Conference Room   5 p.m.</li> <li>Traditional Teachings Saganing   11 a.m.</li> </ul>	<b>8</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jake and Mary Pine 7th Generation   8 a.m. - 5 p.m.</li> <li>Talking Circle 7th Generation   3 p.m. - 5 p.m.</li> </ul>	<b>9</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jake and Mary Pine 7th Generation   8 a.m. - 5 p.m.</li> <li>New Spirit Moon Andahwod Conference   1 p.m.</li> <li>AA/NA Spirit Bear Meeting Andahwod Maple Lodge   7 p.m.</li> </ul>	<b>10</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Talking Circle Andahwod   10 a.m.</li> </ul>
<b>12</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Women's Traditions Society B. Health   5 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.</li> </ul>	<b>13</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tribal Observer Deadline   5 p.m.</li> <li>Substance Abuse Meeting B. Health Lodge   7 p.m.</li> <li>Weight Room Workouts Tribal Gym   5:30 - 7 p.m.</li> </ul>	<b>14</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Open Gym Tribal Gym   6 p.m. - 9 p.m.</li> <li>Talking Circle Andahwod   7 p.m.</li> <li>SCA Winter Program SECR   6-8 p.m.</li> </ul>	<b>15</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Anishinaabemowin Sacred Fire Lunch 7th Generation   11 a.m. - 1 p.m.</li> <li>Talking Circle 7th Generation   3 p.m. - 5 p.m.</li> <li>Financial Workshop Housing   12 p.m.</li> </ul>	<b>16</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New Spirit Moon Andahwod Conference   1 p.m.</li> <li>AA/NA Spirit Bear Meeting Andahwod Maple Lodge   7 p.m.</li> </ul>	<b>17</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Talking Circle Andahwod   10 a.m.</li> </ul>
<b>19</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Women's Traditions Society B. Health   5 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.</li> </ul>	<b>20</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Substance Abuse Meeting B. Health Lodge   7 p.m.</li> <li>Weight Room Workouts Tribal Gym   5:30 - 7 p.m.</li> <li>Family Christmas Extravaganza SCA   5-8 p.m.</li> </ul>	<b>21</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Open Gym Tribal Gym   6 p.m. - 9 p.m.</li> <li>Tribal Education Advisory Meeting   9 a.m.</li> <li>Talking Circle Andahwod   7 p.m.</li> <li>Youth Council Meeting Old Conference Room   5 p.m.</li> </ul>	<b>22</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Talking Circle 7th Generation   3 p.m. - 5 p.m.</li> </ul>	<b>23</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New Spirit Moon Andahwod Conference   1 p.m.</li> <li>AA/NA Spirit Bear Meeting Andahwod Maple Lodge   7 p.m.</li> </ul>	<b>24</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Christmas Eve</li> </ul>
<b>26</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tribal Ops Closed</li> </ul>	<b>27</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tribal Ops Closed</li> </ul>	<b>28</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tribal Ops Closed</li> </ul>	<b>29</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tribal Ops Closed</li> </ul>	<b>30</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tribal Ops Closed</li> </ul>	<b>31</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New Years Eve</li> </ul>





## Tribal Observer Classifieds

To place your ad, call the Tribal Observer at 989-775-4010, Email: [observer@sagchip.org](mailto:observer@sagchip.org), visit our office in Tribal Operations or mail to Tribal Observer, Attn.: Classified, 7070 E. Broadway, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858. Please have all submissions and payment in by deadline. Classified rates are \$10 for 15 words or less, and 75 cents per additional word. Any thumbnail image costs an additional \$15. **Apply to job postings online at [www.sagchip.org](http://www.sagchip.org). \* Job postings are subject to change daily.**

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

### 100 Employment

#### Tribal Operations

##### Anishinabe Language Revitalization Director

Minimum five years specific-demonstrated experience developing and working with Anishinabemowin programs/projects. Knowledge and certification in Native language instruction or bachelor's degree or equivalent combination of education and Anishinabemowin-related experience.

##### Secondary Language Immersion Specialist

Open to the public. Must possess required specialized unique skills including demonstrated fluency and knowledge of Anishinabe language acquisition, a clear understanding of immersion philosophy and two years experience teaching Anishinabemowin.

##### Family Practice Physician

Open to the public. Must be a MD or a DO licensed by the State of Michigan/or be eligible to become licensed. Must maintain Michigan Board of Pharmacy Controlled Substance License and Federal

Controlled Substance Registration through the U.S. Dept. of Justice Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). Family Services director will establish, plan and coordinate all overall activities and segments included within ACFs.

##### Police Officer FT

Open to the public. Must be a U.S. citizen. Must be at least 21 years of age. Must have a high school diploma or equivalent. Associates degree preferred. Must be able to pass departmental fitness evaluation.

##### Special Education Teacher

Open to the public. Bachelor's degree in special education or education, valid Michigan Elementary Teaching Certificate with special education endorsement.

##### Energy Broker Buyer

Open to the public. Candidate must have a bachelor's degree in electrical technology, statistics, mathematics, or business. Master's degree preferred. A minimum of five years' experience in the analysis, forecast, strategies, and/or purchasing of wholesale power through the de-regulated BES, as well as the tariffs and transportation as related

##### Senior Associate General Counsel

Open to the public. Licensed as active member in good standing by the State Bar of Michigan or must become licensed following the next available bar exam; four or more years experience as a practicing attorney.

##### Teacher

Open to the public. Bachelor's degree in education. Must possess a valid State of Michigan Teaching Certification. Prefer minimum of two years teaching experience and working with Native Americans.

##### Compensation Analyst

Open to the public. Bachelor's degree in business, human resources or related field with four years of compensation experience specifically in job evaluation, market salary analysis and salary survey participation and interpretation.

##### Sexual Assault Counselor

Open to the public. Must have a master's degree in counseling or equivalent in human services. Must have a minimum of two years experience within counseling, one year in working with

victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking.

##### Associate General Counsel

Open to the public. Licensed as active member in good standing by the State Bar of Michigan or must become licensed following the next available bar exam; zero to five years experience as a practicing attorney, familiarity with federal Indian law preferred.

##### Social Services Case Worker

Open to the public. Bachelor's degree in human service related field required. Master's degree preferred. Must submit to and pass a background check.

##### Operator Lab Tech #2

Open to the public. Maintain a high school diploma or equivalent. Must be willing to take classes in microbiology, advanced math and beginning algebra courses.

##### ZCS Youth Worker

Open to the public. High school student or equivalent. Knowledge, sensitivity, and respect of the Anishinabe culture.

##### Dietary Cook Aide PT

Open to the public. Must have high school diploma. This position also requires previous experience in a kitchen atmosphere.

##### SCTC Tutor - English

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

##### SCTC Tutor - Math

Open to the public. At least 60 completed credits towards a college degree in mathematics, or significant course work towards a degree emphasizing mathematical skills.

##### Certified Aide

Open to the public. Must possess a high school diploma or equivalent and be at least 18 years of age. Must possess and maintain a current, valid nurse aide certification required by the State of Michigan.

##### SCTC Tutor General Studies

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

##### Gift Shop Retail Clerk PT

Open to the public. Must possess a high school diploma or GED. Retail experience a plus. Must demonstrate/show strong communication skills as it pertains to customer service.

##### Youth Empowerment Aide

Open to the public. High school diploma with college-level math and science and two years working directly with youth..

##### Residential Support Technician

Open to the public. High school diploma or equivalent. Previous experience in the substance abuse field highly desired.

### SECR

##### Alterations Clerk PT

Open to the public. Must have a high school diploma or GED. Needs to know the operations of equipment used in construction, alteration and repair of fabric articles.

##### Carpet/Upholstery Cleaner FT

Open to the public. Some carpet and upholstery cleaning experience required. Knowledge of truck mount system a plus. Must pass training test on truck mount operation within 90-day probation period.

##### Line Server PT

Open to the public. Must be 18 years of age. Must have a high school diploma or GED. Desire to work hard.

##### Cosmetologist PT

Open to the public. Must be at least 18 years of age with a high school diploma or equivalent. Must possess and maintain a Michigan state license in cosmetol-

ogy. A total of 1600 training hours, followed by completion of state license with two year renewal required.

##### Guest Room Attendant PT

Open to the public. Must have a high school diploma or GED. Requires three months housekeeping experience.

##### Laundry Attendant PT

Open to the public. Must have a high school diploma or GED. Requires three months hotel housekeeping or laundry experience.

##### Waitstaff

Open to the public. Must be at least 18 years of age. Must have a high school diploma or equivalent.

### SELC

##### Finance Cashier PT

Open to the public. Must be at least 18 years of age and have a high school diploma or equivalent with six months of heavy cash handling or hospitality experience.

##### Waitstaff (level 1)

Open to the public. Must be at least 18 years of age. Must have a high school diploma or equivalent.

##### Aerie Food & Beverage Attendant PT

Open to the public. Must be at least 18 years of age. Must have a high school diploma or equivalent.

##### Aerie Line Cook PT

Open to the public. Must be at least 18 years of age with a high school diploma or equivalent. One years of restaurant cooking experience.

##### Security Officer PT

Open to the public. Must be at least 18 years of age and have a high school diploma or equivalent.

##### Transit Driver PT

Open to the public. Must be at least 21 years of age and have a high school diploma or equivalent.

## Summons and Complaint Notices

### NOTICE OF DUAL CLAIM PETITION IN CHILD WELFARE PAYMENT ACTION:

Limited Appearance Petition for Determination of Distribution of Minor Per Capita Payment Case NO. 16-CI-0589. Claimant: Sandra Trepania vs. Claimant: Melissa Poolaw. Notice to Claimant, Melissa Poolaw. You have 21 days after receiving this summons to contact the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Court, 6954 E. Broadway Rd., Mt. Pleasant, MI, 48858 (989) 775-4800 and receive your copy of the Petition. Failure to receive your Petition will result in a hearing being scheduled on the matter without further notice to you. If you fail to attend the hearing you will default your claim and the other claimant will prevail. **This summons expires Dec. 22, 2016.**

### SUMMONS AND COMPLAINTS IN THE MATTER OF NICHOLAS HERMAN ALLEN:

The Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Court 6954 East Broadway Road Mount Pleasant, MI 48858 989-775-4800 Case no: 16-CI-0743 Plaintiff: Terrence Ray and Torie Ray 11727 Baumgartner St. Charles, MI. 48655 Plaintiff's attorney: Bruce M. Moss (P42548) 223 E. Superior St. Alma, MI 48801 (989) 466-5251 vs. Defendant: Nicholas Herman Allen 1002 E. Palmer St - C4 Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858. Notice to defendant: 1. You are being sued. 2. You have 21 days after receiving this summons to file an answer with the court and to serve a copy on the other party or take other lawful action. Please note that if you were served by certified mail or served outside of the reservation land you have 28 days to answer attached complaint. 3. Failure to file answer or take other action within the time allowed may result in a default judgment being entered against you for the relief requested in Plaintiff's complaint. **This summons expires May 16, 2017.**

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## Veterans honored during two-day celebration at Soaring Eagle-hosted events

**JOSEPH V. SOWMICK**

Photojournalist

Veterans were honored during a two-day celebration at events hosted by the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort as the Anishinaabe Ogichedaw Veterans Warrior Society celebrated their service to the United States of America and the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe.

Tanya Bardy, marketing manager of sponsorships and promotions for Soaring Eagle, said the Nov. 11 event drew a large crowd to the flag ceremony at the SECR front entrance.

"We appreciate the very talented Mino Ode singers for coming out, and our celebration of Veterans Day here at Soaring Eagle is something I look forward to each year," Bardy said. "Seeing complete strangers thanking our veterans that are here to celebrate with us is amazing to see. People starting conversations with others and sharing their stories of service is very heart warming."

The event celebrates men and women who have served the country and those who are currently serving.

"Veterans Day here at SECR is just small token of our appreciation for all (the veterans) have done and continue to do," Bardy said.



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

**U.S. Army Veteran Mike Perez is ready with his hand drum at the Soaring Eagle main casino entrance.**

Soaring Eagle CEO Ray Brenny spent eight years in the U.S. Air Force and served on the Wing Commanders Staff at Barksdale Air Force Base and in Military Airlift Command, Command and Control Center at Elmendorf Air Force Base in Alaska.

"My last duty was as an Air Force recruiter where I recruited for the regular Air Force, college recruiting and first line of contact for the Air Force academy," Brenny said. "The Nov. 12 Veterans Feast was a great night for all our veterans and family members and it was an honor to be a part of it. The (feast) was a night full of recognition for our veterans for their service and a chance to say thank you to all the family members who supported our veterans during our country's time of need."

It was Brenny's first time attending an Ogichedaw event. He said he was "deeply moved by the audience" that packed the Saginaw, Swan Creek and Black River Ballrooms.

Highlights from the evening included remarks from Okima I David Perez Sr., a Chris Czopek Company K presentation, and the swearing in of Ogichedaw leadership by Tribal Council Sergeant-at-Arms Ronald F. Ekdahl.

AOVWS leadership who took the oath of office: Perez, Okima II Glen "Pete" Coffin, Secretary Mike Perez, Treasurer William Leksche, Sergeant-at-Arms Chuck Knowles and Weekaun Jonathan Cabal.

"It was truly an honor to have the opportunity to swear in the new officers of the Ogichedaw," Ekdahl said. "My late grandfather Frank Kequom and my father are both veterans. I have a huge amount of respect for the sacrifices and the service that our veterans have made."

Ekdahl said his family enjoyed the event.

"The (Soaring Eagle Food & Beverage department) staff did an amazing job on the food, as usual," Ekdahl said. "The speakers were very interesting and had great information to share with the community. I look forward to continuing to work with the Ogichedaw and seeing the hard work that they do within the community."

Coffin is a U.S. Marine Corps veteran and also serves as VFW Post 3033 Commander in Mount Pleasant, Mich.

"I am honored to be in the Ogichedaw and chosen to be their Okima II," Coffin said. "During the Veterans Feast, the posting of our eagle staffs alongside our colors and military flags is purely Native American to the heart of our society and done with all respect. We insured that our Prisoner of War and Missing



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

**Perez (right) sits in with Mino Ode singers (left to right) Matthew "Cub" Sprague, Nathan Isaac and Aaron Chivis.**



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

**Tribal Council Sergeant-at-Arms Ronald F. Ekdahl (right) swears in new Ogichedaw officers at the Nov. 12 Veterans Feast in the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort Ballroom.**

in Action brothers and sisters were spoken for at our Veterans Feast in spirit and remembrance by placing a POW/MIA table. We are currently looking for veterans from all services to attend our organization to benefit our community and to serve all our comrades."

Ogichedaw member and U.S. Marine Corps veteran Ken Soney shared the story behind the banners that honor the men

and women who have died in service to the military.

"The tradition started with the Civil War when they had the blue flag and put the gold over it," Soney said. "The blue star is for the women who had children active in the service and if they were killed in action they were given the gold star banner. That is why we have gold star mothers and we honor their sacrifice."



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

**Retired Michigan State police officer Larry Verga is ready to take his first grand entry as a new Ogichedaw member.**



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

**Ogichedaw Ken Soney explains the meaning behind the gold star and blue star banners.**



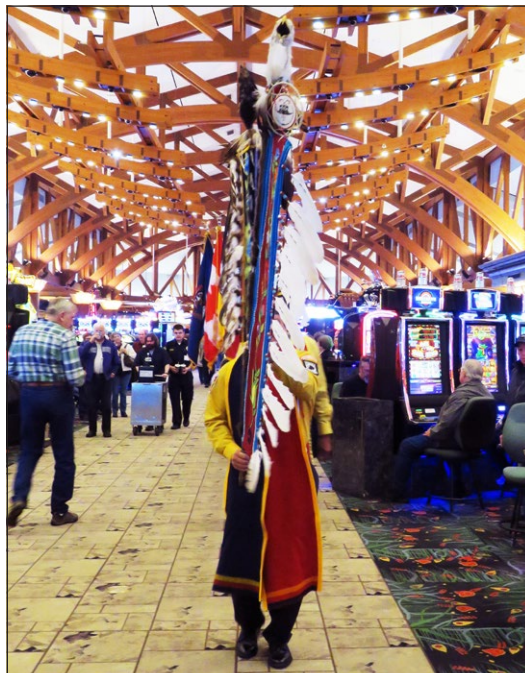
Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

**Ekdahl addresses the community as he remembers his grandfather Frank Kequom who served his country.**



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

**Honorary Ogichedaw veteran Minnie Martin carries the State of Michigan flag during grand entry.**



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

**The Ogichedaw Color Guard makes a Veterans Day procession special through the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort.**



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

**Ogichedaw U.S. Air Force veteran Cecil John holds on to a healing eagle staff.**



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

**Ogichedaw Treasurer William Leksche proudly stands at attention guarding the SCIT eagle staff.**