



# TRIBAL OBSERVER

DECEMBER 2023

Working Together For Our Future [www.sagchip.org/tribalobserver](http://www.sagchip.org/tribalobserver) Volume 25 | Issue 12



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**Tribal Operations will be closed Friday, Dec. 25, 2023 through Monday, Jan. 1, 2024 \*Excluding 24/7 departments**

## New 2023-2025 Tribal Council selected from Nov. 7 General Election

**PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPT.**  
On Tuesday, Nov. 7, the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe held the 2023 General Election. The Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribal community has elected its newest Tribal Council for the 2023-2025 two-year term.  
District 1 members had the opportunity to select 10 representatives, District 2 members selected one representative and District 3 also selected one representative. Voter participation for the 2023 General Election reached a combined 39.58 percent.  
The Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe is comprised of three districts that account for the total registered voting membership of 2,150. This accounts for 78.26 percent of

the possible 2,747 members who had an ability to register to vote.  
The District 1 voting boundaries encompass all of Isabella County. There are a total of 1,133 registered voters. District 1 had 1,344 members who were eligible to register to cast a ballot. Voter participation in the 2023 District 1 General Election totaled 574 members and reflected a 50.66 percent turnout.  
District 2 voting boundaries are within the Saginaw Reservation in Arenac County and had 39 registered voters. There are currently 48 members that were eligible to register to vote in District 2. Voter participation in the 2023 District 2 General Election totaled 11 members and reflected a 28.20 percent turnout.  
Finally, District 3, or the At-Large district, are those

### 2023 SCIT General Election Results

District 1	
• Sprague, Lucas 294	• Spotted Tail (Montoya-Pego), Maia 236
• Merrill, David Jr. 276	• Bennett, Brad 234
• Chippeway, Samantha 251	• Ricketts, Alice Jo 227
• Otto, Christina 243	• Davis, Timothy 224
• Wassegijig (Vasquez), Jennifer 237	• Jackson (Peters), Theresa 222

District 2	District 3
• Nelson, Ronald 11	• Cloutier, Frank J. 152

members who are reflective of the remaining Tribal Membership that live outside either of the boundaries of District 1 or 2. These members account for the remaining 978 registered voters. District 3 had a total of 1,355 members who were

eligible to register to vote. Voter participation in the 2023 District 3 General Election totaled 266 members and reflected a 27.20 percent turnout.  
The newly-elected Tribal Council of 12 will be sworn in during the Tuesday, Dec.

5, 2023 Regular Session Meeting, which will be held in the Entertainment Hall specifically for this swearing in occasion. The Election Caucus Committee has reviewed and certified the results of the General Election for 2023.

## Mno-Shkiziwin SCIT Supplemental Assistance Program Benefits begin Jan. 1

**JOSEPH V. SOWMICK**  
Public Relations Manager  
On Jan. 1, the Mno-Shkiziwin SCIT Supplemental Assistance Program Benefits is scheduled to begin through the office of Business Regulations.

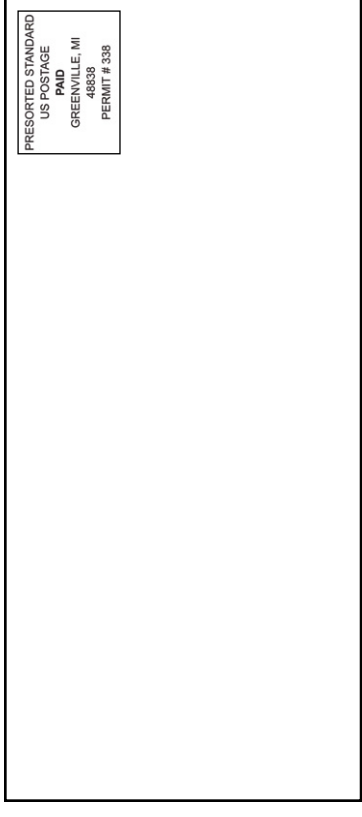
Chris Sineway, director of Business Regulations, said the Mno-Shkiziwin program was designed to assist members with everyday household expenses in today's economy.  
"All membership gets the same amount of money from the Tribe but this program allows members to get more money by using this program and getting the money tax exempt," Sineway said. "So the withholding that the Tribe used to make on your behalf to the Federal Government and the State of Michigan will be made to you. The potential drawback is that you will have to keep receipts for this money if you are audited by either the Tribe, IRS or State of Michigan on your purchases."  
Tribal Elder Kenneth Douglas said back in 2014, he was researching the internet and found a statement by a treasury official that was encouraging.  
"The treasury officer was mentioning the removal of tribal taxes in a 2014 meeting they had with Tribal Members. I did my research and took

the finding to Frank Cloutier (SCIT Public Relations Director at the time) and together we presented it to Tribal Council," Douglas said. "The proposal meant saving our membership over 20 million dollars a year in personal tax savings. Obviously, we were pretty excited."  
Douglas was quick to point out that even though he made a significant contribution to the Mno-Shkiziwin program, most of the credit should be given to the Pego, Cloutier, Ekdahl, Davis and Jackson tribal council administrations for all the time and effort going through the legal processes.  
"Former U.S. President Barack Obama signed the first law and Congressman Devin Nunes rewrote and cleared up a lot of questions in 2014," Douglas said. "It was so confusing that Congress ordered all IRS employees dealing with the tax change to attend a special education class. I would urge Tribal Members to keep their eyes and ears open for all the opportunities the Mno-Shkiziwin program offers. I

will always be proud to be a part of this tax savings that will have a positive impact for many tribal families in the future."  
Frank Cloutier, district three Tribal Council representative, said he was delighted when Douglas approached him in 2022 with a proposal to introduce the General Welfare Exclusion (GWE) Act of 2014 for Council consideration.

"I shared with him our efforts over the years to develop this program into our tribal efforts for membership benefit. The Tribal Council and staff had remained involved in consultation with the IRS for several years advocating for tribal considerations," Cloutier said.

Benefits Program | 7



2023-2025  
Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Council

# SWEARING IN

Tuesday, Dec. 5, 2023  
9 a.m. | SECR Entertainment Hall

For more information, contact: Public Relations at 989.775.4059





## Joyce Ann Moore

October 5, 1957 – November 5, 2023

Joyce Ann Moore, a loving wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, passed away peacefully on Nov. 5, 2023, in Paradise, Mich. Born on Oct. 5, 1957, in Au Gres, Mich., Joyce lived a life full of love, kindness, and joy, touching the lives of everyone she met.



Joyce was the beloved wife of David William Moore, whom she met during deer season in 1985. Their love story began in Au Gres, Mich., and they tied the knot on April 26, 1987. Their union was blessed with beautiful children: Michelle (Brian) Niernberg, Scott (Jerah) Moore, Amy (Brandon) Anderson, and Kimberly (Kory) Moore. Joyce was a doting grandmother to Grace, Charlye, Elliot, Lena, Raina, Graham, Megan, Madison, Trenton (Alex), Haleigh, and Destani. She was also a proud great-grandmother to Ellianne, Rhenley, and Corbyn.

Joyce was a woman of strength and resilience, traits she inherited from her parents, Nathan Childers and Lena Rangel. She was preceded in death by them and her brother, Nathan Childers. She is survived by her husband, David Moore, Mike (Tami) Childers, Jackie Devericks, Donna Moore, Shirley Houle, Maryann (Rick) Moore, and Susan (Bill) Tidey.

Joyce was a woman of many interests and passions. She loved visiting the casino, attending powwows, and spending quality time with her family. She had a knack for playing cards and enjoyed the simple pleasure of picking rocks at Whitefish Point. Joyce was also fond of garage sales and had a unique hobby of collecting dolls. She had a special place in her heart for animals, and her pets, an owl and horses, were a testament to her love for them.

Joyce was known for her kind and loving nature. She had a heart full of love for her family and friends, and she never missed an opportunity to show it. Her kindness was not limited to her loved ones; she extended it to everyone she met. Joyce had a way of making people feel special and loved, and she will be remembered for her warm and loving nature.

Joyce's life was a testament to her strength, resilience, and love for her family. She was a beacon of light in the lives of those she touched, and her memory will continue to shine brightly in the hearts of those she left behind. Her legacy of love, kindness, and joy will live on through her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Joyce Ann Moore's life was a beautiful journey filled with love, joy, and kindness. She will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved her. As we mourn her loss, we also celebrate her life and the love she shared with us. Her memory will forever be a beacon of love and kindness in our hearts.

Funeral services were held Friday, Nov. 10, 2023, at 3 P.M. at Lee-Ramsay Funeral Home – Standish Chapel with Pastor John Tousciuk presiding. Family greeted friends and family on Friday from 11 A.M. until time of funeral services at 3 P.M.

## Stacey Ann Dutton

November 1, 1970 – November 18, 2023

Stacey Ann Dutton, 53 of Freeland, Mich., passed away peacefully Saturday, Nov. 18, 2023, at home surrounded by her family. She was born Nov. 1, 1970, in Saginaw, daughter of Wayne Dutton and Kathleen (Crosson) Dutton.



She was preceded in death by her mother Kathleen.

Stacey graduated from the Millet Learning Center in 1997 from the work experience program and went on to work at Saginaw Valley Rehabilitation Center (SVRC). When Stacey was younger she followed her brothers everywhere. She absolutely adored them and was interested in whatever they were doing, whether it be riding 3-wheelers or playing basketball. As she got older, she spent time traveling with her mom and dad to places like the Bahamas, Las Vegas and Florida, with Disney World being one of her favorite destinations.

Stacey loved movies, music, dinosaurs, and life. She will be remembered most for being a prankster and the life of the party. Stacey will be deeply missed by all who knew her.

She is survived by her father Wayne Dutton; her three brothers, Anthony Dutton, Randy Dutton, Rodney (Joy) Dutton; her nieces and nephews Maxwell, Madison, Dakota, Lucas, and Gabriella; Aunt Karen (Bill) Coe; and many numerous cousins and friends.

Family and friends were invited to pay their respects on Sunday, Nov. 26, 2023 from noon until 4 p.m. at W. L. Case and Company Funeral Directors, 4480 Mackinaw Rd. Saginaw, MI 48603. A private service was held for immediate family members only on Monday, Nov. 27, 2023.

**ZIIBIWING CENTER**  
of Anishinabe Culture & Lifeways

**The Ziibiwing Center will be open to the public during the following holidays:**

- ▶ **Martin Luther King Jr. Day** — Monday, Jan. 15, 2024
- ▶ **Presidents Day** — Monday, Feb. 19, 2024
- ▶ **Easter** — Monday, April 1, 2024
- ▶ **Michigan Indian Day** — Friday, Sept. 27, 2024

**2024 Annual Reports**  
are now being accepted

**Deadline: Friday, May 3, 2024 by 5 p.m.**

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

**Notarization is required**

- Forms available by mail, email and at [www.sagchip.org](http://www.sagchip.org)
- No postdated forms, emails or faxes accepted

**Your 2024 Annual Report MUST be filed before/ with submitting a Tribal Loan Application.**

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

**SEASONAL HUNTING NOTICE**

Due to work requirements SCIT Environmental Team members will be operating on Tribal trust lands in Isabella, Saginaw, and East Tawas during work hours. This may include the use of motorized equipment for the purpose of clearing trails, forestry evaluations, land management, mowing, etc. Hunting maps are provided in [Sagchip.org](http://Sagchip.org) and in the Planning department for physical copies. Any further updates from the Environmental Teams work will be provided through the announcements or the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe Facebook page.

From 11 a.m. until 3 p.m., the SCIT Environmental Team members could be working on tribal trust lands open to the public for work purposes. Team members will wear high visual orange and yellow vests to ensure maximum visibility. Please take this into consideration while utilizing Tribal properties throughout the hunting season.

**For more information, please contact:**  
Dustin Hager at 989-775-4081 or [DuHager@sagchip.org](mailto:DuHager@sagchip.org)  
[www.sagchip.org/Planning/Conservation.aspx#hunting](http://www.sagchip.org/Planning/Conservation.aspx#hunting)

Working Together To Protect Our Environment

## Call for Artists

**Seeking artist to design and sew custom ribbon skirts and apparel for Tribal youth**

Tribal youth will be hosting a fashion show on Feb. 15, 2024 at 6 p.m. in the SECR Ballrooms.

- Designer will receive recognition at event
- Materials can be provided
- Theme: Healthy Relationships
- Youth will be gifted the skirt or apparel for participating in the event

**Contact information:**  
Felicia Otto at 989-775-4823 or [fotto@sagchip.org](mailto:fotto@sagchip.org)

Tribal Member

# RÉSUMÉ

Development

**Available through Human Resources**

Any Tribal Members needing assistance in creating or updating their resume are encouraged to contact Betsey Alonzo to set up an appointment at the following:

**Betsey M. Alonzo**  
[Balonzo@sagchip.org](mailto:Balonzo@sagchip.org) | 989-775-5643

Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Libraries

## SCTC COLLECTION WILL BE MOVING

As of Dec. 1, 2023, all items in the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College Library collection will be temporarily unavailable and not able to be checked out or requested.

- Please return all SCTC items to the book drop at the Tribal Library, located across Leaton from Tribal Fire
- Collections at the Tribal Library, Academy, and all satellites remain available
- We look forward to serving you in the new SCTC Library!

**Contact information:**  
**Phone:** 989-775-4508  
**Email:** [AHeidemann@sagchip.org](mailto:AHeidemann@sagchip.org)  
[KCondon@sagchip.org](mailto:KCondon@sagchip.org) | [LDisel@sagchip.org](mailto:LDisel@sagchip.org)

## Is Foster Parenting for You?

**Help us keep our children safe**  
There is a need for emergency foster care homes, respite care homes, and primary foster care homes.

**Help us keep our people strong**  
A foster home can be a family, married or single parent, who agrees to provide quality care for children in foster care. This quality care includes sharing love, providing security, stability and understanding.

**A foster parent applicant is:**

- At least 21 years of age
- Have a stable and permanent home
- Of good moral character
- Of good physical, mental, and emotional health

**If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a foster parent, please call:**  
Anishnaabeg Child & Family Services at 989-775-4901

**ATTENTION HUNTERS**

Display your deer in the January 2024 Tribal Observer Buck Pole

**Submit photos to:** [Observer@sagchip.org](mailto:Observer@sagchip.org)  
Open to the Tribal community and employees

**Deadline: Dec. 14, 2023**

ANDAHWOD

# Christmas BRUNCH

**Wednesday, Dec. 13, 2023**  
11:30 - 1 p.m. | Andahwod CCC & ES

- **SCIT Elders:** Free
- **13 yrs & Older:** \$10
- **12 yrs & Under:** \$5

*\*Additional \$2 TO GO fee for all orders.*

**Menu:** Ham, turkey, scrambled eggs, yams, french toast sticks, seasoned potatoes, California blend vegetables, salad bar, dinner rolls, chocolate cake and beverage station.

**For more information, please contact:**  
Andahwod Front Desk at 989.775.4300





**Attention Tribal Members**  
**Tribal Council Regular Session Meetings**  
 are held at 9 a.m.

**Regular Tribal Council Sessions**

- ▶ First Tuesday of each month at 9 a.m.
- ▶ Inside the Council Chambers of the Black Elk Government Complex

- Meetings are open to Tribal Members
- Anyone wanting to be added can call (989) 775-4004

**Regular Council Session Dates**  
**Dec. 5: Swearing in** (SECR Entertainment Hall)

**TOYS FOR TOTS**  
**TOY DRIVE**

At the Tribal Police Department and Tribal Court

**Drop off your new, unwrapped toy donations**

- Collection boxes will be located in the Tribal Police Department and Tribal Court lobbies
- Part of the Law Enforcement Challenge, help the Tribal Police Department bring home the win!

Collection ends Thursday, Dec. 14, 2023  
 For more information, please contact:  
 Tribal Dispatch at 989.775.4700

**Nimkee**  
 Memorial Wellness Center

**HOLIDAY HOURS**  
 Nimkee Medical, Dental, Public Health & Administrative Offices  
**WILL BE CLOSED:**  
 Dec. 24, 2023 - Jan. 1, 2024

**Nimkee Pharmacy will be open:**  
 Dec. 26-29, 2023 from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
*\*Please come in to the building to pick up your prescriptions*

**Nimkee Fitness will be open 24/7**

**A medical provider will be on-call:** 989-317-2088  
 ▶ After regular business hours ▶ Weekends

**Teledoc is available "General Medicine Only"**  
 Free for UMR-registered patients, scan the QR Code to download app.

**Teladoc prescriptions:** Nimkee patients can fill Teladoc prescriptions received during open clinic hours at Nimkee Pharmacy if the patient is referred to Teladoc by Nimkee Medical.

*\*We appreciate the continued support of our patients and employees who arrange their schedules to accommodate the community's needs.\**

**TRIBAL OPERATIONS**  
*Holiday & Administrative Closures*

**Tribal Operations will be closed**  
**Friday, Dec. 25, 2023**  
**through Monday, Jan. 1, 2024**  
*\*Excluding 24/7 departments*

- **ACFS:** Closed. Parenting time visitations scheduled on case-by-case basis. On-call worker available, contact Dispatch: 989-775-4700
- **Andahwod:** Open with the administration staff on-call. Will also be open Dec. 27-28 from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- **Behavioral Health RTC:** Open (fully staffed)
- **Behavioral Health Outpatient, Domestic Violence Program and Prevention:** Closed, except on-call crisis therapists. *On-call help: 989-775-4850*
- **Fire Department:** Open (fully staffed)
- **Gaming Commission:** Closed with a commissioner on call daily. The compliance office will stay 24/7 at the casino, they also will pass out licenses and do renewals.
- **Grants:** Closed. *For emergencies call: 989-429-6565*
- **Housing:** Closed. *Mt. Pleasant 24/7 emergency line: 989-621-2669. Saganing: 989-330-8165.*
- **Human Resources:** The Black Elk offices will be closed. SECR and SELC Satellite Offices will be open Dec. 27-29. Mail room will run mail Dec. 27-28.
- **Information Technology:** Open (skeleton crew)
- **Motor Pool:** Closed. Available in case of vehicle/equipment failures, maintenance supplies needed, inclement weather or transportation needs.
- **Nimkee Pharmacy:** Open Dec. 26-29 from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
- **Nimkee Clinic:** Nimkee Medical, Dental, Public Health and Administrative offices will be closed. Provider on call at 989-317-2088.
- **Nimkee Fitness Center:** Open 24/7
- **Payroll:** Closed (staff teleworking as needed)
- **Per Capita:** Closed. Checks will be processed for the Dec. 29 pay date. All changes needed by the end of day Dec. 22 or emailed to percapita@sagchip.org by end of Dec. 26.
- **Planning:** Closed. Please get hunting tags prior to holidays. *Contact: KMcCoy@sagchip.org or 989-775-4014*
- **Police Department:** Open (24/7)
- **Prosecutor:** Open. Prosecutor available remotely. Victim Advocates available remotely and on site.
- **Saganing Tribal Center:** Closed. Medication pick-up and deliveries on 12/27. Maintenance on call for snow removal. *Call 989-775-5820*
- **Seventh Generation:** Closed (available for rentals)
- **Tribal Clerk/Enrollment:** Closed with monitoring for burial assistance by calling: 989-775-4072
- **Tribal Council:** Closed (available for signatures)
- **Tribal Court:** Judicial officer on-call to process cases/hold hearings when required. *Call 989-775-4800*
- **Warehouse:** Open. Staff on site Dec. 26-29

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

**give kids a smile!**

**ADA American Dental Association®**

**Save the Date: Feb. 16, 2024**  
 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 annual "Give Kids a Smile Day" on Friday, Feb. 16.
- 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!
- 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

**Time Capsule Items Needed**

Items will be placed in the capsule that will be placed at Wii Maagiiwad (Where We Grow), the new school and recreation center.

Items will be collected until: Friday, Jan. 5, 2024

**Desired items include:** Smaller items, small beaded items, Tribal emblems, keepsake and sentimental items, historical items, seeds, etc.

**Donate and win prizes!** Everyone who leaves an item will be entered in to a raffle prize drawing.

**Raffle drawing:** Monday, Jan. 8, 2024

**Drawing for three raffle prizes:**

- One overnight stay at SECR
- Two SECR concert tickets of your choice
- One \$50 SECR gift card

**Drop off items at the HR Front Desk in the Black Elk Building**

- Please leave your name and phone number

**To schedule a pick up or for more information:**  
**Courtney Kahgegab**  
 989-775-4551 | Ckahgegab@sagchip.org

**Saginaw Chippewa Conservation Committee**  
**Currently has two vacancies**

The Planning Department is soliciting letters of interest for adult Tribal Members interested in serving on the Saginaw Chippewa Conservation Committee for a Tribal Council appointed two-year term. Per Ordinance 11, section 102, subdivision 2 and the approved Ordinance 11 Committee By-Laws. The current two year term will end on Nov. 14, 2024.

**Please submit a letter of interest along with your qualification and experience to:**

Donald Seal  
 Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan  
 Planning Department  
 7500 Soaring Eagle Boulevard  
 Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

dseal@sagchip.org

**Letters of interests accepted until all vacancies are filled.**

**Active Native Youth**

**Deadline: Dec. 14, 2023**

Send in one photo of your Tribal Member or descendant students to be featured in the January 2024 issue of the Tribal Observer.

**Email your photo and information to**  
 Observer@sagchip.org

**Please include the following:**

- Name • School • Grade • Sports/activities






## Tribal Council

**Chief**  
Theresa Peters-Jackson | District One

**Sub-Chief**  
Jennifer L. Wassegijig | District One

**Treasurer**  
Gayle Ruhl | District One

**Secretary**  
Martha Wemigwans | District One

**Sergeant-at-Arms**  
David Merrill Jr. | District One

**Chaplain**  
Alice Jo Ricketts | District One

**Council Member**  
Diana Quigno-Grundahl | District One

**Council Member**  
Frank J. Cloutier | District Three

**Council Member**  
Luke Sprague | District One

**Council Member**  
Mary Quigno | District One

**Council Member**  
Ron Nelson | District Two

**Council Member**  
Samantha Chippeway | District One

## Homeowners Assistance Funds program (HAF)

The Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe's Housing Department is now taking applications from eligible homeowners. This application is for hardships occurring from Jan. 21, 2020 to present.

### Need assistance keeping your home?

- If the total household income is below 150 percent of the Area Median Income
- If the household has experienced financial hardship due to COVID-19
- If the household has incurred INCREASED costs due to COVID-19
- If the household is experiencing mortgage delinquency, foreclosure, escrow shortages, or property tax arrears
- If the household is experiencing utility shut offs or account delinquencies
- If the household is located in one of the following counties: Arenac, Gladwin, Gratiot, Isabella, Mecosta, Midland, Osceola, and Montcalm.
- Is a SCIT members anywhere in U.S.

### SCIT-SCHD Housing can help with:

- Mortgage payments, property tax payments, homeowners insurance premiums, utility arrears, water/sewer, and trash removal, internet services
- New appliances and equipment necessary to maintain the habitability of the structure
- Lot rents, condo fees, or land contract payments
- Home repairs to enable one to stay housed

### Applications are available:

- **Online:** Application is available at <https://portal.laserfiche.com/k8554/forms/HAF> or by scanning the QR code to the right.
- **In person:** Call (989) 775-4538 to make appointment
- **The SCIT Housing Office located at:** 2451 NishNaBeAnong Drive, Mt. Pleasant, MI Monday – Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.



**SCAN FOR APPLICATION**

The Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan Housing Department COVID-19 Homeowner Assistance Fund Policy (HAF Policy) is established by action of the Tribal Council of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan on August, 24, 2022. This HAF Policy shall govern the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe's Housing Department (SCHD) HAF Program and the administration and management of Homeowners Assistance Funds received from the U.S. Department of Treasury pursuant to Section 3206 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, P.L. No. 117-2 (March 11, 2011)



## ZIIBIWING CENTER

of Anishinabe Culture & Lifeways

### Collections Committee Vacancies

#### Attention Tribal Members

The Ziibiwing Center is seeking interested individuals to serve on its Collections Committee.

The Ziibiwing Center is a distinctive treasure created to provide an enriched, diversified and culturally relevant educational experience. This 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.

#### Interested members need to:

- Meet every second Wednesday of the month from 1-2 p.m.
- Implement the ZCS's purpose to enlighten and educate tribal and community members and all other people of the world to the culture, heritage, history and goals of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan.

#### For more information, contact and send letters of interest to:

**William Johnson, Curator/Operations Manager**

- **Email:** WJohnson@sagchip.org
- **Phone:** 989.775.4730
- **Mail:** ZC Collections Committee c/o William Johnson 6650 E. Broadway Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

## 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.




## Ziibiwing Center Community Digital Archive ASSISTANCE NEEDED

The Ziibiwing Center of Anishinabe Culture & Lifeways' Research Center needs your assistance. Would you be willing to assist once a month by virtual meeting and through additional email correspondence? Your support is needed to review draft processes and materials intended for use on the Saginaw Chippewa Mukurtu website currently under development and titled: Ziibiwing Center Community Digital Archive.

**You can view the current development at this temporary web address:**  
<https://cdsc-wsu.org/ziibiwing-center/home>

**For more information, please contact:**

- **Email:** ZiibiwingQuestions@sagchip.org
- **Phone:** 989-775-4733 or 989-775-4748



## SCTC STEAM Student Organization

# Fall STEAM<sup>AG</sup> RAFFLE Fundraiser

**Raffle drawing:** Dec. 6, 2023

**Tickets:** One for \$5, or three for \$10

**Prizes:**

- **First:** Overnight stay with gift card donated by SEWPH
- **Second:** Adult and child ribbon skirts donated by Elder Joann Little
- **Third:** Feast bundle with an appliqué bag made by Elder Carole Tally
- **Fourth:** A painting of your choice (four to choose from)

*\*Proceeds help pay for events, activities, youth camps, community donations, and student travel to a conference.*

**For more information, please contact:**  
**Kathleen J. Hart, Equity Program Coordinator**  
Phone: 989.317.4827 | Email: khart@sagchip.org



# TRIBAL OBSERVER

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

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


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

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

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

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

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

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

### Tribal Observer Subscription Form

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

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**Please mail form to:**  
Tribal Observer  
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Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

**Contact Information:**

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





**ANDAHWOD**  
**Christmas**  
**SHOPPING SPREE**  
**Raffle**

**Nov. 1 - Dec. 13, 2023**

- **Drawing:** Dec. 13 at Andahwod Christmas Brunch
- **Tickets:** Three for \$10 or one for \$5
- **Prizes:** Four drawings for \$250 VISA gift cards
- **Tickets available from:** Marie Kequom, Barb Sprague, Carole Tally, Gilbert Hendrickson and Andahwod front office.

\* All proceeds benefit elder activities

**For more information, please contact:** Andahwod at 989.775.4300

## College Rental Assistance

The Saginaw Chippewa Housing Department is offering rental assistance to Native American college students that meet the following criteria:

- At least 18 years old and financially independent of their parents
- Must be a duly enrolled member of any Native tribe that has been identified on the most current Federal Register listing of "Indian Entities Recognized by and Eligible to Receive Services from the U.S. BIA (86 FR 7554 (Jan. 29, 2021))"
- Household is low income as determined by HUD's definition: <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/il.html>
- Enrolled in an accredited post-secondary college or university pursuing a two year (or higher) degree or certificate
- The university or college and the rental unit must be located within the lower peninsula of the State of Michigan

➤ **All rental assistance is paid directly to the landlord**

➤ **Applications and more information can be found at:** <http://www.sagchip.org/housing/>

**For more information, please contact:** Housing at 989-775-4538

## SCIT Powwow Committee RAFFLE

**Two winners:**  
The first ticket drawn gets first prize choice. The second ticket gets the remaining prize.

**Prizes:** ▶ Snowblower  
▶ Meat package and Walmart gift card

**Drawing: Wednesday, Dec. 20, 2023**  
2 p.m. | At the Black Elk Building

**Tickets:** • 1 for \$5 • 3 for \$10

**Contact Powwow Committee members for tickets:** Darcy Pilar, Elizabeth Chivis, Carla Bennett, Noelle Wells, Dabian Sprague, Seryna Acuna, Niibin Sprague, Elizabeth Smith, Christina Cross and Reba Navajar.

\*All proceeds will benefit the SCIT and Saganing Powwows

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

## Nimkee Fitness

# 24/7 ACCESS

**PAPERWORK REQUIRED:** Current and new members are to fill out new membership and liability forms, along with signing an access expectation sheet.

**ACCESS GIVEN BY:** Employees will receive access through their employee badge and non-employee Nimkee eligible patients will be given a key fob.

**ACCESS PROHIBITED:** It is prohibited to enter the facility after business hours without filling out the 24/7 access paperwork. Those who give access or those who enter without going through the proper procedures of filling out the access paperwork will be subject to suspension or removal.

**STAFF AVAILABLE:** Fitness staff will be available from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday through Friday to assist with the access paperwork.

**PLEASE NOTE:** The Nimkee Fitness Center will be monitored 24/7 by surveillance to help ensure safety and proper use of the Fitness Center.

Yoga Class | Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m.

**For more information, please contact:** Nimkee Fitness at 989.775.4690

## MIIBS

Mt. Pleasant Indian Industrial Boarding School

### Winter Silent Auction

**Dec. 7 & 8, 2023**  
**Ziibwing Center Lobby**

- Bids will be finalized on Friday at 6 p.m.
- Many ribbon skirts available
- Funds will be used for securing MIIBS from vandals and weekend night security

**NOW ACCEPTING DONATIONS**  
**To donate an item, please contact:**

- **Marcella Hadden**  
[mLhadden@sagchip.org](mailto:mLhadden@sagchip.org) | 989.775.4751

### Curbside Collection (Trash Service) PROGRAM CHANGES

**Beginning Jan. 1, 2024, District One Tribal Member households that participate in the Trash Service Program will have to pay \$120 per year to continue receiving the service.**

- ▶ There is no charge for Tribal Elder (age 50 and above) households. Still need to fill out a 2024 Verification of Residence form.

**The following are options you may choose from:**

- **Option 1 - \$120 annually**  
\*Pay by Dec. 15, 2023
- **Option 2 - \$30 per quarter**  
\*Pay by the 15th day prior to the beginning of the quarter (Dec. 15, March 15, June 15, and Sept. 15) starting Dec. 15, 2023.
- **Option 3 - \$60 per half year**  
\*Pay by the 15th day prior to the beginning of the half year (Dec.15 and June 15) starting Dec. 15, 2023.
- **Option 4 - \$10 per month**  
\*Pay by the 15th day prior to the beginning of the month starting Dec. 15, 2023.

**Please make payments at the Saginaw Chippewa Planning Department:**  
2451 Nish-na-be-anong, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

**Or mail to:** SCIT Planning Department, 7500 Soaring Eagle Blvd., Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

**If payments are not received by Dec. 15, 2023, trash service will be discontinued until payment is received.**

*\*Trash Service payments are eligible for Ordinance 38/Supplemental Assistance-Mno-Shkiziwin (Tribal General Welfare Exclusion Act).*

Working Together To Protect Our Environment

ACFS - Foster Care Program

# Christmas BAZAAR

**Sunday, Dec. 10, 2023**

**9 a.m. - 4 p.m.**  
Set up begins at 8 a.m.

**Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort Ballroom**

- ▶ **Vendors:** 8'x8' space is available for \$50 and includes two 8-foot tables and two chairs, if needed.
- ▶ All proceeds benefit ACFS Foster Care Program

**For more information, or to purchase a vendor space, please contact:** ACFS at 989.775.4991

## Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Scholarship DEADLINES

Every semester, students must turn in a schedule and grade report for processing of funding. The deadlines are as follows: \*\*If applicable

**Spring/Winter - Feb. 15, 2024**  
▶ Fall grade report    ▶ Winter/Spring schedule

**Summer - June 15, 2024**  
▶ Winter/Spring grade report  
▶ Summer schedules\*\*

**June 30, 2024**  
For processing of yearly Academic Incentive Awards, official transcripts are due

**Very important:** Any and all deadlines issues must be resolved BEFORE the deadline

**For more information, please contact:**  
**Deb Smith**, Youth Leadership Manager  
**Email:** [dsmith@sagchip.org](mailto:dsmith@sagchip.org) | **Phone:** 989-775-4071

Now available at the Tribal Libraries

## FREE COVID-19 TESTS

**Limit one test per day, per person, per household**

**Tests can be picked up at:**

- **Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Library**  
7070 E. Broadway Rd., Mt. Pleasant, MI  
Hours: Monday - Friday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
- **Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College**  
2258 Enterprise Dr., Mt. Pleasant, MI  
Hours: Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

**Contact information**

- **Phone:** 989-775-4508
- **Email:** [AHeidemann@sagchip.org](mailto:AHeidemann@sagchip.org)  
[KCondon@sagchip.org](mailto:KCondon@sagchip.org)  
[LDisel@sagchip.org](mailto:LDisel@sagchip.org)





## Statewide Tribal Opioid Summit excels at “Healing Our Families and Community Together”

### JOSEPH V. SOWMICK

Public Relations Manager

On Nov. 1 and 2, the fourth annual statewide Tribal Opioid Summit brought the message of “Healing Our Families and Community Together” to more than 215 participants at the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort.

The summit started in a good way with the Anishinaabe Ogitchedaw Veterans Warrior Society bringing in the eagle staffs and colors for a grand entry and flag song with the Onion Creek Drum.

Tribal Council Chaplain Alice Jo Ricketts offered a blessing for the gathering and Chief Theresa Peters-Jackson shared opening remarks.

April Osburn, executive director for Central and Western Area Health Education Center and a Summit Planning Committee member said opioid addiction affects victims and their families in a devastating way.

“Communities are adversely affected, affecting quality of life, economic opportunity, and rural prosperity,” Osburn said. “There is a public health emergency involving opioids that affects Americans of all ages, as well as racial, ethnic, sexual, and gender minorities, income classes, and regions.”

Tricia Tingle (Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma), associate director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs Office of Justice Services, said they are beginning their five-year sponsorship of underwriting the opioid summit.

“I couldn’t be more proud to be here and I wanted to highlight some of the things this Tribe has done that others have not quite done yet,” Tingle said. “This Tribe could be a model across the country regarding the expungement process. If the expungement person helps one person, it is well worth it and it provides access to individuals that would have option to things like housing, reunification of families and employment. The way your tribe is offering this is innovative, creative and efficient.”

Tingle said the summit showcased tribal nations sharing their stories of what is working what is not, and that’s the secret to self-determination.

“The U. S. government role should only be the facilitator in funding programs like this and when tribes are ready they know they could provide training for others,” Tingle said. “We are all here to learn from each other. There is no question tribes need to be at the table for these discussions because no one has their perspective of what’s happening in their communities like they do.”

After a Healing to Wellness panel where four individuals in recovery spoke, Tracey Klich, project administrator for Healing to Wellness, said she cannot count how many people came up to her and, over the following week, mentioned “how touched they were by these four amazing people in recovery.”



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

**DJ Element (left) and Supaman (right) perform their hit “Alright” in front of the appreciative State Tribal Opioid Summit audience in the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort’s Entertainment Hall.**

“The HTW panel received a standing ovation at the end of the breakout session and I hear it was highly spoken of on the summit evaluations,” Klich said. “People who share their stories help provide hope to those who are also struggling.”

Joelle Peters, probation officer for the Tribal Court, said there is always more to the story when working with justice involved individuals living with mental health.

“It was nice to see many community members come out to support our people in recovery,” Peters said. “Hearing the stories from the HTW panel, and Recovery Coach Jamaïne Atkins, not only offered insight into the lives of those we serve, but allowed us the opportunity to hear firsthand what’s working and what’s not.”

Carol Jackson, magistrate for Tribal Court and the chair of the Opioid Summit, said grant funding for the summit was



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

**Tribal Court officials are joined by Healing to Wellness panelists after their recovery and storytelling presentation (left to right: Magistrate Carol Jackson, Nicole Chippewa, Cameron Kole, Ashton Kahgegab, Evan Shenoskey and Tracey Klich, HTW Court project director case manager).**

obtained in May 2023 from the Department of Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs.

“We were elated to have remarkable professionals speak, with keynote (speakers) Rachel Carr-Shunks-MMIP, Dr. Alex Elswick of Voices of Hope Recovery, Jamaïne Atkins of Peer Recovery, Michigan Supreme Court Justice Megan Cavanaugh of Michigan treatment courts, Tricia Tingle Bureau of Indian Affairs-supporting tribal healing to wellness courts, Judge Erik Mehnert- Penobscot Nation in Maine-healing to wellness courts, Rebecca Nowak-expungement clinic, SupaMan’s recovery journey and performance, Sam Price-1016, and our partners from Central Michigan University Dr. Jani, Alison Arnold, John Jervinsky, James Gerhart and Dr. Michael McConnon.”

Jackson said the following helped make the summit possible: Tribal Council, CMU Central and Western Area Health and Technical Center (AHEC), CMU and the College of Medicine, the Summit

Committee, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Saginaw Chippewa Grants Department, Tribal Court staff and Tribal departments, the Tribal community, Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort, Soaring Eagle Catering and Conventions, Soaring Eagle Marketing, Ziibiwing Cultural Center, Sound Productions, Public Relations, Ogitchedaw Warriors, The Onion Creek Drummers and the Strong Woman Singers.



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

**Behavioral Health practitioners offer auricular acupuncture stress reduction techniques to opioid summit participants.**

## Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Court officials speak

### Tony Moses Tribal prosecutor

“It was an exceptional summit that brought various professionals from different backgrounds to come together and discuss just that, how to Heal our Families and Communities, in these trying times. The Summit, again re-emphasized, the need for understanding, compassion, and continued efforts through services, of everyone involved, to work together to make all Indian Country as healthy as it can be. It does take cooperation and a commitment from leaders at the Federal, State, and Local levels to engage in the challenge together. That is what the participants saw and heard from all the presenters involved and take back to their respective communities, to help bring about positive changes.”

### Joelle Peters Probation officer for Tribal Court

“The Opioid Summit provides an opportunity for us to learn, and when it comes to substance use disorders and recovery the more we know the more we can mitigate the harm to individuals, families and communities. Dr. Alex Elswick’s presentation provided incredible insight into individuals living with mental health or SUD’s (substance use disorders). Understanding and compassion is key.”

### Carol Jackson Magistrate for Tribal Court

“The memory boards were very impactful with the participants attending the summit. I cannot thank our families enough for the beautiful submissions as we stand with you. I am proud at how well it all came together, with an outreach of individuals inquiring to participate in next year’s summit. I was also happy to see a lot of familiar faces from across the state and the U.S. We are working to “Heal our Families and Communities Together” to address the Opioid Crisis, as we all know that it has no borders or boundaries. The Opioid Summit would not have been possible without the support of our leadership from Tribal Council.”

### Kevin Hesselink Associate judge for Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Court

“I was struck by how deep the personal struggle is with addiction for so many, the devastating ripple effect on families throughout our Tribal community, and the absolute need to do whatever we can to help. I was moved by the overwhelming emotional impact of the memorial boards (pictures and stories of Tribal members lost to drug overdose), and the strength and courage of the families involved. The participation and involvement of many state and national organizations and presenters, including Justice Megan Cavanaugh from the Michigan Supreme Court, Trish Tingle from the federal Bureau of Indian Affairs, Dr. Alex Elswick from the University of Kentucky, and Judge Eric Mehnert of the Penobscot Tribe in Maine made for an impressive summit.”

### Tracey Klich Project administrator for Healing to Wellness

“Facilitating the HTW panel for the Tribal Opioid Summit was a great honor. I was working in the Family HTW program when two of the participants came into the program and I was able to form a positive relationship with them. Asking the individuals the questions was emotional and rewarding. They are an inspiration to all of us. Listening to how the substance use began and how they quit using substances is surely an emotional roller coaster. But they are here sharing their stories with all of us. They are strong, courageous, and resilient.”

### Kevin Ricketts Bailiff for Tribal Court

“The Opioid Summit is a blessing; not only for the educational component, which is wonderful, but the healing of people coming together for a greater cause other than themselves. Over the years, I have been taught that healing doesn’t mean the damage never existed, it means the damage no longer controls our lives.”





## Benefits Program

*continued from front page*

“In 2017 there were changes made at Tribe’s insistence that would make this act work for Indian Country. Tribal Council Chaplain Alice Jo Ricketts and I reached out to the Tribal Council earlier this year and asked leadership to support Ken’s efforts...”

Cloutier said today the Tribe has the Mno Shkiziwin GWE which allows membership to opt into the program and convert their per capita into tax-free monies to assist with their day-to-day living.

“I am proud of my fellow Tribal Member Mr. Douglas and our staff for all their efforts in making this a reality and benefit you the membership,” Cloutier said.

Michelle Colwell, office manager for Tribal Administration, has been a part of Mno Shkiziwin GWE presentations with the Public Relations staff and Tribal Administration at the Ziibiwing Center and Andahwod and in Saganing.

“Tribal Administration heard about GWE in passing during a meeting in December 2022,” Colwell said. “Having been part of the Council back

in 2016/2017 that had an outside presentation on it in which we were told basically it was all or nothing. That was the moment I decided to dive into researching the program for the Tribal Membership. I wanted to make sure I was prepared to go toe-to-toe with anyone on the subject and provide answers to any questions that would arise.”

Colwell made it her mission to practically memorize Public Law 113-168 (Tribal General Welfare Exclusion Act of 2014) and the IRS 26 CFR 601.601: Rules and regulations Rev. Proc. 2014-35.

Part of her exhaustive effort was to identify other tribes who have implemented the program successfully and she collected and read dozens of GWE Ordinances of other tribes across the nation.

“On January 17, 2023, Tribal Administration met with Public Relations to catch them up and bring them on board to the project knowing their expertise in sharing information and developing educational materials would be critical,” Colwell said. “On January 18, 2023, I represented Tribal Administration and met with the Tribal Court judges to discuss any issues

foreseeable regarding individual incomes. None were determined and SCIT Chief Judge Michelle Horn thought it would be a great assistance program especially for homeless members.”

Colwell said on Jan. 23, 2023, Tribal Administration met with the Nottawaseppi Huron Band administrator and their benefits administrator to find out how their program works.

“While the Nottawaseppi Huron Band shared great information with us, they utilize an outside third party to administer their program and that was what we wanted to avoid,” Colwell said. “After hearing of the restrictions, Tribal Administration was pretty firm about keeping the administration of the to-be-developed program in-house.”

Colwell continued, “Having done our due diligence to that point, Tribal Administration felt we were prepared to meet with Council on Feb. 2, 2023 to convince them to allow us to run with the development of this new assistance project under our collective vision. A vision that was not only considerate of every member and ease of use but also those Tribal departments that would



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

**Tribal Elder Kenneth Douglas (left) meets with Chris Sineway (right), director of Business Regulations, regarding the Mno-Shkiziwin Supplemental Assistance Program.**

eventually be affected one way or another by it.”

Colwell said she believes from experience, Tribal Administration is well aware that things are completed quickly when departments work together.

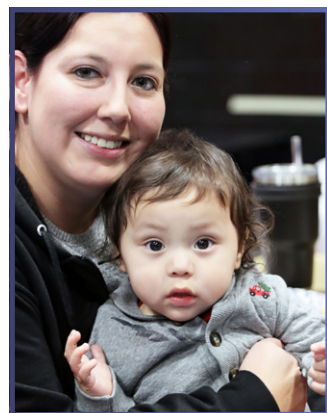
“As they say, ‘it takes a village’ and by March 17, 2023, the GWE Workgroup had milestone deadlines to share with Council and presented the program’s mission statement,” Colwell said. “Many meetings later, we have the finished the program,

known today as Mno-Shkiziwin. We wanted to make a program to ultimately allow members to make the best decisions for themselves and their families.”

Isabelle Osawamick and Howard Webkamigad of the Anishinaabemowin Language Department offered the official translation of Mno-Shkiziwin, meaning “the ability to create a good life.”

Tribal Members may call the Business Regulations office at 989-775-4105 for more information.

## Baby Prom “Binoojiinhs Zhaab-shkaa-gaab-wi”



Photos courtesy of Lee Ann Ruffino

**One of the cutest Tribal events to date, the Baby Prom “Binoojiinhs Zhaab-shkaa-gaab-wi” was held on Thursday, Nov. 9 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. in the Eagles Nest Tribal Gym.**

**The Healthy Start Program, with several collaborate efforts from additional Tribal departments, made the event possible.**

**Babies and young children dressed in formal attire and danced to tunes spun by DJ Lupe.**

## GreenTree Co-Op Market offers Indigenous inspired food throughout November

### NATALIE SHATTUCK

Editor

Throughout November and in an effort to recognize Indigenous Peoples Month, GreenTree Co-op Market in Mount Pleasant offered a special menu each Friday, developed by Chef Sam Anglin, member of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe.

Anglin is an advocate for preserving indigenous food practices, and has attended the Intertribal Food Summits across the Midwest.

GreenTree offers a daily hot bar. Throughout those Fridays in November, Anglin offered traditional foods such as: Wojapi berry bison meatballs, Three Sisters succotash and wild rice.

The items Anglin offered on Nov. 10 included: maple roasted squash, blueberry bread pudding with sunflower crema, and ground turkey with wild rice, beans and corn.

GreenTree is located at 410 W. Broadway in Mount Pleasant.



Courtesy photo

**Throughout Fridays in November and in an effort to recognize Indigenous Peoples Month, Chef Sam Anglin offers traditional Indigenous-inspired meals at GreenTree Co-op Market in Mount Pleasant.**



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## Saginaw Chippewa Academy, Sasiwaans students trick or treat on Oct. 31

**MATTHEW WRIGHT**

Staff Writer

Students from the Saginaw Chippewa Academy and Sasiwaans Immersion School visited the Black Elk building and Andahwod for trick-or-treating on Oct. 31.

Andahwod residents, employees, Council members, and Tribal and Soaring Eagle departments passed out treats.

Observer photos by Matthew Wright



## Soaring Eagle guests donate \$5,495.77 to Andahwod

### GUEST EXPERIENCE

Saginaw Chippewa Gaming Enterprises

From Aug. 1- Oct. 31, 2023, Soaring Eagle guests were invited to drop remaining cash out tickets, cash or coins to donate to Andahwod Assisted Living. A total of \$5,495.77 was raised.

Andahwod is an independent and assisted living home for Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribal elders. Their mission is to preserve our people's legacy by cherishing our elders through honor, care

and respect while encouraging family and community involvement. They frequently host events for residents and members of the community to ensure their mission is being practiced.

Andahwod so graciously shared where their funds would be utilized, they plan on replacing their entry sign with a weather proof and UV resistant sign as the current one has been damaged by the sun.

Donations collected from Nov. 1, 2023 through Jan. 31, 2024 will be donated to the Anishinaabe Language Revitalization Department.

The original spoken language of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian community is in a critical state of loss. If action is not taken immediately, the language that was spoken for thousands of years will be lost forever. The mission of the Anishinaabe Language Revitalization Department (ALRD) is to bring Anishinaabemowin back to the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal community and generate fluent first language speakers. Anishinaabemowin is vital to the tribal sovereignty and the survival of our people.



Courtesy of Niibin Sprague

Andahwod and its Elders Advisory Board accepts a generous donation from Soaring Eagle Cares (left to right: Sheligh Jackson, Carole Tally, Gilbert Hendrickson, Annette Buckner, Flossie Sprague, Roger Roush, Rose Wassegijig, Marie Kequom, Joseph Sowmick and Bethany Hinmon).

## Anishinaabemowin CROSSWORD

### Word Bank

- Mno Niibaanaamaang
- Mno Niibaanaamaan
- Goon
- Goonenhs
- Goon'nini
- Zookpo
- Ksina
- Naang
- Zhooshkwa
- Mshkodin

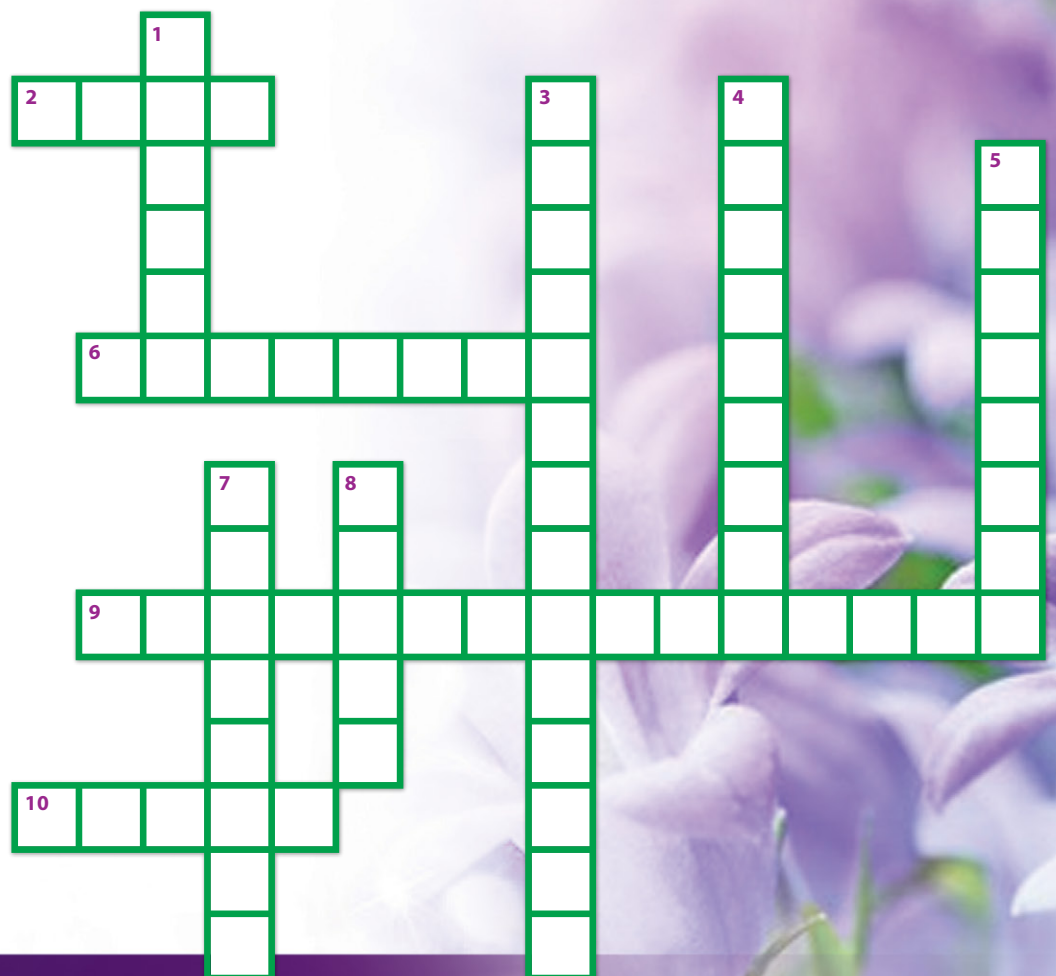
### Down

- 1: It's snowing
- 3: Merry Christmas
- 4: It's slippery
- 5: It's frozen
- 7: Snowflake
- 8: It's cold

### Across

- 4: Snow
- 6: Snowman
- 9: Have a Merry Christmas
- 10: Star

©2023, Anishinaabe Language Revitalization Department, Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan



- Answers**
- 1. It's snowing (zookpo)
  - 2. Snow (naang)
  - 3. Merry Christmas (mnooniibaanaamaang)
  - 4. It's slippery (zhooshkwa)
  - 5. It's frozen (mshkodin)
  - 6. Snowman (goonni)
  - 7. Snowflake (goonenhs)
  - 8. It's cold (ksina)
  - 9. Have a Merry Christmas (mnooniibaanaamaan)
  - 10. Star (naang)





## SCIT distributes \$3.3 million during Fall 2023 2 percent distribution

### PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPT.

The Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe hosted its semi-annual 2 percent distribution on Friday, Nov. 17, 2023 in Arenac County and on Monday, Nov. 20, 2023 in Isabella County.

SCIT dispersed funds derived from Class III gaming at its properties: Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort and Saginaw Eagles Landing Casino & Hotel to qualifying local units of government and public schools.

Since 1994, the Tribe has now shared in excess of \$286 million.

The Fall 2023 2 percent distributed a combined \$3,385,836.71 during the distribution ceremonies.

Local government officials in Isabella County accepted approved grants totaling \$1,754,343.46. The educational leaders in Isabella County received an additional \$584,781.15

Another \$732,698.47 was distributed Friday afternoon in Arenac County to local units of government, with the local school districts receiving \$314,013.63.

This distribution cycle saw more than 300 individual



Observer photo by Matthew Wright

**The Twining-Mason-Turner Fire Department receives \$10,000 in the 2 percent distribution for much-needed self-contained breathing apparatus equipment for a fire truck.**

requests totaling more than 10 million dollars.

The Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Council said, "As we approach the upcoming holiday season, we are thankful for the opportunity to distribute over 3 million dollars towards meaningful projects in our region. This cycle we were able to focus on local infrastructure, technology upgrades, and programming that benefits those most vulnerable in our communities. We continue to meet with local leaders to ensure these funds are maximized throughout our region. Chi-miigwetch (thank you), and we would like to wish everyone a safe and joyful holiday season."

The Arenac and Northern Bay County distribution

<h3>Saganing Government</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arenac County \$421,796.33</li> <li>• City of Au Gres \$20,000</li> <li>• City of Pinconning \$50,000</li> <li>• City of Standish \$45,244.99</li> <li>• Arenac Township \$1,000</li> <li>• Au Gres Township \$11,000</li> <li>• Deep River Township \$1,000</li> <li>• Lincoln Township \$1,000</li> <li>• Mason Township \$26,000</li> <li>• Moffatt Township \$12,964.15</li> <li>• Pinconning Fraser Fire Dept. \$57,893</li> <li>• Pinconning Township \$21,000</li> <li>• Sims Township \$6,000</li> <li>• Standish Township \$18,000</li> <li>• Turner Township \$12,550</li> <li>• Twining/Mason/Turner Fire Dept. \$11,250</li> <li>• Village of Twining \$10,000</li> <li>• Whitney Township \$6,000</li> </ul> <p><b>Total Government: \$732,698.47</b></p> <h3>Saganing Education</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Au Gres-Sims School District \$78,503.41</li> <li>• Pinconning School District \$78,503.41</li> <li>• Standish-Sterling School District \$157,006.81</li> </ul> <p><b>Total Schools: \$314,013.63</b></p> <p><b>Saganing Total: \$1,046,712.10</b></p>	<h3>Isabella Government</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Isabella County \$700,582.76</li> <li>• City of Mt. Pleasant \$594,620</li> <li>• Chippewa Township \$6,993.98</li> <li>• Coe Township \$91,883</li> <li>• Deerfield Township \$111,738.98</li> <li>• Denver Township \$6,993.98</li> <li>• Isabella Township \$192,557.79</li> <li>• Nottawa Township \$35,350.98</li> <li>• Wise Township \$13,621.99</li> </ul> <p><b>Total Government: \$1,754,343.46</b></p> <h3>Isabella Education</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Beal City Public Schools \$33,873.40</li> <li>• Chippewa Hills Public Schools \$86,900.05</li> <li>• Mount Pleasant Public Schools \$187,274.99</li> <li>• Shepherd Public Schools \$170,682.76</li> <li>• Renaissance Public Schools \$56,049.95</li> <li>• Gratiot/Isabella RESD STEM \$50,000</li> </ul> <p><b>Total Schools: \$584,781.15</b></p> <p><b>Isabella Total: \$2,339,124.61</b></p> <p><b>Grand Total: \$3,385,836.71</b></p>
--	---

took place at the Saganing Mich. at 2 p.m. Tribal Center, located at 5447 Sturman Road, Standish,

The Isabella County distribution took place Nov. 20 at 9

a.m. in the Black Elk Building, located at 7500 Soaring Eagle Blvd, Mt. Pleasant, Mich.

## 2 Percent recipients speak

### Isabella County

James Moreno, county commissioner

"... It's great to know that there's such a good relationship between all the governments, the Tribe, the University – that's the thing that makes Isabella County very special. Throughout my meetings with many counties and conferences, they always go, 'Wow, that is really amazing. We wish we had those kind of resources you have in Isabella County.' This blows their mind..."



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

### City of Mount Pleasant

Mayor Amy Perschbacher

"... It is by helping each other that we become a stronger community. I speak for myself when I say I admire the dedication to community that the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe shows, not only with their 2 percent gift, but by their willingness to participate with and contribute to the growth of our community. I'm most appreciative of their partnership and my hope is that you all feel the same. It is with dedication to community, willingness to participate and bring great ideas to the community partnership table that we are able to help make this area a strong, growing community. By creating community, we create belonging, and that sense of belonging is so vital to our growth. The funds the City of Mount Pleasant receives today will help us continue to support our residents and create a city that individuals want to not only live in, but belong to."



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

### Arenac County

Harold Woolhiser, chairman

"... I wanted to address the building project that we have. Expanding the court facilities and the jail facilities and, in the same time, connecting them and creating a much safer environment for the court, the public and the Sherriff's deputies and Corrections staff... Because the Tribe has so much experience with building projects, they were able to provide a lot of insight and really solid inspiration. This project is a collaboration with the Court, Sherriff's Department and the Tribe..."



Observer photo by Matthew Wright

### Renaissance Public School Academy

Megan Nix, school leader

"... One of the things that we've been able to partner on is the purchase of our book vending machine, which was a partnership from a grant last year before I took over as school leader, and we found that we, right now, are sending 35 students at minimum... home with a book from that vending machine. We start every Monday with, over the announcements, their names get called and they get a little token to put in. And it's just the coolest 15-20 minutes of the day that seems to small, but those kids are all taking books home... some of them don't have that access at home. Some of them are excited to read just because it came out of that machine. I just wanted to share an example of it seems so small but it's huge, so thank you for that."



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

### Au Gres-Sims School District

Chris Ming, superintendent

"... I recently had the honor of being invited to join the small rural task force for school districts in the State of Michigan. There were 15 of us invited to Lansing, to talk about the needs of our small rural communities and to advocate on behalf of communities like ours around the state. In between some of the sessions we had the opportunity to talk with one another about some of the differences between our districts. It became very abundantly clear that the relationship in our area here with the Tribe, and what they are able to help us with and contribute to. It puts us in a much, much stronger positions to be able to provide for the needs of our children and our community..."



Observer photo by Matthew Wright

### Isabella County

Britnee Neitzke, president and CEO of Isabella County Child Advocacy Center

"... Thank you so much for your generosity year after year after year. You guys have continued to support our child abuse and prevention program. This program started out as just a 'protect yourself' program in all of Isabella County schools, and thanks to your funding, we've been able to significantly grow that program over the last year. We've expanded this program to include a Safer, Smarter Teens Program now in the schools that talks to seventh and ninth grade students about how to keep themselves safe with technology in the world today, who to tell when something bad happens. We've also added a couple other programs; a car seat safety program, so we give out free car seats now to anybody in need. We will help you install that car seat and how to secure your child safely into that car seat. As well as "Kids for Cribs" program. We give out a free Pack 'n Play so kids have a safe place to sleep at home. So, we wouldn't be able to have this program or continue to grow it without your support, so we can't thank you enough."



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck





## Trunk or Treat, costume contests featured at Oct. 27 Halloween Haunt event

**MATTHEW WRIGHT**

Staff Writer

Community members were treated to a spooky, treat-filled good time on Friday, Oct. 27.

Hosted by the Recreation Department, the annual event was held at the Eagles Nest Tribal Gym.

A costume contest was held at 6 p.m. The contest featured three age groups, and family costume categories. The 7 p.m. Trunk or Treat event allowed guests to get treats from a gathering of decorated vehicles.

An Indian taco fundraiser was held by Project Venture. The menu also included wild rice soup, chili, walking tacos and frybread.

Observer photos by Joseph Sowmick



# Snow Much Fun

## All December Long!

**December 1**

4:00P-5:30P Arts & Crafts  
5:00P-8:00P Caricatures  
5:30P-6:30P Festivities

**December 2**

4:00P-5:30P Arts & Crafts  
5:00P-8:00P Balloon Twisting  
5:00P-8:00P Face Painting  
7:00P-10:00P DJ Dance Party

**December 8**

4:00P-5:30P Arts & Crafts  
5:30P-6:30P Festivities  
8:00P-9:00P Baffling Bill the Magician

**December 9**

1:00P-3:30P Reindeer Meet & Greet  
4:00P-5:30P Arts & Crafts  
5:30P-6:30P Festivities  
8:00P-9:00P Baffling Bill the Magician

**December 15**

4:00P-5:30P Arts & Crafts  
5:00P-8:00P Caricatures  
5:00P-9:00P Crystal Engraving

**December 16**

2:00P-6:00P Crystal Engraving  
4:00P-5:30P Arts & Crafts  
4:00P-7:00P Caricatures

**December 22**

4:00P-5:30P Arts & Crafts  
5:30P-6:30P Festivities  
7:00P-8:00P Hot Cocoa Bar

**December 23**

4:00P-5:30P Arts & Crafts  
5:30P-6:30P Festivities

**December 24**

4:00P Holiday Cookies  
*Available while supplies last*  
6:00P-9:00P Holiday Movies  
*The Nightmare before Christmas, A Christmas Carol (2009), Frosty's Winter Wonderland*

**December 25**

11:00A Holiday Cookies  
*Available while supplies last*  
9:00A-1:00P Holiday Movies  
*The Grinch (2018), The Polar Express, Rudolph and Frosty's Christmas in July*

**December 29**

4:00P-5:30P Arts & Crafts  
6:00P-10:00P 360 & Mirror Photobooth

**December 30**

4:00P-5:30P Arts & Crafts  
4:00P-7:00P Balloon Twisting  
4:00P-7:00P Face Painting  
4:00P-8:00P 360 & Mirror Photobooth

**December 31**

4:00P-5:30P Arts & Crafts  
5:00P-9:00P Balloon Twisting  
5:00P-9:00P Face Painting  
5:00P-10:00P NYE Buffet at Nbakade  
6:00P-8:00P Games & Activities  
8:00P-12:00A Caricatures  
8:00P-12:30A DJ Dance Party with Midnight Confetti



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## Tribe recognized during Central Michigan University's Traditions Day football game

**NATALIE SHATTUCK**

Editor

Central Michigan University's football team honored the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe during its last home game on Friday, Nov. 24 at noon. The "Traditions Day" game invited Tribal youth and their parents to join on the field to form a fan tunnel for the Chippewa football athletes to run through.

Onion Creek Singers helped kick off the pre-game by providing a song on drum, surrounded by Tribal community members.

Several Tribal Council members were recognized during the first media time-out in the game, waving to the crowd alongside CMU President Robert Davies.

Tribal Members and employees could receive up to six complimentary tickets for this game.



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

**Onion Creek Singers perform an honor song on the football field at Central Michigan University's Traditions Day during the Nov. 24 home game.**



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

**(Left to right) CMU Athletic Director Amy Folan, Tribal Council members Samantha Chippeway, Sgt.-at-Arms David Merrill Jr., Secretary Martha Wemigwans, Luke Sprague and Treasurer Gayle Ruhl, and CMU President Robert Davies are recognized on the football field during the Traditions Day game.**



Observer photos by Joseph Sowmick

## December 2023 Tribal Elder Birthdays

- 1) Juliane Hinmon  
Maureen Acuna  
William Leksche
- 3) Alfredetta Jenkins  
James Bailey  
Nancy Rossbach  
Brenda Schlegel  
Patricia Sprague
- 4) Sandra Charles  
John Trepanier III  
Cynthia Cisneros  
Dawn Meredith
- 5) Elarine Hunt  
Julie King  
Tony Stevens
- 6) Teri Bennett  
Lorraine Dumas  
Margaret Worsham  
Melanie Davis  
Nyra Wiltse
- 7) Tracy Chamberlain  
Cara Valdez
- 8) Mary Floyd

- Denise Cantu  
Maynard Kahgegab Jr.  
Norman Snyder
- 10) Suzanne Cross  
James Maki  
Douglas Zocher
- 11) Paul Jackson
- 12) Bradford Mandoka  
Ruth Moses  
Beverly Pamp-Ettinger  
Kenneth Sprague  
Albert Wayne  
John Brown  
Robin Drews  
Tod Walraven
- 13) Randall Bennett  
Timothy Stevens
- 14) Marlene Collins  
Ronald Johansen  
Ruth Mullins  
Cheryl Roy  
John Trepanier
- 15) Gilbert Dutton

- 16) Ronald Douglas  
Lanette Zaleski  
Darlene Munro  
Gilbert Williams  
Sylvia Zelinski
- 17) Shirley Burch  
Stephanie Peters  
Deborah Colley  
Donna DeLap  
Amanda Oldman  
Sheila Guiney
- 18) Alfred Dennis  
Eleanor Hawk  
Cynthia Sprague
- 19) Carol Jackson  
Pamela Shawboose
- 20) Clinton Pelcher Jr.  
Rene Alaniz  
Deborah Jackson  
Patrick Collins  
Jason Slater
- 21) David Bonnau  
Faith Davis  
Carrie Leauteaux  
Jacqueline Roach  
Sherri Vezina  
Janice Walker
- 22) Lori Rickle

- Roger Bourdeau  
Amy Singer
- 23) Jim Davis  
Andrew Steele
- 24) Ronald Collins Jr.  
Michael Poolaw
- 25) Terry Bonnau  
Steven Pelcher  
Paul Graveratte  
Mary Rosebrock
- 26) John Bennett  
Bernice Hendrickson  
Patricia Wemigwans  
Helen Black

- Frank Cloutier  
Timothy Smith Jr.
- 27) Yolanda Gonzalez  
Carol White-Pigeon
- 28) Timothy Stein
- 29) Renee Abuja  
Thomas Kequom  
Judy Bryant
- 30) Timothy Nelson  
Jerome Whitepigeon Sr.  
Galene Young
- 31) Marie Saboo  
Diana Quigno-Grundahl  
Daryan Stallcup

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## Adopt a Pet



**Frigg**  
Frigg is a 3-year-old female Domestic Shorthair mix. Frigg is a medium, brown/tan cat and has been with HATS since April 2023. She came to HATS from a hoarding situation. She is very shy and doesn't quite yet understand human affection. She loves to play and observe what's going on in the shelter while she stays perched up on a shelf in her cattery. She is very social with other cats and loves company from other feline friends.



**Honey Bun**  
Honey Bun is a 5-year-old female Bulldog mix. She has been with HATS since June 2023. The staff has fallen in love with this big love bug and can't understand why she hasn't been adopted yet. She loves kids and would make a great family dog. She came to HATS very overweight and has been making great progress with diet and exercise – she's lost nearly 20 pounds so far. Her next step is to be placed in a loving home.

**Humane Animal Treatment Society**  
1105 S. Isabella Rd., Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858 [Hatsweb.org](http://Hatsweb.org)  
Phone: 989.775.0830 Email: [hats.publicrelations@gmail.com](mailto:hats.publicrelations@gmail.com)

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

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## Travis Tritt, Little Texas bring country music classics to Soaring Eagle

**NATALIE SHATTUCK**

Editor

Country music singer Travis Tritt made his return to the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort on Friday, Nov. 3; this time bringing the country music band, Little Texas.

Travis Tritt performed a 90-minute set and began with “Put Some Drive in Your Country,” “I’m Gonna Be Somebody” and “The Whiskey Ain’t Workin’.”

Tritt mentioned how grateful he was to be live at Soaring Eagle.

“After 2020, it’s really nice to be playing live music again,” Tritt said.

His set list also included hits “Where Corn Don’t



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

**Travis Tritt performs during the sold-out Nov. 3 show at Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort.**



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

**Members of country music band Little Texas kick off the show.**

Grow,” “Here’s a Quarter (Call a Great Day To Be Alive,” Someone Who Cares),” “It’s “Modern Day Bonnie and

Clyde,” “T-R-O-U-B-L-E” and “Let It Roll.”

Of Tritt’s 43 singles, all but two charted on the Billboard Hot Country Songs. He has five number one songs.

“The reason we came to Michigan is to party with you,” Tritt said. “... If you’re going to sing loud, sing good.”

Tritt and his band proved throughout the evening they, indeed, were there to party as the audience enjoyed classic country hits.

Making their first Soaring Eagle appearance and opening for Tritt was country music band, Little Texas.

Little Texas kicked off the show with a 45-minute set performing “Amy’s Back in Austin,” “Bullet From a Gun,” “My Love,” “First Time for Everything,” and even the ZZ Top hit, “Tush.”

Little Texas could not conclude the evening without performing their No. 1 hit, “What Might Have Been.” Their set ended on a high note with “God Blessed Texas.”



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

**Tritt and his band perform “I’m Gonna Be Somebody” during that Friday evening.**

## Impractical Jokers at SECR features all the jokes, pranks and hijinks of hit TV show

**MATTHEW WRIGHT**

Staff Writer

The Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort welcomed the dynamic comedic and television trio known as the Impractical Jokers to the Entertainment Hall stage on Friday Oct. 27.

Stars of truTV’s hit series, “Impractical Jokers,” the trio has gained a massive following during their run of 10 seasons.

The comedy show follows Brian “Q” Quinn, James “Murr” Murray and Sal Vulcano as they compete, dare and embarrass each other in a hidden camera format. The guys devise elaborate public pranks involving innocent bystanders, often going out of their way to humiliate the

other members.

Audience members were treated to a live show, featuring all of the charm and humor of the television show. The show was a mash up of live bits and prerecorded videos.

One hilarious segment featured an audience member being called on stage to take part in the hijinks. Donning shock electrodes, Sal Vulcano attempted to tell the audience a story. Hilarity ensued as the audience member, holding the controls, relentlessly tormented Sal with timely shocks.

For more information on upcoming shows, please visit the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort website at [www.soaringeaglecasino.com](http://www.soaringeaglecasino.com).



Observer photo by Matthew Wright

**Impractical Jokers members James “Murr” Murray (left), Brian “Q” Quinn (center) and Sal Vulcano (right) provide playful banter during the Oct. 27 show at SECR.**

### Looking for a new career?

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WOCTEP is funded by the US Department of Education through the NACTEP program. Federal funds contribute to 92% of funding (\$500,666) and tribal support of 8% (\$42,329) for project year 1 (2022)

## Chris Tucker delights fans during Nov. 9 comedy show at Soaring Eagle

**MATTHEW WRIGHT**

Staff Writer

The Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort hosted comedian and actor Chris Tucker on Thursday, Nov. 9.

Tucker’s routine generated plenty of laughter; complete with his slapstick humor, song and even some dancing.

A crowd-favorite segment saw Tucker sharing stories of encounters with legendary musician Michael Jackson.

Opening for Tucker was comedian Sherman Golden.



Courtesy image



# ENTERTAINMENT



**Clint Black with  
Josh Gracin**  
Friday, December 1  
8:00 p.m.  
Entertainment Hall  
Tickets: \$40, \$50, \$66 & \$74



**Smokey Robinson**  
Wednesday, December 27  
8:00 p.m.  
Entertainment Hall  
Tickets: \$69, \$89, \$102 & \$109



**Jay Leno with  
Arsenio Hall**  
Friday, December 8  
8:00 p.m.  
Entertainment Hall  
Tickets: \$56, \$66, \$78 & \$84



**Lance Burton  
Master Magician**  
Thursday, December 28  
8:00 p.m.  
Entertainment Hall  
Tickets: \$29, \$41, \$52 & \$58



**The Rock N' Rum  
Holiday Bash**  
Saturday, December 9  
6:45 p.m.  
Entertainment Hall  
Tickets: \$50



**Great White &  
Quiet Riot**  
Friday, December 29  
8:00 p.m.  
Entertainment Hall  
Tickets: \$26, \$38, \$49 & \$55



**Kenny G**  
Sunday, December 10  
8:00 p.m.  
Entertainment Hall  
Tickets: \$34, \$46, \$57 & \$63



**Lonestar &  
Eddie Montgomery**  
Saturday, December 30  
8:00 p.m.  
Entertainment Hall  
Tickets: \$34, \$48, \$62 & \$68



**Robin Thicke &  
Montell Jordan**  
Friday, December 15  
8:00 p.m.  
Entertainment Hall  
Tickets: \$53, \$63, \$78 & \$84



**80's Rewind  
New Year's Party**  
Sunday, December 31  
9:00 p.m. - 2:00 a.m.  
Entertainment Hall  
Tickets: \$75 per person

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.



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## DECEMBER 2023 | Tribal Community Event Planner

### Mno Doo-daad-zaaying (Being Good to Self) Yoga

- Dec. 4 | 5:30 p.m.
- Behavioral Health, Large Conference Room
  - Registration: 989-317-4400**
  - Yoga mats will be provided
  - Instructor: Felicia Otto, RYT 500

### 2023-2025 Tribal Council Swearing In

- Dec. 5 | 9 a.m.
- Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort Entertainment Hall
  - 989-775-4059**

### SCTC STEAM<sup>AG</sup> Student Organization Meeting

- Dec. 6 | 12-1 p.m.
- Tribal College East Building, Room 6
  - 989-317-4827 or KHart@sagchip.edu**

### Sewing Nights

- Dec. 7, 14, 21, 28 | 5:30-7:30 p.m.
- Seventh Generation
  - 989-317-4780 or TJackson@sagchip.org**

### Auricular Acupuncture

- Dec. 7, 14, 21, 28 | 4-6 p.m.
- Behavioral Health
  - 989-775-4850**

### Christmas Stocking Making

- Dec. 7 | 5-8 p.m.
- Seventh Generation
  - 989-317-4780 or TJackson@sagchip.org**
  - No cost, materials provided
  - During Community Sewing Night

### Euchre Nights at Andahwod

- Dec. 7, 14, 21, 28 | 5-8 p.m.
- Andahwod CCC & ES

### Holiday Drivethru Cut-Out Kit

- Dec. 7 | 2-4 p.m. (or until supplies gone)
- Seventh Generation
  - 989-317-4780 or TJackson@sagchip.org**
  - Two options: Christmas tree or reindeer
  - Cost \$10
  - No registration required

### MIIBS Winter Silent Auction

- Dec. 7, 8 | 5-8 p.m.
- Ziibiwing Center lobby
  - 989-775-4751 or mLhadden@sagchip.org**
  - Bids finalized on Friday Dec. 8 at 6 p.m.
  - Many ribbon skirts available
  - Fund will be used for securing MIIBS from vandals and weekend night security

### Elders' Aquatics Exercise Class

- Dec. 8, 15, 22, 29 | 2 p.m.
- Soaring Eagle Waterpark and Hotel pool
  - 989-775-4694 or JHarman@sagchip.org**

### ACFS Christmas Bazaar

- Dec. 10 | 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., set up begins at 8 a.m.
- SECR Ballroom
  - To purchase space: **989-775-499**
  - Vendors: 8'x8' space is available for \$50 and includes two 8-foot tables and two chairs, if needed.
  - All proceeds benefit ACFS Foster Care Program

### Traditional Game Night

- Dec. 12 | 5-8 p.m.
- Seventh Generation
  - 989-317-4780 or DAJackson@sagchip.org**
  - Everyone of all ages welcome
  - No experience necessary
  - Meal provided
  - Do not need to play, come learn the game or spectate

### Andahwod Christmas Brunch

- Dec. 13 | 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
- Andahwod
  - 989-775-4300**
  - SCIT Elders: Free (present Tribal Elder ID)
  - 13 yrs & older: \$10
  - 12 yrs & under: \$5
  - Additional \$2 to go fee for all orders
  - Menu: Ham, turkey, scrambled eggs, yams, french toast sticks, seasoned potatoes, california blend vegetables, salad bar, dinner rolls, chocolate cake and beverage station.

### Third Annual Odyssey Holiday Forest

- Dec. 14 | 5-7:30 p.m.
- Odyssey (3441 S. Wise Rd., Mt. Pleasant)
  - TVanAlstine@sagchip.org**
  - Lighted forest trail, cookies, cocoa, carolers, photo booth and more.
  - Designed and constructed by the students
  - Event hosted by Odyssey MS/HS

### Elder Birthday Bingo and Potluck

- Dec. 16 | 12-3 p.m.
- Andahwod
  - 989-775-4300**

### Mending Broken Hearts

- Jan. 17 | 5:30-7:30 p.m.
- Behavioral Health large conference room
  - 989-775-4400 or BHvictimservices@sagchip.org**
  - Healing from unresolved grief and intergenerational trauma using White Bison Program
  - Introductory class: Learn about the program before it begins
  - Twelve week series and will start in February 2024
  - Attendance/commitment is needed for registering for all 12 weeks

## DECEMBER 2023 | 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> </ul>		<p>Check out the Tribal Observer <b>ONLINE</b></p> <p><a href="http://www.sagchip.org/tribalobserver">www.sagchip.org/tribalobserver</a></p>		<p>1 Fireside on the Rez 11:30 a.m.   B. Health</p>	<p>2 Fireside on the Rez 6 p.m.   B. Health</p> <p>3</p>
<p>4 Recovery Group 1-2 p.m.   B. Health</p> <p>Beading Circle 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.   SCTC</p>	<p>5 Recovery on the Rez 2-3 p.m.   Zoom</p> <p>Drums Out 7-9 p.m.   7th Gen</p> <p>Euchre and Board Games 12-2 p.m.   Saganing</p>	<p>6 Eagle Feather Teachings 1:30-3 p.m.   B. Health</p> <p>Drop In Basketball 5:30-8:30 p.m.   Tribal Gym</p>	<p>7 Sewing Night 5-8 p.m.   7th Gen</p> <p>Recovery on the Rez 6 p.m.   B. Health</p>	<p>8 Fireside on the Rez 11:30 a.m.   B. Health</p>	<p>9 Fireside on the Rez 6 p.m.   B. Health</p> <p>10</p>
<p>11 Recovery Group 1-2 p.m.   B. Health</p> <p>Name That Tune 2:30 p.m.   Andahwod</p>	<p>12 Recovery on the Rez 2-3 p.m.   Zoom</p> <p>Drums Out 7-9 p.m.   7th Gen</p> <p>Bingo with Friends 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.   Saganing</p>	<p>13 Christmas Brunch 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.   Andahwod</p> <p>Eagle Feather Teachings 1:30-3 p.m.   B. Health</p> <p>Drop In Basketball 5:30-8:30 p.m.   Tribal Gym</p> <p>Raffle Drawing 2 p.m.   7th Gen</p>	<p>14 Tribal Observer deadline</p> <p>Sacred Fire Lunch 12-1 p.m.   7th Gen</p> <p>Saganing Soup Day 12-1 p.m.   Saganing</p> <p>Recovery on the Rez 6 p.m.   B. Health</p> <p>Anishinabe Santa 5-7 p.m.   Ziibiwing</p>	<p>15 Fireside on the Rez 11:30 a.m.   B. Health</p>	<p>16 Fireside on the Rez 6 p.m.   B. Health</p> <p>17</p>
<p>18 Recovery Group 1-2 p.m.   B. Health</p>	<p>19 Recovery on the Rez 2-3 p.m.   Zoom</p> <p>Drums Out 7-9 p.m.   7th Gen</p>	<p>20 Community Christmas Cookie Exchange 1 p.m.   Andahwod</p> <p>Eagle Feather Teachings 1:30-3 p.m.   B. Health</p> <p>Drop In Basketball 5:30-8:30 p.m.   Tribal Gym</p>	<p>21 Movie and Popcorn 1-3 p.m.   Saganing</p> <p>Recovery on the Rez 6 p.m.   B. Health</p> <p>Sewing Night 5-8 p.m.   7th Gen</p>	<p>22 Fireside on the Rez 11:30 a.m.   B. Health</p>	<p>23 Fireside on the Rez 6 p.m.   B. Health</p> <p>24 Christmas Eve</p>
<p>25 Tribal Ops Closed Christmas Day</p> <p>Recovery Group 1-2 p.m.   B. Health</p>	<p>26 Tribal Ops Closed Administrative Closure</p> <p>Recovery on the Rez 2-3 p.m.   Zoom</p> <p>Drums Out 7-9 p.m.   7th Gen</p>	<p>27 Tribal Ops Closed Administrative Closure</p> <p>Eagle Feather Teachings 1:30-3 p.m.   B. Health</p> <p>Drop In Basketball 5:30-8:30 p.m.   Tribal Gym</p>	<p>28 Tribal Ops Closed Administrative Closure</p> <p>Sacred Fire Lunch 12-1 p.m.   7th Gen</p> <p>Recovery on the Rez 6 p.m.   B. Health</p> <p>Sewing Night 5-8 p.m.   7th Gen</p>	<p>29 Tribal Ops Closed Administrative Closure</p> <p>Fireside on the Rez 11:30 a.m.   B. Health</p>	<p>30 Fireside on the Rez 6 p.m.   B. Health</p> <p>31 New Year's Eve</p>





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

**100 Employment**

**Tribal Operations**

**Water Operator II**

Open to the public. High school diploma or GED. Must be at least 18 years of age. Three years of water operator or related experience. Training in hydraulics, physics, biology, science, or related field will help in learning this field. Must have mechanical skills, not limited to automotive, such as pumps, or shaft driven equipment.

**Water Operator III**

Open to the public. High school diploma or GED. Must be at least 18 years of age. Five years of water operator or related experience. Training in hydraulics, physics, biology, science, or related field will help in learning this field. Must have mechanical skills, not limited to automotive, such as pumps, or shaft driven equipment.

**Waste Water Operator II**

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

es. Must be able to pass departmental fitness evaluation.

**Waste Water Operator III**

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

**Grants and Contracts Compliance Coordinator**

Open to the public. Bachelor's degree in business administration with an emphasis in accounting. Five years' experience in governmental fund accounting and grants and contracts management.

**Strategic Grant Specialist**

Open to the public. Grant funded position. Bachelor's degree in business administration, communications, economics, or related field. Three years' experience in grant writing and grant administration.

**SCTC - Adjunct Faculty**

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

**Registered Medical Assistant**

Open to the public. High school diploma or GED. Registered or Certified Medical

Assistant License. One-year experience in long term care or clinic setting desired.

**SCTC - Supplemental Instructor**

Open to the public. At least 60 completed credits towards a college degree with an overall GPA of 3.0 or above. Under the supervision of the dean of students, Supplemental Instruction (SI) leaders offer one-on-one support to facilitate interactive study sessions to help identified students learn course concepts, prepare for exams, and learn effective study skills.

**Case Manager - HTWC**

Open to the public. Master's degree in counseling, social work, human services or related field. One year case management experience.

**Clinical Therapist - RTC**

Open to the public. Master's degree in counseling, social work, human services or related field. Limited licensed individuals who can obtain licensure within two years from date of hire.

**Case Manager - HTWC**

Open to the public. Grant funded position. Bachelor's degree in social work, psychology, human services or related field.

**Physician**

Open to the public. Medical degree or doctor of osteopathic

medicine. Current board certification in specialty. Medical license for MD or DO in the State of Michigan. Desired qualifications: Two years' experience working in an outpatient or clinic setting. Medical license for MD or DO in the State of Michigan.

**Clinical Therapist - ICT**

Open to the public. Grant funded position. Master's degree in counseling, social work, human services or related field.

**Anishinabe Language Apprentice**

Open to the public. High school diploma or GED. Excellent communication and group leadership skills.

**Accountant**

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

**Elementary Teacher**

Open to the public. Bachelor's degree in education or related field or currently enrolled in a teacher certification program, including alternative route programs, and able to obtain teaching certificate within six months of hire.

**AWARE SMHA Project Co-Coordinator**

Open to the public. Master's degree in counseling, social work, human services, or related field. One year of experience in mental health services working with children and families of children with severe emotional disturbances.

**Clinical Therapist - Family Resource Program**

Open to the public. Master's degree in counseling, social work, human services or related field. Excellent computer and communication skills.

**Certified Nursing Assistant**

Open to the public. High school diploma or GED. One year nursing experience preferred.

**Grant Analyst PT**

Open to the public. Bachelor's degree in business administration, or related field. One year experience in administration of federal grants and contracts, and grant writing.

**Clerical Pool**

Open to SCIT Members. High school diploma or GED. Must be at least 18 years of age. Clerical experience is a plus.

**General Labor Pool**

Open to SCIT Members only. Must be at least 18 years of age. Evening, overnight, holiday and/or weekend work may be required.

**Anishinabe Culture & Language Teacher**

Open to the public. High school diploma or GED. Must have knowledge and be willing to share original Anishinabe cultural teachings. Desired qualifications: experience working with school age children. Bachelor's degree in related field. Proficiency in speaking the Ojibwe language.

**Leadership Intern FT 32 hours**

Only SCIT Members may apply. High school diploma or GED. 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.

**Soaring Eagle**

**Laundry Mechanic Technician**

Open to the public. High school diploma or GED. Must be at least 18 years of age. Must have at least five years experience in a building maintenance position.

**F&B Chef**

Open to the public. High school diploma or GED. Must be at least 18 years of age. Four years of upscale, high volume, hotel kitchen experience, or similar restaurant experience. Two years supervisory experience. Formal education in the form of a culinary degree from an ACF accredited school may be accepted to satisfy part of the work experience requirement.

**Sous Chef - Pastry**

Open to the public. High school diploma or GED. Must be at least 18 years of age. Three years kitchen experience in a quality operation specializing in food production. One year in a supervisory capacity.

**Journeyman Electrician**

Open to the public. High school diploma or GED. Must be at least 18 years of age. Must be a journeyman electrician. Six years of experience working as an electrician or completion of a formal electrical apprentice program.

**Line Cook**

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

**Saganing**

**Front Desk Agent PT**

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

**Transit Driver PT**

Open to the public. Must be at least 21 years of age. Must have a valid CDL with passenger endorsements or a Chauffers License.

**Security Officer**

In-house, only SCIT Members or current SECR/SELC employees may apply. Must be at least 18 years of age. Security or surveillance experience.

**F&B Attendant PT**

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

**Line Cook FT**

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

**Line Cook PT**

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

**Beverage Waitstaff FT**

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

**Beverage Waitstaff PT**

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

**Slot Attendant**

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

**Players Club Representative PT**

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

**Transit Driver PT**

Open to the public. Must be at least 21 years of age.

**Summons and Complaint Notices**

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF MORGAN RUTH MENA:**

The Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Court 6954 East Broadway Road, Mount Pleasant, MI 48858 (989) 775-4800. Estate of Morgan Ruth Mena. Date of Birth: December 6, 1989. Notice to creditors: The decedent, Morgan Sue Mena, died April 5, 2023. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Marion Williams, personal representative, or to both the tribal probate court at 6954 East Broadway, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice. Personal Representative: Marion Williams, 5449 E. Crossway Ln, Mt. Pleasant MI 48858, 989-824-3158.

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF SUSAN GAYLE SCHRAMM:**

The Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Court 6954 East Broadway Road, Mount Pleasant, MI 48858 (989) 775-4800. Estate of Susan Gayle Schramm. Date of Birth: October 6, 1958. Notice to creditors: The decedent, Susan Gayle Schramm, died November 6, 2022. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Joshua D. Byrne, personal representative, or to both the tribal probate court at 6954 East Broadway, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice. Personal Representative: Joshua D. Byrne, 6069 Silver Lake Dr., Lake MI 48632, 989-408-6327.

\*THIS IS A PAID AD. THIS IS NON-TRIBAL GOVERNMENT AFFILIATED.\*

**SAGINAW CHIPPEWA TRIBAL MEMBERS**

**PROPOSED TRIBAL CONSTITUTION REVISION MEMBERSHIP CRITERIA**

to preserve Saginaw, Swan Creek, and Black River bloodline

**No disenrollment or open enrollment proposed**

**District 1, District 2, and District 3 meetings suspended due to the holidays.**

**January 15, 2024, 6:30-8:00 pm at Seventh Generation Ceremonial Building**

*\*Looking for recommendations for District 3 meeting locations within Detroit, Saginaw, Flint, and Lansing.*

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**If you are interested in serving on the Tribal Constitution Revision Committee-Membership Criteria please send your inquires to:**

- SCIT-Tribal Constitution Revision Committee  
P.O. Box 1542, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48804-1542
- or [scit-tribalconstitutionrevision@spectrum.net](mailto:scit-tribalconstitutionrevision@spectrum.net)

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Visit [www.scit-tribalconstitutionrevision.com](http://www.scit-tribalconstitutionrevision.com) for information and updates

*Miigwetch for all those that have participated — your input is valuable*

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# DECEMBER PROMOTIONS



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



**Win a share of over \$420,000 in Cash Prizes!**

**Saturdays in December**

Every hour from **5:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.** one lucky ACCESS Club member will be drawn to play our Snowfall Lucky Draw game to select ornaments that could reveal cash prizes!

ACCESS Club members will receive one (1) entry for every 600 points earned on their ACCESS Club card from 12:00 a.m. November 25th, 2023 until 10:55 p.m. on December 30th, 2023.



**DECEMBER 1-25**  
**6:00 P.M. - 10:00 P.M.**

Two winners each hour will each win \$100 in Premium Play and get to select a gift to win a prize!



**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12 & 19**  
**10:00 A.M. - 10:00 P.M.**

Qualified ACCESS Club members may claim their VISA Gift card on the dates above from 10:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m. Restrictions apply.



**EVERY WEDNESDAY**  
**8:00 A.M. - 11:59 P.M.**

ACCESS Cardholders who qualify will receive bonus Premium Play every Wednesday from 8:00 a.m. - 11:59 p.m.



**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20**  
**7:00 P.M. - 10:00 P.M.**

Win a jackpot at any casino (bring your W-2G from the previous month) and you could win cash drawings from 7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.



Saganing-EaglesLanding.com  
Standish, MI | 1.888.7.EAGLE.7



**Win a share of over \$74,500 in Cash & Premium Play!**

**Saturdays in December**

Hourly Drawings from **4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.** for your chance to win Premium Play or select a gift to reveal up to \$1,000 in cash prizes! All winners will receive a raffle ticket for our Grand Prize drawing on December 30th for a chance to win up to \$25,000 in cash!

ACCESS Club members will receive one (1) entry for every 200 points earned on their ACCESS Club card beginning Nov. 25 at 12:00 a.m. thru Dec. 30 at 9:59 p.m.



**EVERY FRIDAY**  
**3:00 P.M. - 10:00 P.M.**

One winner each hour will be drawn to spend 60 seconds in our cash cube and collect as much cash as they can. Select the lucky snowflake to win a \$1,000 Home Depot gift card to purchase a Ryobi Snow Blower or a snow blower of your choice.



**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17 & 24**  
**11:00 A.M. - 9:00 P.M.**

Hot seat drawings every hour where three lucky winners will each get to select a snowball to reveal a Premium Play prize of up to \$250. Every winner gets a Crumbl Cookie and a \$100 Crumbl Cookie Gift Card!



**MONDAY, DECEMBER 4, 11 & 18**  
**5:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.**

Hourly drawings every Monday for your chance to select a number on our Christmas Calendar and win up to \$500 in cash or Premium Play!



**DECEMBER 24 & 25**  
**4:00 A.M. - 11:59 P.M.**

All ACCESS Club members that earn 800 points between 4:00 a.m. - 11:59 p.m. on both days may swipe at one of the Atrient kiosks to play a game and win up to \$250 in Premium Play. Guests may participate twice each day.

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