



TRIBAL OBSERVER

FEBRUARY 2024

Working Together For Our Future

www.sagchip.org/tribalobserver

Volume 26 | Issue 2



SCA Winter Sacred Storytelling

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Soaring Eagle Food District now open, ribbon cutting held Jan. 15

JOSEPH V. SOWMICK

Public Relations Manager

On Jan. 15, the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort hosted a ribbon cutting for its Food District.

The Food District consists of Bonanno's New York Pizza Kitchen, Bubbakoo's Burritos, Ike's Love & Sandwiches and Guy Fieri's Chicken Guy!

Matt Shea, director of operations for the Food District, said all four properties will be open from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and from 11 to 2 a.m. Friday and Saturday.

Bonanno's New York Pizza Kitchen will be open for breakfast from 8 to 11 a.m. every day.

The ribbon cutting event opened in a good way with Anishinaabe Ogitchedaw Okima I Tony Carmona offering smudge medicine for the Onion Creek Drum and men's traditional (Cruz Perez and Zack Jackson) and women's traditional (Faith Carmona Pego and Julie White Pigeon) dancers.

Tribal Council Secretary Jennifer Wassegijig offered a prayer centered on Proverbs 16:3 "Commit thy works unto the Lord and thy thoughts shall be established."



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

The Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Council joins Soaring Eagle personnel for the ribbon cutting of the Food District on Monday, Jan. 15.

(Left to right: Council member David Merrill Jr., Council Secretary Jennifer L. Wassegijig, Soaring Eagle Properties CEO Melinda Coffin, Sub-Chief Luke Sprague, Food District Director of Operations Matt Shea, Council member Brad Bennett, Council Treasurer Maia Spotted Tail, Council member Samantha Chippeway and Sgt.-at-Arms Christina Otto.)

"When you create a business idea and plan and share it with God, He can make sure you accomplish it," Wassegijig said. "There's nothing like inviting God to be a part of your business."

Sub-Chief Luke Sprague ignited the hundreds in attendance on the main casino floor and those watching online via Soaring Eagle and Tribal Facebook live platforms.

"The grand opening was full of positive energy and excitement," Sprague said. "Guests have been looking forward to

the additional eatery options offered on SECR property. The food district will accommodate hungry guests on high traffic nights when they are looking for something fast and tasty."

Soaring Eagle Properties CEO Melinda Coffin attended with Raul Venegas, director of marketing, entertainment and sales; Kristina Griffus, director of iGaming and sports betting; and Director of Facilities Steven Jablonski.

"We would like to thank our previous and current Tribal



Photos courtesy of SECR

The Food District, located off of the Soaring Eagle gaming floor, consists of Bonanno's New York Pizza Kitchen, Bubbakoo's Burritos, Ike's Love & Sandwiches and Guy Fieri's Chicken Guy!

Council members, Michael and Ed Hughes of SEG Food Hall LLC and Konwinski Construction," Coffin said. "The Food District was well worth the wait and we hope that all of our guest enjoy all of the dining options."

Matt Shea, director of operations for the Food District,

said the ribbon cutting was full of excitement.

"A lot of work was put in on the back end to make this day possible and I couldn't be happier for all our staff that we are ready to serve the public," Shea said. "Through

Food District | 6

Tribal Council shares information with Membership at State of the Tribe meeting

JOSEPH V. SOWMICK

Public Relations Manager

On Jan. 20, all 12 members of the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Council were present as they shared information with Tribal Membership at State of the Tribe community meeting.

The Blue House Singers were on hand to offer a grand entry song and flag song as the Anishinaabe Ogitchedaw Veterans Warrior Society brought in the SCIT eagle staff and other colors.

Tribal Council Chaplain Alice Jo Ricketts asked for a moment of silence to honor

members who have walked on recently and began in the spirit of prayer.

Chief Tim J. Davis reminded the 317 in attendance that looking towards 2024, the goal and priority as Tribal Council continues to be the Membership.

"We are committed to putting our Members first while strengthening our business properties and services throughout our communities," Davis said. "We understand that many are facing challenges including the rising inflation and rising costs on everyday items to provide for our families. We want you to know we are continuing to try

and identify ways to assist. We have launched programs like the GWE/Minnow program this year, which, are impactful in providing more dollars bi-weekly to you."

Chief Davis informed Tribal services are focused on the needs of Members and an emphasis has been placed on limiting the spending on the Tribal government side.

"Our gaming operations are continuing to make changes that highlight and showcase our properties to increase visits," Davis said. "They will also continue to look at ways to

State of the Tribe | 6



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

Chief Tim J. Davis shares his State of the Tribe address with the Membership during the annual meeting on Saturday, Jan. 20, held in the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort's Entertainment Hall.

PRE-SORTED STANDARD
US POSTAGE
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GREENVILLE, MI
48833
PERMIT # 338



Sheila A. Villarreal

May 16, 1960 - January 4, 2024

Sheila Ann (Saboo) Villarreal, age 63, of Cedar Springs, as of Thursday, Jan. 4, 2024 is walking on. She spent her last weeks at home surrounded by the family and friends whom she loved the most.

Sheila was born on May 16, 1960 in Grand Rapids, Mich., the daughter of Clifford Sr. and Margaret (Neyome) Saboo. Sheila was the fourth in line of six children born to them. She was given the nickname "Peanut" due to her small stature.



The quote "Though she be but small, she is fierce" fit Sheila's personality perfectly. She was a feisty, strong-willed woman. She expressed herself, sometimes through tears, honestly and unapologetically. She loved with the same fierceness. Unconditionally giving those she loved her time, work, loyalty, compassion and attention, whenever they were in need.

Sheila's pride and joy were her two children and three granddaughters. Nothing brought her more happiness than spending time being a grandma to her three girls. She was very much looking forward to meeting her fourth grandchild, due this summer.

Sheila had a special love for her dogs. Over the years, she and her husband, John, usually had two dogs at a time. She didn't want one to be lonely, so made sure they had a partner.

Sheila married the love of her life, John Villarreal, on March 5, 1994. They laughed, danced, loved, raised a family, and supported and remained each other's best friend for the last 29 years.

Surviving are her husband John; children, Brandon and Ann Foley, Maggie and Trever Ash; granddaughters, Grace and Elizabeth Foley, Ellyana Ash and number four on the way; siblings, Terri Kay and Wes Cummings, Sam and Sarah Saboo, Marie Saboo and Carl Rogers, Annie and Bill Rogers, Scott and Kim Saboo; special cousin Louanna Bruner; many nieces and nephews, who she individually each had a special relationship with; and her extended family of brothers and sisters-in-law and their families. She preceded in death by her parents.

A celebration of life was held on Monday, Jan. 15 from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Cedar Springs American Legion. A private family interment took place at Elwood Cemetery, Cedar Springs, Mich. Arrangements by K.E. Pike Funeral Home, Cedar Springs.

Kelly Mays

November 21, 1974 - January 7, 2024

Kelly Anne Mays was born on Nov. 21, 1974 in Detroit; the youngest of three children to Ralph Mays and Janice Watkins-Mays. A mischievous child with a flair for drama, Kelly was always willing to lend a helping hand or a kind word to family and friends, a trait that she carried well into her adult life.



A graduate of Detroit Public Schools, Kelly later attended Central Michigan University where she received her Bachelor of Science in psychology. She went on to receive her Master of Science in counseling at the University of Phoenix and was preparing to receive her Master of Science in education from Central Michigan in May.

Passionate about educating herself, she received many certificates of completion for various trainings throughout her life including: assessing and treating suicidal risk co-morbidity, partner services certification, infant mental health and mental health core competencies to name a few.

Kelly accepted Jesus Christ as her Lord and Savior at an early age. Believing with her whole heart, she answered the call to the ministry by becoming ordained and took the Word of God to the streets with her energy, her passion and her smile.

Kelly worked at Hegira Health Inc. as a community and staff training program manager and as a mental health therapist with a focus on young children and teens.

She was a world-class published poet performing in slam poetry bouts around the country. She was a fierce advocate against domestic and sexual violence, advocating for suicide prevention and extremely outspoken in her support of the LGBTQ community, including her advocacy in her workshops and presentations. She was a guest as well as a host on many podcasts, a slam poetry judge as well as a participant, taught and mentored teens in how to write poetry, received her certification to be a practicing post-partum doula and formed her own nonprofit organization called A Survivors Story, which provided a safe space for survivors to tell their stories. Kelly was the current poet laureate of Westland, Mich. and one of the Crain's Detroit Business Association Notable Leaders of 2023.

Kelly was a member of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe and worked proudly to better the lives of the Native American communities as well as the African American communities, blending the cultures of her Afro-Indigenous heritage seamlessly.

Kelly's rambunctious and energetic spirit tragically departed this life on Jan. 7, 2024. She leaves to cherish her memory; her beloved children Celeste and Cheyenne, her parents Janice and Ralph (Michelle), her brother, Robert (Melissa), twin sister, Stacey (Angelena) and numerous beloved aunts, uncles, cousins and dear, dear friends. She will be sorely missed.

Funeral services were held Saturday, Jan. 20 at noon at the Plymouth United Church of Christ in Detroit. Visitation was held on Friday, Jan. 19 from 2 to 7 p.m. at the James. H. Cole Home For Funerals- NW chapel in Detroit.

James Emery Starkey

April 4, 1991 - December 19, 2023

James Emery Starkey, age 32, of Mount Pleasant, passed away Tuesday, Dec. 19, 2023.

James was born April 4, 1991, the son of Tony Glenn Starkey and Roberta Joanne Starkey.



James was a proud member of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe. He enjoyed helping his father with junk cars. But most of all, James loved his daughter and all the time he was able to spend with her.

James is survived by his father, Tony (Sara Ann Chingman) Starkey; mother, Roberta Starkey; daughter, Ariel Starkey; brothers, Billy Starkey, David Starkey, Tony Starkey Jr.; sisters, Sonya Starkey, Patricia Alonzo, Betsey Alonzo; many: aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews and friends.

Per James' wishes, cremation has taken place at Daisy Hill Crematory. A memorial service was held at Clark Family Funeral Chapel on Thursday, Dec. 28, at noon with Benjamin Evers officiating. A luncheon followed at Seventh Generation. The family received friends on Dec. 28 at 11 a.m. until the time of the service.

Memorial contributions may be made to the family.



Sagamok Express Loyalty Cards For Tribal Members (Blue Card holders)

Sagamok Express Loyalty Cards for Tribal Members living inside the Tax Agreement Boundary Area (Blue Card holders) are available for pick-up at the Business Regulations window.

- Confirm phone number when picking up cards at Business Regulations.
- Download Sagamok Express Mobile App.
- Register card on app.
- Use card by swiping at pump or register before paying.



- * Fuel and cigarette tax exemption discount applied automatically to transaction.
- * Loyalty Cards will take place of Tribal Member Blue Cards and can be used in-store and at the pump beginning Feb. 1, 2024.
- * Members are asked to hold onto blue cards until further notice.

If you have any questions, please contact: Business Regulations 989.775.4105 | cdsineway@sagchip.org

March 2024 Tribal Child Welfare Affidavits or Child Mino Shkiziwin Applications

Forms are available now. *You must fill out ONE form completely.

Deadline: Friday, Feb. 2, 2024 by 5 p.m.

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

Notarization is required

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

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

- For questions regarding the Mno-Shkiziwin Program call Business Regulations at 989-775-4175

SCTC STEAM Student Organization

Fall STEAM^{AG} RAFFLE Fundraiser

Raffle drawing: Feb. 7, 2024

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

Order Establishing SCIT 2024 Fishing Season

Per Tribal Ordinance 11, Section 107 subdivision 2(B), the 2024 Fishing Season shall begin Jan. 1, 2024, and will close Dec. 31, 2024, unless ordered otherwise. Licenses and permits will be available at the Tribal Business Regulations Office as per their hours of operation. Fishing licenses will be \$15.

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

SCIT Ordinance 11 Fishing Seasons and Daily Bag Limits

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



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

Regular Tribal Council Sessions

- ▶ First Tuesday of each month at 9 a.m.
- ▶ Inside the Council Chambers of the Black Elk Government Complex
- Meetings are open to Tribal Members
- Anyone wanting to be added can call (989) 775-4004

Regular Council Session Dates

- Feb. 6 • March 5 • April 2



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

- ▶ **Presidents Day** — Monday, Feb. 19, 2024
- ▶ **Easter** — Monday, April 1, 2024
- ▶ **Michigan Indian Day** — Friday, Sept. 27, 2024



June 8 & 9, 2024

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

Saturday, June 8

- **Registration:** 12-12:45 p.m.
- **Grand Entry:** 1 p.m.
- **Retiring of Flags**

Sunday, June 9

- **Registration:** 12-12:45 p.m.
- **Grand Entry:** 1 p.m.
- **Hand Drum Contest**
- **Retiring of Flags**



Admission:

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

*Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult

Master of Ceremonies: Mike Medawis

Arena Director: Paul Syrette

Head Veteran: David Merrill Jr.

Head Dancers: To be picked daily

Host Drum: Ribbon Town

Co-Host Drum: Kchi Mukwa

Invited Drums: Sturgeon Bay, Southern Straight

Drug & Alcohol Free Event — No Pets Allowed (Service Pets Only) — Volunteers Needed and Appreciated

Questions and special requests, please contact:
Saginaw Chippewa Powwow Committee

989.775.4000 | Powwowcommittee@sagchip.org

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
- 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

SCTC Board of Regents Vacancy

The Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College is currently considering applications to fill a vacancy on the Board of Regents.

Qualifications include:

- Enrollment as a member of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan or another federally-recognized tribe, band, or group.
- Attainment of at least 25 years of age.
- Significant education or work experience related to the process of higher education or vocational training or the administration of education or vocational training institutions and programs.
- Any specific requirements of organizations providing financial or other benefits or providing accreditation of SCTC programs. Except the President of SCTC, no person who is a member of the Board of Regents may also be an employee of SCTC.



Please mail letters of interest to:

Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College
Attention: Carla Sineway
2274 Enterprise Dr.
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

Or email to: csineway@sagchip.edu



Tribal Education Advisory Board VACANCIES

There are currently two vacancies

Send letters/email of interest to:

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

Deadline: Friday, Feb. 9, 2024

Requirements:

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

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 | 989-775-5643



July 26, 27 & 28, 2024

Grand Entry

Friday: 7 p.m. | **Saturday:** 1 p.m. | **Sunday:** 12 p.m.

Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Campground

7525 E. Tomah Rd., Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

Vendors: (Must be approved for set up)

- ▶ **Please email:** powwowcommittee@sagchip.org
- ▶ **Online application:** <http://www.sagchip.org/pow-wow>

- **Host Drum:** Bear Creek
- **Head Veteran:** Raymond Cadotte
- **Masters of Ceremonies:** Joel Syrette & Brian Moore
- **Arena Directors:** Wayne Cleland & Mark Kingbird Sr.
- **Drum Judge:** Harvey Dreaver
- **Male Dance Judge:** Wayne Silas Jr.
- **Female Dance Judge:** Star Silas
- **Head Dancers:** To be picked daily

*Committee specials, and dance and drum contests TBA

www.sagchip.org/pow-wow

*Free Admission **Drug and Alcohol Free Event

For more information, please contact:
989.775.4000 or PowwowCommittee@Sagchip.org



Board of Directors Interim Vacancy

Attention Tribal Members:

The Ziibiwing Center is seeking interested individuals to serve on its Board of Directors.

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.

Qualifications of Members:

In selecting members of the Board of Directors, with the exception of the Ziibiwing Center curator/operations manager, adherence shall be given to the following qualifications:

- Enrollment as a Tribal Member of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan;
- Attainment of at least 18 years of age.

Requirements of Members:

- Financially support the Ziibiwing Center while serving on the Board of Directors by securing and maintaining a current Ziibiwing Center membership;
- Attend and participate in Board of Directors meetings on a regular basis;
- Volunteer to work at least two Ziibiwing Center events per calendar year.

Deadline: Feb. 9, 2024 at 5 p.m.

Interested members need to:

- Meet once a month on a Wednesday at 2 p.m.
- Implement the ZCS' 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
WJohnson@sagchip.org | 989.775.4730

Mail: ZC Board of Directors Committee
c/o William Johnson
6650 E. Broadway, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858




Tribal Council

Chief
Tim J. Davis | District One

Sub-Chief
Luke Sprague | District One

Treasurer
Maia Spotted Tail | District One

Secretary
Jennifer L. Wassegijig | District One

Sergeant-at-Arms
Christina Otto | District One

Chaplain
Alice Jo Ricketts | District One

Council Member
Brad Bennett | District One

Council Member
David Merrill Jr. | District One

Council Member
Frank J. Cloutier | District Three

Council Member
Ron Nelson | District Two

Council Member
Samantha Chippeway | District One

Council Member
Theresa Peters-Jackson | District One



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 **Mail:** ZC Collections Committee
 c/o William Johnson
 6650 E. Broadway
 Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

Phone: 989.775.4730

SCIT Housing Department ADVISORY COMMITTEE

SCIT Housing Department invites you to get involved if you are a leasehold home owner or a tenant of the SCIT Housing Program.

This is your opportunity to have a voice in our program. The Housing Department is currently accepting letters of interest from leasehold home owners and HUD residents for the Housing Advisory Committee SCHD AC.

Please include the following: Name, address, phone number, photo and a letter of interest.

Letters of interest will be accepted until: Friday, Feb. 2 at 5 p.m.

Mail letters of interest to:
 SCIT Housing Department:
 2451 Nish Na Be Anong Rd.
 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



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



TRIBAL OBSERVER

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

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

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

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



Subscription rates are \$30 per year.

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

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

Tribal Observer Advertising

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

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

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

Tribal Observer Subscription Form

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

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

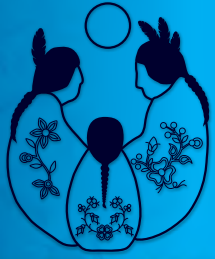
Please mail form to:
 Tribal Observer
 7500 Soaring Eagle Blvd.
 Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

Contact Information:

- Phone:** 989-775-4096
- Email:** Observer@Sagchip.org
- www.Sagchip.org/TribalObserver**



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

Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Scholarship DEADLINES

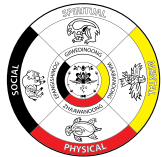
Every semester, students must turn in a schedule and grade report for processing of funding. The deadlines are as follows: ****If applicable**

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 deadline issues must be resolved **BEFORE** the deadline

For more information, please contact:

Deb Smith, Youth Leadership Manager
Email: dsmith@sagchip.org | Phone: 989-775-4071



Attention Tribal Members:

Find the latest information by creating an account and logging into sagchip.org in the Tribal Members only section.

To create an account, go to:
www.sagchip.org/user/signup.aspx

PEST SURVEY

SCIT and its Environmental Team are developing a pesticide program through the EPA. The program supports integrated pest management, with a special focus on protecting pollinators.

We want to better understand local pest pressures and current management practices to determine how the program can best support our community.

Please share your experiences with pests by following the QR code to a survey.



SAGINAW CHIPPEWA ROUND DANCE

Saturday, March 9, 2024

Eagles Nest Tribal Gym

7070 E. Broadway, Mt. Pleasant, MI

- ▶ Doors Open: 5:30 p.m.
- ▶ Prayer and Feast: 6:30 p.m.
- ▶ Round Dance: 7:30 p.m.
- ▶ Student Honoring: 8:30 p.m.



For more information, please contact:

Saginaw Chippewa Academy at 989.775.4453



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



Anishinabe PERFORMANCE CIRCLE

Spring Adult & Youth Classes

Sign up: Now through Feb. 6

Classes: Feb. 6 - April 30 from 5 - 6 p.m.

For more information:

rcadotte@sagchip.org or 989.775.4757

Or visit: www.sagchip.org/ziibiwing

- \$30 fee
- Twelve-week course
- Professional dance instructors
- Class space is limited



Andahwod Valentine's Gift Basket Silent Auction

Andahwod is having a Valentine's Gift Basket Silent Auction to raise money for programming. We are asking each department to consider donating a gift basket to Andahwod.

1. Please mark on the bottom of the basket your name or department and the approximate value of the basket, so we know what to start the bidding at.
2. Baskets are due no later than 5 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 9.
3. Nonperishable only (no items like fruit or flowers).
4. There is no minimum or maximum value for basket.



Bidding starts: Monday, Feb. 12 at 8 a.m.

Bidding ends: Wednesday, Feb. 14 at 9:30 a.m.

- Winners will be announced at the Elder's Breakfast.
- Baskets must be paid for before leaving Andahwod
- Arrangements should be made to have your basket picked up by 5 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 14.

For more information, contact:

depelcher@sagchip.org | 989.775.4339

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.



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)

Saginaw Chippewa Conservation Committee Currently has one vacancy

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



Working Together To Protect Our Environment

Letters of interests accepted until all vacancies are filled.



State of the Tribe

continued from front page

grow our market share and be a leader in the State of Michigan. Projects focused on our youth and those most vulnerable are front and center. We applaud the work of our previous administrations in focusing on education and service based programs.”

Davis continued, “We have made changes that allow us to offer services to our membership that are more convenient for you. We continue work with our local, state and federal legislative partners to bring resources and legislation that assists our community.”

Sub-Chief Luke Sprague’s remarks focused on two construction projects that are generating a lot of interest on the Reservation.

“I’ll start with focusing on the 16 unit Permanent Supportive Housing development next to Ziibiwing Center on 6870 East Broadway,” Sprague said. “This family-friendly facility will feature two three-bedroom units, eight two-bedroom units and six one-bedroom units. The facility will also feature a dog run, play area, community kitchen, library, laundry area and a fire pit. There will also be an area for peer support recovery meeting on site.”

Sprague assured that Tribal Council values the importance of providing safe housing and they commend the SCIT Housing team and the good work being done.

“Housing Manager Rosalie Maloney and Permanent Supportive

Living Coordinator Sam Anglin have been working hard with the construction team to bring safe and affordable housing to the Rez,” Sprague said. “This project was completely funded through a four million dollar HUD grant submitted by Shannon Dorn and Donna Patterson with help of tribal administrators Dustin Davis and Ruben Mosqueda.”

The project is on budget and is scheduled to be completed on July 11 this year, Sprague said.

Sprague then pivoted his remarks to bring attention to the new Saginaw Chippewa Academy, Sasiwaans and recreation center.

“The Ojibwe name of the facility is ‘Wii Maajikwad’ meaning ‘Where we grow.’ The complex will house three departments whose services focus on youth: the Tribal Education Department, Recreation Department and Anishinaabemowin Language Revitalization Department (which includes Sasiwaans Language Immersion School),” Sprague said. “The building is located at 2875 Gikendasso Way, corner of Remus and the new road just west of Seventh Generation.”

Sprague said the structure is 79,000 sq. ft. and offers the following highlights:

- Three early childhood classrooms, includes a playground, restrooms in each

classroom, washer/dryer near classrooms, and private bus entrance

- Six classrooms for kindergarten to fifth grade- includes their own age-appropriate playground, technology capability in all rooms, library/media center, reading room

- A virtual academy space dedicated for middle and high school students – for assistance in credit recovery and other vital academic needs

- Full service kitchen with walk-in freezer, student food service area for cold and hot foods. This will provide food services to all three departments to update and streamline current practices.

- An interior courtyard with benches tables and chairs, and a fire circle for cultural teachings

- Two full size gymnasiums with sliding wall to separate areas for daytime use. One side for students, one side for community open gym time.

- Stage area in gym for student performances and gatherings, with a sliding wall so it can be used for additional student activity space. A control booth and green screen for student broadcasting on the Rez

- A weight room for student athlete programs as well as community member opportunities

- An outside amphitheater for day and nighttime gatherings, programs, powwows

“Tribal Council has been working with youth education consultants Bonnie Ekdahl and Courtney Kahgegab with Konwinski Construction,” Sprague said. “Dependent on occupancy permits; moving in could begin mid-Summer 2024 with completion goal slated for Aug. 3, 2024.”

Tribal Council Secretary Jennifer Wassegijig encouraged the Membership to take an active role in helping the Tribe.

“Volunteerism is the act of contributing your community service or support to our Tribe. It is the principle of donating time and energy towards a greater cause... an

example of ‘working together for our future,’” Wassegijig said. “Volunteers help change the lives of those in their community as a social responsibility and it increased the quality of life for all.”

Wassegijig shared community volunteering, in the true sense, is giving back and serving the community.

“It helps families access much-needed services we offer throughout the Tribe and being a volunteer has lots of benefits. It can bring meaning and purpose to your life, while increasing your self-esteem and wellbeing,” Wassegijig said. “Volunteering can also relieve stress, and alleviate symptoms of depression. As well as having a positive impact on your community, volunteering can improve your relationships.”

Wassegijig informed of the following vacancies that need to be filled by Tribal Members through appointment by Tribal Council:

- One vacancy on the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College Board of Regents

- Two vacancies on Conservation Committee through SCIT Planning Department

- Vacancies on the Ziibiwing Center Collections Committee

- Two vacancies on the Ziibiwing Center Board of Directors

- Three vacancies on the Tribal Education Advisory Board

- Five vacancies on the SCIT Housing Advisory Board

- Three vacancies on the Tribal Education Advisory Board and

- One opening on the Indian Child Welfare Committee Board

Tribal Council member David Merrill Jr. offered remarks how traveling to represent the community allows the Tribe to build important relationships, share unique perspectives, and advocate for the resources and support needed to thrive.



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

Sub-Chief Luke Sprague shares information with the Membership at the State of the Tribe meeting.

“It is an opportunity to demonstrate the strength and resilience of our tribal nation to those in positions of power,” Merrill said. “When we travel to advocate for our community, we are not just speaking for ourselves, but for generations past and generations to come. It is a way to ensure that our voices are heard and that our interests are taken into account when important decisions are made. As a tribal leader once told me, ‘If you’re not at the table, you’re on the menu.’”

District Three Council member Frank Cloutier said being able to share information directly to the Membership that directly provides benefit is heartfelt and satisfying.

“When serving the Membership it is always my goal to work to benefit each member directly. Given the opportunity to report directly to the Membership is important to me,” Cloutier said. “The State of the Tribe address is a constitutionally driven meeting that ensure each member is aware of where the Tribal government is and what is being done on the membership behalf. I will always strive to inform, benefit and serve our Membership.”

Tribal Council reminded the Membership that regular scheduled meetings and community meetings can be viewed in their entirety on the Tribal Member web portal at www.sagchip.org.

Anishnaabeg Child & Family Services Presents



CORNHOLE
DOUBLE ELIMINATION
TOURNAMENT FUNDRAISER

Saturday, March 30, 2024
Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort Ballroom

Doors open: 10 a.m.
Tournament starts: 12 p.m.
Entry fee: \$200 for a team of two

- Payment accepted at Tribal Operations Accounting
- Must bring payment receipt on day of event.

Teams

- Limited to 24 teams
- First eight teams to pay entry fee will have a first round bye

Prizes*

- **First place:** \$1,000
- **Second place:** \$800
- **Third place:** \$400
- **Fourth place:** \$20



Lunch sponsored by Soaring Eagle Marketing
**All proceeds benefit Foster Care Program*

For more information, contact:
989-775-4991 or ACFSPrevention@sagchip.org

Food District

continued from front page

the course of this endeavor, the Tribal Council has been wonderful to work with and we have Tribal Members that are a part of the Food District Team. We are honored to serve the Tribal Membership and are offered 50 percent off meals with their SCIT I.D.”

The Tribe and Soaring Eagle are proud members of the Mt. Pleasant Area Chamber of Commerce and President/CEO Liz Conway came to the event with fellow Chamber ambassadors in support of the new business venture.

“Congratulations to the

Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe for the addition of yet another amazing space for our community and visitors to enjoy,” Conway

said. “... We appreciate the opportunity to participate in the growth of our communities and I am looking forward to visiting again.”



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

Men’s traditional (Cruz Perez and Zack Jackson) and women’s traditional dancers (Faith Carmona Pego and Julie White Pigeon) are photographed during the ribbon cutting ceremony for the Soaring Eagle Food District.



Winter Sacred Storytelling at Saginaw Chippewa Academy

NIKI HENRY

Curriculum Instructional Coordinator

On Tuesday, Dec. 19, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., Aadizookaan Biboon – a winter sacred storytelling event took place at Saginaw Chippewa Academy. Activities included storytelling in the lodge, making holiday crafts, decorating cookies, and taking photos with Anishinaabek Santa and Mrs. Claus.

Additionally, every attendee received a gift bag and was treated to chicken soup, chili, fry bread, and hot chocolate.

“Our families and community members so graciously shared their stories in our teaching lodge, connecting our oral tradition to modern literacy,” said Karyn Spickerman, SCA second grade teacher and one of the event organizers. “The stories, crafts, family, friends, and food made it so much fun. All who attended experienced an evening of gifts. I can’t wait to do this again!”

The newly-appointed academy Principal, Simeon (Russ) Blackbird, said he enjoyed being part of the event and meeting many SCA families.

“The group of parents and students that came out for the

event was amazing and we all got to have fun together celebrating ‘our stories’ – aadizookaan,” he said, noting that these stories “cross generations and still have meaning today in all of our changed contexts.”

Blackbird expressed gratitude to Nathan Isaac, former SCA culture and language teacher and gifted storyteller, for returning to the academy to share his talent with everyone again. He is also thankful for all the organizers who made the event happen for the students and community.

Kelly Woodworth, one of SCA’s Project Aware counselors and event coordinators, also shared her appreciation regarding the evening, saying, “I am so grateful to be a part of such an amazing team that is able to provide these great family engagement opportunities for our community. We had a great turnout! Even some former students that have graduated popped in to enjoy the festivities.”

Woodworth said seeing students and families deeply engaged in traditional storytelling was very rewarding.

“This is what makes our school so unique,” she said. “I love that we get to pass along our traditions to future



Photos courtesy of Niki Henry

The Saginaw Chippewa Academy hosts Aadizookaan Biboon, a winter sacred storytelling event, held on Dec. 19, and featuring storytelling in the lodge, holiday crafts, cookie decorating and photos with Anishinaabek Santa and Mrs. Claus.

generations in a traditional way. I am looking forward to many more events that bring our community together.”

Cecilia Stevens, culture and language teacher and event coordinator, enthusiastically spoke of the event and said it was “beautiful to see the SCA teaching lodge filled with both academy families and members of the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal community.”

“Hearing their laughter fill our lodge from our Anishinaabeg traditional stories shared was heartfelt,” Stevens said. “Everyone seeing the stories brought to life through dance from current and former SCA educators was fun and comical too.”

Stevens said everything about the evening was a delight. “From early planning to closing the evening, it was a

lovely evening to be part of,” she said. “(I’m) thankful to everyone who helped out and to our SCA families and SCIT community for coming out for a great evening at the Saginaw Chippewa Academy.”

The event was made possible due to the collaboration of academy staff, the SCIT community, and Project Aware, along with funds provided by the U.S. Dept. of Education.



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Introductions from the Saginaw Chippewa Youth Council

JOSEPH V. SOWMICK
Public Relations Manager

The January 2024 Tribal Observer featured the swearing in of the new Youth Council on Dec. 6. Now, some of the members would like to take a moment to introduce themselves and share what they hope to accomplish while on Youth Council.

As a Youth Council advisor, Seventh Generation employee Tonya Jackson wanted to say how proud she is of each individual serving on Youth Council.

“It takes a lot of courage to put yourself in a lime light to make a difference in our community. Taking a role to lead by example and put your community first is a lot of responsibility,” Jackson said. “That says a lot about your character and wanting to always put your best foot forward for our future. Remembering to utilize our Seven Grandfather Teachings to move through their terms and making decisions for the betterment of the community and their peers.”

Jackson affirms that with Honesty-Wisdom-Truth-Love-Bravery-Humility-Respect in mind, we can only achieve success as a whole.

“I, myself, have been an advisor for about 10 years; I love the connection made between the youth and the sense of community engagement,” Jackson said. “When I was in high school it looked different than what it is today, there were youth groups between the



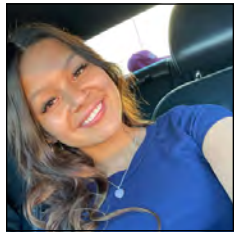
schools and now it is just a combination of those youth spread between them all 6-12 grade.”

Current Saginaw Chippewa Youth Council members include: Kylie Wemigwans (co-president), Zhaawan Martel (co-president), Gnaajiwi Pego (treasurer), Tavia Agosto (secretary), Waabigwan Peters (social director), Charmaine Castillo-Pelcher, Jaycee Kahgegab, Natalia Martin, Alexis Trepanier and LahRae Wilson.

Youth Council Mission Statement: “The Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan (SCIT) Youth Council/ Youth Group is committed to healing our community through community activities, education and traditional values. Physically, mentally, spiritually, and emotionally we plan to work together towards a brighter future for ourselves, our community, our Tribe and our land without drugs, alcohol, or violence because we love ourselves and our people.”

Kylie Wemigwans
Youth Council Co-President

“Aanii! My name is Kylie Wemigwans and I am the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe Youth Council female co-president. I am 17 years old and I am a senior. My hobbies include hanging out with my friends, sewing, drawing, going to the gym, etc. Something I find myself doing in the future is being in the medical field. The medical field is where my interest is the most.”



Courtesy photo

Natalia Martin
Youth Council Member

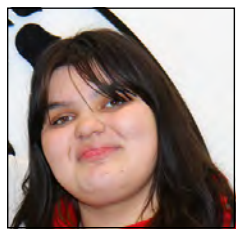
“Aanii, my name is Natalia Martin. I am 13 years old and in the 8th grade at Mt. Pleasant Middle School. I enjoy playing basketball, hanging out with my friends and family and spending time with my little siblings. Being a member on Tribal Youth Council I would like to see more programming for kids.”



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

Jaycee Kahgegab
Youth Council Member

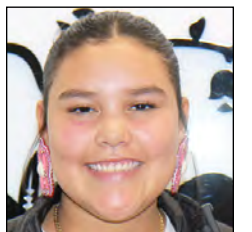
“Hi, my name is Jaycee Kahgegab and I am in 8th grade at Mt. Pleasant Middle School. I am happy to be able to be on Youth Council this year and I look forward to all of the Youth Council events that we are planning. Also I like to hang out with my friends, go skating, swimming and watching TikToks. Thank you.”



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

Tavia Agosto
Youth Council Secretary

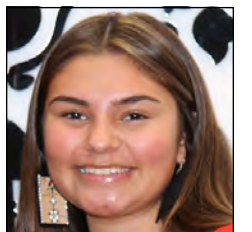
“My name is Tavia Agosto, I am 17 years old, and I am a senior at Mt. Pleasant High School. I am so excited to be a part of the Youth Council, and have the chance to impact younger generations of the Tribe. I feel that it’s important for our youth to get more involved with the community and better understand the Tribe. During my time in the Youth Council, I would like to play a part in bringing the community together and I am looking forward to getting to know all of the students on the Youth Council that I am meeting for the first time. I hope we all enjoy our time together and learn from one another. I can’t wait to see all that we accomplish this coming year.”



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

Lahrae Wilson
Youth Council Member

“Hello, my name is Lahrae Wilson, and I’m a junior at Mt. Pleasant High School. In this term, my goal is to create an environment that allows the youth to connect with more people around them and make a positive impact on the community. I aim to contribute to leadership, advocacy, and community involvement. One thing I strive to do is give back to the community that has helped me reach where I am today. Thank you.”



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

Charmaine Castillo-Pelcher
Youth Council Member

“My name is Charmaine Castillo-Pelcher. I’m 14 years old and in 9th grade at Oasis High School. This is my second Youth Council term. I enjoy being on Youth Council because it challenges me and I like to be involved in my community. I grew up close with my Grandmother, Charmaine Benz, who was dedicated and hardworking for our people and Tribe. She inspired me to do the same, be successful and educated and work for our people. I aspire to work in leadership positions with the Tribe in the future and I will do my best to be a positive role model for our youth.”



Courtesy photo

Alexis Trepanier
Youth Council Member

“Hi My name is Alexis Trepanier, I am a junior at Mt. Pleasant High School. One thing I’m looking forward this year during time on Youth Council is being a good role model for our younger youth to look up to. I feel like it’s important to show the youth good leadership and how important it is to make strong connections with our community.”



Courtesy photo



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Ziibiwing Center hosts film screening featuring MIIBS student interviews from 1991

NATALIE SHATTUCK

Editor

History remembered: The Ziibiwing Center and its Tribal Historic Preservation Office hosted a lunch and learn film screening of “School Days Remembered,” an August 1991 film composed of clips from a group interview of Mt. Pleasant Indian Industrial Boarding School alumni.

The film screening, with a sandwich and chili lunch provided by Nbakade Restaurant, was held on Thursday, Jan. 18 from noon until 1:30 p.m. in the Ziibiwing Center’s discussion room.

Tribal Elder Joseph Sowmick facilitated the discussion prior to and after the film. William Johnson, curator and office manager for the Ziibiwing Center, and Marcella Hadden, tribal historic preservation officer, also provided words.

Tribal Council member David Merrill Jr. was present

and offered a smudging before the film.

In the 1-hour and 10-minute film, the interviews by the 14 MIIBS alumni were conducted by Paul Johnson baa in the former Tribal Operations building.

The MIIBS survivors (attended MIIBS between 1910 and 1933) detail their experiences while attending the school.

“We will see a lot of faces from our past... it’s important to remember the messages they have for us,” Sowmick said prior to the film showing.

The former students mentioned the good things they remembered about attending MIIBS: Students received a “balanced diet,” “learned discipline and to take orders” and “later in life weren’t lazy.”

Julie Stone Weeder, attended the school in 1996 as a 9-year-old. She said she attended the school because her mother died when she was young. She said she “liked everything about the school.”

Josephine Otto Adams attended the school from 1930-1933. Her mother and father were also MIIBS alums. She said she “liked the school and education but not the military drilling.”

Interviewee John Crampton said MIIBS was “a lot better than nothing” and an improvement in their life for not typically having regular meals.

One participant at the Ziibwing event mentioned, after the screening, that the alumni may speak highly of the school because they attended the school during the Great Depression. He mentioned those speaking may have found comfort in having shelter and food in hard times.

In the film, an alumnus mentioned the children “had to grow up very quickly. Small kids cried at night. Older kids were the mother or father figures to the younger children.”

After the film, the full Ziibiwing room was asked, “Who had family members in this film?” A large number of

attendees raised their hands.

Tribal Member Kim Otto McCoy’s name is listed in the film’s credits; she submitted a 1990 grant to the Michigan Council of the Humanities for a MIIBS alumni reunion and it was awarded.

This was the first time Otto McCoy had seen the film.

Otto McCoy said in the 1980s, a man from England – a descendant of one of the MIIBS school officials – came to visit the MIIBS site. She showed the man around campus and it made her realize there had been no alumni reunion since it had closed; opening up the idea to hear from those MIIBS alumni directly.

“It was discussed that those that would attend would speak positively about their experiences,” Otto McCoy said. “Seeing the film for the first time on Thursday, Jan. 18, 2024, I quickly realized that the MIIBS attendees spoke about their positive and negative experiences which gave a rounded view of the overall experience. In addition, it was overwhelming to realize that there will never be another reunion as most, if not all, of those in the film are now deceased including distant relative, Josephine Otto.”

Otto McCoy said seeing the film gave her insight to historical trauma the children experienced.

“One of the interviewees spoke about going home and not being able to speak with their family because they were so alienated,” she said. “Our ancestors, MIIBS survivors/alumni, were not given the opportunity to learn family dynamics which



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

William Johnson (left), curator/office manager for the Ziibiwing Center, and Marcella Hadden (right), tribal historic preservation officer, speak to the film screening audience before showing “School Days Remembered” on Jan. 18.

has trickled down through the generations leading to dysfunction. As MIIBS history is shared it gives understanding to historical trauma and am hopeful that future generations will heal.”

It was William Johnson’s brother Paul that interviewed the former students in the film.

“The spirits of our dearly beloved family members, ancestors live on in this facility,” Johnson said, also mentioning that he discovered his great uncle Wilson Johnson perished at the school.

“It makes my heart soar each of you are hearing what they went through,” Willie said of the former students sharing their memories.

“We will nurture the next generation and the last thing we’re going to do is forget those who came before us,” Johnson said. “... I humbly request that we never forget these people.”

There are 28 known tribes that attended MIIBS. One alumnus in the film was so far removed from her culture she didn’t know which tribe she belonged to.

The Ziibiwing team mentioned there are plans to show this film again. Stay tuned.

Seventh Generation hosts Jan. 17 winter Baby Celebration



Courtesy of Lee Ann Ruffino

NATALIE SHATTUCK

Editor

Mnaajaadaa gda binoojiinhsminaanik “let’s celebrate our babies”: Seventh Generation hosted a Jan. 17 winter Baby Celebration in the Elijah Elk Cultural Center from 6 to 8 p.m.

Tribal Members and descendants were welcome to bring their new babies, aged 0 to 6 months old.

The event featured speaker Punkin Shananaquet. A meal was provided, along with a keepsake item, door prizes and a baby blanket giveaway.

February 2024 Tribal Elder Birthdays

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1) Todd Bergevin
John Kampf Jr.
Bonnie Sprague
Gail Smith
Cathy Floyd | Mark Grischke
Esther Bailey
Virgil Munson
Kirk Walraven |
| 2) Deborah Meskill
Angela Jenkins
Robert Shawboose
Troy Chamberlain | 7) Patrick Nahgahgwon
Scott Pego |
| 3) Kelly Hartwell
Mark Martin
Martha Pudvay
Tom Wayne
Robin Martin | 8) Linda Craig
Debra Marler
Linda Martin |
| 4) Wayne Ritter
Roland Jackson
Juanita Slater | 9) Raymond Davis
James Burnham
Linda Powell
Jackie Donovan |
| 5) Mary Graveratte
Marcia Kelsall
David Conlay Jr. | 10) Paul Rueckert Sr. |
| 6) Barbara Brodie
Timothy Davis | 11) Mark Schafer
Karen Cantlin
Kyle Garlick
Michael Pashenece
Sharrie Moses
Daniel McCreery |
| | 12) Bonnie Ekdahl
Sonny Jackson |

13) Paul Bailey
Evelyn Castaneda
Sheri Lairson

15) Rachel Walker
Frances McGraw
Terry Vasquez
Mark Steele

16) Kathy Dintaman
Darryl Jackson
Florence Sprague

17) De Anna Baker
Lori Mazur

18) Timothy Jackson
Richard Byce

19) Milton Pelcher
Walter Slavik

20) Ronald Bonnau
Peggy Goebel
Nancy Miller

21) Gregory Dutton
Savannah Morning Star-Rice

22) Tracy Mays
Chester Cabay III
Rebecca Rittmaier

23) Susan Bettistea

Betty Brief
Dorothy Brown
Kevin Fallis
Kelly Kendall
Kathie Kozuch
Ralph Mays
Bunny Roth

24) Dianna Chamberlain
David McConnell
Sabrina Paulo
Bernard Wright

25) Cynthia Quigno
Shirley Robertson
Deborah Guillen

Nathan Ritter
Frederick Harris
Leah Carmody
Anthony Hunt Sr.

26) Willie Bailey Jr.
Lorna McDonald
Edward Phelps
Leon Reed

27) Dawn Chippewa
Alvin Jackson

28) Julie Chamberlain

29) Evelyn Sharon

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SCAN ME



Roots and Boots: Collin Raye, Aaron Tippin and Sammy Kershaw perform at Soaring Eagle

NATALIE SHATTUCK

Editor

American country musicians Collin Raye, Aaron Tippin and Sammy Kershaw came together in the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort's Entertainment Hall for the Roots and Boots tour on Friday, Jan. 19.

With an energetic start to the evening, the three musicians entered the stage together to perform upbeat hits. The artists each danced and clapped around on stage to get the audience wound up.

Sammy Kershaw kicked it off with lead vocals on "Cadillac Style," followed by "Working Man's Ph.D." with Aaron Tippin taking the lead,

and "That's My Story" with Collin Raye on lead vocals.

Next, Sammy Kershaw performed a solo set. Kershaw has achieved three platinum and six gold status albums. He performed "Third Rate Romance," Eric Clapton's "Lay Down Sally," "Yard Sale," "She Don't Know She's Beautiful" and "Queen of My Double Wide Trailer."

Aaron Tippin has earned six gold albums and one platinum. He has released more than 30 singles.

Tippin's solo set featured "You've Got to Stand For Something," "My Blue Angel," "There Ain't Nothin' Wrong With the Radio," "Where the Stars and Stripes and the Eagle Fly" and "Kiss This."

Collin Raye, according to

his website, has had 25 Top 10 records and 16 number one hits.

Raye's solo set included performances of "Little Red Rodeo," "Little Rock," "My Kind of Girl," the Joe Diffie cover "Third Rock From the Sun" and "Love, Me."

The three musicians came back on stage together. The 90-minute show concluded with the three performing Johnny Paycheck's "Take This Job and Shove It" with Tippin on lead vocals, Glen Campbell's "Rhinstone Cowboy" with Raye on lead vocals and George Jones' "He Stopped Loving Her Today" with Kershaw taking lead.

Their lively encore included Waylon Jennings' "Are You Sure Hank Done It This Way."



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

Country artists (left to right) Collin Raye, Aaron Tippin and Sammy Kershaw join center stage during the Roots and Boots tour at the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort on Friday, Jan. 19.

Country music fans head to Soaring Eagle for Lonestar, Eddie Montgomery show

NATALIE SHATTUCK

Editor

Country music fans were in for a treat as the well-known group Lonestar with special guest Eddie Montgomery both made their return to the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort on Saturday, Dec. 30.

Lonestar have sold 10 million records with 10 number one singles.

In March 2021, Lonestar announced singer-songwriter Drew Womack joined the group as the new lead singer. Womack joins members Dean Sams (keyboards/acoustic guitar/backing vocals), Michael Britt (lead guitarist/backing vocals) and Keech Rainwater (drums).

They really are seasoned musicians. They are an energetic band with onstage chemistry with one another. The band also had a lot of interaction with the crowd.

Some of the Lonestar hits performed at the live show included "You're Like Coming Home," "You Walked In," "Tequila Talkin'," "Runnin' Away With My Heart," "Tell Her," "My Front Porch Looking In," "Mr. Mom" and "I'm Already There."

The band continued on with an impressive performance of "Walking in Memphis," "What About Now," and the power ballad and the group's longest-lasting number one single and biggest hit, "Amazed." "Amazed" has 78 million views on YouTube.

Lonestar's encore included a fun, energetic medley mash up.

Eddie Montgomery of duo Montgomery Gentry opened the show.

Montgomery's musical partner of nearly 35 years, Troy Gentry, died in September 2017 in a helicopter crash, two days after finishing their last album. The duo's music lives on and Eddie Montgomery continues to perform their hit songs live.

Montgomery began his portion of the show with "Where I Come From," "Lonely and Gone," "She Couldn't Change Me" and "Something to Be Proud Of."

"(I'm) loud and proud especially when it comes to the greatest country in the world... this is the greatest country in the world," Montgomery said to the audience after the



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

Members of country music band Lonestar – guitarist/keyboardist Dean Sams (left) and lead singer Drew Womack (right) – perform in the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort Entertainment Hall on Saturday, Dec. 30.



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

Eddie Montgomery opens the Saturday evening show and performs the Montgomery Gentry hit "Where I Come From."

patriotic song. "We just don't give it up enough for all of our great American heroes, baby!"

The set continued with the upbeat, anthemic "Hell Yeah."

"We don't slow it down much, but when we do, we've got something to say," Montgomery said before performing "Lucky Man."

The performance continued with "What Do Ya Think About That," "One in Every Crowd," "My Town," "Gone," "Hillbilly Shoes" and more.

Montgomery paid homage to Gentry saying "Brother T" was "the pretty one" of the duo. Montgomery also



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

Lonestar members – Dean Sams (left, keyboardist) and Michael Britt (right, guitarist) – share a moment on stage.

mentioned Gentry was the biggest practical joker.

For country music fans, the

next Soaring Eagle show to check out is Justin Moore on Saturday, March 9.

Lance Burton & Friends bring the magic to the Soaring Eagle

MATTHEW WRIGHT

Staff Writer

The Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort hosted Lance Burton

Master Magic & Friends on Dec. 28. Fellow magician Keith West and the Illusioners joined Burton to make a memorable night of magic.

Burton has spent over three decades as a headlining act on the Las Vegas strip. Over this time he has performed over 15,000 shows for over 15 million fans.

The show featured awe inspiring illusions, sleight of hand, and plenty of magic. The audience members were not only mesmerized by the tricks on the stage, many segments featured a chance for them to join on stage.

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



Observer photo by Matthew Wright

Magician Lance Burton looks out to the crowd during his Dec. 28 show at the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort.



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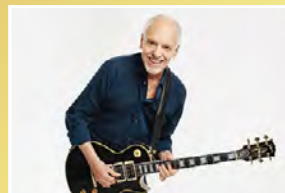
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JEFF FOXWORTHY**
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16 | 8PM
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NEVER TOUR
SATURDAY, MARCH 16 | 8PM
\$62, \$76, \$89, \$96



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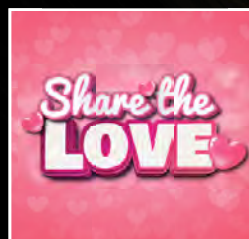
**EVERY FRIDAY
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12PM-9PM**

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Singer-songwriter Smokey Robinson performs timeless classics, Motown hits

NATALIE SHATTUCK

Editor

Timeless is one way to describe the evening that Smokey Robinson created on Dec. 27 in the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort's Entertainment Hall.

An R&B and soul singer, songwriter, record producer and former record executive, Smokey Robinson's career has spanned over four decades.

He has received the Grammy Living Legend Award, Kennedy Center Honors and the National Medal of Arts Award from the President of the United States. He has also been inducted into the Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame and the Songwriters' Hall of Fame.

That Wednesday evening performance was filled with timeless classics and exceptional, memorable moments from the 83-year-old class act.

The show began at 8 p.m. – a running time of 100

minutes – with an overture from Robinson's backup band containing a full string section. A string instrumental medley of Robinson's hits throughout his career was performed.

Each musician was dressed in formal attire, and out walks Robinson in a dazzling green suit to get the show started.

The show began with "Being With You," "I Second That Emotion," "You've Really Got a Hold on Me," "Quiet Storm" and "Ooo Baby Baby," which received a standing ovation and long applause that left Robinson humbly shaking his head and momentarily speechless.

"Well, I guess that's it," Robinson smiled, pretending to end the show. "Thank you so much. Wow. I had a bunch of stuff to say after we played that song. I don't know what to say after you just did that. What a welcome home... It takes a lot to make me speechless."

The Detroit native then took

his suit coat off and flaunted more dance moves. Also on full display were the dynamics in his strong voice, energy and infinite smile.

Robinson discussed Hitsville Detroit and the 60th anniversary of Motown.

He mentioned the song he wrote which would become The Temptations' first international hit. He then performed a trio medley of The Temptations' hits which he wrote: "The Way You Do The Things You Do," "Get Ready" and "My Girl."

"People would ask me, 'What do you do when you hear your music on the radio?' Turn it up!" Robinson said.

Robinson has accumulated more than 4,000 songs to his credit (smokeyrobinson.com).

The show continued with "The Tears of a Clown," "I Love Your Face" and "Fly Me to the Moon (In Other Words)," a cover from his 2006 album "Timeless Love."



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

Singer and songwriting legend Smokey Robinson performs his timeless Motown hits on Dec. 27 in the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort's Entertainment Hall.

He performed a song from his upcoming Spanish language LP "La Mirada," and also the first single from his album released last year, "If We Don't Have Each Other."

The show concluded with "Beside You," "Just to See Her," "The Tracks of My Tears" and his timeless classic hit "Cruisin'," which left the audience on cloud nine.

Great White with Quiet Riot bring the noise to Soaring Eagle

MATTHEW WRIGHT

Staff Writer

The Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort brought the noise, energy and nostalgia of '80s and '90s rock and roll to the Entertainment Hall stage on Dec. 29. The holiday season was celebrated in

style with hard rockers Great White and Quiet Riot performing a plethora of hits.

Headlining the show was American rock band Great White. Formed in 1977, the group has gone on to release nine albums spanning over four decades.

Great White began with the driving guitar riffs of "Desert Moon" followed by "Lady Red Light" and "Stick It."

The hits continued with "House of Broken Love," "Rollin' Stoned" and "Big Time."

Switching up the tempo, the band next performed the piano-driven ballad "The Angel Song" and the slow, bluesy "Mista Bone."

Next up was "Big Goodbye," "Save Your Love" and "Rock Me."

To close out the night, Great White performed "Once Bitten Twice Shy." Their biggest hit, the song peaked at No. 5 on Billboard's U.S. Hot 100 chart.

Opening the night was heavy metal band Quiet Riot.

Quiet Riot formed in 1973 by legendary guitarist Randy Rhoads and bassist Kelly Garni. The band would go through many lineup changes before the release of their breakthrough album "Metal

Health" in 1983. The current lineup features original member Rudy Sarzo on bass.

Quiet Riot began with the hit songs "Run for Cover," "Slick Black Cadillac" and "Mama Weer All Crazee Now."

The metal kept coming with "Condition Critical," "Thunderbird," "Party All

Night," and "The Wild and the Young."

Next up was a mash up of their hit song "Let's Get Crazy" and Ozzy Osbourne's "Crazy Train."

The set ended with the classic hard rock anthems "Cum On Feel the Noize" and "Metal Health (Bang Your Head)."



Observer photo by Matthew Wright

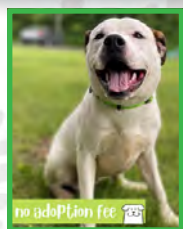
Members of Great White come together center stage during their Dec. 29 concert at the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort.



Observer photo by Matthew Wright

Quiet Riot bassist and original member Rudy Sarzo (left) performs alongside guitarist Alex Grossi (right).

Adopt a Pet



Buddy- NO FEE

Buddy is a 2-year-old American Bulldog mix. Buddy is a big ham and loves to flop on his side for belly rubs. He likes everyone he meets and enjoys going for walks. He would be a great adventure buddy and has no problem being a social butterfly. He is a kind and clever pup and needs a home where he can be properly "parented" to know what's expected of him and he will aim to please. His adoption fee has been waived.



Shorty

Shorty is a 5-year-old female Domestic Shorthair mix. Shorty came from a hoarding situation and she, understandably so, is a bit shy. She is a gentle soul yearning for love and trust. She was repeatedly raising litters of kittens. With time, patience, and a nurturing environment, she is sure to overcome her hesitations and transform into a devoted companion.

Humane Animal Treatment Society

1105 S. Isabella Rd., Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858 Hatsweb.org
Phone: 989.775.0830 Email: hats.publicrelations@gmail.com

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



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RTC medical director honored for years of service to SCIT community

JOSEPH V. SOWMICK

Public Relations Manager

On Dec. 20, 2023, Behavioral Health staff joined with other departments and friends in the community to celebrate with Dr. Kathleen Regan, medical director for the Residential Treatment Center, on her retirement, after 19 years with the Tribe.

Sub-Chief Luke Sprague was joined by fellow Council member Christina Otto and Human Resources Director Louanna Bruner as they honored Regan's retirement.

"Dr. Kathleen Regan has been a blessing for our Tribal community working with families for the last 19 years," Sprague said. "She enjoys being able to help others and prides herself in taking care of several generations of the same family. Commitment, empathy and compassion are qualities that Dr. Regan has embraced over the years. Our Tribal Behavioral Health Program and our community honors Dr. Regan for her exceptional



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

Kathleen Regan (fourth from left), medical director for the Residential Treatment Center, is honored by Tribal Council members, and Behavioral Health and Human Resources staff for her retirement after 19 years with the Tribe.

medical career with the tribe with this outpouring of love you see today."

Regan received a plaque outlining her years of dedication and a ceremonial gift of a Pendleton blanket that came with it.

"I would say it's been a distinct honor and privilege working for the Tribe over the years and with such an amazing team. The love, compassion and caring is truly overwhelming," Regan said. "It does get tough sometimes and we all need to hang in there. Let's put our heads together and continue to

do our best... I'm going to miss you guys a lot."

Behavioral Health Administrator Ame Edstrom remarked it is very rare to have access to psychiatrists face-to-face as society transitions to virtual tele-psychiatry more and more.

"(Dr. Regan) has been invaluable as a consultant, the medical director for RTC, and with providing direction in client treatment and medication," Edstrom said. "She met weekly with all of the clinicians at BH to receive updates on progress with clients and to

provide feedback with moving forward in their treatment. We all looked forward to those weekly meetings as they were instrumental to the success and growth of our clients."

Edstrom said she was impressed with the knowledge and wealth of experience Regan was able to bring to the Tribe regarding medical treatment.

"Dr. Regan has many years of experience and with that comes wisdom in mental health and psychotropic medications," Edstrom said. "We wish her the best in her next journey of life and know that she will always be with us in heart, mind, and spirit."

Camille Sumpter, clinical services coordinator for Behavioral Health, personally thanked Regan for illuminating her path and always putting a smile on her face.

"It's hard to say goodbye to a colleague who has become such an essential part of our team. We couldn't have accomplished what we have done without her caring, compassionate, thoughtfulness, kindness, and encouraging spirit," Sumpter said. "We will miss her infectious energy and can-do attitude, and Dr. Regan has left an incredible impact on our team as well as the community. Working with such a great leader has changed the way I look at my job."

RTC Manager Sarah Winchell said Regan embraced

the cultural aspect of healing.

"She encouraged RTC clients and others to utilize Traditional Healer Joe Syrette and consulted with him regarding western medicine vs. traditional medication," Winchell said. "She encouraged clients to try traditional medicines whenever they showed interest."

Syrette said they did have conversations around the medicine that was provided to the patients and clients to make sure that they were working together cohesively for the best care.

"That is always the main purpose of traditional medicine; to work together with others to make sure that the clients' needs are at the forefront," Syrette said.

In a prepared statement from Nimkee Memorial Wellness Center, Dr. Barry Kissoondial and Nurse Practitioner John Pattison mentioned Regan has been an ally is assisting with patients with mental health disorders and has been extremely supportive in efforts for Medication Assisted Treatment.

"We've really appreciated the impact she's made for the community and our patients for a number of years," the Nimkee providers said. "In an era where it is so difficult to get psychiatry services, we have been very fortunate to have Dr. Regan on staff and in office to assist our patients."

Request for quotes: lawn care services

Project overview:

The Saginaw Chippewa Housing Department (SCHD) is requesting quotes for professional lawn care services for the duration of the 2024 growing season. The Department is seeking a reputable firm to provide the following services only: fertilizer, weed control, grub and mole control. Service area will include approximately 17.2 acres at four (4) separate locations, listed below.



Company background:

The Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan is a federally recognized tribal government. The Saginaw Chippewa Housing Department (SCHD) is wholly owned and operated by the SCIT located on the Isabella reservation in Isabella County, Mich. SCHD has been operating a low-income rental housing program for over 30 years, with funding from the Indian Housing Block Grant awarded through HUD and the NAHASDA legislation. The SCIT Housing Department is the owner of this project.

Project goals:

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

Project scope of work:

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

- Otto Park – 2379 Otto Drive, Mt. Pleasant, MI
- Broadway Park – 2473 Nishnabeang Drive, Mt. Pleasant, MI
- Little Elk Park – 7701 Little Elk Drive, Mt. Pleasant, MI
- Housing & Planning offices – 2451 Nishnabeang, Mt. Pleasant, MI

Submission procedures:

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

Provide the following information:

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

Submission deadline:

Feb. 29, 2024 by 5 p.m.

Proposals must be dropped off or mailed to:

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

Or emailed to:

- romaloney@sagchip.org
- jpumford@sagchip.org

Contact:

- **Rosalie Maloney**
SCIT Housing Manager
romaloney@sagchip.org
989.775.4581
- **Jeremy Pumford**
SCIT Maintenance Supervisor
jpumford@sagchip.org
989.775.4586

Evaluation metrics:

Evaluation metrics; a points system will be used to compile a total score for each submission based on the following:

- Total cost for services
- Better Business Bureau Rating, if available
- Two client written references, include their contact information (within the last year)
- Native preference shall be a consideration
- Small, woman, minority and service disabled veteran-owned business, if yes, provide documentation.

The SCHD will evaluate those companies that provides all the requested information listed above in this RFQ. The company with the highest rating will be notified via email. The firm awarded under this RFQ must be willing to enter into the standard service agreement with the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe.

Project Venture hosts 'lunch and bead' Beading Circle

Project Venture hosts a drop-in "lunch and bead" Beading Circle with Alice Jo Ricketts on Jan. 17 from noon to 1:30 p.m. near the Eagles Nest Tribal Gym.

Tribal Elder and Tribal Council Chaplain Alice Jo Ricketts said she has been beading since she was 10 years old and still enjoys being creative.

"As a person who has struggled with addiction, I have found beading to be my healthy outlet," she said.

Beads and supplies and lunch were provided to the attendees.

Observer photos by Joseph Sowmick





FEBRUARY 2024 | Tribal Community Event Planner

Auricular (Ear) Acupuncture

Feb. 1 | 4-6 p.m.
 • Behavioral Health
 • 989-775-4850

Euchre Nights at Andahwod

Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 | 5:30-7 p.m.
 • Andahwod CCC & ES

Elders' Aquatics Exercise Class

Feb. 7, 14, 21, 28 | 2 p.m.
 • Soaring Eagle Waterpark and Hotel pool
 • 989-775-4694 or JHarman@sagchip.org

Sewing Nights

Feb. 7, 14, 21, 28 | 5:30-7:30 p.m.
 • Seventh Generation
 • 989-775-4780 or TJackson@sagchip.org

SCTC STEAM^{AG} Student Organization Meeting

Feb. 7, 21 | 12-1 p.m.
 • Tribal College new building, Room 136
 • 989-317-4827 or KHart@sagchip.edu

Drop In Beading Circle

Feb. 7, 14, 21, 28 | 12-1:30 p.m.
 • Project Venture Youth Space (Tribal Gym)
 • 989-775-5804 or TJackson@sagchip.org
 • Lunch, beads and supplies provided

People's Powwow Taco Fundraiser

Feb. 9 | 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. (or until gone)
 • Seventh Generation
 • 989-317-4780 or TJackson@sagchip.org
 • Taco dinner: \$10

Naakdowendiswin - "Taking care of self" Teen Fashion Show

Feb. 15 | 6-9 p.m.
 • Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort's Entertainment Hall
 • 989-775-4400 or BHVictimservices@sagchip.org
 • Theme: Zaagidziwin- self love
 • Youth will be gifted apparel for participating
 • A drum and dance social will follow

Elder Birthday Bingo and Potluck

Feb. 24 | 12-3 p.m.
 • Andahwod
 • 989-775-4300

Storytelling at Seventh Generation

Feb. 23 | 5-8 p.m.
 • Seventh Generation
 • 989-775-4780 or TJackson@sagchip.org
 • Meal provided
 • All are welcome
 • Storytellers: Isabelle Osawamick and Howard Webkamigad

ACFS Cornhole Double Elimination Tournament Fundraiser

March 30 | Doors open at 10 a.m., games start at 12 p.m.
 • Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort Ballroom
 • 989-775-4991 or ACFSPrevention@sagchip.org
 • Entry fee: \$200 for a team of two
 • Payment accepted at Tribal Operations Accounting window. Must bring payment receipt from accounting on day of event.
 • Teams are limited to 24 teams
 • First eight teams to pay will have a first round bye
 • 50/50 raffle and door prizes



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- You're now prepared to reverse an opioid overdose
- Report naloxone use at nextdistro.org/reverse to have more naloxone mailed to you



FEBRUARY 2024 | Tribal Community Calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat./Sun.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● SECR Payroll ● SCIT Per Capita ● SCIT Payroll ● Curbside Recycling 			1 Auricular Acupuncture 4-6 p.m. B. Health Recovery on the Rez 6 p.m. B. Health	2 Chair Yoga 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. Andahwod Fireside on the Rez 11:30 a.m. B. Health	3 Fireside on the Rez 6 p.m. B. Health 4
5 Recovery Group 1-2 p.m. B. Health Language Bingo 1-3 p.m. Andahwod Artistic Expression of the Saginaw Chippewa 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Ziibiwing	6 Regular Council Session 9 a.m. Council Chambers Recovery on the Rez 2-3 p.m. Zoom Shaker Workshop 5-7 p.m. 7th Gen Drums Out 7-9 p.m. 7th Gen	7 Eagle Feather Teachings 1:30-3 p.m. B. Health Drop In Basketball 5:30-8:30 p.m. Tribal Gym	8 Sacred Fire Lunch 12-1 p.m. 7th Gen Soup Day 12-1 p.m. Saganing Recovery on the Rez 6 p.m. B. Health	9 Fireside on the Rez 11:30 a.m. B. Health	10 Fireside on the Rez 6 p.m. B. Health 11
12 Name That Tune 2:30-3:30 p.m. Andahwod Recovery Group 1-2 p.m. B. Health	13 Bingo with Friends 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Saganing Recovery on the Rez 2-3 p.m. Zoom Drums Out 7-9 p.m. 7th Gen	14 Elders Breakfast 9 a.m. Andahwod Eagle Feather Teachings 1:30-3 p.m. B. Health Drop In Basketball 5:30-8:30 p.m. Tribal Gym	15 Tribal Observer deadline Soup Day 12-1 p.m. Saganing American Buffalo Documentary 1 p.m. Saganing Recovery on the Rez 6 p.m. B. Health	16 Fireside on the Rez 11:30 a.m. B. Health	17 Music with Delmar Jr. 2:30-3:30 p.m. Andahwod Fireside on the Rez 6 p.m. B. Health 18
19 Tribal Ops Closed Presidents Day Recovery Group 1-2 p.m. B. Health	20 Recovery on the Rez 2-3 p.m. Zoom Drums Out 7-9 p.m. 7th Gen	21 Eagle Feather Teachings 1:30-3 p.m. B. Health Drop In Basketball 5:30-8:30 p.m. Tribal Gym Language Carnival 5-8 p.m. 7th Gen	22 Feather Teaching at Soup Day 12-1 p.m. Saganing Sacred Fire Lunch 12-1 p.m. 7th Gen Recovery on the Rez 6 p.m. B. Health	23 Fireside on the Rez 11:30 a.m. B. Health	24 Fireside on the Rez 6 p.m. B. Health 25
26 Bingo with Friends 1-3 p.m. Andahwod Recovery Group 1-2 p.m. B. Health	27 Recovery on the Rez 2-3 p.m. Zoom Drums Out 7-9 p.m. 7th Gen	28 Elders Breakfast 9 a.m. Andahwod Eagle Feather Teachings 1:30-3 p.m. B. Health Drop In Basketball 5:30-8:30 p.m. Tribal Gym	29 Recovery on the Rez 6 p.m. B. Health	Check out the Tribal Observer ONLINE www.sagchip.org/tribalobserver	



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

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

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Tribal Operations

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. 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.

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.

Clinical Therapist - ICT

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

Clinical Therapist - Family Resource Program

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. Excellent computer and communication skills.

Interim Clinical Therapist Family Resources

Open to the public. Interim position. 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.

Community Health Educator

Open to the public. Grant funded position through Sept. 29, 2027. Bachelor's degree in health ed-

ucation or related field. One year experience implementing health education programs.

Clerical Pool

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

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.

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.

Administrative Assistant II

Open to the public. High school diploma or GED. Two years ad-

ministrative support experience. Must be able to complete and pass a typing test at 30 words per minute, with 70 percent accuracy.

Early Childhood Manager

Open to the public. Bachelor's degree in education or related field. Two years experience and training with early childhood programs. One year in a supervisory capacity. 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

Certified Nursing Assistant PT

Open to the public. High school diploma or GED. Desired qualifications: One year nursing experience. Experience with older adults.

Tribal Member Rotation Program (Non gaming)

Open to SCIT Members only. High school diploma or GED. Must be at least 18 years of age.

Tribal Member Rotation Program (Gaming)

Open to SCIT Members only. High school diploma or GED. Must be at least 18 years of age.

Special Education Teacher

Open to the public. Bachelor's degree in special education, education or related field.

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. Grant funded position through Sept. 30, 2028. Master's degree in counseling, social work, human services, or related field. One year of experience in mental health services working with children and families of children with severe emotional disturbances.

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.

Case Manager HTWC

Open to the public. Grant funded position through Sept. 30, 2027. Bachelor's degree in social work, psychology, human services, or related field. One year case management experience.

Project Coordinator NC

Open to the public. Grant funded position through Sept. 29, 2028. Bachelor's degree in social sciences. Master's degree preferred. Two years' experience in clinical social work or behavioral health service delivery.

Project Manager Environmental Outreach Coordinator

Open to the public. Grant funded position through Sept. 30, 2024. At least two years of study at an institution of higher education (equal to 60 semester hours) or an associates degree (or higher) and knowledge of and experience with Anishinaabemowin and traditional Anishinaabe lifeways

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. Excellent computer and communication skills.

Soaring Eagle

Guest Room Attendant FT

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

Guest Room Attendant PT

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

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.

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.

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. Desired qualifications: Culinary degree from an ACF (American Culinary Federation) accredited school.

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.

Saganing

Slot Attendant

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

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.

Front Desk Agent PT

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

F&B Attendant FT

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

Waitstaff FT

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

Waitstaff PT

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

F&B Cashier PT

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

Summons and Complaint Notices

NOTICE TO JAKE HENRY DETZLER IN THE MATTER OF ONE MINOR CHILD, DATE OF BIRTH 09-01-2013:

The Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Court Children's Division. Publication of Hearing. Case No. 20-JCW-0053. The Court has taken jurisdiction of the minor in reference to the case number listed above. A hearing for Petition to Terminate Parental Rights will be conducted by the court on **THURSDAY, FEB. 9, 2024 AT 10 A.M.** in the courtroom at the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Court, 6954 E. Broadway Rd., Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858 before the Honorable Michelle Horn. IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that **JAKE HENRY DETZLER** personally appear before the court at the time and place stated above. This hearing may result in the Court continuing its jurisdiction over the minor and the eventual termination of parental rights. Rights of parties as to counsel is set forth in Title II of the Children's Code, Chapter 2.3, Section 2.313(a).

NOTICE TO CREDITORS IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF STACEY ANN DUTTON:

The Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Court 6954 East Broadway Road, Mount Pleasant, MI 48858 (989) 775-4800. Estate of Stacey Ann Dutton. Date of Birth: Nov. 1, 1970. Notice to creditors: The decedent, Stacey Ann Dutton, died November 18, 2023. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Wayne F. Dutton, personal representative, or to both the tribal probate court at 6954 East Broadway, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858 and the personal representative within four months after the date of publication of this notice. Personal Representative: Wayne F. Dutton, 9821 E. Sage, Mt. Pleasant MI 48858, 989-284-0250.

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 meeting announcements will be in the April Tribal Observer.

****District 3 meeting locations within Saginaw, Flint, Lansing, and Traverse City will be announced in April Tribal Observer.**

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

Visit www.scit-tribalconstitutionrevision.com for information and updates

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

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

ENTERTAINMENT



Theresa Caputo LIVE The Experience

Saturday, February 3
8PM
Entertainment Hall
Tickets: \$62, \$76, \$89, \$96



Jeff Foxworthy

Friday, February 16
8PM
Entertainment Hall
Tickets: \$47, \$57, \$76, \$82



Clueless Murder Mystery Dinner

Thursday, February 15
6:45PM
Entertainment Hall
Tickets: Single \$60, Couples \$110



Vodka Pasta Dine & Drink Series

Thursday, February 17
8PM
Entertainment Hall
Tickets: \$50



Peter Frampton

Saturday, March 16
8PM
Entertainment Hall
Tickets: \$62, \$76, \$89, \$96



Godsmack Vibe Tour with special guest Bastian da Cruz

Saturday, April 27
8PM
Entertainment Hall
Tickets: \$69, \$80, \$92, \$99



STYX

Saturday, May 4
8PM
Entertainment Hall
Tickets: \$62, \$76, \$89 & \$96



Chicago

Saturday, May 25
8PM
Entertainment Hall
Tickets: \$63, \$77, \$90, \$97



Lynyrd Skynyrd & ZZ Top The Sharp Dressed Simple Man Tour

Friday, August 9
7PM
Entertainment Hall
Tickets: \$38, \$99, \$117, \$147



Join us for
Outdoor Concerts
All Summer Long!

Visit our website SoaringEagleCasino.com for complete entertainment lineup.

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.

**LOVE IS IN THE NUMBERS:
FIND YOUR LUCKY NUMBERS
AND WIN YOUR SHARE OF OVER**

\$46,000

**IN CASH
AND PRIZES!**

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17 | 3PM

SEE BINGO FOR COMPLETE DETAILS

Only those who purchase the 3PM session
are eligible to win prize drawings.