



January 2021 | Volume 32 | Issue 1  
Mnidoo-Giizis (Spirit Moon)

# TRIBAL OBSERVER

THE SAGINAW CHIPPEWA INDIAN TRIBE... "Working Together for Our Future"

## In memory of SCIT's first female chief, Gail George 1946-2020

Tribal elder Gail Lorraine George, age 74, passed away Friday, Dec. 11. Gail served on Tribal Council and was the first female SCIT chief from 1993-1995.

Gail was the health director at Nimkee Memorial Wellness Center. She worked for the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe for 30 years, working in various positions.

She was very active in the Tribal community and was instrumental in the development and building of the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort. She and her husband Henry started the concessions at the Bingo Hall.

The following wished to pay tribute to Gail:

"In 2010, the assistant health administrator position was posted and I was working on my internship for Master of Science in Health Administration. I immediately applied, I was very excited and hoped to receive an interview and gain experience. The day I had my interview was the first day I met Gail George. She walked out to greet me – a beautiful woman with a suit on, makeup, red lipstick and nice heels – very quiet in



Courtesy of the Ziibiwing Center

**Gail George served as first SCIT female chief from 1993-1995**

nature but when she talked, you listened. I was hired on the spot and the rest is history. Gail and I had a 34-year difference in age but we hit it off. I have always had respect for my elders but the respect between the two of us went both ways. Gail and I just got each other and I believe we had a great balance at work. After a few months of being on the job, Gail had a heart attack and required surgery. I remember being scared thinking, "who am I going to lean on, what's next?" I made it through Gail being off on medical leave. When she returned, I told her my fear and she chuckled and said, "I knew you'd be just fine." She had a confidence in me that I didn't even know I had. Gail taught me so much. Some of my favorite things I learned

from Gail: to always come to work prepared, be on time, and dress for success daily. Gail wore a suit Monday-Thursday and on casual Fridays she would wear a nice suit jacket, jeans, and she had the same heels in every color which made for great stories. Her hair was always perfect, her nails painted and red lipstick. Gail taught me so much about work life: remain level-headed in all situations, balance – family comes first, and most importantly, to always love what you're doing and you'll never work a day in your life. My position ended when the Council member returned and I briefly worked another year at Nimkee Clinic while finishing my degree. I transferred to the Tribal College and waited patiently for Gail's retirement (she told me when I left that she would be retiring soon) in hopes to apply again someday. Today I'm Gail's successor and I'm very proud. When I was hired, she called me and congratulated me; she was thrilled to see me back at the Clinic. Gail and I stayed in touch, we'd chat on the phone just to catch up and we were always able to pick up from where we left off. I will miss receiving an annual Christmas card in the mail from Gail – her card always arrived first. Thank you, Gail, for showing me the ropes and, most importantly,

believing in me. You will always hold a special place in my heart!" – **Karmen Fox, executive health director for the Nimkee Clinic**

"Gail was chief when I was initially hired into Tribal Operations over 20 years ago. I always appreciated her belief in me and ever-present friendship. She paved the way for many women in our community to take leadership roles. She will be missed dearly." – **Frank Cloutier, public relations director**

"Although I didn't have the privilege of working with Gail George, I am grateful for her leadership and paving the way for future female leaders in our community. My position as an Executive Council member is a direct benefit of her leadership and breaking barriers for women; for that, I am grateful. Miigwetch." – **Tribal Council Treasurer Maia Spotted Tail**

"I have never had the privilege of working with Gail but had recognized her as a strong, yet humble leader. Gail served many terms on Tribal Council and, as our first female chief, helped pave the way for Native women in our community. I am forever grateful for all she has done for our people and our Tribe as a whole." – **Tribal Council Secretary Jennifer L. Wassegijig**

### Features

- 2 Public Notices
- 9 Fun and Games
- 15 Education
- 20 Health
- 22 Calendar
- 23 Classifieds



12

**Boontak!**  
Exhibition raises awareness about MMIWG



20

**Nimkee COVID update**  
Testing center, machine and vaccine info

Copyright © 2021 Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan  
All rights reserved.

PRESORTED STANDARD  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
GREENSBORO, MI  
48830  
PERMIT # 338

**VIRTUAL**


# State of the Tribe

— Annual Meeting —

**Friday, Jan. 22, 2021**  
10 a.m. Live stream

Tribal Council will provide a financial report, COVID-19 report, comments and address questions.

This will be live streamed on the Tribal Members section of the sagchip.org website. The link will be provided as the date approaches.



Tribal Members, please send questions or concerns to be considered during the State of the Tribe Address to:

**Public Relations department**

- Email: PublicRelations@sagchip.org
- Phone: 989.775.4096



## Gail Lorraine George

May 28, 1946 – December 11, 2020

Gail Lorraine George, age 74, of Mount Pleasant, passed away Friday, December 11, 2020 at her home surrounded by her family.

Gail was born May 28, 1946, in Mt. Pleasant, the daughter of Ernest and Florence (Jackson) Kahgegab. She married Henry George Sr. on May 25, 1968.

Gail was the health director at Nimkee Memorial Wellness Center.

She worked for Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe for 30 years, working in various positions.

She was a member of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe. Gail served on the Tribal Council and was the first female Tribal chief. She was very active in the Tribal community and was instrumental in the development and building of the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort. She and her husband Henry started the concessions at the Bingo Hall.

“Grandma Gail” loved spending time with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, especially watching them participate in sports. She enjoyed the casino, going for rides, and watching General Hospital.

Gail is survived by her three children, Michelle (Brian) Deaton, Nathaniel George, and Amanda Oldman, all of Mt. Pleasant; seven grandchildren, Meredith Koenig, James Springer, Marcella Garcia, Makyo Dye, Lucas Dye, Azaryah Dye, and Jamie Cross-George; 11 great-grandchildren, Nodin, Kiron, Gabby, Phoenix, Payton, Zoi, Rowan, Mishiki, Amilia, Maleki, and Amie.

Gail was preceded in death by her husband Henry George Sr., on July 30, 1990; son Henry George Jr., on Nov. 11, 1990; parents; grandparents John and Maggie Jackson; brother Gordon; sisters Gwen and Gloria; best friend cousin Cora Leauteaux; nephews Edward “Possum” Shenoskey Jr., and Phillip Shenoskey; and niece Gillian Shenoskey.

The family received friends at a public visitation on Monday, Dec. 14, from 2-4 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. at Clark Family Funeral Chapel. A private funeral service for Gail’s family was held with Tribal Elder and Brother Joe Sowmick officiating.

Friends were invited to attend the services via a live broadcast on Tuesday, Dec. 15, at 2 p.m. Friends were also invited to join the family for the Committal Service at Chippewa Township Cemetery on Tuesday at 3:30 p.m. A luncheon took place at the Oldman residence following the graveside service.

Memorial contributions may be made to Parkinson’s Research Foundation or Gift of Life of Michigan, where she was an organ donor.



## Blanche Bell Kuhn

October 19, 1946 – November 22, 2020

Mrs. Blanche Bell Kuhn, age 74, passed away Sunday, Nov. 22, 2020 at McLaren-Flint.

Family hour was held at 4 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 5, 2020 from the Chapel of Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home, 906 W. Flint Park Blvd., and the funeral service commenced at 5 p.m., Rev. Norman McLemore officiated.



## Dolly Ann Rueckert

September 9, 1939 – December 2, 2020

Dolly Ann Rueckert, age 81, of Mount Pleasant, passed away Wednesday Dec. 2, 2020, at the Medilodge of Mt. Pleasant.

Dolly was born on Sept. 9, 1939, in Lansing, the daughter of Charles and Rose (Peters) Bennett. She was a proud member of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe and worked as a secretary for Tribal Operations.

Dolly enjoyed going to the casino and traveling. She loved attending powwows and spending time with her family.

Dolly is survived by her children, Mark Rueckert, Paul Sr. (Terri) Rueckert, Marsha Sue (Rick) Kelsall, Gary Rueckert, Marlene (Gary) Gray, Terry Kay (Dave) Darling, and Dolly Ann (Jason) Kiogima; 15 grandchildren; several great-grandchildren; one great-granddaughter; brother, Dave Bennett; and many nieces and nephews.

Dolly was preceded in death by her parents; daughter, Maxine Rueckert; grandson, Charles Elmer Rueckert; and siblings, Rose, Charlene, Stella, Josephine, Gaylene, Fred, Larry, Don, and Charles “June”.

A private funeral service was held Monday, Dec. 7, 2020, at 1 p.m. The family received friends for a public visitation on Sunday, Dec. 6, from 3 until 7 p.m. at Clark Family Funeral Chapel.



## Vicky L. (Stevens) Madosh

July 9, 1957 – December 6, 2020

Vicky L. Madosh of Brant, died Sunday, Dec. 6, 2020 at Ascension St. Mary’s of Michigan in Saginaw. She was 63 years of age.

Vicky was born July 9, 1957 in Saginaw to the late Frederick and Mabel (Fraser) Stevens. She was a resident of Mount Pleasant most of her life.

Vicky was a member of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe, Red Hat Society, and AIM. She enjoyed gambling, cooking, baking, beading, fishing, spending time with her grandchildren and family and loved her culture.

Surviving are: children: Naomi (Michael) Vollmer of Saginaw, Wendy Greve (Phil) of Mt. Pleasant, Brandon (Chyanne) Stevens of Saginaw; grandchildren: Tabitha (Branden) Barror, Tristin Cross, Amanda Cross, Anthony Cross, Max Richards, Dean Stevens, Dominic Lovely and Colton Lovely; great-granddaughter Emily Newman; siblings: Darlene (Richard) Munro, Sherry (Dan) Obrecht of Montana, Kimberly Lewis of St. Charles, Rosalie (Ron) Stevens of Onaway, Kelly Stevens of St. Charles, Fitzgerald (Angie) Stevens of Onaway, Frederick (Kathryn) Stevens of Onaway, Jeremy (Katrina) Stevens of St. Charles; many nieces, nephews, other relatives and dear friends.

She was preceded in death by a sister, Robin Silva and a brother, Gregory Stevens.

Visitation was held at the Misiuk Funeral Home in Chesaning on Wednesday, Dec. 9, 2020 from 1 to 6 p.m. A private family service was held. Burial was held in Brant Cemetery.

Contributions in her memory may be made to the family.



## Anikka Witting

January 20, 1981 - December 09, 2020

Anikka Witting, 39, of Cottrellville entered eternal life on Wednesday, Dec. 9, 2020 after a courageous battle with cancer.

Anikka was born Jan. 20, 1981 in Port Huron to Gary and Melissa Bird. Anikka graduated from Port Huron High School Class of 2000. She then went on to receive her LPN degree. Anikka worked for Regency on the Lake Nursing Home. She loved her job and the opportunity to help others.

In her spare time, she enjoyed reading.

Anikka is survived by her husband, James; daughters, Kaylynn Witting and Makayla Burton; her father Gary (Janne) Bird; her mother, Melissa Bird; brothers, Gary Bird Jr. and Travis White; a sister, Jennifer Shealer and her grandmother, Rita Taylor and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by grandparents, James Taylor, Phil Bird and Jean Bird and a cousin, Robin Taylor.

Visitation was held on Tuesday, Dec. 15, 2020 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Bower-Rose Funeral Home, Marine City. Burial was held in St. Catherine’s Cemetery, Clay Township, Michigan.



## Black Elk Building Drop Box



Courtesy of Michelle Colwell

A Black Elk Building drop box has been installed and is located at the main entrance (HR entrance). The drop box is for the 24-hour convenience of the Membership and community to correspond with any governmental department/program.

The drop box is to utilize immediately. The mailroom staff will be checking it twice daily at approximately 8:30 a.m. before their rounds and 3:30 p.m.

The Membership should utilize envelopes to protect their privacy and address the envelopes appropriately to alleviate any confusion or undirected mail.

## Powwow Committee

**The Powwow Committee is currently seeking new members.**

**Interested individuals may submit letters of interest to:** [powwowcommittee@sagchip.org](mailto:powwowcommittee@sagchip.org)

## Tribal Operations entry is currently by Appointment Only

Tribal Operations buildings are still on “lock down” mode, anyone coming in must make an appointment.

### If making an appointment, you must:

- **Wear a mask** or be given one by the department they have an appointment with
- **Prescreen question:** You will be asking if you have a cough or shortness of breath. If the answer is “yes,” you will have to reschedule at a later date.
- **Temperature check:** Community members will be met at the door by a Tribal employee.
  - **Temperature of 100.4 or below:** you may enter.
  - **100.4 or above:** you must reschedule and cannot enter the building.



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

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

*\*You must own your home.*

**To make an appointment:** Please call the Planning Department at (989) 775-4014.

## Attention SCIT Tribal Members:

The Ziibiwing Cultural Society's **Collection Committee** needs **Committee Members**

**For more information, please contact:**

William Johnson at 989-775-4730 or [wjohnson@sagchip.org](mailto:wjohnson@sagchip.org)

## Seventh Generation Update

Due to the high rise in the COVID pandemic; Elijah Elk Cultural center will be working remotely, until further notice. Please be advised that staff will still be available for your cultural needs. Medicines may be picked up by appointment only.

Cultural representatives will be available via email or phone. Sacred fire on Thursday’s will still be offered (8 a.m. - 4 p.m.)

Per the CDC guidelines; social distancing and masks are required.



## Tribal Council Regular Session Meetings

The Regular Tribal Council Sessions occur at 9 a.m. on the first Tuesday of each month in the Council Chambers in the Black Elk Government Complex, in accordance to the Tribal Constitution.

Meetings are open to Tribal Members.

Administration will announce ahead of time if meeting date or time changes for possible weather or emergencies. However, it is rare the times change.

Administration's administrative assistant III compiles and prepares the agenda.

Approximately two weeks prior to the meeting, an email is sent to Tribal Operations employees to remind them of the meeting and request any submissions for the agenda.

Any SCIT Tribal Member or other individual/department must submit a written request if they wish to be placed on the Regular Council Session agenda. Anyone wanting to be added can call (989) 775-4003.

### Regular Council Session Dates

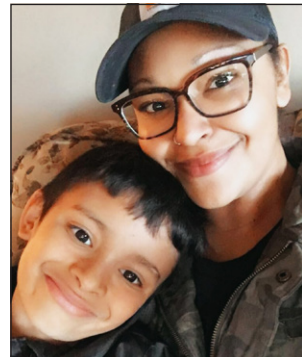
- Jan. 5
- Feb. 2
- March 2



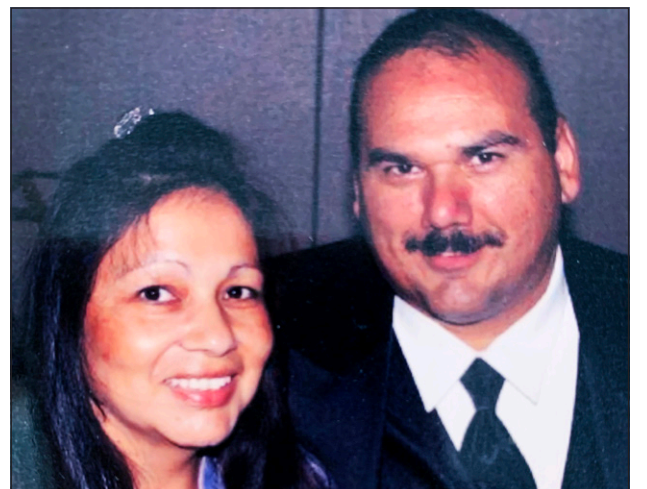
Happy 11<sup>th</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>  
**BIRTHDAY**  
Natalia & Terrance!  
January 14<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>  
Love Always,  
Mom



Happy 6<sup>th</sup>  
Birthday  
**Sequay!**  
January 20<sup>th</sup>  
Love Mom,  
Grandma and TT



January 11<sup>th</sup>  
**Happy 8<sup>th</sup>  
Birthday  
Jeremiah!**  
Papa, Meme, Uncle De, your  
Momma, Aunt TT (& Eric) and  
Uncle Bailey loves you very much!



**Happy Anniversary!**  
Fred & Denise Cantu  
January 23<sup>rd</sup>

## Input Needed for Veterans Memorial Site

Tribal Council has recently approved for a Veterans Memorial Site.

Input needed from Tribal Members, Anishinabe Ogitchedaw Veterans and Warriors Society and veterans on suggestions for location and memorial ideas. The space will need to be large enough to hold events and several event attendees.

For input, please contact the Public Relations Department at:

- Email: [PublicRelations@sagchip.org](mailto:PublicRelations@sagchip.org)
- Phone: 989-775-4096

## SECR Access Club Hours

### SECR Access Club hours of operation

- Sunday - Thursday: 8 a.m. to 2 a.m.
- Friday & Saturday: 8 a.m. to 4 a.m.

### Slot Palace & Bingo Hall Access Club hours of operation

- All days: 8 a.m. to 12 a.m.

## Higher Education Update

The Higher Education office will be open by appointment only. Please call Deb Smith at (989) 775-4071 if you need to set up an appointment.

For any Higher Education questions, you may also email or call Deb at 989-775-4071 or email [dsmith@sagchip.org](mailto:dsmith@sagchip.org). Or call Olivia Manitowabi-McCullough at (989)775-4505 or email [OManitowabi-McCullough@sagchip.org](mailto:OManitowabi-McCullough@sagchip.org).

All winter schedules and fall grade reports can be emailed to Olivia or Deb.

## New Airport Board

Tribal Members letters of interest are needed for representation on the new Airport Board.

- Must be a SCIT Member
- Members must commit to each meeting time
- Members must conduct themselves in a professional manner at all times while representing the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe.

Please send letters of interest to:

Public Relations  
7500 Soaring Eagle Blvd.  
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

or [PublicRelations@sagchip.org](mailto:PublicRelations@sagchip.org)

Please call 989-775-4096 if you have any questions.

## Tribal Child Welfare Affidavit Deadline

**Friday, Feb. 5, 2021 by 5 p.m.**

Tribal Clerk's Office is open by appointment only:

- ▶ Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

\*Notarization of Clerk's Forms is NOT required at this time\*

- Drop box available outside the Black Elk Building (brown with Tribal Logo on the side).
- Forms are available by email and online at [www.sagchip.org](http://www.sagchip.org)
- Post marked forms, email or faxed will not be accepted

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

As of Oct. 1, 2020, the Tribal Observer and the Public Relations Department have consolidated.

Sandy McCreery is now serving as administrative assistant II for both departments. For any Tribal Observer inquiries, Sandy may be reached at 989-775-4096, [SMcCreery@sagchip.org](mailto:SMcCreery@sagchip.org) or [Observer@sagchip.org](mailto:Observer@sagchip.org). The Tribal Observer's main line is now 989-775-4096.

## COVID positive employees

In an attempt to keep staff safe, this is a reminder that employees are only to return to work based upon the providers return to work date. They are not to return earlier than the date written. If you have any question, please feel free to reach out to Kelly Sineway at [KSineway@sagchip.org](mailto:KSineway@sagchip.org) or 989-775-0058. Thank you for your cooperation.

## Indian Child Welfare Committee Vacancy

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

Deadline: Jan. 15, 2021  
There is currently 1 Vacancy

Letters of interest must be submitted to Anishnaabeg Child & Family Services.

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

Please feel free to contact Felicia Bross at 989.775.4906 for more information.

Send letter of interest to:

Anishnaabeg Child & Family Services  
7500 E. Broadway Rd, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

Give that Special Someone



In the Tribal Observer  
Email to [Observer@sagchip.org](mailto:Observer@sagchip.org)  
Deadline: Jan. 15, 2021 - \$10 each



## Tribal Council

**Chief**

**Tim J. Davis** | District One

**Sub-Chief**

**Joe Kequom** | District Three

**Treasurer**

**Maia Spotted Tail** | District One

**Secretary**

**Jennifer L. Wassegijig** | District One

**Sergeant-at-Arms**

**Martha Wemigwans** | District One

**Chaplain**

**Alice Jo Ricketts** | District One

**Council Member**

**Ronald F. Ekdahl** | District One

**Council Member**

**Theresa Jackson** | District One

**Council Member**

**Chip Neyome** | District One

**Council Member**

**Carmen Otto** | District One

**Council Member**

**Gayle Ruhl** | District One

**Council Member**

**Ron Nelson** | District Two

### Attention SCIT Tribal Members: Notice of Public Hearing

There will be a public hearing held on **Tuesday, Jan. 5, 2021 at 8:30 a.m. in the Tribal Council Chambers at the Black Elk Building, 7500 Soaring Eagle Blvd., Mount Pleasant, MI 48858.** This hearing will address the liquor license application presented to Tribal Council by Robert Juckniess, CEO of the Migizi Economic Development Company. The application which will be reviewed and discussed at the hearing is as follows:

Renewal of Retail Off-Premise General Liquor License. Such License, if renewed,

would cover selling of packaged liquor, beer and wine to be consumed by buyers off premise. The License, if renewed, would cover the Isabella Sagamok, located at 2428 S. Leaton Rd, Mt Pleasant, Michigan 48858.

This License, if renewed, will be for the duration of one full year from Jan. 27, 2021 to Jan. 26, 2022, with hours of alcohol service consistent with section 10 of the Gaming Compact of Aug. 20, 1993, and specifically including hours of service for Sunday alcohol sales.

### Order Establishing SCIT 2020 Fishing Season

Per Tribal Ordinance 11, Section 107 subdivision 2(B), the 2021 Fishing Season shall begin **Jan. 1, 2021, and will close Dec. 31, 2021, unless ordered otherwise. Licenses and Permits will be available at the Tribal Planning Department office by appointment due to current restrictions.**

Please refer to Ordinance 11 on the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe website for rules and regulations.

#### SCIT Ordinance 11 Fishing Seasons and Daily Bag Limits

Species	Seasons	Location	Limit	Min. Length
Trout	No closed	Inland streams and rivers	10 per day	10 inch
Salmon	No closed	Inland streams and rivers	10 per day	10 inch
Largemouth Bass	No closed	Inland streams and rivers	10 per day	12 inch
Smallmouth Bass	No closed	Inland streams and rivers	10 per day	12 inch
Northern Pike	No closed	Inland streams and rivers	10 per day	20 inch
Muskellunge	No closed	Inland streams and rivers	One per day	42 inch
Sauger	No closed	Inland streams and rivers	10 per day	14 inch
Tiger Muskellunge	No closed	Inland streams and rivers	One per day	42 inch
Walleye	No closed	Inland streams and rivers	20 per day	12 inch
Bluegill	No closed	Inland streams and rivers	50 per day	No min.
Sunfish	No closed	Inland streams and rivers	50 per day	No min.
Crappie	No closed	Inland streams and rivers	50 per day	No min.
Rock Bass	No closed	Inland streams and rivers	50 per day	No min.
Perch	No closed	Inland streams and rivers	100 per day	No min.
Lake Whitefish	No closed	Inland streams and rivers	10 per day	No min.
Menominee	No closed	Inland streams and rivers	10 per day	No min.
Catfish	No closed	Inland streams and rivers	10 per day	No min.
Sturgeon	No open	Inland streams and rivers	Zero per day	N/A

## The Seven Grandfather TEACHINGS

**Nbookaawin – Wisdom**

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

**Zaagidowin – Love**

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

**Minaadendamooing – Respect**

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

**Zoongide'ewin – Bravery**

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

**Gwekwadiziwin – Honesty**

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

**Dibaadendiziwin – Humility**

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

**Debwewin – Truth**

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

### Soaring Eagle Shuttle Bus Service

Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort's Shuttle Bus Service has resumed; however, due to COVID-19 restrictions and minimal staffing levels, we are only offering limited shuttle service at this time. Shuttles are available Sun-Thu from 10 a.m. - 10 p.m., and Fri-Sat 10 a.m. - 2 a.m. and will run the normal loops which includes: the Casino, Slot Palace, and Waterpark/Retreat.

With safety measures and modifications in place to accommodate social distancing, there is limited seating on the shuttle buses, and all guests are required to wear

masks while using this service.

Special requests for pick-up from residence homes on the reservation is not currently available as there is no dispatch center at this time; however, if members are on property at one of the scheduled stops on the loop, drivers are able to assist them home within the Reservation.

Please keep in mind, golf carts are no longer available so guests will not be taken to/from their vehicles in the parking lot.

Stay tuned for further updates and/or changes.

## Tribal Observer

Boozhu! The Tribal Observer, a monthly newspaper, is published on the first of each month. To contact Tribal Observer staff, please call 989-775-4096 or email [observer@sagchip.org](mailto:observer@sagchip.org). To change your mailing address, please contact the Tribal Clerk's office at 989-775-4055. Community advertisements will not be accepted over the phone.



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

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

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

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

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

## Tribal Observer Advertising

If you would like to place an advertisement, please contact the Tribal Observer at **989-775-4096 or [Observer@sagchip.org](mailto:Observer@sagchip.org) for more information.**

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

**Political ads** - All political ads will be 1/4 page and have a red border stating as such. The cost is \$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  
7500 Soaring Eagle Blvd.  
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

**Contact Information:**

Phone: 989-775-4096

Email: [Observer@Sagchip.org](mailto:Observer@Sagchip.org)

[www.Sagchip.org/TribalObserver](http://www.Sagchip.org/TribalObserver)



## 2021 Annual Reports

are now being accepted

**Deadline: May 4, 2021 by 5 p.m.**

**\*Notarization of Clerk's forms is NOT required at this time\***

- Forms are available by mail, email and online at [www.sagchip.org](http://www.sagchip.org)
- Post marked forms, email or faxed will not be accepted

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

## Tribal Clerk/ Enrollment Office

As a precautionary measure to do our part in keeping the COVID-19 cases down and ensure there are no interruptions in member services, the Tribal Clerk/ Enrollment Office will consist of a skeleton crew in combination with working remotely. The Clerk/ Enrollment Office will be only accepting appointments for services that cannot be done by mail; email, fax and drop box pick up at the front entrance.

**Hours: Monday - Friday: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.**  
**Closed: 12 - 1 p.m.**

**In office by appointment only: 989-775-4051**

## Check cashing guidelines

Guidelines for check cashing with the Finance Department are: Any of the Finance cages can process check cashing for payroll checks, SCIT Tribal issued checks, and traveler's checks.

**All checks must be endorsed in front of the cashier! No exceptions!**

SCIT Tribal Members may use their red SCIT Tribal Member ID with expiration date or their green SCIT Tribal Member's Elder ID, to cash checks at the Cage or Satellite.

SECR associates may use their SECR work badge to pick up their paper check and cash it at the Cage/Satellite. Currently, there is a national coin shortage and Finance will not be selling coin during the national shortage.

## Tribal Court Business Hours

Mandatory masks, health questionnaire and temperature scan will be taken at the door and all requirements must be met/passed before admittance into the Tribal Court Facility. Entry by appointment only.

### Tribal Court Clerk front window

Please call 989.775.4800 to schedule an appointment with the Tribal Court Clerks.

- **Monday, Tuesday, Thursday:** 8 a.m. - 12 p.m., 1 - 4:30 p.m.
- **Wednesday:** 9 a.m. - 12 p.m., 1 - 4:30 p.m. *closed from 8 a.m. - 9 a.m. for staff meeting*
- **Friday:** 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

### Probation

Please call 989.775.4827 989.775.4844 to schedule an appointment with probation

- **Monday - Friday:** 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

### Healing to Wellness

Please call 989.775.5894 989.775.5811 or 989.775.4793 to schedule an appointment with Healing to Wellness.

- **Monday - Friday:** 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

## Andahwod Prescription Pick-up

Andahwod Elder Services would like to assist local Tribal elders with prescription pick-up from Nimkee Pharmacy.

Elders Services can deliver prescriptions Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Elders must call in own prescription/refills. Elder Services will not pick up any controlled substances and/or narcotic medications.

**If you need your prescriptions picked up, please call:**

- Andahwod Front Office: 989-775-4300
- Elders Advocate: 989-775-4307
- For more information, please call: 989-775-4300



## Attention Tribal Community/Artists

**Wood from MIIBS property will be available for distribution**

**If interested, please email:**  
[mlhadden@sagchip.org](mailto:mlhadden@sagchip.org)

- Wood is to be used for personal use only.
- Date and time will be set for distribution January - TBD.



## Per Capita services are available by:

- **Phone or appointment:** call (989) 775-4040
- **Fax:** (989) 775-4075
- **Email:** [percapita@sagchip.org](mailto:percapita@sagchip.org) *(please include an approved email when filing your Annual Report)*
- **Mail:** Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe  
Attn: Per Capita Department  
7500 Soaring Eagle Blvd  
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858
- **Hotline:** (989) 775-4037  
*(to keep up to date on announcements)*

**Forms available at: [www.sagchip.org](http://www.sagchip.org)**

## Unclaimed per capita disbursements for deceased Tribal Members

The following is a list of unclaimed per capita disbursements for deceased Tribal Members. Any person who has been court appointed as the member's Personal Representative of the Estate can contact the Per Capita Office to claim the funds. All monies must be claimed within 2 years from their date of death, or such monies will be forfeited and returned to the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe's Per Capita Trust.

Tribal Member Name	Date of Death
Bailey Sr, Fredrick	12/8/2019
Chippeway Sr, Lester	2/7/2020
Collins, Steve	5/20/2020
David, Paul	8/26/2019
Douglas, Francis	6/2/2020
Falsetta, Stella	3/23/2019
Fender, Mary	1/12/2019
Garlick, Joseph	10/16/2019
Henry, Phillip	1/6/2019
Hunt II, Bert	5/21/2020
Jackson, Matthew	9/19/2020
Jackson, Ronald	9/20/2019
Leaureaux Sr, Donald	6/13/2020
Leaureaux, Oliver	1/17/2020
Martinez, Lou Ella	2/24/2019
Miller, Ryan	2/3/2020
Moore, Steven	10/8/2019
Romer, Doris	8/14/2020
Sands, Sean	3/19/2020
Scharaswak, Leroy	3/2/2020
Sowmick, Kyle	5/27/2020
Squanda, Clarence	6/13/2020
Stempek, Lena	9/17/2019

## The Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Fire Department seeking paid on-call firefighters

**The Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Fire Department is looking for interested men and women that are seeking to serve their community by becoming a paid on-call firefighter. Being a firefighter can be physically demanding and may require firefighters to work under hazardous and stressful conditions.**

### Physical Demands:

- Frequent use of hands, wrists, fingers associated with computer equipment
- Required to stand, sit and walk for extended periods of time
- Work is often performed in emergency situations
- Walking, running, lifting and climbing during efforts to suppress fire
- Must possess sufficient stamina to work under all types of weather conditions including extreme heat/cold, and to lift, carry, push, or pull a variety of tools, equipment and materials
- Position must regularly lift and/or move up to 50 pounds and occasionally lift and/or move up to 150 pounds

### Minimum Qualifications:

- High school diploma or GED
- Must be 18 years of age
- Must have a valid State of Michigan Driver's License
- Must be able to pass pre-employment firefighter assessment test
- Attend and completion of the Michigan Firefighters Training Council Firefighter I & II
- Must be able to obtain MFR Certification within two years from date of hire
- Must be a resident of Isabella County
- Must be able to pass background check to meet the employment eligibility requirements as they pertain to the position.



**Individuals interested in joining as a paid on-call firefighter for the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Fire Department, please contact Fire Chief Fred Cantu Jr. at 989-775-4866 or stop by the Fire Department and pick up an application.**



## “The Little Sister,” a short story by A Ellie Mitchell

**A ELLIE MITCHELL**

Saginaw Ojibwe; Eagle Clan

*(Editor’s note: Tribal members Michael McCreery [pg. 13] and Ellie Mitchell were both selected for the Dec. 9 Intertribal Agriculture Council’s storytelling event. Seven stories were read that evening and all stories shared powerful stories of resilience from the Heart of Indian Country. Ellie Mitchell’s “The Little Sister” is provided below.)*

Kosmaan is the little sister. The one planted last. The one who stays closest to the mother for the longest time. Kosmaan does not strive to great heights or reach for the sky. She spreads her wide leaves close to the ground and shades her sisters’ feet. She keeps the nuisance plants from greedily hoarding the nutrients intended for the family.

At least, that is what Kosmaan’s role is supposed to be. Her ability

to fulfill this role can be dampened by a number of factors.

In this particular case, she was planted far, far too late to have an impact on the weeds already firmly rooted in the three sisters’ garden. This was an ambitious project that seemed feasible during sugar-bush, when it felt as though the world were ending. Unforeseen where the increased tele-meetings, the somehow more ominous grant deadlines, and the need to over-perform at work, lest one be added to the list of possible budget cuts. A combination of these can account for a slight delay in planting. But unfortunately, for Kosmaan, her time also coincided with the brief return to a semblance of normal.

Relatives stopped by and visited. A return to the office was mused over. Shopping was once again a possibility. There were ceremonies and a small gathering. Each of these, its own added distraction from the garden.

Reality soon smashed this

façade into bits. Then it was finding a testing site and checking temperatures for two weeks while anxiously awaiting the once, now twice, now thrice delayed test results. The overwhelming relief at seeing a negative result was only momentary.

It was time to reinstate precautions and protocols. Back to staying home. Back to remote work. It was only after this was done that thoughts turned to Kosmaan.

The other sisters had been planted weeks before. Madaamin was already tassled and Mskodiisminag were blossoming. Bare earth was still visible on and between the mounds. Into this Kosmaan was planted with a whispered apology for the lateness.

The mishmash of non-sister plants grew into a jungle. The center mounds were no longer accessible to any but the chickadees nesting in there. After some false starts, which an app affirmed were not the little sister,

Kosmaan sprung up. Despite odds against it, vines soon crisscrossed the mounds and began spreading past the garden boundary and into the yard. Blossoms arrived. Pale orange flowers in a sea of deep green leaves.

There is a cruel irony in the lives of those who work for the revitalization and accessibility of traditional lifeways. In theory, we should be connected to the land, doing what we advocate for. In reality, so much of our time is spent in front of spreadsheets, wringing out any extra money out chronically underfunded budgets. We sit in meetings arguing for our continued existence. We listen to high-brow discussions on the practicalities of decolonization.

My youth was spent training for that kind of work, and not in the garden, learning the names and qualities of plants. At least, this is what I am telling myself to explain why I cannot identify which of the plants caused my face to swell and my skin to be

covered in hives. After a round of antihistamines and steroids, my gardening was relegated to patrolling the three sisters’ patch from a distance, calling encouragements to the plants.

Even so, Kosmaan thrived, until the frost came. An odd September hard frost that cut short what may have been an extended growing season. Madaamin was already harvested and Mskodiisminag were drying in their pods. But Kosmaan was still growing and took it hard.

The leaves blackened and the vines withered. The greenery faded into brown. As leaves shrunk, more of the earth became visible. The chickadees found a new place to nest. A friend came and cleared out the suspected allergen, and finally I could venture in to finish harvesting Mskodiisminag. It was then that I found one tiny Kosmaan, small enough to fit even in my hand. The little sister, it seems, was full of resilience.

## ABC’s “Big Sky” ignores Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women crisis

*Native American groups urge ABC Studios to show some cultural sensitivity*

BROWNING, Mont. – A collective of Indigenous organizations notified ABC Studios in November that it has “serious concerns” its new series “Big Sky” reflects “at best cultural insensitivity, and at worst, appropriation” by ignoring the staggering statistics that show Native American women are the biggest victims of kidnapping, murder and mayhem in Indian Country.

The show is set in Montana, home to eight federally recognized tribes, which make up the largest minority population in the state. Unfortunately, “Big Sky” casts white women as the victims in its made-for-TV production, disregarding the epidemic of violence known as Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW) plaguing Indian Country.

Montana is one of the extreme MMIW hot spots. Efforts to halt

the MMIW tragedy have the backing of dozens of powerful allies, including President-elect Joe Biden; Rep. Deb Haaland, a member of the Laguna Pueblo tribe; civil rights icon John Lewis; Big Sky Sens. Jon Tester and Steve Daines; and Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez.

“All of the progress we’ve made on this issue is because of you,” Biden said upon the release of the documentary “Somebody’s Daughter,” which exposed the depth of the MMIW crisis. “You’ve demanded attention. You’ve fought for changes to the law, and you continue to fight for the authority to ensure justice and fairness for everyone in your nations,” added Biden, who appears in the documentary.

Concerned that “Big Sky” is a missed opportunity for ABC, Native American rights groups Rocky Mountain Tribal

Leaders Council and the Global Indigenous Council; along with the Coughatta Tribe of Louisiana (executive producer of “Somebody’s Daughter”); Blackfeet Nation and Native American voter turnout organization Four Directions have banded together to urge the television network to bring clarity and compassion to the issue. Other Native American leaders and groups are expected to join the effort to educate the Disney-owned network of its uninformed program.

The first episode of “Big Sky” was set in Livingston, Mont., a vibrant crossroads for Indigenous peoples for thousands of years – a fact missing in the pilot that aired Tuesday.

“We understand that the plot of ‘Big Sky’ is based on C. J. Box’s novel ‘The Highway.’ Unfortunately, neither ‘Big Sky’ nor ‘The Highway’ address the



fact that the disproportionate majority of missing and murdered women in Montana are Indigenous, a situation replicated across Indian Country, which has made this tragedy an existential threat to Native Americans,” the group wrote in a letter sent Tuesday to ABC. “To ignore this fact, and to portray this devastation with a white female face, is the height of cultural insensitivity, made even more egregious given the national awakening to the need for racial justice.”

The tribes and organizations have two reasonable requests of ABC: view and learn from the recently updated and re-released documentary

“Somebody’s Daughter,” which was produced to pressure policymakers to take up the cause; and add a graphic at the end of future episodes that contains factual information about the MMIW crisis. The group is not asking ABC at this time to pull the series or reshoot any future segments.

“It is our sincere hope that you will enter into a dialogue with us to discuss including an information frame at the end of future Big Sky show credits that directs viewers to the ‘Somebody’s Daughter’ documentary and factual information on the Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women crisis,” the letter to ABC states.

# 2020

## Tribal Observer

# BUCK POLE

						
<b>Robert Hart</b> 8 points	<b>Robert Hart</b> 10 points	<b>Robert Hart</b> 13 points	<b>Joseph Shomin Jr.</b> 5 points	<b>Andrew Kazmierski</b> 11 points	<b>Jean Coughlin</b> 8 Points	<b>Jean Coughlin</b> 8 Points

			
<b>Cecilia Stevens</b> 10 Points	<b>Cecilia Stevens</b> 8 Points	<b>Chase Stevens</b> 10 Points	<b>Hunter Stevens</b> 8 Points



## AIM Co-founder Eddie Benton-Banai remembered for his contributions to Native culture

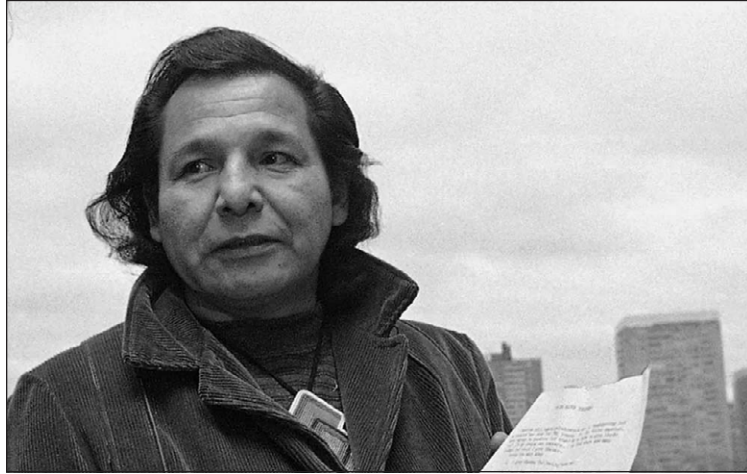
**LEVI RICKERT**

Native News Online

HAYWARD, Wis. — Native communities in the Great Lake region are mourning the loss of Eddie Benton-Banai (Bawdwaywidun Banaise), a co-founder of the American Indian Movement (AIM), who passed away on Monday, Nov. 30, in Hayward, Wis. He was 89.

Benton-Banai will be remembered for his vast contributions to the resurgence of Anishinaabe culture throughout the Great Lakes region where he was a grand chief, or spiritual leader, of the Three Fires Midewiwin Lodge. Beyond his role as a spiritual leader, Benton-Banai was an educator and author, who sought to preserve Native culture and spirituality.

“There are people who inspire us, who help us reach the spaces where we are able to be our best selves, who strengthen us to protect what our ancestors wanted for us. There are those who carry these teachings and wisdom and accept the responsibility. They are our teachers, our healers, our inspirations, and one of the greatest has walked on. Bawdwaywidun Banaise was



Eddie Benton-Banai in 1971

Courtesy photo

one who accepted the responsibility of teaching and guiding the people,” said Shannon Martin (Gun Lake Potawatomi, Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe), director of Ziibiwing Center, said to Native News Online.

“He chose to stand for us, spiritually, ceremonially, and as an advocate politically,” Martin said. “He carried and shared the prayers, prophecies, songs, and spiritual teachings of our ancestors. Bawdwaywidun taught many of us how to pray, sing, fast, laugh, cry, listen, and speak our language.”

Born and raised on the Lac Courte Oreilles Indian reservation in Wisconsin, Benton-Banai was incarcerated in his

early adult life after he was convicted of manslaughter.

“Eddie ended up behind bars for a crime that a white man wouldn’t even have been tried for. He was in St. Paul while on leave from the army. He came out of a bar and saw an older white man trying to force an Indian girl into a car. Eddie pushed him, and the man fell and hit his head against the curb. He later died of a brain hemorrhage, and Eddie was convicted of manslaughter,” writes AIM co-founder Clyde Bellecourt in his autobiography “The Thunder before the Storm.”

After being released from prison, Bellecourt and Benton-Banai, along with Dennis

Banks, started the American Indian Movement to stop police brutality in the Minneapolis-St. Paul twin cities in 1968. He was present during the AIM occupation of Wounded Knee in 1973.

Benton-Banai received a degree in education and a master’s of business administration degree. He started the Red School, an American Indian school in Minneapolis and St. Paul during the 1970s.

“Eddie was a mentor and friend to me and countless others. He worked up to his passing planting seeds to revive our Anishinaabe culture and language. For the next four days, I am going to observe a spiritual sacred fire and pray that he serve as messenger to bring our prayers with him,” Sault Ste. Marie Tribal Chairperson Aaron Payment wrote on his Facebook page.

Benton-Banai is also known for authoring “The Mishomis Book: The Voice of the Ojibway” that draws from the teachings of tribal elders that educate the youth about Ojibway creation stories and legends.

The following statement was issued on Dec. 3 by Garden River First Nation. It reads in part:

“Today we mourn the passing of a great knowledge keeper and spiritual leader, Dr. Eddie



Courtesy photo

Eddie Benton-Banai

Benton-Banai, Bawdwaywidun from Lac Court Oreilles Band of Ojibways in Wisconsin and a relative from the Fish Clan,” stated Chief Any Rickard.

“Eddie was a leader in the early days in advancing Anishinaabe-controlled education and cultural-based education based on Anishinaabe philosophy and our sacred prophecies.

Eddie led the effort in revitalizing our traditional governance institutions by planning and organizing the historic gatherings here in Garden River First Nation in 1992 and 2007 by rekindling the sacred fire of the Three Fires Confederacy. Moments in time that will live on forever in the sounding of the voice of the Little Boy Water Drum and the lowering of our Teaching Lodges.”

### Virtual Storytelling with ISAAC MURDOCH

Friday, January 15, 2021 • 7pm

A Facebook Live event - watch for updates on Ziibiwing's Facebook page



Isaac Murdoch (Bonglizhik)  
First Nations; Anishinaabeg; Ojibway;  
Serpent River First Nation, Fish Clan



**SCIT MEMBERS ONLY:**  
Pick up your family snack pack & copy of Isaac's book FREE to the first 40 in line behind Ziibiwing on Wednesday, January 13<sup>th</sup> from 10am - 3pm or until gone!

His book, *The Trail of Nenaboozhoo: and Other Creation Stories*, published in December 2019, is a collection of stories of Nenaboozhoo, Ojibwe creator spirit-being, & others.

It is an artistic treasure that supports and promotes the cultural tradition of oral storytelling along with stunning art by Indigenous artists, Isaac Murdoch and Christi Belcourt.

The stories, shared in Ojibwe and English, are used as a language learning tool.



Co-Sponsored by Anishinaabe Language Revitalization Department & 7<sup>th</sup> Generation

*“It is important now, just due to the fact that we have lost so much language and stories, to do what we could to preserve them. I am a strong believer that the oral history comes through songs, through dance and ceremony.” Isaac Murdoch*

### ANISHINABE PERFORMANCE CIRCLE (Virtual)

January 26 - May 4, 2021 • 4:30-5:30 pm

(Each Tuesday via LIFESIZE video conference)

SIGN UP NOW!  
thru January 26



Open to Adults and Youth  
\$30 fee / 12-week Course

FEE TRANSFERRED FOR STUDENTS IN WINTER CLASS  
CANCELLED DUE TO COVID  
(January 2020 - May 2020)

For more information contact:  
Raymond Cadotte at  
rcadotte@sagchip.org  
or 989.775.4750

### Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women & Girls

Community Curated Exhibit

New Exhibition at Ziibiwing Center  
September 25, 2020 - May 5, 2021

### GIFT SHOP OPEN IN 2021

No appointment needed!

Tuesdays - Saturdays

10am-3pm

### HOLIDAY MEMBERSHIP SPECIAL!!

December 01, 2020 - January 29, 2021

Renew your Ziibiwing membership or buy a new membership at regular price and get a second one of equal or lesser value at 50% OFF!



**ZIIBIWING CENTER**  
of Anishinaabe Culture & Lifestyles

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

Temporarily  
Closed to the Public



## Architect reaches out to a SCIT committee to offer pro bono assistance on former boarding school site grounds

**NATALIE SHATTUCK**

Editor

An architect currently residing in Berlin recently reached out to committee members of the Mount Pleasant Indian Industrial Boarding School to offer architectural assistance pro bono.

The architect, Christian Nakarado, submitted an email to Shannon Martin, director of the Ziibiwing Center; William Johnson, curator for the Ziibiwing Center; Marcella Hadden, tribal historic preservation officer; and Dr. Sarah Surface-Evans, associate professor of anthropology at Central Michigan University, who has studied the MIIBS grounds.

Hadden invited Nakarado to join a MIIBS Committee meeting held virtually via Lisesize.

The Dec. 16 morning meeting was an opportunity for the

MIIBS Committee members to introduce themselves and Nakarado to share his work experience and discuss his offer.

A graduate from Yale University, Nakarado has a great list of work experience in locations throughout the U.S. including in Los Angeles and New York and also internationally.

Nakarado is a citizen of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians, and his great-grandfather was a survivor of the Holy Childhood School in Harbor Springs, Mich.

“There isn’t yet a similar project for that school that I know of, but I would very much like to help with your efforts if needed,” Nakarado said in his email to the four MIIBS Committee members. “I’m a licensed architect and member of the AIA and AICAE (American Indian Council of Architects and Engineers), and I run a small architectural practice

called Slow Built Studio, while also working as a lecturer and deputy course director in architecture at Birmingham City University.”

Nakarado’s email continued, “I’m not sure what your needs might be, but I have significant experience in creating 2D and 3D representation of lands, buildings, and spaces from historic documents as well as site visits, photographs and surveys. I would be very happy to do this or something similar for your project.”

Shannon Martin, director of the Ziibiwing Center, replied to Nakarado’s Dec. 9 correspondence, “What a hopeful email to wake up to this morning.”

“This project is a labor of love for many of us and we hope one day to transform the site physically,” Martin said in an email response to Nakarado. “Your email could not be more timely. We are in the phase of the project that will soon need conceptual and elevation



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

**MIIBS Committee members hold a Dec. 16 virtual meeting with architect Christian Nakarado (top center), currently residing in Berlin, after he reached out to the Committee to offer architectural assistance pro bono.**

drawings for one to two of the buildings that are the most viable for rehabilitation.”

The MIIBS Committee introduced possible rehabilitation options on the site and discussed the MIIBS survey results, taken by SCIT members and local community.

Frank Cloutier, public relations director, suggested Nakarado learns more about

the history of the MIIBS grounds and views photographs of the buildings.

Before Nakarado would begin any pro bono work, the potential project needs to be documented and accepted through the SCIT Legal Department and approved by Tribal Council.

Nakarado said he will be in touch with Hadden and the MIIBS Committee.

## Social emotional learning dogs brought into local schools

**PROJECT AWARE**

**STAFF**

Through Project AWARE efforts and funding provided by 2 percent grants, the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe Education Department, Mt. Pleasant Public Schools and Shepherd Public Schools are able to bring furry friends into our schools.

SCIT Education and the Saginaw Chippewa Academy will be welcoming Joy and Noojimoo, while Mt. Pleasant and Shepherd schools’ dog packs are already hard at work helping students.

These social emotional learning dogs are trained to be in the schools and to be a support for students who may

**Project AWARE Coordinator/SCIT Community Project Manager:**  
Kehli Henry | Khenry@sagchip.org | 989-444-9367

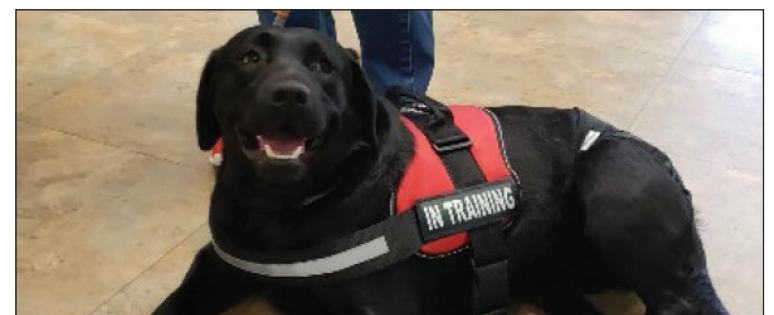
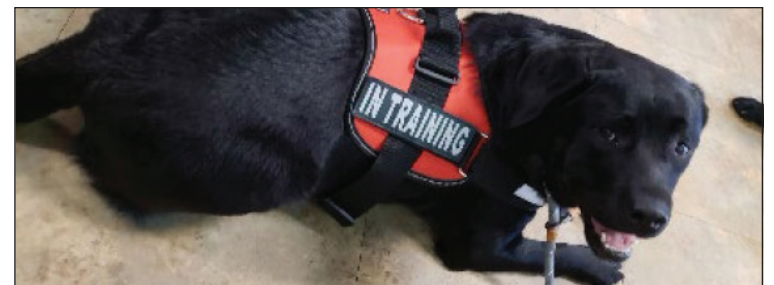
**Project AWARE Co-Coordinator:**  
Trisha Bassett | Tbassett@sagchip.org | 989-824-0035

**MPPS Community Project Manager:**  
Alexis Syrette | Alsurette@sagchip.org | 989-824-0114

**SPS Community Project Manager:**  
Judy Pamp | Jupamp@sagchip.org | 989-444-8252

be having a hard time. The dogs can help with social emotional learning, reading

and math lessons, and in-group settings to teach lessons on bullying.



Photos courtesy of Project AWARE

**Through Project AWARE efforts and funding provided by 2 percent grants, these social emotional learning dogs Joy (top photo) and Noojimoo (bottom) will be working with Saginaw Chippewa Academy students.**

## January 2021 Tribal Elder Birthdays

- 1) Wendy McGregor  
James Smith  
William Smith Jr.
- 2) Meletta Trepanier  
Robyn Henry  
Robyn Quinn
- 3) Angela Trofatter
- 5) Lome Jackson  
Donald Wing Sr.
- 6) Alan Henry
- 7) Paula Chippewa  
Samuel Pego  
Warren Stone
- 8) Ronda Jones  
Alstyn Peters

- Michelle Shaw-Cyr
- 9) Charmaine Shawana  
Ronald Defoy  
Cary Nahgahgwon
- 10) Susan Kequom  
Barbara McMullen  
Ronald Battice  
Brenda Brouder  
Mary Green  
Donald Slavik  
Susan Sturock  
Robin Waynee
- 11) Esther Helms  
Kathy Martin  
Linze Ritter  
Philemon Bird

- 12) Norman Davenport
- 13) Sandra Barron  
Lyle Collins  
Paul Hawk  
Pamela Slifco
- 14) Lillian Olson  
Zachary Sawmick  
Lucy Shawano  
Dennis Horton
- 15) Jayne Keating  
Lisa Slattery  
Michael Zygmunt
- 16) Jodi Friend  
Joann Clark
- 17) Ramon Alaniz  
Terri Darling
- 18) Audre Falcon  
Richard Ritter  
Iva Chimoski
- 19) Sue Durfee

- Scott Moses
- 20) Robin Bonnau  
Nicki Perez
- 22) Barbar Arzola  
Richard Nahgahgwon Jr.  
Traci Town
- 23) Renee Peters  
Vicki Brown  
Michelle Deaton  
Joseph Kequom  
Michael Ziehmer
- 24) Eva Jackson  
Norma Rapp  
Tweedie Vancise  
Mark Chamberlain  
Jacqueline Cyr  
Christopher Johnson
- 25) Scott McLellan  
Tonia Town
- 26) Darlene Highley

- James Trepanier  
Jeffery Reed
- 27) Jeffrey Jackson  
Renee Anderson  
Paul Robinson  
Ricky Shawano
- 28) David Merrill Sr  
Alex Ritter Sr.  
Sheena Swanigan  
Gloria King
- 29) Jacquelyne Meir Jr.  
Vincent Gallegos  
Robin High  
Becky McLennon
- 30) Karen Naganashe
- 31) Nancy Funnell  
Mary Walker  
Jessica Brannon  
Gerald Cloutier  
Vicki Sandlin  
Delores Watson





oshkayi'ii	something new
mashkawadin	freeze
giizhoopizon	scarf
waaboozwaaboo	rabbit soup
gipagawe	thick fur
ozhaashikwaa	slippery ice
maawandoogwaason	quilt
gashkibijigan	bundle
wayeshkad	beginning
giizhoo'o	dress warmly
naboobiike	make soup
odaabaan	sled
ishpaagonagaa	deep snow
dakaanimad	coldwind
waabooyaan	blanket
mikwamiikaa	much ice
giizhootawage'on	earmuff
abininjiizo	warm hands

D	N	T	N	S	G	E	S	L	N	Y	L	A	T	U	H	B	E	S	Q
L	A	C	O	T	G	Z	X	Q	W	A	Y	E	S	H	K	A	D	X	G
P	A	A	S	X	O	G	I	P	A	G	A	W	E	E	M	C	N	D	X
M	B	N	A	F	W	P	K	O	Z	I	I	J	N	I	N	I	B	A	I
J	A	G	A	S	H	K	I	B	I	J	I	G	A	N	W	P	U	S	P
G	A	X	W	M	K	Y	C	K	H	P	R	W	J	T	C	O	H	N	S
I	D	A	G	A	K	X	U	T	G	D	E	F	O	V	J	P	I	Z	E
I	O	A	O	Z	H	A	A	S	H	I	K	W	A	A	A	D	V	A	D
Z	W	V	O	J	T	D	S	L	N	U	H	P	U	A	A	E	O	A	S
H	E	S	D	N	W	J	I	E	L	K	N	T	G	W	R	O	K	K	W
O	K	Y	N	O	J	Z	A	R	B	S	U	O	A	D	B	A	S	I	A
O	I	X	A	K	C	A	K	Y	E	Z	N	K	T	A	A	Z	B	I	A
P	I	B	W	T	T	H	J	M	D	A	H	Q	A	N	L	O	I	M	B
I	B	I	A	F	K	J	E	R	G	S	I	W	I	Q	M	O	I	A	O
Z	O	S	A	K	E	F	C	A	A	O	Z	M	K	L	L	O	I	W	O
O	O	H	M	T	W	O	A	M	G	O	A	B	V	G	J	H	Y	K	Y
N	B	M	N	Y	L	C	Y	G	O	D	L	P	A	P	T	Z	A	I	A
X	A	H	E	N	A	A	W	B	A	A	W	G	N	I	N	I	K	M	A
X	N	U	F	M	U	V	A	Q	S	L	D	C	A	U	Y	I	H	T	N
N	O	E	G	A	W	A	T	O	O	H	Z	I	I	G	U	G	S	W	M
Q	F	Q	F	D	W	S	Z	J	L	C	Y	Z	J	W	U	Y	O	Q	Q

*A Concise Dictionary of Minnesota Ojibwe by John D. Nichols and Earl Nyholm*

### Word Bank

- Dbik-giizis
- Ksi-na
- B'boon
- Zook-po
- Mkoom
- Moosh-kne'aab-ki-zi
- Mii-gwetch-wen-dan
- Goon
- Nbiing'kedj
- Gii-zhook-ni-wen

### Across

**3:** It's snowing  
**6:** Dress warm  
**8:** Be thankful  
**10:** Moon

### Down

**1:** Snow  
**2:** Full Moon  
**4:** Winter  
**5:** Ice  
**7:** I'm cold  
**9:** It's cold

©2020, Anishinaabe Language Revitalization Department, Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan

## Anishinaabemowin CROSSWORD

**Answers**

**Across**  
 3. Zook-po (It's snowing)  
 6. Mii-gwetch-ni-wen (Dress warm)  
 8. Dbik-giizis (Moon)

**Down**  
 1. Goon (Snow)  
 2. Moosh-kne'aab-ki-zi (Full Moon)  
 4. B'boon (Winter)  
 5. Mkoom (Ice)  
 7. Nbiing'kedj (I'm cold)  
 9. Ksi-na (It's cold)



## First week of SCTC classes to be held virtually

**AMANDA FLAUGHER**

Dean of Students



Keeping the health and safety of our students, faculty, and staff our number one priority, we continue to look to our tribal, state, and national health leaders for guidance as we make plans to resume courses in the spring. Spring classes will begin on Monday, Jan. 11, 2021.

For the first week of classes, Jan. 11-15, 2020, all classes will be held virtually. SCTC has implemented a plan that allows students to return to face-to-face instruction beginning the second week of the semester or continue to join their classes remotely for the remainder of the semester based on their needs.

SCTC will open the south building beginning Monday,

Jan. 11 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. to provide a safe space for students to access SCTC Wi-Fi network. In addition, student services will provide all students registered for the spring '21 semester additional resources such as: online tutoring offered via TutorMe, technology device assistance, and emergency aid assistance if needed.

Current SCTC students are able to register through

their student EMPOWER account. Please remember, the login and password for this account is the same as the one you use to access a computer on campus or your Schoology account.

Once you have logged in, change the term to SP-21 in order to see the proper course information. After changing the term, click on STUDENT RECORDS at the top of the page and then COURSE REGISTRATION.

You will be able to search for specific courses by adding the requested information or you can see all of the courses available by just selecting "search". Then, select the courses you wish to register for and process the registration from your account! You should be able to view your schedule as soon as you complete your registration.

New students or returning students, please complete an online application at [www.sagchip.edu](http://www.sagchip.edu). Once completed, SCTC's student services staff will contact you to assist in the admissions, registration, and financial aid process. Registration will close on Friday, Jan. 8 at 5 p.m.

New student orientation will be available in-person (on-campus) on Thursday, Jan. 7 from 1 to 3 p.m. or via Zoom on Friday, Jan. 8 from 10 a.m. to noon.

Students services has also scheduled "drop in" registration times, via Zoom, on Thursdays to assist students with advising and/or registration. If you are interested in a drop in Zoom session, please use the following links:

- Thursday mornings from 10 to 11 a.m. use <https://zoom.us/j/92016375111>

- Thursday afternoons from 2 to 3 p.m. use <https://zoom.us/j/95259660910>

Have a quick question? Please send an email to [studentservices@sagchip.edu](mailto:studentservices@sagchip.edu) and we would be happy to assist you!

Please remember, the COVID-19 situation is unpredictable and Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College maintains the health and safety of students and staff as its priority.

It is important that we remain cautious as we move forward and we ask that you continue wearing your mask and practice social distancing. We also understand the need for flexibility as adjustments to plans and schedules may be necessary. SCTC appreciates your patience and understanding during these uncertain times.



## ZIIBIWING CENTER of Anishinabe Culture & Lifeways

6650 E. Broadway, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858 | Phone: 989.775.4750 | [www.sagchip.org/ziibiwing](http://www.sagchip.org/ziibiwing)

### Annual Report (October 2019 - September 2020)

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

#### Accomplishments

- 6,544 visitors experienced all the Center has to offer: 196 people were provided educational services at 5 offsite bookings by our staff
- Implemented 113 special events and cultural programs for the Tribal community and general public
- Provided 50 tours for 1,581 guests: 17 K-12 tours and 33 adult tours, including complimentary SCIT, Migizi, SECR and Retail Employees' Orientation tours
- The ZCS maintains 8 Tribal Cemeteries including Baseline Cemetery (Isabella & Union Townships, Isabella County), Maloney Road Cemetery (Pinconning Township, Bay County), Mission Creek Cemetery (Union Township, Isabella County), Nibokaan Cemetery (Chippewa Township, Isabella County), Nippinsing Cemetery (Isabella Township, Isabella County), Nottawa Cemetery (Nottawa Township, Isabella County), Saganing Cemetery (Standish Township, Arenac County), Swartz Creek Cemetery (Gaines Township, Genesee County) in addition to the Ziibiwing Center's 3-acre lawn. (14.41 acres per week)
- Repatriated and reburied the physical remains of the following Native American individuals and funerary belongings: 38 ancestors and 116 associated funerary belongings from Marshall University in Huntington, West Virginia and 1,031 ancestors and 2,050 associated funerary belongings from the West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture and History. The ancestors and their belongings were reburied on Federal land in West Virginia on October 23, 2019 by the Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma, Nansemond Indian Tribe, Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan, and United Keetowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma.
- Ziibiwing conducted NAGPRA consultations with Ball State University, City of St. Ignace, City of Traverse City, Indiana University, Mannik & Smith (Toledo Metro Parks), Michigan History Center, Michigan State Police-Lansing Post, Michigan State University and the University of Michigan
- Cultural Resource Management team and the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer completed 319 cultural resource reviews. These reviews are required under Section 106 of the National Historic

Preservation Act and protect the cultural resources/traditional cultural properties of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan

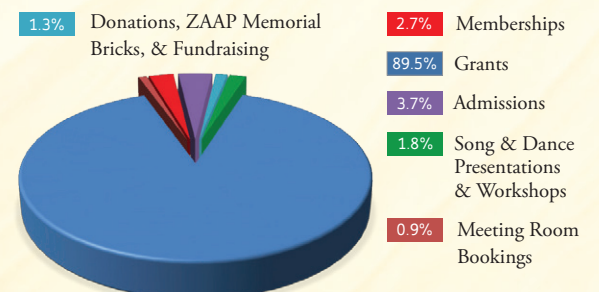
- Awarded 3 of 3 Federal grants submitted: Council on Library and Information Resources, National Park Service FY2020 Tribal Historic Preservation Office-Historic Preservation Grant and Institute of Museum and Library Services for a total of \$273,350
- 784,475 individual contacts were logged by our team, including physical visits, phone calls, E-Noodaagan newsletters, email and social media interaction via Facebook
- Research Center served 1,295 patrons
- Ziibiwing Commercial Services transitioned into the ZCC Gift Shop, retaining 1.5 staff. Completed a physical inventory for Ziibiwing's Meshtoonigewinoong Gift Shop, new floor design, and an onsite inventory storage area with the assistance of the Ziibiwing Center team. New Point of Sale (POS) system was installed and initiated.
- The Ziibiwing Center hosted and mentored 2 permanent part-time Youth Workers as part of our Visitor Services Team
- **Ziibiwing employees serve on many local and national boards, committees and councils:**
  - **Anita Heard** (Research Center Coordinator) serves on the Saginaw Chippewa Data Governance Board and belongs to the Society of American Archivists
  - **William Johnson** (Curator) serves on the Michigan Anishinabek Cultural Preservation & Repatriation Alliance (MACPRA), serving his third consecutive 4-year term as Chairman, the National Native American Graves Protection & Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) Revisions Committee, and the University of Michigan's Advisory Committee on Culturally Unidentifiable Human Remains under NAGPRA (since 2011)
  - **Shannon Martin** (Director) serves on the Advisory Council for the D'Arcy McNickle Center for American Indian and Indigenous Studies at the Newberry Library in Chicago, Illinois, Central Michigan University's Olga J. Denison and G. Roland Denison Visiting Professorship of Native American Studies Committee, National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition Research Advisory Council, and the National Native American Graves Protection & Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) Revisions Committee

#### Our Year

The Board of Directors for the Ziibiwing Cultural Society/Ziibiwing Center of Anishinabe Culture & Lifeways is proud to recognize the many accomplishments of this organization and its staff within our Annual Report. Despite experiencing an unprecedented global pandemic that took place during a large part of this fiscal year, Ziibiwing was able to adapt and perform ways to accomplish the goals of its mission statement and maintain its relationship with the Tribal community through online presentations, curbside pick-up offerings, and social media connections. Although the events that the community has come to love could not safely take place this year, such as NativeFest, Indian Car Bingo, the Ziibiwing Birthday Sale, and Honoring, Healing and Remembering at the Mt. Pleasant Indian Industrial Boarding School, the Ziibiwing Cultural Society continues to strive to be a vital and progressive organization for the Tribe. As we express condolences to the many families who suffered personal losses this year, we also express our continuing gratitude to those who support us in our very important work. Chi miigwetch!

#### Financials

**External Revenue Total: \$305,381**



#### Your Support

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

- Free admission to Ziibiwing Center exhibits for members of all North American Indian Tribes
- Discounted admission for military personnel, school children, college students, and educators
- Funding for outreach programs which take our teachings and collections into schools throughout Michigan
- Preservation of our artifacts and collections, ensuring that our culture will be preserved for future generations
- Maintenance and promotion of our exhibits so that our heritage and culture can be enjoyed by everyone
- Repatriation and reverential reinterment of Anishinabek ancestors and their belongings

#### Our Members

- Amsterburg, Dr. Jan (*Gratiot Isabella RESD*)
- Ashby, Jane
- Bird, Wenonah
- Brauker, Shirley
- Brodie, Phyllis
- Burke, Charles & Peggy
- Carnes, Dori
- Castro, Anna
- Christy, Sr. Dennis R.

- Cross, Dr. Suzanne
- Davis, Dustin & Jenna
- Day, Alexa
- Dorch, Beth
- Douglas, Judge Ronald & Sharon
- Edminster, Susan
- Falcon, Ronald & Audrey
- Gilbert, Marke & Rebecca
- Grills, Gary
- Hadden, Marcella
- Helms, Esther
- Henry, Tom

- High, Roger
- Home, Gerald
- Homminga, Josh & Sarah
- Jackson, Jr. Delmar
- Jackson, Stephanie
- Katz, Marsha
- Kennedy, Lisa & Adam Avery
- Lewis, Jason & Amanda
- Limon, Douglas
- Lincoln, Ron
- Martin, George & Sydney
- Martin, Minnie
- Martin, Shannon & Lisa

- McElwain, Karen
- McNett, Bruce
- Meskill, Deborah
- Michener, David & Wil Strickland
- Mitchell, Autumn (Ellie)
- Nahdee, Matthew
- Paquette, Carol & Andrew
- Paquin, Ron
- Peters, Al & Maria
- Powell, Mark & Jane
- Queen, Elizabeth
- Raphael, Monica

- Raslich, Bill & Rose Marie
- Raslich, Frank & Nicole
- Reinert, Gerald
- Robertson, James
- Roller, Norm
- Ruffino, Aryl
- Saab, Ann
- Senter, Mary
- Severson, Eric & Ellen
- Shawana, Joseph & Charmaine
- Sheperdigian, Barbara
- Shier, Quita
- Slasinski, Mike

- Slifco, Pamela & Daniel
- Soney, Destiny
- Sova, Marlene
- Spencer, Bernard & Florence
- Stevens, Paul & Evonna
- Sweet, Margaret
- Tchorzynski, Stacy & David Cusack
- Thurston, James & Patricia
- Waiess, Elizabeth
- Wayne, Craig & Marlene
- Wickerham, Floyd & Sue
- Woodcox, Geoffrey



## “Giving Yourself Away,” a story by Michael McCreery

**MICHAEL P. MCCREERY**

Contributing Writer

*(Editor's note: Tribal members Michael McCreery and Ellie Mitchell [pg. 9] were selected for the Dec. 9 Intertribal Agriculture Council's storytelling event. Seven stories were read that evening and all stories shared powerful stories of resilience from the Heart of Indian Country. Michael McCreery's "Giving Yourself Away" is below.)*

A modern-day warrior would be described as a Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians (LTBB) conservation officer. As a one-of-a-kind non-traditional law enforcement officer, whose duty is to protect the rights of the people to hunt, fish, gather, subsistence and fish commercial. I have been called a fish cop by my friends, but I like 'conversation' officer better, as I would talk with anyone while on patrol within the 1836 Treaty of Washington territory.

In 1994, the LTBB Tribe was a young, spirited people as they were being reaffirmed by Congress. They continue to contest with the State to be recognized in the greater 1836 Treaty area. It means a lot to me to have had the protection that comes with belonging to a tribal community that I love and belong to and wanted to serve.

Biologist Max and I, protectors of the animals, received a complaint of an eagle that could no longer fly. The complaint originated from a famers field where the bald eagle needed help to remove the ingested poisoned horse meat stuck in its croup. Some coyote hunters cut open the hide of dead horse and one large piece of horse meat was too big to regurgitate for Miigizii (eagle). The hunters were using the horse as bait to hunt coyotes on the edge of the farmer's field. Part of the story is learning life lessons can be everywhere and are all around us if we pay attention.

This Miigizii was special, as the several other eagles would not leave but they all stayed and waiting for the alpha. There was a council of eagles watching and waiting in the trees above for the alpha female eagle as she lost her ability to fly and join them back in the treetops. The horse had been euthanized but could not be buried due to the frozen ground, as it was January. Max and I walked through the snow-covered ground and watched as the alpha eagle could only fly 6 feet off the ground, stop and glide away again and again as we pursued her. We used a fishing net and very big padded gloves to finally cover her so her powerful talons and beak could not hurt us.

I drove the three of us to the Petoskey animal hospital, where the veterinarian staff retrieved the poisoned horse meat out of her croup. From there she was taken to Wings of Wonder where she would be given a chance to rehabilitate. We later learned Miigizii let her presence be known by dominating the other birds at were being rehabilitated coup.

A couple weeks later, it was announced that Miigizii was being released at the LTBB powwow grounds in the middle of winter. This was a first for the Tribe and many people came out to see Miigizii's release. The other eagles must have sensed her presence as the onlookers awed as two other bald eagles were seen circling over the powwow grounds area. This was significant for everyone involved.

The sight of Miigizii's release and the power felt from her 6 feet plus wings span

could be felt by the people below. She half circled the powwow arbor, joining the two other eagles in flight and the three of them headed back north together where she had been rescued.

Lesson learned, life happens to us all; good and bad. I was content with my 10 years in this nontraditional law enforcement position. Having been a police officer for 10 years prior and all that entailed, this was heaven! Conservation is an honorable calling to protect the animals as they don't have anyone to look out for them, which reaps rewards beyond a paycheck.

Lesson protecting something bigger than yourself is important to feel accomplished in something greater than yourself. Animals are perfect as they sacrificed themselves, with nothing in return, for the greater good of the people's need. Similar to a soldier who has gone to war for his country, leaving his battle stories to tell for his legacy-least he is not forgotten. Why not contemplate what to do with your own story, which should come from the inside out during that time of reflection.

Thinking first of listening to the people and what they have to say, taking it into consideration. However, learning from Mother Nature by observing the cycles within the year is flawless.

A story comes to mind from an elder/pipe carrier/friend had told me of feeling the breath of wind, as you can feel it but not see it. Those are all good memories. Most of the history of the Native Americans has been hurt, suffering and loss. They had the good life before others came and took everything from them.

My past and memories of my tribal history have taken me in some very deep valleys, which are very similar to the hardships faced by Native Americans. I wanted to see the true, simple beauty of how my ancestors would have lived between two worlds. My spirit needed to write this paper to express what was good and to focus on something better than what has happened.

There is a certain simplicity of giving what you can to others, that is deeply rewarding. I believe the Seven Grandfather Teachings, if one lived out, could be a great example for others to follow. I believe it is important to listen to your heart, actually feeling and knowing what is right. One gets the understanding by truly listening and actually hearing with all of your senses of everything going on around them when you are present in the moment is being in perfect peace. Seeing the visual imagine in your mind, the picture of what was intended.

My history with the Odawa and Chippewa people has been much hurt and loss, with some victories along the way. Overall, the people are very resilient. Each used their own unique way to avoid moving west to Oklahoma. They had benefit of having each other to go through life together. I personally miss the relationships I have made at LTBB Tribe and am torn by the distance and missing activities but can still observe the northern tribe with social media.

With different seasons comes time to listen to new stories. Stories that are relevant and important, that inspire people to get away and think about life then come back together to enjoy life as a people. An example of the simpler and happier time is when I participated in the fall ghost suppers with Odawa's. The purpose of the ghost supper is to invite new and old friends and family from the community sharing a meal with many together; which is significant for the Odawa to remember

and talk about family members who have walked on.

The gathering is with different families from the community and enjoying the fall fest with their families coming together with approx. 100-175 people with sometimes three other families who prepare food dishes that they are well known for. For example, one family may be known for fishing and in the fall, there is a fall salmon run or another family's favorite wild rice dish or a venison dish and always frybread and a favorite soup (corn). These events would take hours to prepare and to set up for the next group and hours of clean up. All of the work was worth it to bring our community together.

I truly believe the seasons are there to teach us that there is change going on all around us. Mother Nature is guiding us on this journey. Each of the four seasons has its appointed time just like the medicine wheel, where there are four phases of life. Knowing where we are in these phases helps us stay true to who we are.

Historically, Anishinaabe men would prepare themselves in mind, heart and soul to prove they were worthy to be men. More importantly, earning their stories to pass on about their victories. By going to battle, warriors bond together, earn their eagle feathers and have those stories to pass on as proof that they were honorable men.

Lessons and teachings are all around us. It is good to be grateful, they will remind us of the basics, to stay in harmony with all. They will help us, a spiritual protection of the unseen. An old teaching, I recall is to live in a good way prevents bad things from happening to you. Also, an offering is normal to give tobacco to earth when you have asked for something that is being prayed for.

On the Odawa side of my family tree, our spiritual animal is the turtle clan. The turtle stands for truth: slow down the pace of life, faster is not always the best ways to reach your goals, speak the truth, do not deceive yourself. However, I was told by my mother to go by my mom's side because we live on and are members of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe. But sometime my stubbornness gets the best of me, as I was Odawa member previously. On my Chippewa side, my grandmother's family clan is the beaver, meaning wisdom. The beaver reminds us to act on our dreams, make them reality and wisdom is given by the Creator to be used for the good of the people.

Acknowledging the completion of the circle with teachings of culture, language,

hunting, fishing and gathering throughout each season of the year. A pipe carrier/elder friend of mine has told stories of paying attention to the animals around us. The stories will teach you if you pay attention, he jokes "school is never out of session".

By reaching into oneself and humbly giving of yourself to the present, you will experience what you were supposed to do at that time. Our existence is supposed to be taken in all around us; it is more difficult to stay in it, as we live a hurried life. This type of depth to go deeper into the moament and getting more out of that experience that is being shown to you; what is going on spiritually with the earth and asking yourself to pay attention.

During valley moments of life, it is best to reflect from various angles and see the season that has been impacted and, if possible, finding a way to use them to help others so it was not a waste to have gone through it. One might reminisce on the past so they can know who they are, and help them go forward. A Chippewa elder has said natives are more spiritually aware than most and therefore in-tune with what is going on around them.

The truth and positive encouragement, I feel I got out of life was that I need to change. I had this place of healing thoughts toward my mother and father, and how wisdom of truly seeing their short comings was a result of their decisions. It was unfortunate that they were broken people trying to do the best they could to get through life. I see how I have hurt also and from this brokenness because of their disfunction. But looking at grandparents, I can see why with minority parents, the boarding school experience, and my dad's mother passed when he was very young, and his dad had an accident resulting in a serious head injury.

I don't want to reflect on the negative any longer, over seven years my healing has come. I truly believe I have overcome my personal depression, by this class and this assignment helping me express myself. Basically, by unpacking all my junk, a career of 20 years in law enforcement to failed marriage and the death of my father all within five months of each other. To now a fully recovered man has been made whole again, and I can see that I am still a useful tool to this world. I am not broken but my cracks can be used to benefit this world.

*(Note: The following video link from YouTube <https://youtu.be/On23OQ0fID4> goes with McCreery's story.)*

## Adopt a Pet

**Talon** is a special needs German Shepherd requiring a total hip replacement. Talon is protective of his people and takes a minute to warm up to new individuals. He's a stubborn German Shepherd who is far more intelligent than most. He knows several tricks.

We are looking for a home willing to give him the life he deserves. HATS would be willing to support some of his total hip replacement, but with an average cost of \$5,000 for the surgery, the cost is too high for our small shelter alone. With the right owner willing to provide care as Talon gets older, we would consider assisting with this surgery. Without the right owner, Talon does face potential euthanasia given his medical concerns and quality of life. Visit hatsweb.org for directions on how to donate to Talon's hip surgery.

Talon is a shelter favorite amongst the staff. Talon was surrendered to the shelter when his owner decided to leave the country. He will not do well in a home with cats or children. While Talon has never harmed anyone, he is large and intimidating with his bark.



### Humane Animal Treatment Society

1105 S. Isabella Rd., Mt. Pleasant

**Hatsweb.org**

**Phone:** 989.775.0830 **Email:** hats.publicrelations@gmail.com

*\*Building is currently closed to walk-in visitors. Adoption visits must be scheduled ahead.*





Indigenous Women  
Wear Red

We Are  
Still Here

Am I  
Next?

#MMIW

Protect  
Me



# Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women & Girls

## Ziibiwing Center's exhibition brings attention to MMIWG, gains national attention

### NATALIE SHATTUCK

Editor

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

Eighty-four percent of Native women experience violence in their lifetime, according to the National Institute of Justice. A 2008 study found that women in some tribal communities are 10 times more likely to be murdered than the national average.

The Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe and its Ziibiwing Center of Anishinabe Culture & Lifeways launched an exhibition to raise awareness for Missing and Murdered

Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG). The exhibition, titled "Boontak! (Stop it!): Stolen Daughters of Turtle Island" (an Indigenous name for the North American continent), held a virtual grand opening on Friday, Sept. 25 and has since gained national attention.

Boontak! has been featured in the following: Smithsonian Magazine Online, The Art Newspaper, Museum of Anthropological Archaeology, Red Lake Nation News, Native News Online and MLive.

The exhibit features 94 portraits of women and girls captured by the exhibit's co-curator Tribal Elder Marcella Hadden of Niibing Giizis (Summer Moon) Photography and her granddaughter Christina Benz.

Hadden put out a call on social media and asked women in the community if they would like a free photograph in order to raise awareness for MMIWG, and she said she received an overwhelming response. She shot more than 100 portraits throughout the course of three months in 2019.

Hadden said the idea for the exhibit came from her granddaughter, Tina.

"I usually will do a learning activity and I decided to do low light photography and I used Tina as my model," Hadden said. "When she was watching me edit it, she said it reminded her of MMIW which was the theme to the recent Round Dance, sponsored by SCIT."

Hadden said the portrait models are from throughout the nation including the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe, Hannahville, Gun Lake and Grand Traverse tribes to Mississippi and Montana.

During U.S. Rep. Deb Haaland's (Pueblo of Laguna tribe in New Mexico) visit to the Saginaw Chippewa Reservation last summer, Hadden had the opportunity to photograph her. Haaland's portrait is also featured in the exhibit. Each photograph features an inscription and Haaland's is "I Will Fight For You."

"Congresswoman Deb Haaland was more than delighted to participate," Hadden said.

Original artwork is also featured in the exhibit including original paintings, drawings, sculptures, graphic art and beaded medallions by several



Courtesy of Marcella Hadden, Niibing Giizis

"Gone" ledger drawing by Shirley Brauker

artists, local and national, listed below:

- Luverne Adamson, "Highway of Tears," acrylic painting
- Shirley Brauker, "Gone," ledger drawing
- Dr. Suzanne Cross, MMIWG beaded medallion, shawl and skirt
- Jenny Davis, "Birth of Deer Woman," graphic art
- Joe Fisher, "She Dreamt," MMIWG sculpture
- Glenna Jenkins, MMIWG beaded medallion
- Nickole Keith, "Nnoshé, My Maternal Aunt," painting
- Joey Kennedy, "No More MMIW," earrings
- Nayana LaFond, "Stacey" and "Shiloh," two acrylic paintings
- Diane Leksche, "Kaleidoscope Facets: Standing Tall Breeze," stained glass art mandala
- Aryl Ruffino, two photographic canvasses



Courtesy of Marcella Hadden, Niibing Giizis

MMIWG shawl and skirt by Dr. Suzanne Cross

- Roger High, Sarah Hughes and Ellie Van Horn, MMIWG quilt
- Angela Peters and Ellie Mitchell, MMIWG jingle dress
- Allyssa Shawboose, "Niintam Na?" (Am I next?), animation

Stay tuned to the next several Tribal Observers for "meet the artist" features.

The exhibit will be accessible until May 5, 2021. As the COVID-19 pandemic hit just before the exhibit's grand opening, the display will continue to be available virtually but it is in hopes that the Ziibiwing Center



Courtesy of Marcella Hadden, Niibing Giizis

"Highway of Tears" acrylic painting by Luverne Adamson



Courtesy of Marcella Hadden, Niibing Giizis

**“Nnoshé, My Maternal Aunt”**  
painting by Nickole Keith



Courtesy of Marcella Hadden, Niibing Giizis

**Kiersten Flores**



Courtesy of Marcella Hadden, Niibing Giizis

**Gracie Flores**



Courtesy of Marcella Hadden, Niibing Giizis

**“Birth of Deer Woman”**  
graphic art by Jenny Davis



Courtesy of Marcella Hadden, Niibing Giizis

**MMIWG jingle dress**  
by Angela Peters  
and Ellie Mitchell

bipartisan bill addressing violence against Indigenous women. Politicians, including Haaland, are progressively making an effort to help reduce this “epidemic of violence.”

In September, the House unanimously passed Savanna’s Act – titled after Savanna LaFontaine-Greywind, a Spirit Lake Tribe woman who was strangled at eight months pregnant in 2007. The legislative body also passed the Not Invisible Act. Both bills are aimed at protecting Indigenous women from violence by administering improved law enforcement practices to track and prevent the epidemic of violence.

“Boontak! (Stop it!): Stolen Daughters of Turtle Island” is essentially a continuation of the art memorial installation “Walking with Our Sisters,” that contains thousands of mocasin tops created by more than 200 people in the U.S. in Canada, and made its final stop at the Ziibiwing Center in 2016, where it included several mocasin tops from Tribal community members. “Walking with Our Sisters” was envisioned by the Métis artist Christi Belcourt and the work began in 2012 to acknowledge the grief of families of MMIWG.

In 2019, SCIT formed the MMIWG Committee. Boontak!, both somber and hopeful, seeks to express the pain of the epidemic, draw attention to MMIWG cold cases, reduce future disappearances and deaths, and offer a point of healing. This exhibit illuminates the devastating impact of these losses within Indigenous communities.

“I’m very thankful for the MMIWG Committee. They have provided their direction and love for all of the missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls,” Johnson said. “There are so many people to thank including the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Council, Tribal community, Tribal departments, tribal artists, Central Michigan University, Michigan State Police, Mid-Michigan Community College, RISE Advocacy Inc., REDRUM Motorcycle Club, Nami Migizi Nangwiihgan Domestic Violence/Behavioral Health, Sexual Assault & Stalking Services, Public Relations department, and Ziibiwing for making it happen.”

and its exhibit will soon open to the public while following proper health and social distancing safety measures, according to the Ziibiwing Center Director Shannon Martin.

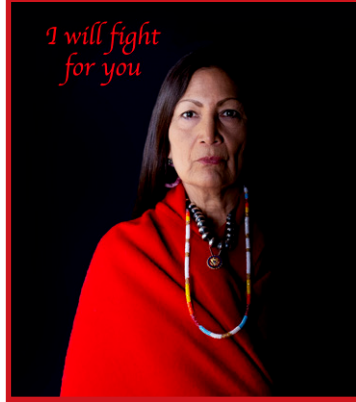
Along with Hadden, William Johnson, curator for the Ziibiwing Center, is also the co-curator of this exhibit.

Johnson explained why he felt MMIWG was a significant topic for the Saginaw Chippewa community and Ziibiwing Center.

“Unfortunately, we are not immune to the devastating effects of abuse and violence. The Ziibiwing Center of Anishinabe Culture & Lifeways has always approached its work with the best interests of the Tribe as our priority,” Johnson said. “When something is important to our Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Council and our Tribal citizens then it is important to us and becomes our mission. We are blessed with the responsibility to represent them to the best of our abilities.”

Johnson continued, “Often the work is difficult and taints our spirit as Anishinabe people, but we rely on the beauty of who we are and support one another in order to raise awareness for the missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls. If the work becomes too difficult, then we have the confidence in knowing that the Tribal community will encourage us to carry on and endure on behalf of the women and girls.”

Just days after the Boontak! exhibit was launched, the United States House of Representatives passed a



Courtesy of Marcella Hadden, Niibing Giizis

**This photo of Congresswoman Deb Haaland’s, captured by Tribal elder Marcella Hadden, is featured in the “Boontak! (Stop it!): Stolen Daughters of Turtle Island” exhibit.**

Johnson said he would also like to acknowledge the efforts of co-curator Marcella Hadden.

“I’m often amazed at the beauty of her photography. It seems like anything that she points her camera at automatically turns into a work of art. She has a true gift,” Johnson said of Hadden. “The portraits that have been captured reflect the true spirit of passion in honoring the missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls. She has approached every detail with great care and concern. She has responded to every local and national request for information about the exhibit. She has done this tirelessly with love and reverence for our women and girls. It takes a lot of effort to keep up with her and it’s been a blessing working with her. I remain hopeful that I’m worthy of her inspiration.”

The virtual exhibit offers introductions by Johnson; Hadden and her granddaughter; Shannon Martin, director of the Ziibiwing Center; artist Suzanne Cross; and Tim Clolinger, a probation officer. A couple videos of performances are also showcased.

“During my video address for the virtual exhibit, I neglected to honor the Anishinabe and Indigenous women that are our wives,” Johnson said. “It is my hope that the husbands will always cherish these beautiful women that make up who they are. I feel content knowing that we have responded to the call yet again.”

The virtual “Boontak! (Stop it!): Stolen Daughters of Turtle Island” exhibit can be viewed on the sagchip.org website at: <http://www.sagchip.org/MMIWG/#.X9J0qarXuUI>



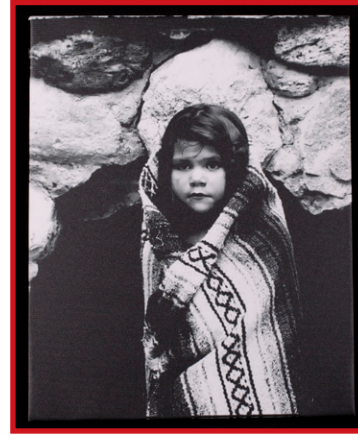
Courtesy of Marcella Hadden, Niibing Giizis

**“Kaleidoscope Facets: Standing Tall Breeze”**  
stained glass art mandala  
by Diane Leksche



Courtesy of Marcella Hadden, Niibing Giizis

**“No More MMIW” earrings**  
by Joey Kennedy



Courtesy of Marcella Hadden, Niibing Giizis

**Photographic canvas**  
by Aryl Ruffino



Courtesy of Marcella Hadden, Niibing Giizis

**MMIWG Earrings**  
by Suzi Day



Courtesy of Marcella Hadden, Niibing Giizis

**MMIWG quilt**  
by Roger High, Sarah Hughes  
and Ellie Van Horn



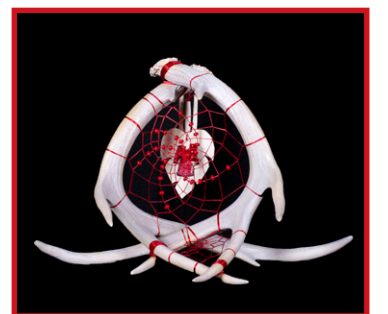
Courtesy of Marcella Hadden, Niibing Giizis

**MMIWG beaded medallion**  
by Dr. Suzanne Cross



Courtesy of Marcella Hadden, Niibing Giizis

**MMIWG beaded medallion**  
by Glenna Jenkins



Courtesy of Marcella Hadden, Niibing Giizis

**“She Dreamt” MMIWG sculpture**  
by Joe Fisher



## Meet the Artist: “Boontak! (Stop it!): Stolen Daughters of Turtle Island” exhibit

(Editor’s note: Nayana LaFond is the artist of the two acrylic paintings “Stacey” and “Shiloh,” featured in the exhibition “Boontak! (Stop it!): Stolen Daughters of Turtle Island” to raise awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG). Nayana LaFond answers questions provided by the Tribal Observer. Her answers are below.)

**Nayana LaFond**

**Artwork:** “Stacey” and “Shiloh,” two acrylic paintings

**Which tribe/community are you from?** Wikwemikong Unceded Territory, Manitoulin Island

**Where do you current reside?** Athol, Mass.

**How did you hear about the exhibit/requests for artists’ work?** I was given the info from someone who saw my work on ‘social

distance powwow’ on Facebook.

**What inspired you to create your art and relate it to Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls?** I have had severe personal experiences with domestic violence and almost died from it. This began as a sort of therapy for me and has turned into a labor of love project.

I asked people to send me their images to paint and decided I couldn’t choose just one. So, I embarked on a sort of journey to paint all which are sent to me and I am still working on them. As of today, I have painted 32. I’m personally not financially profiting from it also. I chose to make it not for personal profit because it would be wrong to profit from these

people’s stories. This is about healing.

**Is there a personal story behind it?** Yes. There is inter-generational trauma in my family as well as in my own life which led to needing to heal in this way.

**Why did you feel it was important to create art that helps raise awareness for**



Courtesy of Marcella Hadden, Niibing Glizis

“Stacey” acrylic painting



Courtesy of Marcella Hadden, Niibing Glizis

“Shiloh” acrylic painting



Courtesy photo

Nayana LaFond

**regarding MMIWG?** To speak up, to be brave, to help each other, and to believe each other. Don’t wait ‘til next time to leave because there may not be a next time.

**Have you made any changes in your own life to help prevent MMIWG?** Yes, I completely changed my life; I gave up everything and left my former life to start over. I’m so grateful I did.

**MMIWG?** It began as a personal expression of feeling. But after sharing it on social media, the response made it clear it needed to be shared more and I decided that the purpose of the project would be to raise awareness. Ultimately, and hopefully, preventing some more people from experiencing violence.

**What advice do you have to other Native women**

## Meet the Artist: “Boontak! (Stop it!): Stolen Daughters of Turtle Island” exhibit

(Editor’s note: Nickole Keith is the artist of the painting “Nnoshé, My Maternal Aunt,” featured in the exhibition “Boontak! (Stop it!): Stolen Daughters of Turtle Island” to raise awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG). Nickole Keith answers questions provided by the Tribal Observer. Her answers are below.)

**Nickole Keith**

**Artwork:** “Nnoshé, My Maternal Aunt” painting

**Which tribe/community are you from?** Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi

**Where do you current reside?** Pine Creek Reservation in Fulton, Mich.

**How did you hear about the exhibit/requests for artists’ work?** A call for submissions on Facebook

**What inspired you to create your art and relate it to Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls? Is there a personal story behind it?** The



Courtesy of Marcella Hadden, Niibing Glizis

“Nnoshé, My Maternal Aunt” painting

Missing Murdered Indigenous Woman movement in Indian Country awakened “Nnoshé” and the scar it left on my family. My “Nnoshé” was born July 26, 1954 and raised on the Pine Creek Reservation in Fulton, Mich.

“Nnoshé” was the third to the youngest of 13 children. She, along with nine of her siblings, were removed and sent to a foster care home, and later returned. There are presently three siblings left and I felt compelled to share “Nnoshé’s” story.

Her life was taken by jealousy, rage and manipulation on July 10, 1980. The autopsy pathologist described the wound as a laceration through the skin in the left side of the neck which was situated below the earlobe and was between the angle of the mandible (or lower jaw) and the mastoid process of the skull.”

The assailant was charged with an open count of murder. He was ultimately convicted of second-degree murder, after a six-day jury trial commencing on Aug. 26, 1981, and ending on Sept. 2, 1981. He was sentenced

to a term of life imprisonment and appeals as of right. The assailant is still alive at 82 years old and remains in custody.

It took over a year to complete this painting and my mother’s blessing to share “Nnoshé”. Our family must begin to join in on the MMIW movement as a way to begin our healing and promote awareness of what is happening in Indian Country.

**Why did you feel it was important to create art that helps raise awareness for MMIWG?** Back in April 2019, me and another coworker from my Tribe (NHBP) attended a conference hosted by the Native Wellness Institute in Suquamish, Wash. We attended one of two different sessions. I believe the one we attended was called “Healing the Community Healer.”

The session included around 30 attendees with whom were a majority female and Native, and all of whom worked in Indian Country. We began our introductions to the group we learned one of three women in the group had a loved one who was missing and or murdered. The introduction turned into an unscheduled four-hour talking circle.

After taking a much-needed break, the facilitator ended our day early. My coworker and I walked down to the water to pray and that is where I decided that I no longer wanted to feel burned out from my job as an elders specialist. When it was my turn to tell my story, the words “I do not want to die this

way” left my mouth. I pursued my new purpose I returned home, I finished my painting in honor of my aunt. I resigned from my job in October 2019 and transformed my basement into an art studio.

**What advice do you have to other Native women regarding MMIWG?** Be aware of your surroundings. Trust your instincts. If it’s too good to be true, it probably is. Carry mace

or some type of protection when traveling alone. Don’t travel alone if you can. You are not a token; you are indigenous, resilient and strong.

**Have you made any changes in your own life to help prevent MMIWG?** I don’t travel the same after the conference and hearing those stories. I am more aware of my surroundings. I bought me and my daughter a mace spray keychain.



Courtesy photo

Nickole Keith

**ADA American Dental Association®**

**Save the Date: Feb. 19, 2021**  
8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. | Nimkee Clinic

- Children under the age of 18 who are eligible to be seen at the Nimkee Dental Clinic are invited to join us for our second annual “Give Kids a Smile Day” on Friday, Feb. 19
- Kids may receive a dental exam, X-rays, sealants, fluoride treatment and/or fillings based on individual need and time available.
- A goodie bag will be provided to all participants!
- COVID protocols will be observed.
- This year, appointments must be made by calling (989) 775-4657 any time up to, and including, the day of the event (8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.)
- The Nimkee Dental Clinic is located at 2591 S. Leaton Rd. Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858



## Editorial: Virtual learning from a parent's perspective

**SANDRA STEVENS**

Contributing Writer

The pandemic has forced parents and students into a world of virtual learning. As a parent, I realize there are pros and cons with all learning styles.

I have three daughters, all at different stages of development and learning styles. Virtual learning for one has been great; except she wants more socializing time. One daughter struggles with virtual learning; she's not self-disciplined nor good with time management. She, however, loves being on the computer and gets sidetracked on sites that take her away from her academics.

The thought of getting the virus and giving it to her family members has my other daughter feeling safer with the virtual classes. She knows that she has to put forth more effort to keep her grades up. The Google classroom lessons have helped her increase her grades as she has the ability to watch the video teachings several times for better understanding.

She has learned that there are many ways to achieve better outcomes. If she has questions, she emails her teacher, she explores YouTube for answers and tutorials, she asks for help from family, friends and her teachers. Overall, I'd say my girls are doing okay.

Unlike the March shut down, we had time to prepare

for virtual learning this time. We learned what did and didn't work well from the first shut down. The schools informed students/parents there would be stricter academic standards and expectations.

As a family, we prepared for learning at home: the internet was upgraded and internet extenders were placed throughout the home. A device for monitoring all internet activity was purchased and each child was assigned an account based on age to limit exposure to mature materials. This device can be monitored right from my phone; I have the ability to turn off a computer, phone, gaming devices, and TV, plus it block sites that I don't want my young learners exploring.

Next, we set up desks for all three learners in the living/dining room (not in their bedrooms) and supplied them with all the supplies a student would need. Is it perfect? No, but learning is happening at a better rate than last spring.

It wasn't enough to prepare the learning environment, we had to prepare ourselves too.

Family meeting: What it means to be a virtual learner discussion points.

- Treat virtual learning as if you are in school
- Login on time for each class, don't miss attendance
- Do and turn in assignments on time
- Ask teachers questions for clarity (emailing)
- Attend all Zoom or Google

classroom meetings

• Contact support staff for additional help as needed (Tribal K-12 staff, teachers, virtual tutoring, use YouTube, phone a friend, and seek help from family)

The most valuable tool our family uses is Google Classroom. It allows students/parents to see what assignments are due/ missing/late and gives students and parents the ability to communicate with each other and see the grades.

My wish is for face-to-face learning to return with students back in the classroom with their friends and teachers.

Wishing you all a happy and safe holiday season and, with any luck, back in school for 2021.

## Editorial: What online school looks like from a student's perspective

**MAKAYLA STEVENS**

Contributing Writer

Why are students struggling with online learning? Here's why:

Wake up before 8 a.m. and eat breakfast, turn on your Chromebook and start to go through 454 different emails and frantically search for the 8:15 a.m. graded Zoom call password.

You finally get into the Zoom call but your computer is on 15 percent and you now have to look for your charger that your dog has meticulously bit a hole in. Now you and your computer are running on nothing but that bowl of Cheerios you ate two hours ago, but hey, you have an assignment due in 30 minutes that you haven't even started.

You now have a lunch break at noon, but you can't take that break because you forgot to turn in your English assignment. Now, after your so-called "lunch break," you have another assignment due but you are struggling on question five so you shoot your civics teacher an email, that she doesn't answer until next week.

At 3 o'clock, you are now able to log off from your

computer as long as you have all your work turned in. Now that school is over for the day, you can relax for a few hours. It's now 6 p.m. and your mom's phone is ringing saying you missed three of your classes that you know you logged into.

Then, sleep and do it all over again.

As a student myself, online school is difficult and many

teachers, school officials, and parents are wondering why students are struggling in class.

I believe the number one reason students are struggling is because teachers are not being effective listeners or effectively involved in the students' learning processes and journeys.

So how can students be more effective in class?

An initiative of the  
American Indian Library Association

The American Indian Library Association and your Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Libraries invite you to participate in the inaugural Read Native challenge. With this challenge we support and recognize our Indigenous authors, scientists, legislators, storytellers, and creators throughout the year, not just during the national Native American Heritage month.

**How to participate:**

- Use the challenge list available at: <https://ailanet.org/readnative21/>
- Read each of the suggested categories and write the title of your choice on the line next to the entry. If you'd like some reading ideas, email [ahaidemann@sagchip.org](mailto:ahaidemann@sagchip.org)!
- Read challenge entries in any order you choose.
- Take a picture of your completed book list and send it along with your contact information to [readnative21@gmail.com](mailto:readnative21@gmail.com) for a chance to win prize packages!

**Join the Read Native 2021 challenge on social media:**

- **Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/readnative21>
- **Instagram:** <https://www.instagram.com/readnative21/>
- **Twitter:** <https://twitter.com/readnative21>

**For more information, please contact:**  
Anne Heidemann, Tribal Librarian at [ahaidemann@sagchip.org](mailto:ahaidemann@sagchip.org)

---

- True Crime by a Native author
- Legislation by or about Native Americans
- An article from a tribal newspaper
- Comic/Graphic novel by Native author
- Fiction book by a Native author
- SyFy/Fantasy by a Native author
- Book by a Native author from your tribe
- Biography of a Native American
- Debut novel from a Native author
- Food book/Cookbook from Native author
- Book of poetry by a Native author
- Book that takes place on a reservation
- Mystery book by a Native author

- Horror book by a Native author
- Book/class about a Native language
- Book about a Native urban experience
- Young Adult book by a Native author
- Book about a Native holiday/tradition
- Book about Native art/artists
- Book about Native relocation
- Book by Native author outside of USA
- Book by LGBTQ+ Native author
- Book about a Native historical site
- Youth award winner/nominee (see list)
- Video with Native American storytelling
- Book about a Native American scientist

### Updated SCIT DK-12 Grade Services

- While schools are remote, DK-12 services will also be working remotely.
- **Monday - Friday:** online services will be available from 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

**For more information, please contact your child's Advisor/Tutor. See contact information below:**

Mount Pleasant High	Email	Phone
Kari Noack- Advisor	<a href="mailto:kklouse@sagchip.org">kklouse@sagchip.org</a>	989-492-0015
Kerry Byberg-Tutor	<a href="mailto:kbyberg@sagchip.org">kbyberg@sagchip.org</a>	248-564-3039
Kim Saboo-Tutor	<a href="mailto:ksaboo@sagchip.org">ksaboo@sagchip.org</a>	989-495-8431

Mount Pleasant Middle	Email	Phone
Gloria Mulbrecht-Advisor	<a href="mailto:gmulbrecht@sagchip.org">gmulbrecht@sagchip.org</a>	989-775-2220 Ext. 22113
Ashley Higgins-Tutor	<a href="mailto:ahiggins@sagchip.org">ahiggins@sagchip.org</a>	989-775-2220 Ext. 22113

Shepherd/Morey	Email	Phone
Marta Heslip-Advisor	<a href="mailto:mheslip@sagchip.org">mheslip@sagchip.org</a>	989-277-9872
Kim Saboo-Tutor	<a href="mailto:ksaboo@sagchip.org">ksaboo@sagchip.org</a>	989-495-8431
Tammy Baker-Tutor	<a href="mailto:tbaker@sagchip.org">tbaker@sagchip.org</a>	989-824-2321

Pullen/Vowles/ Kinney/Renaissance	Email	Phone
Anita Hall- Advisor	<a href="mailto:ahall@sagchip.org">ahall@sagchip.org</a>	989-245-4005
Mark Ojeda-Vasquez-Tutor	<a href="mailto:marojeda-vasquez@sagchip.org">marojeda-vasquez@sagchip.org</a>	989-317-0285

WAY	Email	Phone
Kari Noack- Advisor	<a href="mailto:kklouse@sagchip.org">kklouse@sagchip.org</a>	989-492-0015
Tammy Baker-Tutor	<a href="mailto:tbaker@sagchip.org">tbaker@sagchip.org</a>	989-824-2321

McGuire/Ganiard/ Fancher/Beal City	Email	Phone
Renata Borton- Advisor	<a href="mailto:reborton@sagchip.org">reborton@sagchip.org</a>	313-409-8389
Lori Lumbert-Gillis-Tutor	<a href="mailto:llumbert-gillis@sagchip.org">llumbert-gillis@sagchip.org</a>	313-444-9278
Deborah Buckley-Tutor	<a href="mailto:dbuckley@sagchip.org">dbuckley@sagchip.org</a>	724-888-3902

**For more information:**  
**Deb Smith at 989-775-4071 or [dsmith@sagchip.org](mailto:dsmith@sagchip.org)**



## ILLUMINATIVE, Sundance, The Black List announce inaugural Indigenous screenwriting list

### ILLUMINATIVE/SUNDANCE INSTITUTE

LOS ANGELES, Dec. 8, 2020 — In collaboration with IllumiNative and Sundance Institute, The Black List today announced the nine scripts selected for the inaugural Indigenous List, highlighting the very best Indigenous film and television writers living and working within the United States.

Eligible writers were able to submit their scripts for consideration via [blcklst.com](http://blcklst.com) from June 24 through Sept. 27, 2020. Both features and pilots were selected for the first Indigenous List, and all scripts come from Indigenous film artists working within the United States.

Requirements for selection on the 2020 Indigenous List are below:

- Indigenous film artists working in the U.S. were eligible to submit scripts to this partnership
- Any kind of story was eligible and would be considered
- Feature film scripts, half-hour scripts and one-hour episodic scripts will be considered for this partnership - no webseries
- All levels of experience were considered for submitting writers
- Submitting writers answered the following questions: What is your Tribal Nation/First Nation? Please describe how your Native culture has

supported your ideas and process as a screenwriter?

Here are the scripts selected for the 2020 Indigenous List, in alphabetical order:

**“Bunker Boss” by Joey Clift:** After a nuclear war forces most of humanity into underground bunkers, a total loser must become the inspirational leader of a bunker known to execute any leader that drops below a 60 percent approval rating. (Animated)

**“Fancy Dance” by Erica Tremblay & Miciana Alise:** Following the disappearance of her sister, a Native American hustler kidnaps her niece from her white grandparents and sets out for the state powwow in the hopes of keeping what’s left of their family intact.

**“Firebird” by Kathryn Machi:** After earning the chance of a lifetime to dance her dream ballet in France, a talented teenage Cherokee ballerina and her cowboy father search for her estranged mother, who left them years ago to chase her own dreams abroad.

**“Lords of the Earth” by Blackhorse Lowe:** Two star-crossed lovers search for each other amidst the backdrop of a harsh and violent New Mexico territory in 1863. In the film, Hastiin Hashke’ is a Navajo man who longs to be reunited with his wife, Taa’deezbaa, who was abducted into slavery.

**“Moloka’i Bound” by Alika Maikau:** After several years in prison, Kainoa wants nothing more than to

reestablish a relationship with his son and Hawaiian heritage, but old friends and new circumstances threaten to derail his path.

**“Poi Dogs” by Bryson Chun:**

When a small-town, high-end Hawai’i dog groomer learns that a hit was put on her on the Dark Web, she has to race to find the culprit among her friends and family before it’s too late.

**“The Blind” by Sterlin Harjo:** When the teenage son of a Native American hunter is murdered by a group of backwoods drug dealers, the mourning father decides to exact revenge on those responsible for his death and the corruption in their small town.

**“The Wildest West” by Blake Pickens:** Riley works as a theme park attendant at Seven Flags Over Texas, a miserable establishment full of tyrannical customers that make obscene demands. But when a spot opens up to play Geronimo in the park’s annual Wild West Show, he sees an opportunity to stop hawking hot dogs and become closer to his real goal of becoming an actor.

**“Tinder on the Rez” by Brooke Swaney & Angela Tucker:** Just because you are 35 and living back on the Rez with your parents, your brother and his two kids, doesn’t mean you can’t get laid, right? Don’t ask Lenny. It’s a sensitive topic.

Script selections were announced today, with the participating organizations saying the below about the first year of partnership for the Indigenous List:

“IllumiNative is proud to partner with the Sundance Indigenous Program and The Black List to showcase the immense talent of Native writers,” said Crystal Echo Hawk (Pawnee), founder and executive director of IllumiNative. “These writers, and the more than six dozen other scripts submitted during this process, shows the growing talent, diversity and strength of Indigenous storytellers. Now more than ever, it’s important that we continue to support opportunities for Indigenous peoples to shape, author, and control our own narrative- these scripts show the depth and range of stories Native writers are creating. Our research shows that there is a strong demand among audiences for authentic Native stories and content. We are hopeful that 2021 will represent a groundbreaking year for Native representation. We look forward to continuing this work and seeing these stories on our screens.”

Indigenous Program Director N. Bird Runningwater (Cheyenne/Mescalero Apache) said he and the Sundance Institute’s Indigenous Program team congratulated these extraordinary storytellers whose scripts have been selected.

“They offer not only some of the most unique voices of Indigenous film and television writing, but also offer a glimpse of what our American popular culture landscape will be shaped like when Indigenous voices are recognized and included,” Runningwater said. “These scripts represent the



breadth of authenticity that Indigenous writers bring to their work and are a testament to the craft and creativity that happens when Indigenous voices tell their own stories.”

Black List Founder Franklin Leonard said he has known Bird Runningwater since his earliest days in the industry.

“Since then, (I have) admired the consistent, heroic work that he’s done on behalf of storytellers in the Indigenous Community, the community more broadly, and on behalf of all of us outside it in doing so,” Leonard said. “It’s a real honor to be partnered with him, the Indigenous Program team at the Sundance Institute, Crystal Echo Hawk, and everyone at IllumiNative.”

The Indigenous List follows Black List partnerships with GLAAD, CAPE, Latinx and Muslim organizations, and organizations for people with disabilities to identify and celebrate great screenplays and writers from communities traditionally underrepresented in front of and behind the camera.

The Black List, founded in 2005, is an annual survey of Hollywood executives’ favorite unproduced screenplays. More than 400 Black List scripts have been produced, grossing over \$29 billion in box office worldwide.

Black List movies have won 54 Academy Awards from 267 nominations, including four of the last 12 Best Picture Oscars and 11 of the last 28 Best Screenplay Oscars.

In October of 2012, the Black List launched a unique online community where screenwriters make their work available to readers, buyers and employers. Since its inception, it has hosted more than 70,000 screenplays and teleplays and provided more than 120,000 script evaluations.

As a direct result of introductions made on the Black List, dozens of writers have found representation at major talent agencies and management companies, as well as sold or optioned their screenplays. Several films have been produced from scripts showcased on the website including Golden Globe nominated “Nightingale,” starring David Oyelowo, and Amazon’s “Honey Boy,” written by Shia LeBeouf.

IllumiNative is a national, Native-led racial and social justice organization. Founded in 2018, IllumiNative uses research, narrative, and culture change strategies to increase the visibility of Native peoples and amplify Native voices, stories and issues.

IllumiNative’s work aims to build power for Native peoples in order to advance justice, equity and self-determination and disrupt the systems and narratives that have perpetuated and institutionalized our invisibility and erasure. IllumiNative provide tools for Native advocates and allies to develop and advocate for accurate and contemporary representations and voices of Native peoples.



# Advertise

with the

# Tribal Observer

---

Promote Your  
Products & Services!

- **Advertisement development included**
- **Full color advertisements**
- **Reach thousands of customers**
- **Affordable rates**
- **Flexible publication time frames**

**The Tribal Observer is the monthly publication of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan.**

The Observer is available to Tribal Members of the Saginaw Chippewa Tribe, reaching more than 3,000 members. The Observer is also distributed via break rooms of the Saginaw Chippewa Businesses and is available to 4,000 associates.

**The Observer can also be viewed exclusively online at [www.sagchip.org/TribalObserver](http://www.sagchip.org/TribalObserver).**

### Sizing and Prices

<b>A</b>	<b>3.9” wide by 2.3” tall</b> 1 Month: \$60      1 Year: \$50/mo.
<b>B</b>	<b>5.933” wide by 2.3” tall</b> 1 Month: \$100      1/4 Year: \$90/mo. 1/2 Year: \$85/mo.      1 Year: \$75/mo.
<b>C</b>	<b>3.9” wide by 4” tall</b> 1 Month: \$120      1/4 Year: \$115/mo. 1/2 Year: \$110/mo.      1 Year: \$95/mo.
<b>D</b>	<b>4.917” wide by 4” tall</b> 1 Month: \$150      1/4 Year: \$145/mo. 1/2 Year: \$140/mo.      1 Year: \$125/mo.
<b>E</b>	<b>5.933” wide by 4” tall</b> 1 Month: \$225      1/4 Year: \$220/mo. 1/2 Year: \$215/mo.      1 Year: \$200/mo.
<b>F</b>	<b>4.917” wide by 8” tall</b> 1 Month: \$290      1/4 Year: \$280/mo. 1/2 Year: \$275/mo.      1 Year: \$270/mo.
<b>Half Page</b>	<b>10” wide by 8” tall</b> 1 Month: \$580      1/4 Year: \$560/mo. 1/2 Year: \$550/mo.      1 Year: \$520/mo.
<b>Full Page</b>	<b>10” wide by 16” tall</b> 1 Month: \$1,150      1/4 Year: \$1,100/mo. 1/2 Year: \$1,075/mo.      1 Year: \$1,000/mo.

To advertise,  
please contact the  
**Tribal Observer**

7500 Soaring Eagle Blvd. 989.775.4096  
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858 TribalObserver@sagchip.org

\*All ads are quoted with full color. No discounts given for black and white. Payment is due in advance until credit is established.





## 'I'll be fierce for all of us': Rep. Deb Haaland chosen to lead U.S. Interior Department

**ALIYAH CHAVEZ**

Indian Country Today

*(Editor's note: The following article comes from Indian Country Today online and was written by Aliyah Chavez, Kewa Pueblo, a reporter-producer at Indian Country Today. Follow her on Twitter: @aliyahjchavez or email her at achavez@indiancountrytoday.com.)*

President-elect Joe Biden, in a historic move, has chosen Rep. Deb Haaland to lead the U.S. Interior Department. If confirmed by the Senate, the New Mexico Democrat would be the first Native American to serve as a Cabinet secretary.

"A voice like mine has never been a Cabinet secretary or at the head of the Department of Interior," Haaland tweeted Thursday night.

"Growing up in my mother's Pueblo household made me fierce. I'll be fierce for all of us, our planet, and all of our protected land. I am honored and ready to serve."

Biden confirmed the nomination on Thursday, Dec. 17, as part of his climate team, which also includes secretary of Energy, Environmental Protection Agency administrator, chair of the Council on Environmental Quality and national climate advisor.

"This brilliant, tested, trailblazing team will be ready on Day One to confront the existential threat of climate change with a unified national response rooted in science and equity," the president-elect said in a statement.

Sources familiar with the decision on Haaland told Indian Country Today she is considered a "barrier-breaking public servant" and a nominee who will hit the ground running.

Haaland, who is from the Pueblos of Laguna and Jemez, became one of the first two Native women elected to Congress in 2018.

The Interior Department is tasked with protecting the nation's natural resources and honoring the

government's federal trust responsibilities. It manages America's vast public lands and coastal waters while overseeing prominent departments such as the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Bureau of Indian Education. The agency employs 70,000 people.

Haaland's nomination has been backed by many Indigenous leaders, advocates and allies for weeks.

More than 130 tribal leaders collaborated to write letters to Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris, citing Haaland's bipartisan leadership. Native organizations including NDN Collective and IllumiNative created online campaigns, and celebrities like Mark Ruffalo have offered support via social media.

Many shared their elation on Dec. 17 as news of the decision spread.

"The nomination of Rep. Deb Haaland — a champion of the environment and of Native people — heralds a new era of conservation, progress and healing in the Department of the Interior that is long overdue," said Gussie Lord, a member of the Oneida Nation of Wisconsin and managing attorney of Earthjustice's Tribal Partnerships Program.

Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez called it a "truly a historic and unprecedented day for all Indigenous people."

"I congratulate her, and I also thank the Biden-Harris team for making a statement and keeping their word to place Native Americans in high-level Cabinet positions," he said in a statement.

Julian Brave Noisecat, a vocal advocate who is a member of the Canim Lake Band Tsq'escen and a descendant of the Lil'Wat Nation of Mount Currie, highlighted Haaland's unique position, saying: "The next Secretary of Interior will be a Laguna Pueblo woman who went to Standing Rock in 2016 and cooked for the people."

Groups that shared their support on social media and in statements included the National Congress of American Indians, the New Mexico Indian Affairs Department, the Coalition to Protect

America's National Parks and the National Native American Law Student Association.

Many of Haaland's colleagues in Congress also had rallied behind her. In mid-November, more than 50 House Democrats penned a letter to the Biden transition team backing her for the post.

On Wednesday, Dec. 16, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi joined in, saying Haaland "knows the territory," and if Biden nominated her, "he will have made an excellent choice."

Haaland was chosen for the post over former Deputy Interior Secretary Michael Connor, Taos Pueblo, and two U.S. senators from New Mexico: Tom Udall, who is retiring, and Martin Heinrich. Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham of New Mexico was offered the job but turned it down, according to the Hill.

Haaland has been cited saying she would accept a nomination as Interior secretary, including in an October interview with Indian Country Today.

"I think it's nice that people are thinking about me. And of course, if I ever had an opportunity to step up and do good work for this district, for the state of New Mexico, for our country, I would always be proud to do that," Haaland said.

In her first term in Congress, Haaland has held leadership positions on a number of committees, currently serving as vice chair of the Committee on Natural Resources and chair of the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands. She also sits on the Subcommittee for Indigenous Peoples, the House Armed Services Committee, the Subcommittee on Readiness, and the Subcommittee on Military Personnel.

She previously worked as head of New Mexico's Democratic Party, as tribal administrator and as an administrator for an organization providing services for adults with developmental disabilities.

Born to a Marine veteran father and a Navy veteran mother, Haaland describes herself as a single mother who sometimes had to rely on food stamps. She says she is still paying off student loans after college and law school for herself and college for her daughter.

Biden, who has pledged to pick a diverse leadership team, said at a Native candidate forum in January that he would nominate and appoint people who "look



Courtesy of Haaland for Congress

**Rep. Deb Haaland, Laguna and Jemez Pueblos, is poised to be selected by President-elect Joe Biden to lead the Department of Interior.**

like the country they serve, including Native Americans."

The pick breaks a 245-year record of non-Native officials, mostly male, serving as the very top federal official over Indian affairs in a federal government that worked to dispossess them of their land and, until recently, assimilate them into White culture.

It could also further deplete, at least temporarily, the narrow majority Democrats maintain in the House. Biden has already selected several lawmakers from the chamber, including Louisiana Rep. Cedric Richmond and Ohio Rep. Marcia Fudge, to serve in his administration.

Interior's broad authority includes managing federal relations with tribes, administering tens of millions of acres of land and mineral rights held in trust for Native Americans and Alaska Natives, running national parks and making decisions affecting millions of miles of U.S. lands and waterways, wildlife, endangered species, and oil and gas and mining.

Biden has promised the nation's largest effort yet to curb the oil, gas and coal emissions that are causing the rapid deterioration of the climate, and Interior would play an important part in that.

The president-elect has been methodically filling the posts in his Cabinet, adding North Carolina environmental official Michael Regan as his nominee to lead the EPA. Biden introduced former South Bend, Ind., Mayor Pete Buttigieg earlier last month as his transportation secretary and announced last month that former Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm was his nominee for energy secretary.

*The Associated Press contributed to this report. This story has been updated with reaction.*

### Victims of Crime Program Update

The Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe Victims of Crime Program takes the health and safety of its associates and clients very seriously. The Victim Advocate Office will remain open and continue to provide services, working remotely.

The Victim Advocate Office can be reached by phone or email. We can also be reached by contacting Tribal Court or Tribal PD directly.

Should you or someone you know encounter an emergency, please contact 911, Central Dispatch (989)773-1000 or Tribal Police (989) 775-4700.

Feel free to reach out to the Victim Advocate Office at any time with questions, comments or concerns. We will continue to monitor the rapidly changing situation regarding COVID-19. Stay health and stay safe!



### Listening Ear Services: For Clare, Isabella, and surrounding counties

Are you feeling helpless or hopeless? Do you need someone to talk to or want to know where to find assistance? Listening Ear Crisis Center is where help begins! Their professional staff can listen, connect and support you with a variety of community resources. But most importantly, they value you, the caller, and the strengths you bring. Listening Ear is "always there." Their services are free and available 24 hours a day, every day. Through Listening Ear's youth programs, they provide prevention, counseling, emergency housing and crisis services for qualified youth through 21 years of age. If you are homeless, they can offer housing while you finish school, gain work experience, and learn to become self-sufficient.

Clare County: 989.386.2774

Isabella County: 989.772.2918

**Focus on Your Financial Success**

Free your budget by using ICCU's MoneyMap in online banking. Bubble budgets creates a custom plan based on what you value most, so you can find success!

ICCU Isabella Community Credit Union  
 ICCUonline.com 989-773-5927  
 Solutions for life!



## ACFS's 2020 Star Tree Program full of Christmas miracles

**NATALIE SHATTUCK**

Editor

Community members and Tribal departments helped make Christmas a little brighter this year for local less fortunate children. The community was invited to sponsor the Anishnaabeg Child and Family Service's Star Tree Program.

Each star selected from the Star Tree in ACFS's lobby contained a tag with a number and an age, representing a child in need. On the tag, a wish list was provided for each child containing their clothing sizes and color preferences.

The sponsors were asked to pick up the stars starting on Nov. 2 and return the gifts by Dec. 11. Unfortunately, during the last week before gifts were due, there were still about 30 stars that needed to be claimed.

Christmas miracles came to be when a Mount Pleasant Meijer employee contacted Frank Cloutier, public relations director, to explain due to COVID-19, Meijer was unable to host its annual Shop with a Hero program this year – in which kids in need shop in the store with local police officers, firefighters, EMTs and more. The program may not have happened this year, however, Meijer wanted to provide the Saginaw Chippewa community with \$2,000 in gift cards to purchase Christmas presents for children in need within the Tribal community.

ACFS, the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Police and Tribal Fire Department quickly got to work and began shopping for the remaining stars, courtesy of the local Meijer.

A total of 125 children, 55 boys and 70 girls, received gifts this year through the Star Tree Program.

"The shopping spree was a success," said Marion Williams, ICWA specialist at ACFS, about the occasion held at Meijer. "Every shopper was able to take three stars, and a couple of us had six stars. So, off we went, bumping into each other in the toy section, and hoping we all could (complete) the lists that were given to us."

Dispatcher/Corrections Officer Chris Beman of the Tribal Police Dept. shopped for six girls, ranging from 3 to 16 years old. Beman said she tried to balance "fun" with "practical" gifts listed on the tags.

"Some of the items (purchased) included clothes, footwear, games and art supplies," Beman said. "I have participated in the 'Shop with a Hero' events before and missed having the children with us. This made the shopping a little more difficult to tailor to their needs and requests; it also took some of the spirit out of the event seeing their faces and responses. I hope that these gifts will brighten their Christmas and help them look forward to a more positive year and to regain some normalcy."

Beman continued, "I like to interact with the community and establish positive relationships with the children to help establish trust and understanding."

Three personnel of the Tribal Fire Department shopped for nine children, according to Firefighter Tyler Davidson.

"We focused a lot on clothing and winter wear because



Courtesy photos

**The Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Police, Fire, and Anishnaabeg Child and Family Services shop for the remaining stars of the Star Tree Program on Dec. 16. The shopping was held at Meijer where gift cards were provided for Tribal children in need.**

we thought that was the most important item on each list. We want our local kids dressed warm for these cold months," Davidson said. "We were also able to throw in a handful of toys on the list that, hopefully, they will be excited about."

Angela Gonzalez, interim director for ACFS, wished to express her gratitude for the sponsors, Meijer, and each worker and officer that assisted with the program this year.

"This kind of program is what is needed during these difficult times – extra smiles, happiness, and the generosity," Gonzalez said.

Fire Sgt. Ryan Chippewa said when the Tribal Fire Dept.

was asked to be involved in the Star Tree Program, the staff was honored to help.

"Any time we can give back and help in any way is always our end goal," Chippewa said. "One of the most rewarding parts of our job is making a difference in the community, a life or a family."

Firefighter Jeremy Woods added, "I think it's good for the public heroes to get out, and it helps the kids that don't get what others may have. If we can put a smile on some faces this time of the year, I think it's good for us to do for them."

Tribal Chief of Police Harry Ambs said on behalf of the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal

Police, the department is grateful they could partake in this opportunity to assist the community.

"The staff at the Tribal Police Department looks forward to all of our community events each year and unfortunately most of them ended up being cancelled. We were fearful this event would also be cancelled," Ambs said. "Although we were not able to directly interact with the children as in years past, we are very thankful the wonderful people at Meijer worked with Public Relations to make this event a success in 2020."

ACFS distributed the gifts to the children by Dec. 18, in time for Christmas.

## Bay Mills applauds agency recognition that easement revocation is a "fundamental change" to contested pipeline case

*The Michigan Public Service Commission asked an Administrative Law judge to consider how the easement revocation affects the scope of the proceeding over proposed pipeline tunnel*

**EARTH JUSTICE**

LANSING, Mich. — The Michigan Public Service Commission released a decision last month announcing that the revocation of the 1953 easement for a problem-plagued pipeline through the Straits of Mackinac is a "fundamental change" to the agency's proceeding to determine whether Enbridge, a Canadian oil company, should be permitted to replace part of the pipeline with an invasive tunnel.

The Commission asked an administrative law judge to consider how the easement revocation affects the scope of this proceeding, including risks of and need for the

continued operation of a pipeline through the Great Lakes.

"The Commission's decision is another important step in an ongoing battle to protect our water," said Bay Mills Indian Community Chairman Bryan Newland. "The waters of the Great Lakes are part of our tribe's identity. These waters are protected by treaty and we depend on healthy water for fishing and sustenance."

Earthjustice, in partnership with the Native American Rights Fund, represents the Bay Mills Indian Community in the Tribal Nation's fight to protect the Straits and the Tribe's treaty rights throughout waters in Michigan.

"We appreciate that the Commission recognizes the revocation of the easement for

Enbridge's existing pipelines is a game changer," said Earthjustice Attorney Mary Rock. "We look forward to presenting evidence of the risks that the pipeline continues to pose to invaluable waters, fisheries, and cultural sites."

"We applaud the Commission's decision," said David Gover, attorney at Native American Rights Fund. "More time is needed to consider the impact that the Line 5 Project will have on Bay Mills' Treaty-protected rights across the length of the pipeline, and in the Great Lakes and Straits of Mackinac."

**Background:** On Aug. 12, 2020, Bay Mills became the first Tribal Nation to intervene in a proceeding before the Michigan Public Service Commission to contest Enbridge's proposal to

build and reroute the pipeline with a tunnel in the Straits of Mackinac, a four-mile-wide waterway that connects Lake Michigan and Lake Huron.

The Public Service Commission is one of the agencies that will determine whether Enbridge will get its wish to build the massive tunnel to house a new segment of its Line 5 pipeline.

- Line 5 crosses over 290 rivers and streams, many of which are interconnected and flow to the Great Lakes and the Straits of Mackinac, and throughout which Bay Mills has treaty-protected fishing, hunting, and gathering rights.

- The Great Lakes are the largest source of surface fresh water in the world, supplying drinking water for 48 million people.

- If Enbridge is successful, oil could continue flowing under the Straits of Mackinac for 99 years.

- In 2010, Enbridge was responsible for the largest inland oil spill in our nation's history when another of its pipelines (Line 6B) released nearly one million gallons of oil into Michigan's Kalamazoo River.

- Last month, Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Director Dan Eichinger notified Enbridge that it will revoke and terminate the 1953 easement that allowed the oil giant to operate dual pipelines in the Straits of Mackinac to transport petroleum and other products.



**You could win a 2021 Chevy SILVERADO High Country Crew Cab**

Saturdays in January | 7PM - 11PM

Five winners each hour from 7PM-11PM each win \$2,000 in Premium Play and 500 bonus entries into the Grand Prize drawing. \$10,000 hourly drawings on January 30th from 7PM-10PM and 2021 SILVERADO drawing at 11PM!

Access Club members will receive one (1) entry for every 300 points earned on their Access Club card from 12am December 27th, 2020 until 10:55pm on January 30th, 2021. Guest may only win once per drawing day.



FRIDAY, JANUARY 1  
12PM-10PM

Win a share of over \$42,000 in Premium Play! One winner each half hour will win \$2,021 in Premium Play!



EVERY TUESDAY  
5PM-10PM

Hourly hot seat drawings for a chance to win \$500 in Premium Play!



WEDNESDAYS, JAN. 6, 13 & 27  
6PM-10PM

Each hour, you could win cold hard cash starting with \$1,000 at 6PM and increasing up to \$3,000 at 10PM!



THURSDAYS | 3PM-11:59PM

Play your favorite slots for a chance to win \$25 in Premium Play! Ricochet Rewards will randomly award 50 players \$25 in Premium Play. These random rewards can ricochet multiple times between the hours of 3PM and midnight every Thursday!



**Win The Ultimate Ice Fishing Package!**

Saturdays in January | 12PM-9PM

Every hour 12pm - 9pm, one guest will be drawn for a chance to fish and win up to \$500 in cash! On January 23 & 30 at 9:30pm have a chance to win the grand prize drawing of a 2021 Wilcraft Ice Machine, Strikemaster Auger, Portable Heater, Ugly Stik GX2 Combo and Humminbird Fishfinder.

Start earning entries on December 20, 2020 at 12am.



FRIDAYS IN JANUARY  
3PM - 10PM

One guest every hour will have a chance to throw snowballs for a chance to win up to \$50 in Premium Play or a T-Shirt.



JANUARY 3, 10 & 17  
12PM-9PM

One guest every hour will have a chance to throw snowballs for a chance to win up to \$50 in Premium Play or a T-Shirt.



WEDNESDAYS | 4AM - 11:59PM  
Earn points and get Premium Play!

Points Earned	Reward Amount
300	= \$5
800	= \$10
1800	= \$25

Every hour from 9AM - 9PM we will be doing a drawing for up to \$100 in Premium Play.



MONDAY, JANUARY 18  
7PM-10PM

Win a jackpot at Saganing Eagles Landing or any other casino (bring your W-2G from the previous month) and you could win cash drawings!



## Nimkee updates on COVID-19 testing location, machine and case numbers, vaccine

**NATALIE SHATTUCK**

Editor

### Nimkee Testing Center

The former At-Large/Member Services offices now hold the Nimkee COVID-19 testing center. Eligible Nimkee patients may call 989-775-4637 if they believe they need to be tested for COVID-19 and to discuss their symptoms with a nurse.

The hours of operations of the Nimkee Testing Center are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (with a 12 to 1 p.m. closure for lunch).

The Nimkee Testing Center is currently only opened to Nimkee eligible patients, but according to Cogswell, Nimkee is currently working toward expanding the testing services to all Tribal employees as well.

“At the moment, we are trying to secure a reliable avenue for test kits to accommodate the significant increase in testing that, including employees,



Courtesy of Abbott.com

**The Nimkee Testing Center uses the Abbott ID NOW testing machine. The machine can detect the virus that causes COVID-19 in 13 minutes or less.**

would have on our current inventory,” Cogswell said.

### Testing machine

The Nimkee Testing Center uses the Abbott ID NOW testing machine, a test designed to detect the virus that causes COVID-19 in respiratory specimens, such as a nasal swab, in 13 minutes or less.

“Medical staff obtain a sample by swabbing the interior of both nostrils and use that sample for a rapid COVID-19 test using the Abbott ID NOW machine,” said Rebecca Cogswell, RN,

CLC, emergency preparedness coordinator for the Nimkee Memorial Wellness Center. “The machine has a two-minute warm-up time and the test itself takes 13 minutes or less to return results from the nasal specimen.”

The ID NOW COVID-19 test uses isothermal technology, propriety enzymes and constant temperature control to achieve the fastest available RNA amplification, according to Cogswell.

“To conduct the test, a swab of the nose is taken. Then the nasal swab is placed into a solution that is heated to 132.8 degrees Fahrenheit. This temperature cracks the envelope of the SARS-CoV-2 virus, exposing its viral RNA, the device amplifies this RNA hundreds of millions of times to make the virus detectable to the ID NOW machine,” Cogswell said.

### COVID cases on the Reservation

Cogswell said COVID cases are significantly increasing, not just within the Reservation and local Mount Pleasant community, but throughout the nation.

Cogswell shared Nimkee Clinic’s November testing numbers with the Tribal Observer.

In November, the Nimkee Center completed 282 tests. There were 219 negative test and 63 positive tests.

Positive cases by month (since the Nimkee Clinic began data tracking):

- July: 5
- August: 1
- September: 6
- October: 11
- November: 63

### COVID-19 vaccine availability

According to Cogswell, it is expected that the Nimkee Clinic will receive the Moderna vaccine when it becomes available.

There is a system in place to determine who will be

eligible and prioritized to receive the vaccine.

“The first people who will receive the vaccination are hospital healthcare workers and long-term care residents and staff at nursing facilities,” Cogswell said. “This will be followed by additional healthcare staff, Police, Fire, EMS, and essential workers, such as school staff.”

### COVID-19 Vaccination Prioritization List

• **Phase 1A:** Health care personnel and long-term care facility residents

• **Phase 1B:** Frontline essential workers and persons aged 75 years and older

• **Phase 1C:** Other essential workers and persons 65-74 years. Persons aged 16-64 with high-risk medical conditions

• **Phase 2:** A mass vaccination campaign for all individuals 16 years and older

The Nimkee Clinic will continue keep the community updated as it receives information on vaccine availability.

## COVID-19 vaccinations started Dec. 14 at Michigan hospitals

### MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

LANSING, Mich. – Frontline health care workers at two Michigan hospitals on Monday, Dec. 14 were the first people in the state to receive the safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The first COVID-19 vaccine, produced by Michigan-based Pfizer, and today’s initial vaccinations mark a historic milestone in the world’s unprecedented cooperative mission to control and end the COVID-19 pandemic.

The vaccinations at Michigan Medicine and Spectrum Health Butterworth Hospital begin the journey toward the eventual safe full reopening of Michigan’s economy, schools and communities.

Additional Michigan hospitals began vaccinating health care staff later that week.

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer thanked the state’s hospital and other health care workers for “tireless dedication, bravery and strength” in caring for the tens of thousands of residents who have fought the virus – and for being first-in-line for vaccinations.

“This is a great day for our families, frontline workers, small businesses, and Michigan as a whole. Here, in the state built on innovation and grit, a safe and effective COVID vaccine is being manufactured by Michigan workers at a Michigan business,” Gov. Whitmer said in a Dec. 14 statement. “Our frontline essential hospital workers have gone above and beyond to save lives – including stepping up today to receive vaccines. And we have residents across the state doing their part to eradicate the virus and keep our communities safe. Remember: it will take some time for the vaccine to be widely distributed

to everyone. That’s why it’s so important that we all do our part by masking up, practicing safe social distancing, and avoiding indoor gatherings where the virus can easily spread from person to person. This is a historic day in Michigan. We will get through this together.”

In the face of the most massive vaccination effort our world has ever seen, Dr. Joneigh Khaldun, chief medical executive and chief deputy for health with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, expressed her confidence in the first approved COVID-19 vaccine.

“The significant impact of COVID-19 has led to unprecedented, worldwide collaboration among scientists, medical doctors, health and government officials, and manufacturers,” Khaldun said. “The arrival of this vaccine in Michigan signals that the end of this pandemic is near. However, it will take several months before we are able to have enough vaccine to widely distribute it to the general population. Until then, and even for individuals who receive the vaccine, we should all be doing our part to slow the spread of this virus by wearing masks, avoiding large gatherings, and washing hands.”

Brian Peters, chief executive officer of the Michigan Health & Hospital Association, said the medical, support and executive teams at the state’s hospitals have been on the frontlines treating COVID-19 patients from the start of the pandemic and now “stand proud and grateful to lead the state’s public health and economic recovery from a virus that has devastated far too

many lives, families, businesses and communities.”

“As vaccinations start today with the health care heroes at hospitals statewide, Michigan is now on course to move out of the darkness of pandemic to economic and public health recovery,” Peters said.

In the coming days and weeks, vaccine doses will arrive at additional Michigan hospitals and other medical centers across the state. The first Michigan citizens to be vaccinated will be priority hospital and health care workers, and staff and residents of long-term care facilities.

Even with COVID-19 vaccinations starting in Michigan and worldwide, doctors urge everyone to continue to

practice preventative measures such as properly wearing masks, social distancing and frequent handwashing to reduce the spread of the virus until the vast majority of people have been vaccinated.

People with questions about vaccines – including the COVID-19 vaccines – should consult a credible source with answers based on medical science. Sources for vaccine information based entirely on medical science include IVaccinate.org, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, and the CDC. A comprehensive set of questions and answers about COVID-19 can be found at [Michigan.gov/COVIDVaccine](https://www.michigan.gov/COVIDVaccine).

## Nimkee Fitness

### Open Indoors

Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

- Mask or shield required at all times (masks and face shields can be provided)
- Five Fitness Center members allowed at one time
- Locker rooms are available, showers are NOT available

**Must call to make a reservation: 989.775.4690**

- Only able to reserve one hour at a time, in half hour increments
- If there is availability you may walk up
- Reservations can be made as early as a week in advance

## Testing Center

(Located at the former At-Large offices)

**Open: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.**

**Closed for lunch: 12 – 1 p.m.**

**989.775.4637 or 989.775.4626**

- ▶ If you have signs or symptoms of COVID-19 or if you believe you require testing, please call the Nimkee Testing Center at 989.775.4637 to discuss your symptoms.
- ▶ If you are experiencing severe symptoms, such as difficulty breathing, call 911 for urgent medical help.

**Practice Social Distancing • Stay Home If You Can**

**Wear Your Mask • Hand Hygiene**



## Eight things to know about the new COVID-19 vaccines

*(Editor's note: This article comes from Rebecca Cogswell, RN, CLC, emergency preparedness coordinator for the Nimkee Memorial Wellness Center.)*

Now that there is an authorized and recommended vaccine to prevent COVID-19 in the United States, here are eight things you need to know about the new COVID-19 Vaccination Program and COVID-19 vaccines.

**1. The safety of COVID-19 vaccines is a top priority.** The U.S. vaccine safety system ensures that all vaccines are as safe as possible. Learn how federal partners are working together to ensure the safety of COVID-19 vaccines.

CDC has developed a new tool, v-safe, as an additional layer of safety monitoring to increase our ability to rapidly detect any safety issues with COVID-19 vaccines. V-safe is a new smartphone-based, after-vaccination

health checker for people who receive COVID-19 vaccines.

**2. COVID-19 vaccination will help protect you from getting COVID-19. Two doses are needed.** You need two doses of the currently available COVID-19 vaccine, with the second occurring three weeks (21 days after the first). Some of the future vaccines will have a slightly different requirement on time needed between doses.

**3. Right now, CDC recommends COVID-19 vaccine be offered to healthcare personnel and residents of long-term care facilities.** Because the current supply of COVID-19 vaccine in the United States is limited, CDC recommends that initial supplies of COVID-19 vaccine be offered to healthcare personnel and long-term care facility residents. Learn more about who should be vaccinated first when vaccine supplies are limited.

**4. There is currently a limited supply of COVID-19**

**vaccine in the United States, but supply will increase in the weeks and months to come.** The goal is for everyone to be able to easily get vaccinated against COVID-19 as soon as large enough quantities are available. Once vaccine is widely available, the plan is to have several thousand vaccination providers offering COVID-19 vaccines in doctors' offices, retail pharmacies, hospitals, and federally qualified health centers.

**5. After COVID-19 vaccination, you may have some side effects. This is a normal sign that your body is building protection.** The side effects from COVID-19 vaccination may feel like flu and might even affect your ability to do daily activities, but they should go away in a few days. Learn more about what side effects to expect and get helpful tips on how to reduce pain and discomfort after your vaccination.

**6. Cost is not an obstacle to getting vaccinated against**

**COVID-19.** Vaccine doses purchased with U.S. taxpayer dollars will be given to the American people at no cost. However, vaccination providers may be able to charge administration fees for giving the shot. Vaccination providers can get this fee reimbursed by the patient's public or private insurance company or, for uninsured patients, by the Health Resources and Services Administration's Provider Relief Fund

**7. The first COVID-19 vaccine is being used under an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Many other vaccines are still being developed and tested.** If more COVID-19 vaccines are authorized or approved by FDA, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) will quickly hold public meetings to review all available data about each vaccine and make recommendations for their use in the United States.

All ACIP-recommended vaccines will be included in the U.S. COVID-19 Vaccination Program. CDC continues to work at all levels with partners, including healthcare associations, on a flexible COVID-19 vaccination program that can accommodate different vaccines and adapt to different scenarios. State, tribal, local, and territorial health departments have developed distribution plans to make sure all recommended vaccines are available to their communities.

**8. COVID-19 vaccines are one of many important tools to help us stop this pandemic.**

It's important for everyone to continue using all the tools available to help stop this pandemic as we learn more about how COVID-19 vaccines work in real-world conditions. Cover your mouth and nose with a mask when around others, stay at least 6 feet away from others, avoid crowds, and wash your hands often.

## CMDHD shares updated quarantine guidelines by CDC

### CENTRAL MICHIGAN DISTRICT HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Central Michigan District Health Department is changing its COVID-19 quarantine guidelines to align with those made by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on Dec. 2, 2020.

The previous 14-day quarantine period was based on earlier data that estimated the COVID-19 incubation period. However, recent data found 90 to 99 percent of COVID-19 infections occur within 10 days of exposure.

While the 14-day quarantine period for those who have been exposed to COVID-19 is still standard, it can be reduced to 10 days if the following two conditions are met:

- The individual does not develop any symptoms or clinical evidence of COVID-19 infection during the 10 days after their last exposure.
- The individual continues to monitor for symptoms for 14 days after their

last exposure. If symptoms develop, they should get tested and self-isolate while waiting for their results. Testing locations can be found at [www.michigan.gov/coronavirustest](http://www.michigan.gov/coronavirustest) or by calling 211. If you test positive for COVID-19 you should follow home isolation guidelines. If you test negative, you still need to complete the 14-day quarantine.

Individuals exiting quarantine should continue to social distance, wear a mask, and avoid crowds.

The shortened quarantine period should be considered with caution for those living or working in congregate living settings or those working with high-risk individuals due to the increased risk of transmission with the shortened quarantine. Refer to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for information regarding these risks.

There may be conflicts in the length of quarantine for employers who fall under Michigan Public Act 238 of 2020 or Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration rules.

Employers should refer to these sources when determining whether employees need to wait 14 days to return to work.

Central Michigan District Health Department has a Coronavirus message center. Please call **989-773-5921 extension 1444** if you have

any questions. Leave your name, phone number, county of residence, and a brief message. Staff will return calls as soon as possible.

## Behavioral Health Community Information

### Behavioral Health Programs

2800 S. Shepherd Rd. Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858  
Phone: (989) 775-4850 • Fax (989) 775-4851

Behavioral Health's Leadership Team takes the health and safety of our associates and our clients very seriously. We are continuing to work proactively to keep essential services, such as Residential Treatment and mental health services, open to the community, while also following the CDC's recommendations for social distancing and sanitation practices.

Due to the rise in COVID-19 cases and the changes within other programs through the county, the Behavioral Health Leadership Team has made the following changes to our current operational plan. We are continually monitoring the rapidly changing situation regarding COVID-19, and will adapt our service methods if necessary to comply with the guidelines and recommendations.

### Behavioral Health overall:

- Behavioral Health doors will be closed and locked; public entry for any purpose will be by appointment only, except for crisis situations.
  - Use the Telecom system at the main entrance, or call the front desk at (989) 775-4850, or the direct line if you know who you are trying to contact, to set up an appointment.
  - For crisis calls/walk ins, use the above to make contact with the front desk. Telehealth will be encouraged but a face-to-face appointment may be made if telehealth is not an option. No crisis situation will be turned away.
- All open to the public on site groups remain cancelled until further notice, some are offered virtually (check website for more information)
- Telework will be done as much as feasible to ensure minimum basic operations of services



### Residential Treatment Center (RTC) / Supportive Living Program (SLP):

- New RTC/SLP admittance is suspended until at least Nov. 23, 2020
- If someone needs admittance to RTC, please call and we can coordinate other care options: During business hours Monday-Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Call BH at (989) 775-4850, who will assist you with the process.
- No off-site activities, support group meetings, etc. (except where medically necessary), technology will be used where feasible
- No on-site visitations, technology will be used to meet this need
- On-site meetings restricted to current residents only

### Outpatient Services, Crisis, and On-call Services:

- Out-patient therapy appointments will be scheduled via telehealth as appropriate starting immediately
- Psychiatry appointments will be scheduled via telehealth as appropriate starting immediately. Medication refills continue as normal
- For crisis calls/walk ins use the telecom system at the main entrance, or call the front desk at (989) 775-4850. Telehealth will be encouraged but a face-to-face appointment may be made if telehealth is not an option. No crisis situation will be turned away.
- If you are not an existing client, but need mental health (including substance abuse) services call:
  - During business hours Monday-Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., call the BH at (989) 775-4850
  - Non-business hours, call BH at (989) 775-4850 and follow the prompts to be connected to the BH on call worker

### Prevention (including Zaagaate'), Native Connections, Traditional Healing, and other complimentary services:

- On-site or face to face meetings/appointments will be suspended and telework platforms should be used where feasible for these services



Positions Now Available!

Apply today at  
[www.migiziedc.com](http://www.migiziedc.com)



## JANUARY 2021 | Tribal Community Event Planner

### Girls Weight Training

Monday, Wednesday & Friday | 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
Tuesday & Thursday | 12 - 4 p.m.

- Eagles Nest Tribal Gym
- One-on-one sessions
- Open to girls, 10-17 years old
- 989.429.4157 or rbailey@sagchip.org
- By appointment only, mask required
- Strength Training, Weight Lifting, HIIT
- Times and days are subject to change

### Boys Weight Training

Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays

- Eagles Nest Tribal Gym
- One-on-one sessions
- Open to boys, 10-17 years old
- 989.775.4121 or AllLeaureaux@sagchip.org
- By appointment only, mask required
- Strength Training, Weight Lifting, HIIT
- One hour slots
- 48-hour notice required when scheduling appointments

### K'chi-twaa-Mshkod'e (Sacred Fire)

January 7, 14, 21, 28 | 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

- Seventh Generation
- TJackson@sagchip.org or 989.775.4780
- Social distancing/masks required
- Tobacco offering for those who need a safe place to offer prayers
- No appointments necessary, everyone welcome

### Virtual Community Talking Circle

January 13, 27 | 1 p.m.

- Online on Zoom
- ChOsawabine@sagchip.org or 989.775.4818

### Virtual State of the Tribe Annual Meeting

January 22 | 10 a.m.

- Tribal Council will provide a financial report, COVID-19 report, comments and address questions.
- This will be live streamed on the Tribal Members section of the sagchip.org website. The link will be provided as the date approaches.
- Tribal Members, please send questions or concerns to be considered during the State of the Tribe Address to the Public Relations department at PublicRelations@sagchip.org or 989.775.4096

### Truman D. Picard Scholarship:

For Native American/Alaska natural resource students

**Purpose:** The Truman D. Picard Scholarship program is dedicated to the support of Native American students pursuing a higher education in natural resources.

#### Award:

- \$2,500 for college students (number of awards varies per year)
- \$2,500 for grad students and graduating college seniors that are applying/accepted for grad school
- \$2,000 for graduating high school students

**Deadline:** Friday March 12, 2021, 5 p.m. PST

**Inquires and applications should be directed to the Intertribal Timber Council Office:**

Attn: Education Committee  
Intertribal Timber Council  
1112 N.E. 21st Avenue, suite 4  
Portland, Oregon, 97232-2114

**Phone:** 503-282-4296



## Reduce Reuse Recycle Family Creativity COMPETITION

Behavioral Health is encouraging families to get creative together over winter break and come up with ways to reuse/recycle cardboard!

#### Top prizes awarded for these categories:

- Most creative use of cardboard
- Best winter themed
- Best Anishinaabe themed
- Best in show



#### Submitting your creation:

- Photos/videos will need to be sent to Prevention@sagchip.org by 5 p.m. on Jan. 8, 2021.
- The email needs to include the family team name, family/team members and ages who helped create their piece, and contact phone number.
- A committee from Behavioral Health will choose the winners.
- Winners will be notified by Jan. 14, 2021, and the photo of their entry will be featured in the February issue of the Tribal Observer.

## JANUARY 2021 | Tribal Community Calendar

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>• Curbside Recycling</li> <li>• Waste Collection*</li> </ul> <p><small>*Bins must be curbside by 6:30 a.m.</small></p>		<b>Housing PSH Survey Winners</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Kimberly Dorow - District 3</li> <li>▶ Donald Nelson - District 2</li> <li>▶ Kenneth Sprague - District 1</li> </ul> <p><i>Thank you to everyone who participated For more information, please call 989-775-4595</i></p>		<b>Tribal Center Closed</b> New Year's Day	
4	5	6	7	8	9
			<b>Sacred Fire</b> 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. 7th Generation		10
11	12	13	14	15	16
		<b>Virtual Community Talking Circle</b> 1 p.m.	<b>Sacred Fire</b> 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. 7th Generation	<b>Tribal Observer Deadline</b>  <b>Virtual Storytelling with Isaac Murdoch</b> 7 p.m.   Ziibiwing	17
18	19	20	21	22	23
<b>Tribal Center Closed</b> MLK Day			<b>Sacred Fire</b> 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.   7th Gen  <b>Medicine Bag Class</b> 3 p.m.   via Zoom Kit pickup: 1/19, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Sign-up or more info: Prevention@sagchip.org	<b>Virtual State of the Tribe Annual Meeting</b> 10 a.m.	24
25	26	27	28	29	30
		<b>Virtual Community Talking Circle</b> 1 p.m.	<b>Sacred Fire</b> :30 a.m. - 4 p.m.   7th Gen		31



## Tribal Observer Classifieds

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

##### Registered Medical Assistant

Open to the public. High school diploma or GED. Registered or certified Medical Assistant License. One year experience working in an outpatient or clinic setting. Successful completion of an accredited Medical Assistant program with certification as a registered/certified medical assistant.

##### Receptionist Medical Clinic

Open to the public. Knowledge of modern office practices, procedures, equipment, and computerized information systems. Knowledge of business, proper spelling, grammar, punctuation, and basic arithmetic. Skill in operating business computers and office machines, including in a Windows environment, specifically Word, Excel, and PowerPoint.

##### Land Grant Office Manager

Open to the public. Master's degree required. Preference will be given to candidates with a degree in administration, business, education, leadership, agriculture, communications, marketing, human development, extension and family and consumer sciences. Minimum five years of experience in administrative leadership that includes managing human resources, budgets, grants, communications, external partnerships and governmental relations. Thorough understanding of land grant office programs and goals. Excel-

lent knowledge of program and performance evaluation. Demonstrated familiarity with college outreach and the fundamental mission of a land-grant institution, including sensitivity to the educational needs of both traditional and non-traditional audiences and the relationship between campus-based research and statewide Land Grant programs.

##### Prosecutor

Open to the public. Juris doctor from an ABA accredited law school. Minimum of three years experience as a practicing attorney, familiarity with federal Indian law preferred. Minimum of one year experience as a prosecuting attorney. Member of a State Bar Association and in good standing. Understanding of all codes and professional standards applicable to the conduct of prosecutors. Experience with juvenile welfare cases. Experience with Tribal Code, Federal Law, State Law and court procedure.

##### Technical Services Technician II

Open to the public. Bachelor's degree in information technology, computer science, or related field or three years IT support desk experience with one of the following certifications: Microsoft Certified Desktop Support Technician Certification, Comp TIA A+ Certification and Comp TIA N+ Certification.

##### SCTC Tutor

Open to the public. Tutor for students attending Tribal College with an emphasis on tutoring college writing skills, mathematics strategies and practices. At least 60 completed credits towards a college degree with

an overall GPA of 3.0 or above. Strong mathematics and/or English background ability to demonstrate competence in SCTC MTH 230, MTH 120, ENG 101, ENG 102, and ENG 130 or equivalent is higher preferred.

##### Accountant

Open to the public. Bachelor's degree in accounting. Must have completed and passed a governmental accounting class as part of college curriculum. One year experience in general accounting, grants and contracts. Tribal government accounting experience preferred.

##### Anishinaabe Culture & Language Teacher

Open to the public. High school diploma or GED. Must have knowledge and be willing to share original Anishinaabe cultural teachings. Preference will be given to those with proficiency in speaking the Ojibwe language. Excellent oral and written communications skills.

##### Leadership Apprentice

Under the supervision of the post-secondary support specialist, work in a supportive environment to gain experience and learn skills required to perform Tribal positions of leadership and responsibility. This program is intended for students pursuing an approved post-secondary degree and certification. Leadership Apprentice will be placed in departments related to their respective degree, however, there may be times when intern is assigned to a different department based on the circumstances and/or needs of the Tribe. High school diploma or GED. Must be a Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Member. Must have satisfactorily completed 12 credit hours. Must provide documentation of acceptance at an accredited college/university in Michigan. Must currently have a cumulative 2.5 GPA. Must submit an official transcript and class schedule during recruitment process. Must be a full-time college student. Applicants must submit a declared degree audit as requested throughout internship.

##### Certified Nursing Assistant

Open to the public. High school diploma or GED. State of Michigan certified nursing assistant. Must be able to obtain HIPAA certification within five business days from date of hire. One year nursing experience preferred. Experience with older adults preferred. Must be able to effectively communicate with residents and all members of the health care team and have good computer skills.

##### ACFS Director

Open to the public. Under the supervision of Tribal Administration, direct, establish, plan and coordinate all activities and segments included within Anishnaabeg Child

and Family Services (ACFS). This includes prevention and outreach services, protective services, ICWA and licensing services. Assure protective services investigations, prevention, child and family service cases and open-active cases including descendants as outlined in the ICWA agreement between the state DHS, and SCIT are responded to in a manner consistent with the department's overall goal: Mission Statement; fundamental values and beliefs; and practice principles; consistent with 25 C.F.R., Part 20, Subparts D-F; in compliance with the Tribal Code, Title II Children's Code; and in compliance with the Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act. All ACFS staff must adhere to mandated reporting laws. Master's degree in social services, human services or related field. Must have and maintain a full Master's Social Worker License (LMSW). Five years social services experience. Two years' experience in a supervisory capacity. Experience working with tribal communities and outside social services. Experience with budget administration, operation, reports, contract management and development.

##### Project AWARE Data Analyst Grant

Open to the public. Master's degree in public health, epidemiology, community health, biostatistics, measurement and evaluation or related field. Experience in data compilation, data analysis, and working knowledge of evaluation methods. Proficient in Microsoft Office and strong professional writing skills

##### General Labor Pool Worker

Open to the public. Must be at least 18 years of age and possess a high school diploma or equivalent. Must be physically fit and be able to perform manual labor. Applicants must have a telephone contact number and be available on short notice for short-term employment.

##### Clerical Pool

Open to Tribal Members. Must be at least 18 years of age and possess a high school diploma or equivalent. Clerical experience is a plus. Applicants must have a telephone contact number and be available on short notice for short-term employment.

### Soaring Eagle

##### Director iGaming-Sports Betting OPS

Open to the public. Under the supervision of the chief operations officer, accomplish the Sports Betting Department objectives at Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort and Saganing Eagles Landing Casino & Hotel. High school diploma or GED. Ten years progressive gaming experience to include five years of sports betting experience. Five years in a supervisory capacity. Knowledge of sports wagering and online casino gaming.

##### Housekeeper PT

Open to the public. Must be at least 18 years of age. Knowledge of occupational hazards and applicable safety practices. Knowledge of housekeeping cleaning equipment.

##### Massage Therapist PT

Open to the public. High school diploma or GED. Must be at least 18 years of age. Michigan massage certification with 600 total hours required for massage certification. One year of experience preferred.

### Saganing

##### Security Officer PT

Open to the public. Must be at least 18 years of age. Security or surveillance experience preferred. Must be able to work any shift assigned, including weekends and holidays.

##### Cashier

Open to the public. Must be at least 18 years of age. Six months cashiering and/or hosting experience. Must be able to operate a POS.

##### Guestroom Attendant

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

##### Casino Ambassador

Open to the public. Must be at least 18 years of age. Six months of heavy cash handling or hospitality experience in a fast paced, high pressure environment.

##### Transit Driver PT

Open to the public. Must be at least 21 years of age. Must have good hearing and at least 20/40 vision in each eye with or without corrective lenses. Must be able to work all shifts including weekends and holidays. Must have a valid CDL with passenger endorsements or a Chauffeur's License.

##### Transit Driver FT

Open to the public. Must be at least 21 years of age. Must have good hearing and at least 20/40 vision in each eye with or without corrective lenses. Must be able to work all shifts including weekends and holidays. Must have a valid CDL with passenger endorsements or a Chauffeur's License.

##### Maintenance Worker PT

Open to the public. Must be at least 18 years of age. One year custodial and maintenance experience. Experience with plumbing and carpentry.

##### Line Cook

Open to the public. Must be at least 18 years of age. One year of restaurant cooking experience with increasing levels of responsibility, or six months of Saganing internal Culinary training.

##### Players Club Representative PT

Open to the public. Must be at least 18 years of age. Must be able to obtain and maintain a gaming license to meet the employment eligibility requirements as they pertain to the position.

##### Inventory Control Driver Warehouse

Open to the public. High school diploma or GED. Must be 18 years of age. One year receiving or warehouse experience. One year experience in driving vehicles and rigs that require a Chauffeur license. Experience with operating warehouse equipment including forklifts.

##### F&B Attendant

Open to the public. Must be at least 18 years of age. Cash handling, banking, or accounting experience preferred.

##### F&B Custodial Worker

Open to the public. Must be at least 18 years of age. Kitchen cleaning experience preferred.

### ACFS Update

Due to the high rise of COVID-19 cases in the area, Anishnaabeg Child and Family Services (ACFS) will move the majority of contact with the community, current clients, Tribal departments and other agencies, to virtual telecommunication.

There will be circumstances when in-person contact is required, so ACFS will follow the Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommendations for social distancing and sanitation procedures during these times.

Before visiting ACFS, please call 989-775-4901 to set up an appointment, and at that time, we will let you know if your meeting is virtual/phone or if your visit will require an in person meeting.

In cases of an emergency, when you arrive at ACFS, call 989-775-4901 and the intake worker will be available to meet with you.

#### For reports of child abuse and neglect the following can be utilized:

- Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., call 989-775-4901 and request to speak with the intake worker.
- Monday through Friday after 5 p.m. and on the weekends call Tribal PD at 989-775-4700 and request a callback from the ACFS on call worker.
- Email your report of child abuse and neglect to [CPS@sagchip.org](mailto:CPS@sagchip.org) and this is available 24 hours a day



## Summons and Complaint Notices

THE SAGINAW CHIPPEWA TRIBAL COURT CHILDREN'S DIVISION  
PUBLICATION OF HEARING CASE NO. 12-JCW-0153  
TO DOLLY KIOGIMA and JAYSON KIOGIMA IN THE MATTER OF: TWO  
MINOR CHILDREN DATE OF BIRTHS: 04-18-2010 and 06-22-2012

The Court has taken jurisdiction of the minor in reference to the case number listed above. A Petition to Terminate Parental Rights to a Minor will be conducted by the court on Wednesday, January 13, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. in the courtroom at the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Court, 6954 East Broadway Road, Mt. Pleasant, Michigan before the Honorable Patrick M. Shannon. IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that Dolly KioGima and Jayson KioGima personally appear or appear via zoom before the court at the time and place stated above. A Notice of Remote Hearing has been provided to all interested parties with the information for appearing via zoom or in person. This hearing may result in the Court continuing its jurisdiction over the minors and the eventual termination of parental rights.

# ENTERTAINMENT



**LUKE BRYAN**

with **MORGAN EVANS**

Saturday, May 29 | 8:00PM

**Tribal Member Presale**  
January 8th, 2021

**Public Onsale**  
January 15th, 2021

**Ticket Prices:**  
\$49, \$132, \$164, \$195

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



# BINGO



YOU COULD WIN UP TO  
**\$50,000**  
IN CASH!

Achieve the Soaring Star pattern in 30 numbers or less for a chance to spin the prize wheel and win up to \$50,000!

And the prizes don't stop! With MULTI-WIN Games, the prizes keep going and going and going, no matter how many winners!

**Super Win Soaring Star Multi Win**  
is played Wednesday - Sunday  
during our Matinee Session at 1:30PM  
and Wednesday - Saturday during our Evening Session at 7PM.

Ball Calls	SPIN & WIN
<b>Soaring Star in 17 or less</b>	<b>\$5,000 - \$50,000</b>
Soaring Star in 18 exactly	\$2,500 - \$25,000
Soaring Star in 19 exactly	\$1,500 - \$15,000
Soaring Star in 20 exactly	\$1,000 - \$10,000
Soaring Star in 21 exactly	\$750 - \$10,000
Soaring Star in 22 exactly	\$500 - \$5,000
Soaring Star in 23 exactly	\$450 - \$4,500
Soaring Star in 24 exactly	\$400 - \$4,000
Soaring Star in 25 exactly	\$350 - \$3,500
Soaring Star in 26 exactly	\$300 - \$3,000
Soaring Star in 27 exactly	\$275 - \$2,750
Soaring Star in 28 exactly	\$250 - \$2,500
Soaring Star in 29 exactly	\$225 - \$2,250
Soaring Star in 30 exactly	\$200 - \$2,000



SoaringEagleCasino.com | Mt. Pleasant, MI | 1.888.7.EAGLE.7

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