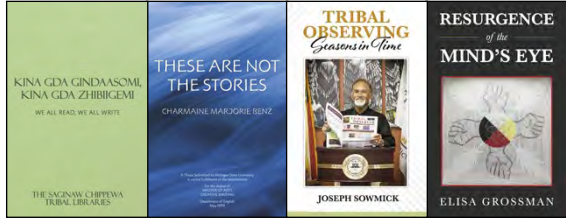




# TRIBAL OBSERVER

MARCH 2024

Working Together For Our Future www.sagchip.org/tribalobserver Volume 26 | Issue 3



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## Tribal Operations, Migizi employee longevity recognized during 2024 Snowball Banquet

NATALIE SHATTUCK Editor

To celebrate Tribal Operations and Migizi employees' longevity, the Human Resources department hosted the 2024 Snowball Employee Banquet on Saturday, Jan. 27 to honor the years of service awards for the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe.

The event – held from 6 to 11 p.m. in the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort Entertainment Hall – provided dinner before the awards began and prizes were handed out throughout the evening.

Chief Tim J. Davis received honor for achieving 40 years of service.

Chief Davis began working for the Tribe in 1977 as part of the Indian Action Team before working for the SCIT Construction team.

“(Davis) joined the Tribal Police Department in 1982 as a police officer where he worked for 11 years before becoming sergeant for over 17 and a half years,” said Mary Quigno, Human Resources senior manager, at the banquet. “Throughout his years when he wasn't working as a sergeant, he was serving on Tribal Council, which was seven terms. He is full of knowledge from these seven terms – serving as sub-chief three times,



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

Chief Tim J. Davis (front) is recognized for 40 years of service during the 2024 Snowball Employee Banquet on Saturday, Jan. 27 (left to right: Tribal Council members – Sub-Chief Luke Sprague, Executive Secretary Jennifer L. Wassegijig, Chief Davis, David Merrill Jr., Sgt.-at-Arms Christina Otto and Samantha Chippeway).

and he is currently our tribal chief for the second time.”

Quigno shared a statement that Davis' son, Dustin Davis, provided: “Recalling the lessons of leadership my father has provided throughout my life, I've experienced that it's important to be committed to integrity and dedicated to investing time to learn from those we spend time with. I've learned that it is imperative to view our associates as our greatest assets...”

Receiving recognition for 35 years of service were: Fred Cantu Jr., Shelly Reihl, Sheridan Pelcher, Esther Chatfield and Kim Otto McCoy.

Fire Chief Fred Cantu Jr. began working for the Tribe as

a security guard trainee, eventually working his way to security guard. He had a change in his career; becoming the fire chief in 1997. He also served two terms on Tribal Council, which included one term as chief.

Quigno read a statement Cantu's wife, Denise Cantu, provided: “Fred's leadership style is listening and taking action with consideration of the Tribe's reputation at the heart of the matter. He is a visionary. Over the years, he has lead several core project and brought them to life...”

“... Fred doesn't do it all on his own; he listens to people's ideas, talks to others, and looks for the opportunity to advance the Tribe and to benefit its Members.



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

Shelly Reihl (center) 35 years of service

Fred won't say he has done these things because he is humble. He enjoys working for the Tribe and to see it become successful.”

Shelly Reihl, purchased referred care clerk for the Nimkee Clinic, started her career as a community health representative in 1988. Reihl transitioned to a contract health clerk. She has also served two terms on Tribal Council – most recently in 2013 as the Executive Council secretary.

Quigno read a statement from Reihl's sister, Tonia: “... Her commitment to her job and personal life is admirable and resonates well with others. One thing I can say about her is that she is determined to accomplish any obstacles put before her...”

Sheridan Pelcher, background investigator for



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

Fred Cantu Jr. (center) 35 years of service



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

Esther Chatfield (center) 35 years of service

Gaming Commission, started working for the Tribe in 1984 as a mail room clerk trainee. She has worked in the Bingo office, the card room and as the Tribal Court's magistrate. She has worked in her current role for more than 20 years.

Snowball Banquet | 7

## New Recreation Center safety protocols featured in recent SCIT Facebook live broadcast

JOSEPH V. SOWMICK Public Relations Manager

On Feb. 22, the new Recreation Center project “Wii Maajikwad” safety protocols were featured in a SCIT Facebook live broadcast.

Chief Tim J. Davis provided opening remarks and introduced fellow Council members in attendance.

“...This project has been decades in the making, and many Tribal Councils and administrations have got us to where we are, and I can't wait until we open this facility for our community,” Davis said.

Bonnie Ekdahl, project coordinator for Wii Maajikwad

(Where We Grow), introduced Nick Sponseller, of Konwinski Construction and site supervisor, and Project Coordinator Courtney Kahgegab as she offered details regarding the 79,000-square-foot building.

“The facility will be home to children ages preschool to fifth grade, afterschool program, sporting events for adults and large community events will be on site at various times,” Ekdahl said. “We also planned and designed the building to offer emergency community shelter services as a safety feature... There is a large kitchen, large freezer, food server area, showers, washer/dryer areas designed to isolate from student activity areas.”



Courtesy of Konwinski Construction

A digital preview of the new Recreation Center site.

Ekdahl said there will be a power generator on site and the building has separate HVAC services in each classroom for self-regulation and separate air flow.

“Outside the facility, we will have exterior fencing around the playground as a safety feature and there will

also be an outside amphitheater,” Ekdahl said. “Safety protocols were addressed in purchase of construction materials with mason block, brick, steel framing, bullet proof glass in key areas and safety glass on exterior windows.”

Recreation Center | 6

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## Barbara Jean Poulos

April 5, 1949 - January 28, 2024

Barbara Jean Poulos, age 74, of Midland, Mich., passed away Sunday, Jan. 28, 2024, surrounded by many of her loved ones. She was born April 5, 1949 and raised in the Tri-Cities area.



Barbara married the love of her life Jan. 5, 1973. During their marriage they had twin boys which they raised together for 15 years before she became widowed unexpectedly on Jan. 2, 1993. She continued to raise her boys and has always been there to care for her family.

Barbara was a member of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan and proud of her heritage.

The love she had for her family will be remembered through her twin sons; Luke (Jessica) Poulos and their children Jadan, Anna, and Joshua; and Matthew Poulos and his son Liam.

Cremation has taken place and the family will have a small celebration by Higgins Lake this summer in remembrance of the amazing woman she was.

## Nancy Carol Funnell (Bailey)

January 31, 1939 - February 11, 2024

Nancy Carol Funnell, age 85, of Mount Pleasant, passed away Sunday, Feb. 11, 2024 at Green Acres Assisted Living of Mt. Pleasant, with her loved ones at her side.



Nancy was born Jan. 31, 1939, in Mt. Pleasant, the daughter of the late Samuel Bailey and Lillian (Ash) Joslin.

Nancy graduated from Mt. Pleasant High School. While attending MPHS, Nancy earned her cosmetology license. After working for several years as a beautician, she taught at M.J. Murphy's Beauty School.

Nancy married Jerry Funnell in Mt. Pleasant on Sept. 15, 1956. Later in her professional years, she worked for Enterprise Printing in sales and marketing. From 1972 to 1985 Nancy owned and operated, along with her family, Wooded Acres Recreation Family Campground in Houghton Lake.

Nancy loved her husband, children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren dearly. She loved to travel with her husband in their motorhome across the United States.

Nancy enjoyed playing bridge, traveling, being a tour guide with her husband for Woodall's, working with stained glass, her shopping trips with friends and family, spending time in Manistee and Florida, and attending her grandchildren's sporting events.

Nancy is survived by her children, Rick (Joni Landmesser) Funnell of Clare, Debra (Rodney) Ervin of Rosebush, Scott (Patti Aube) Funnell of Mt. Pleasant, grandchildren, Erin Funnell, Erica (Kelsey) Funnell, Wendi-Jo (Jon) Wendt, Steven Ervin, Tyler (Sydney) Funnell, Devin (Abbie Dziuk) Funnell, two great-grandchildren, Aidan Wendt and Lillian "Lily" Wendt, sisters-in-law Marilyn (Gene) McAlester, Marti Funnell, many nephews, and a niece.

Nancy is preceded in death by her parents, husband of 63 years, sister, brother-in-law, and niece.

Per Nancy's wishes, cremation has taken place at Daisy Hill Crematory and a private Celebration of Life will be held in memory of Nancy and her late husband Jerry in a special place in Colorado.

Those wishing to make a memorial donation in memory of Nancy may consider Isabella County's Humane Animal Treatment Society or the Mt. Pleasant Fire Department.

The Funnell family would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the staff at Green Acres Assisted Living for their care and friendship to "Fancy Nancy."

## Rita Bills

September 25, 1955 - February 13, 2024

Rita Bills, age 68, of Gladwin, Mich., passed away on Feb. 13, 2024. She was born on Sept. 25, 1955, to William and Dorothy Netmop in West Branch.



Rita was married to John Bills and together they shared many cherished memories.

She loved going on scenic car rides, taking trips to the casino, indulging in shopping adventures, and most of all, spending quality time with her family. Her presence brought warmth and laughter to those around her, and she will be deeply missed by all who knew her.

Rita is survived by her loving husband, John Bills; her daughter, Jennifer Bills; her grandchildren: Autumn, Taylor, Braiden, Cailin, John, and Rylan; her great-grandchildren: Mercy, Quinn, and Harlan; her mother, Dorothy Netmop; and her siblings: Mary Floyd and Sharon Sasse, along with numerous nieces and nephews.

She is preceded in death by her father, William Netmop; her stepmother, Mavis Netmop; her children: John Bills Jr. and Martin Bills; and her siblings: William Netmop II, Robert Netmop, Rodney Netmop, and Lorraine McArthur.

Funeral services were held on Saturday, Feb. 17, 2024, at Hall-Kokotovich Funeral Home in Gladwin, at 1 P.M., followed by a luncheon. Visitation was held from 11 A.M. until the time of service. Arrangements were entrusted to the care of Hall-Kokotovich Funeral Home.

## Red Dress DONATIONS NEEDED

**Red Dress Day: May 5, 2024**  
*National Day of Remembrance for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women*  
**No More Stolen Sisters Event: Coming May 2024**

A coalition of representatives from the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe, the Zonta Club of Mt. Pleasant, RISE Advocacy, and McLaren Hospital are joining together to recognize the National Day of Remembrance for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, also known as Red Dress Day.

**In order to create several Red Dress Day displays in our community we need to collect over 150 red dresses.**

- We are seeking clean, new or gently used, dresses.
- They can be any size, any length, and any design.
- They can be homemade or store purchases.
- If you, or someone you know, has a red dress that is no longer needed, or is willing to sew a simple dress, please consider donating it to this project.

**Donations accepted now until: April 19, 2024**

**Drop off donations to:**

- **SCIT Behavioral Health** 2800 S. Shepherd Rd.
- **Trillium Fine Clothing** 125 E. Broadway St.
- **ICDC Thrift Shop** 1008 W. High St.
- **McLaren Central Michigan** 1221 S. Dr.
- **Isabella County Commission on Aging** 2200 S. Lincoln Rd.

**For more information, please contact:**

**Behavioral Health Victim Services**  
Phone: 989.775.4400 | Email: BHVictimServices@sagchip.org

Happy Heavenly Birthday

Love, Mom

Happy Heavenly Birthday

Aydrial!

We miss you so much sweetheart

March 1st

3 years has passed already and it will never be the same!

Miss you and love you Thong!

March 6th

Happy Heavenly Birthday

Brandon!

Miss you and love you.

March 1st

## Let the River Flow

A poem by: Chip Neyome

They see me walking  
My dirty feet  
They lock the doors and clear the streets  
My mom don't know me and my pa never did  
The voices in my head are saying things I've never said  
You love me and I love you  
I'm going to change this world that's what I'm going to do  
You gotta keep on walking till you make it there  
Gonna praise the lord and show that you care  
It aint enough just to believe  
There's more to life than we can conceive  
The earth like a mother will provide  
We keep abusing and pushing her aside  
The rivers run free like we used to be  
Now we're drowning in the oils of technology  
You say it don't hurt but deep inside  
You can't hide no you can't hide  
I've already tried  
The liquor bottles empty now you've thrown it away  
Life is precious you've got to learn to live it day by day.  
The world is our home and we're free to roam  
Look at the city ohh what a pity  
Why must we live like this  
Is this all they've given us  
Ohh don't forget about the stars in the sky  
Angels' tears and the people who've died  
Don't forget about the man in the moon  
Miracles and the sacred room  
Lost love good nights sleep  
Promises we forgot to keep  
Now you're walking past the homeless on your way home  
You've got to sit down beside them and put their shoes on  
Do what your ancestors would do and you'll never go wrong  
Do what your ancestors would do and you'll never go wrong...

## Indian Child Welfare Committee Vacancy

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

**There is currently one interim vacancy.**  
**\*Open to SCIT Tribal Members only**

**Letters of interest must be submitted to:**  
Anishnaabeg Child & Family Services  
by Friday, March 29, 2024

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

**For more information, contact:**  
Felicia Bross at 989-775-4906

**Send letter of interest to:**  
Anishnaabeg Child & Family Services  
7500 Soaring Eagle Blvd.  
Mount Pleasant, MI 48858

## FREE Naloxone/Harm Reduction Training

Offered in person and remotely.  
2 CEU's available through MCBAP.

**Naloxone Can Save a Life**

**Why should I carry Naloxone?**

- Naloxone also known as the brand name Narcan, can temporarily reverse an opioid overdose.
- Drug overdose is the leading cause of accidental death in the United States, with opioids being the most common drug.
- Anyone can carry naloxone.
- Research shows that when naloxone and overdose education are available to community members, overdose deaths decrease in those communities.
- Naloxone is harmless if given to an individual not experiencing an overdose.
- Naloxone cannot be abused.

**If interested please contact:**  
**Amanda Frazier, Program Manager**

- **Phone:** 906-632-6896 ext. 130
- **Email:** Amanda.Frazier@itcmi.org





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**

- March 5 • April 2 • May 7



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

- ▶ **Easter** — Monday, April 1, 2024
- ▶ **Michigan Indian Day** — Friday, Sept. 27, 2024
- ▶ **Veterans Day** — Monday, Nov. 11, 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**

- Breakfast: 9 a.m. (Tribal Center)
- 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:** Chosen 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



## Rez Pets

“It’s Raining Cats and Dogs!”



Attention Tribal Members and employees, please submit a photo of your pet(s) to show them off in the April 2024 Tribal Observer. Households with two or more pets, please submit one group photo!

Email your photos to Observer@sagchip.org or turn them in to the Tribal Observer office located inside the Black Elk Government Complex.

**Please include:**

Owner’s name, name of pet, age and breed

**Deadline: Friday, March 15**

### Public notice of unclaimed per capita disbursements for deceased Tribal Members

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

Tribal Member Name	Date of Death
Acuna, Alyssa Lynn	02/08/2023
Albers-Smith, Christopher	07/05/2023
Bird, Kevin	07/11/2023
Campbell, Tiffany Ann	04/08/2023
Carpenter, Vivian	08/08/2023
Davis, Tony	04/25/2022
Dutton, Stacey	11/18/2023
Glavas, Cree	10/18/2023
Glover, Jessie	05/06/2023
High, Roger	04/16/2023
Jackson, Douglas	08/22/2022
Meredith, Vivian	07/19/2023
Peters, Patricia	07/24/2023
Phillips, Lu Ann	03/09/2023
Quayle Jr., William	07/29/2023
Roy, Barbara	08/08/2022
Schoen, Vaughn	05/17/2023
Smielewski, Susan	07/11/2023
Underwood, Aloma	03/08/2023

## SAGINAW CHIPPEWA ROUND DANCE

Saturday, March 9, 2024

**Eagles Nest Tribal Gym**

- **Doors Open:** 5:30 p.m.
- **Feast:** 6 p.m.
- **Pipe Ceremony:** 6:30 p.m.
- **Round Dance:** 7 p.m.
- **Student Honoring:** 8:30 p.m.
- **Memorial:** 11:30 p.m.
- **Midnight Snack:** 12 a.m.
- **Closing:** 2 a.m.

**Emcee:** Beendigaygizhiag Deleary

**Stickman:** Little Man Quintero

**Pipe Carrier:** Steve Pego

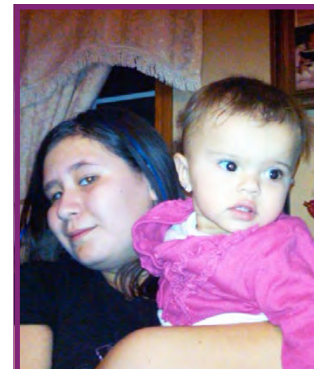
**Invited Singers:** Aaron Chivis, Kwake Hale, Vito Buckanaga, La’kota Raphael and Dan Jackson

**Youth Singer:** Caden Pego

**For more information, please call: 989.775.4453**

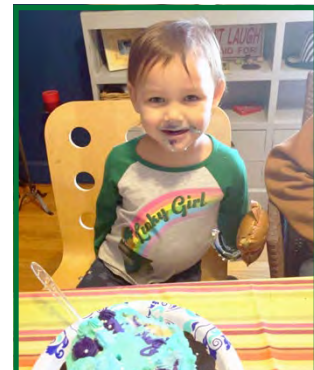


*Happy Birthday Beautiful!*  
 Love you so much! March 6th



**Happy Birthday Gorgeous!**

Love you so much!  
 March 18th



*Happy 4<sup>th</sup> Birthday Rayni*

May all your wishes come true.  
 Love, Phoenix



**Happy 13<sup>th</sup> Birthday Carter!**

Love always, Miranda, Aubrey, & Phoenix  
 March 5th



**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:** Chosen daily

\*Committee specials, and dance and drum contests TBA

[www.sagchip.org/pow-wow](http://www.sagchip.org/pow-wow)

\*Free Admission \*\*Drug and Alcohol Free Event

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






## 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



## 2024 SCIT GOLF Membership

**Memberships on sale until: Friday, May 3, 2024**

- Open to Tribal Members, employees and their families.
- Includes green fees and discounts on apparel, range, food and drink at participating courses.

**Memberships cost \$250 each**

- Memberships and cart raffle tickets available for purchase at the Tribal Operations Accounting window in the Black Elk Complex.
- Payment plans are also available.

**Participating courses:**

- Pleasant Hills Golf Club
- Maple Creek Golf Club
- PohlCat Golf Course
- Firefly Golf Links
- Eagle Glen Golf Club

**Cart Membership Raffle (optional)**

**Drawing: Friday, April 5, 2024 at 12 p.m.**

- Win a cart at your favorite course. (*Limit may only win once*)
- One cart membership available at each course.
- Tickets: One for \$5, or five for \$20

## 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

## 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

# TRIBAL OBSERVER

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



### Tribal Observer Advertising

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

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

**Political ads** - All political ads will be 1/4 page and have a red border stating as such. The cost is \$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](mailto:Observer@Sagchip.org)
- www.Sagchip.org/TribalObserver**





## New Youth Position: Co-op Youth Worker

The co-op youth worker position is designed to provide SCIT 11th and 12th graders with valuable work/school experience. This experience will introduce youth to the workplace, imparting them with valuable employment skills connected to their studies.

It is a unique opportunity for Tribal youth to earn income while earning real high school credits through actual workplace experiences within a Tribal Operations department. This opportunity will assist youth in identifying individual potential career paths and opportunities of interest within the Tribe, as well as gain self-confidence, career awareness, financial literacy, and interpersonal competencies needed to succeed in high school, higher education, and workplace environments.

### Minimum Qualifications:

- 11th or 12th graders.
- Must be a member of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe.
- Must be eligible to earn high school credits.
- Must provide a letter from high school advisor/counselor recommending participation and placement.
- Must obtain work permit from high school, which is accredited by the State of Michigan.

### If interested, apply for position at:

<http://www.sagchip.org/careers/>

### Or scan QR code ▶



### For more information:

**Betsey M. Alonzo, MSA, GCDF**

HR Tribal Development Coordinator

Phone: 989.775.5643 | Email: Balonzo@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](http://www.sagchip.org)
- No postdated forms, emails or faxes accepted

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

**For more information, please contact:**

The Tribal Clerk's Office at 989.775.4051



## 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.



Use the card number circled to register card.



- ▶ 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.

### If you have any questions, please contact:

**Business Regulations**

989.775.4105 | [cdsineway@sagchip.org](mailto:cdsineway@sagchip.org)



## HONORING SAGANING TRADITIONAL POWWOW

# RAFFLE

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

**Two prize options:** (First winner will get first pick)

- ▶ Prize 1: Meat package (with small freezer)
- ▶ Prize 2: Meta Quest

**Drawing: Sunday, June 9, 2024**

**3 p.m. | During the Saganing Traditional Powwow**

**Contact Powwow Committee members for tickets:**

Darcy Pilar, Elizabeth Chivis, Carla Bennett, Noelle Wells, Dabian Sprague, Seryna Acuna, Niibin Sprague, Elizabeth Smith, Christina Cross and Reba Navajar.

\*All proceeds will benefit the SCIT and Saganing powwows

**Contact information:** [Powwowcommittee@sagchip.org](mailto:Powwowcommittee@sagchip.org)

## 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](mailto:csineway@sagchip.edu)

## Elders Assistance Home Repair Program (EAHRP) and Elders ADA Accessibility Program (EAAP)

**Tribal Member Elders-Age 55 and older or Tribal Members with a documented long-term disability**

**EAHRP guidelines, D. 3. and EAAP guidelines, D. 3 homeowners insurance requirement has changed.**

**Homeowners insurance is no longer needed to qualify for:**

- ▶ EAHRP once in a lifetime grant of \$5,000
- ▶ Or EAAP grant of \$5,000 every 10 years

### Contact information:

**Kim Otto McCoy**

• Phone: 989-775-4014

• Email: [KMcCoy@sagchip.org](mailto:KMcCoy@sagchip.org)



Working Together To  
Protect Our Environment



## SCIT Powwow Committee RAFFLE

### Spring Break Package

Package includes: \$500 flight credit and \$200 Visa gift card

**Drawing:** Tuesday, March 12, 2024 at 2 p.m.

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

**Contact Powwow Committee members for tickets:**

Darcy Pilar, Elizabeth Chivis, Carla Bennett, Noelle Wells, Dabian Sprague, Seryna Acuna, Niibin Sprague, Elizabeth Smith, Christina Cross and Reba Navajar.

\*All proceeds will benefit the SCIT and Saganing powwows

**Contact information:** [Powwowcommittee@sagchip.org](mailto:Powwowcommittee@sagchip.org)

## Attention Tribal Members: Notice of Public Hearing

**NOTICE:** There will be a public hearing held on **Tuesday, May 8, 2024 at 8 a.m. in the Tribal Council Chambers in the Black Elk Building, 7500 Soaring Eagle Blvd., Mount Pleasant, MI 48858.** This hearing will address the liquor license application presented to Tribal Council by Christopher Nadobny, director of the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort Food & Beverage Department, or his designated staff. The application which will be reviewed and discussed at the hearing requests as follows:

Renewal of Retail On-Premise General License for the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort located at 6800 Soaring Eagle Blvd. Such license, if approved would cover casino beverage main floor bar #1,2,3,4, high stakes VIP lounge, SECR casino beverage cart services, room service, banquet spaces, portable bars #1-#13, Legends Diner, Siniikaung Bistro, Entertainment Hall, hotel pool and spa areas, Mijim C-Store, quick service cart services, SECR outdoor concert venue, SECR concession trailer, SECR Slot Palace Bingo Hall, Slot Palace gaming spaces in rooms 'A', 'B', and 'C', Slot Palace pub, Slot Palace A-side bar, Little Eagle Café, Ascend Sports Bar, SECR casino gift shop, SECR Slot Palace gift shop, any indoor service on premises under the auspices of the SECR, and any outdoor service on premises under the auspices of the SECR. This license, if issued, will be for the duration of one full year from May 24, 2024 to May 23, 2025, with hours of alcohol service consistent with Section 10 of the Gaming Compact of Aug. 20, 1993, and specifically including hours of service for 7 a.m. Sunday alcohol sales and sales on Christmas Eve until 11:59 p.m., Christmas Day at 12 p.m. and New Year's Day until 4 a.m.

Anishnaabeg Child & Family Services Presents



**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](mailto:ACFSPrevention@sagchip.org)





## Recreation Center

*continued from front page*

Ekdahl introduced several safety support team members who have served as consultants for the project: SCIT Safety Coordinator David Chatfield, Tribal Police Chief Harry Ambs and Sgt. Joe Maxey, Tribal Fire Chief Fred Cantu, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Breanna Knudsen, IT Project Manager Rick Hamilton and Soaring Eagle Properties Surveillance Director Anthony Clark.

Safety Coordinator David Chatfield said he has been working with his colleague William "Wiggy" Vaught in Risk Management. He said he offers 10 years' experience in the safety industry and over 20 years in working with construction projects.

"Risk management will be helping in the development of safety training with the staff at the school and will be an active part of all safety inspections of the kitchens and all mechanical aspects of the facility," Chatfield said. "I've had the pleasure of working with Nick and the Konwinski Construction team over four years and have seen the trust and care they have put in other projects like Ruth's Chris and the SECR Food District in the casino."

Chatfield said the school has all safety measures and built in safeguards for every student, staff and community member from possible threats like fire, tornados and lockdowns.

Tribal Chief of Police Harry Ambs has worked for Tribal Police for more than 17 years and said the department is fully committed to the safety of all students and staff who come to this facility.

"We have a dedicated school resource officer on site and we have worked with the Tribal Education Department and Education Director Christina Sharp to acquire a federal grant to purchase safety equipment for the school," Ambs said.

Tribal Police Sgt. Joe Maxey has been working on updating school safety plans to reflect the changes on moving over to the new facility.

"We will have state-of-the-art cameras throughout the facilities that will have the capacity to run on battery backup so we will have our eyes on safety all around the building, 24/7," Maxey said. "We will also have barricade systems in place in case the facility goes into lockdown for the safety of students and staff. With the support of all the people you see here today, we will be able to deploy that technology in a matter of seconds."

Tribal Fire Chief Fred Cantu Jr. said this project is "a valuable piece to the future of the Tribe in regards to education, language and cultural aspects."

"As this project continues to progress forward, you will begin to see the Tribal Fire Department more often as we inspect the installation of the fire alarm system, sprinkler systems and conducting testing of these systems to assure they are functioning properly prior to staff and students occupying this building."

Breanna Knudsen, emergency preparedness coordinator from Nimkee Public Health, shared the importance of community involvement regarding safety at Tribal facilities.

"The preparedness and safety of our staff and students is paramount," Knudsen said. "We will

be hosting two more courses of hands-on active shooter training for education staff, as well as community members, in mid-August. Keep your eyes on our Facebook page this spring, for dates and registration information."

Rick Hamilton, IT project director, said IT will provide the highest level of technology to ensure the safety and the security of the students, staff and community members.

"IT will be working with Tribal PD and Tribal Fire to provide emergency response access...," Hamilton said. "This will also include complete 24-hour access control to secured areas within the school, and panic alarms strategically placed throughout the building to allow for immediate notification in the event of an emergency."

Anthony Clark, surveillance director for Soaring Eagle Properties, said the equipment and technology for the building has been researched and is the most up-to-date.

"This equipment will feature real-time high-resolution recordings of over 90 single and multiple sensor cameras with the ability to archive files indefinitely as needed," Clark said. "The system will also be able to connect to the other safety and security measures that IT and Tribal Police are adding..."

## 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.



## Substance Use Disorder Treatment and Recovery Transportation Services

Trouble finding transportation to your appointments that maintain your recovery?

### What's available:

- ▶ Gas cards, bus tickets, direct transport by staff, and taxi with 24-hour notice.
- ▶ Transportation to any recovery-related appointments.
- ▶ Can include going to a job interview (not ongoing work), other appointments/meetings that help maintain recovery.
  - AA/NA meetings
  - Court dates
  - Medical
  - Counseling

### Call today to see if you qualify for assistance:

#### Jacqueline Wemigwans

- Phone: 989-775-4860 or 989-775-4850
- Email: JaWemigwans@sagchip.org

#### Behavioral Health

2800 S. Shepherd Rd.  
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858



\*MDHHS Substance Use Disorder Transportation Grant.\*

## 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 prohibited:** It is prohibited to enter the facility after business hours without filling out the 24/7 access paperwork.

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

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

For more information, please contact:  
Nimkee Fitness at 989.775.4690

## 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

### Summer - June 15, 2024

- ▶ Winter/Spring grade report
- ▶ Summer schedules\*\*

### June 30, 2024

For processing of yearly Academic Incentive Awards, official transcripts are due

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

### For more information, please contact:

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



## People's Traditional POWWOW

### Golf Outing Fundraiser

Friday, May 31, 2024

Maple Creek Golf Course (Shepherd, Mich.)  
Shotgun start: 9 a.m.

Two person scramble: \$100 per person

- Lunch at the turn
- Proxies
- Other fun games
- 50/50
- Skins

\*All proceeds will go towards the annual People's Powwow in August 2024

For more information, contact:  
989-775-4780 or TJackson@sagchip.org



## CIRCLE OF Indigenous Arts

Market & Juried Competition

April 6-7, 2024 • 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

### Awards and Prizes

- ▶ Best in Division Award
- ▶ Best in Show Award

Come support local Anishinabek artists

### For more information, please contact:

Glenna Halliwill at 989-775-4744  
or GHalliwill@sagchip.org



## Honoring, Healing & Remembering

Join us on the 90th anniversary of the Mt. Pleasant Indian Industrial Boarding School closing. We recognize the suffering, strength and resilience of the children through a day of memoriam and fellowship.

### Save the date! Thursday, June 6, 2024

- Student Roll Call
- Guest speakers
- Sunrise ceremony
- Breakfast and lunch provided



Guest Speaker: Isaac Murdoch  
www.isaacmurdoch.com/biography/

### For more information, please contact:

- Marcella Hadden: MLHadden@sagchip.org | 989.775.4751
- Noelle Wells: NWells@sagchip.org | 989.775.4750
- Or email: miibs@sagchip.org





## Snowball Banquet

*continued from front page*

Quigno read a statement from Pelcher's niece, Miranda: "... I've always known her to work hard and play harder. She has always been there when I needed her through the good times and the bad. I look up to her work ethic and I can't wait to get as many years as she's got..."

Esther Chatfield has worked as the compliance officer since 2005. She started out with the Tribe as a police officer trainee, moving onto the Bingo Fundraising Project. She has worked in various capacities including as a police officer and in facilities.

Quigno read a statement provided by Chatfield's son, Vinnie Kequom: "Congratulations on reaching this remarkable milestone of 35 years of service to the Tribe. I am so proud of you. You have taught me that hard work pays off. Now it's your time to retire and enjoy life..."

Kim Otto McCoy, administrative assistant II for the Planning Department, started working for the Tribe over 42 years ago, serving in various positions.

Quigno read a statement from McCoy's sisters, Carmen and Michelle Otto: "As her family members, we know how much work

she puts into everything that she does but this is just how she is.

She's a go-getter and a determined person and has accomplished many things in these 35 plus years..."

The 30 years of service recipients included: Sandy McCreery, Valarie Raphael, Deb Smith, Dave Sisco Jr., Scott Sober, Sandra Chesebrough, Christopher Couch, Deborah Schafer, Michelle Colwell, Michelle Turpin and Mary Beth Roberts.

The 25 years of service recipients were: Mary Peacock, Ruth Straus, John Johnson, Jennifer Parker, William Johnson, Wendy Drowley, Randy Tucker, Rick Hamilton, Marilyn Johnson, Stacie Stanton, Karen Roy, Tamara House, Tracy Chamberlain, Carol Kamm, Julie Pego and Kelly Babcock.

The 20 years of service recipients were: Brandy Judkins, Karmen Fox, Sheila Leureaux, Lacie Kelly, Rachel Mandoka,

Ron Nelson, Mark Reynolds, LeeAnn Ruffino, Michael Karcher, Karen Naganashe, Thad Sherwood, Anita Hall, Denise Pelcher, Amanda Lewis, Aimee Lehmkuhle, Ryan Chippewa and Barry Histed.

The 15 years of service recipients were: Ryan Dallas, Luke Dixon, Carol Jackson, Jenna Davis, Nathan Hersey, Kerry Byberg, George Roy, Bob Storrer, Maia Spotted Tail, Matthew J. Sprague, Kevin Fisher, Eric Skutt, Neil Schiefer, Kevin Skutt and Steve Eggerd.

The 10 years of service of recipients were: Melvin Kimewan, Debra Meacham, Nikki Hunt, Kimberly Saboo, Pamela Porter, Dr. Prem Kissoondial, Shelley Frantz, Tonya Antoine, Joseph Tait, Kaine Purdey, Anne Heidemann, Jonathon Miller, Kevin Rantanen, Melissa Mullard and Justin Shawboose.



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

**Sheridan Pelcher (center)**  
35 years of service



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

**Kim Otto McCoy (second from left)**  
35 years of service



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

**Dave Sisco Jr. (center)**  
30 years of service



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

**Sandy McCreery (back left)**  
30 years of service



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

**Ruth Straus (Back, far left)**  
25 years of service



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

**Deborah Schafer (center)**  
30 years of service



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

**Christopher Couch (center)**  
30 years of service



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

**Michelle Turpin (center)**  
30 years of service



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

**Karen Roy (left)**  
25 years of service



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

**Wendy Drowley (left)**  
25 years of service



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

**Mary Peacock (second from left)**  
25 years of service



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

**William Johnson (second from left)**  
25 years of service



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

**Julie Pego (second from left)**  
25 years of service

## March 2024 Tribal Elder Birthdays

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1) Edith Murdoch<br>James Schneider<br>Verna Mc Ewan   | 6) Diane Morley<br>Roland Jackson Jr.  |
| 2) Janice Hill<br>Arthur Miller Jr.<br>Daphane Eggleston   | 7) Daniel Cloutier<br>Danny Stevens  |
| 3) Angela Bennett<br>Winona Hancock<br>David Joseph<br>Susan Pretzer<br>Terri Verga-Nassif<br>Barbara Walraven<br>William Walraven | 8) Margaret Rosario<br>Michelle Eddy<br>Timothy Stevens<br>Lorraine Walker   |
| 4) Elizabeth Cabay<br>Judith Bennett   | 9) Marsha Gibson<br>Theodore Kowalski<br>Robert Stanton<br>Russell Stevens<br>Kelly Hawkins                            |
| 5) Wanda Brodie<br>Nancy Chippewa<br>Kenneth Vasquez<br>Teresa Bailey<br>Terri Cummings<br>Clifford Saboo Jr.<br>Sandra Tabako     | 10) Maynard Sharp  |
|  | 11) Michael Jackson<br>Jolene Quinlan<br>Clifton Chippewa II<br>Bernadette Reyes<br>Stephen Walraven<br>Darwin Ziehmer |
|  | 12) Julia Wixson   |

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| 13) Sherry Bame<br>Douglas Snyder                                      | Paige Vanderlooven<br>Kim Oneill                                | Paul Bird<br>Clifford Chamberlain                     |
| 14) Ronald Judson Jr.<br>Linda Davis                                   | 23) Rickie Burnham<br>Harry Jackson<br>Lisa Zangara             | 27) John Miller Sr.                                   |
| 15) Alice Jo Ricketts<br>Coy McCollum<br>Michael Watson                | 24) Kevin Jenkins<br>Larry Bearden<br>Karen Mills               | 28) Thelma Henry-Shipman<br>Dawn Hunt<br>Kelly Huyser |
| 16) Fredrick Bailey Jr.<br>Gregory Pigeon                              | 25) Joseph Chamberlain<br>Carolyn Crawford<br>Constance Pallett | 29) Brian Wray<br>Craig Waynee<br>Sabrina Karras      |
| 17) LeeAnn Ruffino<br>Joseph Kowalski<br>Patrick Smith<br>Merton Flory | 26) Timothy Bennett   | 30) Janet Barnhart<br>Esther Chatfield                |
| 18) Marion Williams<br>Thomas Bates<br>Rhonda Dutton<br>Wanda Wallace  |   | 31) John Rhodes                                       |
| 19) Rita Redman<br>Janice Roach<br>Carmen Deaton                       |   |   |
| 20) Etta Ayling<br>James Cates   |   |   |
| 21) Elaine Kraska  |   |   |
| 22) Kim Aasved   |   |   |

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### Tribal Member-Focused Real Estate Services

Representing Buyers & Sellers



Providing a network of lending, specializing in the Section 184 Native American Home Loan Program.

NICK BONSTELLE

Associate Broker/Realtor®

989.600.9806

Brokered by Partners Real Estate Professionals, P.C. (810) 220-7653







## Four books created by Tribal authors, made possible by grant Tribal Libraries received

**NATALIE SHATTUCK**

Editor

Tribal authors had an opportunity to bring their publishing goals to fruition. The Tribal Libraries were awarded the IMLS (Institute of Museum and Library Services) Enhancement Grant to organize an opportunity for community members to create their own books.

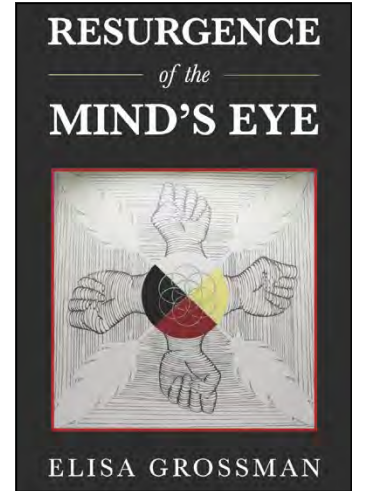
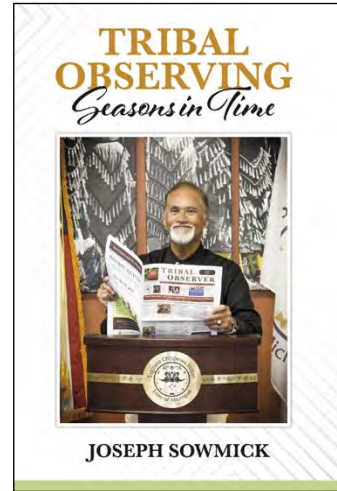
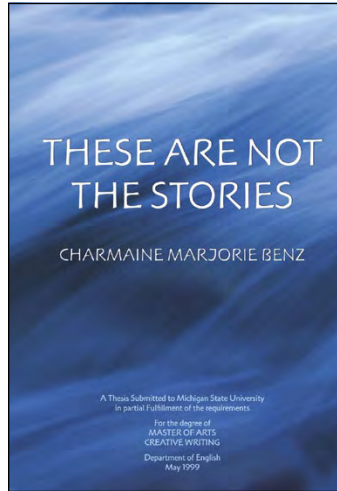
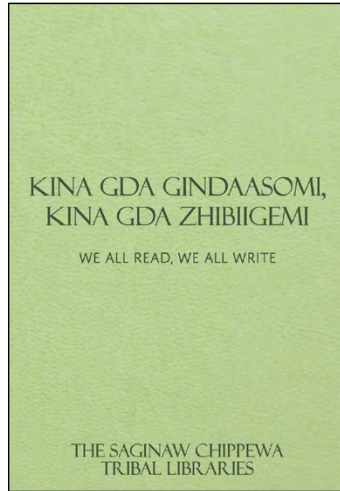
The project – Kina gda gindaasomi, kina gda zhibiigemi (We all read, We all write) – was celebrated on Nov. 30 from 6 to 7 p.m. in the Soaring Eagle Black River Room to officially release the books and celebrate the newly-minted authors.

Four books came of this project including: “These Are Not the Stories” by Charmaine Marjorie Benz; “Resurgence of the Mind’s Eye” by Elisa Grossman; “Kina Gda Gindaasomi, Kina Gda Zhibiigemi (We All Read, We All Write),” a collection by the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Libraries; and “Tribal Observing: Seasons in Time” by Joseph Sowmick.

At the event, two of the authors spoke to the crowd of nearly 100 attendees.

“Joseph Sowmick spoke about his connections with the community and how they are showcased in his book...,” said Tribal Librarian Anne Heidemann. “Lupe Gonzalez spoke about her experience seeing the master’s thesis in poetry that her mother, Charmaine Shawana, worked so hard on, come to be a published book as Charmaine-ba had hoped for.”

The authors in attendance signed their books for all who wished to take home autographed copies. The books were on display and available for attendees to



Courtesy images

take home along with a gift bag containing supplies to help support their own writing, Heidemann said.

Nathan Isaac of Rezonance Productions emceed the evening and Isabelle Osawamick offered a prayer to bless the food provided by Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort.

Tribal Librarian Anne Heidemann discussed how the grant proposal came to be.

“I had been hearing from community members for a while that they were interested in being able to become published authors, and that was what inspired me to build the project and write the grant proposal,” Heidemann said. “The opportunity to create a book was open to everyone, but we ended up with three individuals creating their own books and one anthology compiling shorter works by a variety of community members.”

Heidemann continued, “In the books produced, we have a master’s thesis of poetry, a work of creative writing, a retrospective of some Tribal Observer articles, and the anthology which contains short

### The books are also available for purchase online at:

- **These Are Not the Stories:**  
<https://store.bookbaby.com/book/these-are-not-the-stories>
- **Resurgence of the Mind’s Eye:**  
<https://store.bookbaby.com/book/resurgence-of-the-minds-eye>
- **Tribal Observing:**  
<https://store.bookbaby.com/book/tribal-observing>
- **Kina gda gindaasomi, kina gda zhibiigemi: We all read, we all write:**  
<https://store.bookbaby.com/book/kina-gda-gindaasomi-kina-gda-zhibiigemi>

works from many community members, including poetry, art, and essays.”

Since the release, the Tribal Libraries have heard a lot of interest from community members in doing another project like this. Heidemann said she plans to be on the lookout for future grant opportunities to give other members a chance to also become authors.

Free copies of the four books are now available at the Tribal Library while supplies last. The Tribal Library hours are: Monday-Friday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., located in the former Tribal Operations building.

“All of this was possible only because of the hard work of the Tribal Libraries team and all the partners who worked with us to make everything come together,” Heidemann said. “Those partners include all the authors, our colleagues in the Education, Public Relations, Grants, Maintenance, Facilities, Warehouse, and Purchasing Departments; the events staff at SECR; book launch emcee Nathan Isaac; Isabelle Osawamick for sharing the language with us; and the self-publishing team at Book Baby.”

## Community enjoys full slate of activities as Nimkee brings health fair to Andahwod

**JOSEPH V. SOWMICK**

Public Relations Manager

On Feb. 14, love was all around as the Tribal community enjoyed a full slate of activities as Nimkee brought a mini health fair to Andahwod.

Gayle Ruhl, Andahwod Assisted Living administrator, said all proceeds from the event go to fund Elder activities for all three districts.

“Miigwetch to all the sponsors, departments, staff, members and community volunteers who donated a basket or items for this year’s silent auction,” Ruhl said. “Your time and thoughtfulness is much appreciated.”

Denise Pelcher, activities coordinator for Andahwod, thanked everyone for attending the health fair, Valentine’s Day elders’ breakfast and gift basket silent auction.

“Thanks to the community and departmental donations we were able to raise \$1,694 with our Valentine’s (Day) gift basket raffle,” Pelcher said.

Sue Sowmick, public health nurse for Nimkee, said she was impressed with the community organizations who provided health education and demonstrations to the 78 elders that attended the breakfast.

Sheligh Jackson, assistant elders advocate, said the participants completed 17 surveys and there were 14 on-site immunizations completed.

Rochelle Monville, RN supports coordinator with Region 7 Area Agency on Aging, visited Andahwod for the first time.

“I really enjoyed the event, and it seems like it helped a lot of people,” Monville said. “At the event, I provided information on Region VII including the counties we cover (Bay, Midland, Saginaw, Gratiot, Isabella, Clare, Gladwin, Tuscola, Huron, and Sanilac), and the services we provide. I provided participants with information regarding MIChoice Medicaid waiver, care management, care transitions, kinship, information and assistance, The Title V Program and the Medicare/Medicaid Assistance Program (MMAAP).”

Lori Neuenfeldt, community connections liaison of the Disability Network Mid-Michigan, said in collaboration with Central Michigan Health



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

### The Valentine’s Day gift basket raffle raises a total of \$1,694.

Department, there were 16 individuals who either received their vaccines that day or previously received their vaccine somewhere else.

“Disability Network of Mid-Michigan gave out 32 gift cards of \$25 each for taking a survey after their vaccines were updated,” Neuenfeldt said.

### Book sale proceeds donated to Andahwod



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

**Tribal Elder Joseph Sowmick donated the sales of his book “Tribal Observing: Seasons in Time” to Andahwod Continuing Care & Elders Services. Migizi EDC. sold the book in entities: Trader’s Blanket Gift Shop (located inside the Soaring Eagle Waterpark and Hotel), Cardinal Pharmacy and the Isabella and Saganing Sagamok Express Mobil. Migizi representatives brought the donation from December sales to Andahwod during the Feb. 14 Elders’ Breakfast as they volunteered to also serve breakfast that morning.**

### ALRD receives donation from Eagle Cares Program



Observer photo by Matthew Wright

**The Anishinaabe Language Revitalization Department joins Sasiwaans staff as they accepted a donation for \$6,538.51 from Soaring Eagle Guest Experience “Eagle Cares” program (left to right: Joseph Sowmick, Carrie Wemigwans, Larry Kimewan, Howard Webkamigad, Lee Ann Ruffino, Mary Pelcher, Mary Perez, Margaret Flamand, Bethany Hinmon and Eryka Mitchell).**



# MARCH PROMOTIONS



**SOARING EAGLE**  
CASINO & RESORT®

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**\$130,000**  
**BIG**  
**MONEY**  
**MARCH**

**Win a share of \$130,000  
in Premium Play & Cash!**

**SATURDAYS IN MARCH**

Every hour from 5PM-10PM, one lucky winner will receive \$1,000 in Premium Play.

**Each night, at 11PM, one lucky ACCESS Club member will win \$20,000 cash!**

ACCESS Club members will receive one (1) entry for every 900 points earned on their ACCESS Club card from 12AM on February 25, 2024 until 10:55PM on March 30, 2024.



**EVERY FRIDAY**  
**5PM-11PM**

Two winners each hour will have the chance to shoot it out to win up to \$1,000 in Premium Play!

## ENTERTAINMENT



**JUSTIN MOORE**  
**SATURDAY, MARCH 9 | 8PM**  
\$44, \$54, \$72, \$78



**TESLA**  
**FRIDAY, MARCH 15 | 8PM**  
\$44, \$54, \$72, \$78



**THREE DOG NIGHT**  
**LIVE IN CONCERT**  
**SATURDAY, MARCH 23 | 8PM**  
\$32, \$44, \$55, \$61



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**Win a share of over \$179,000  
in Cash & Prizes!**

**SATURDAYS IN MARCH, APRIL & MAY**

From 5PM to 10PM, Access Club members will have the chance to win \$1,000 Cash and 1,000 bonus entries into the grand prize drawing.

**At 11PM on May 25, the grand prize winner will take home a Truck, a Toy Hauler, UTV Side by Slide, and Oberwerk High Powered Binocular!**

Access Club members will receive one (1) entry for every 200 points earned on their ACCESS Club card from 12AM on February 24, 2024. Guest may only win once per drawing day. 10x entries on Mondays through May 20, 2024.



**EVERY FRIDAY**  
**4PM-9PM**

Punch it out until you match three like amounts! Match two like amounts and the Squatch to double your prize and win up to \$1,000 CASH! At 10PM, one lucky winner will take home \$5,000 CASH!



**SUNDAY, MARCH 3 & 31**  
**4AM-11:59PM**

ACCESS Club members that earn 1,000 points can swipe their card at one of the kiosks each day to play basketball themed game to win Premium Play!



**EVERY MONDAY**  
**12PM-9PM**

One guest every hour will have the chance to play Plinko and win Premium Play! Each guest will draw 3 balls to drop down the Plinko board, if a Moneyball is drawn, it will double the prize it lands on!



**SUNDAY, MARCH 17**  
**12PM-9PM**

Every half hour from 12PM-9PM join the Hot Seat drawings to win \$100 Premium Play! Stay in your seat, cause we're bringing around a pot of coins and if you pick the lucky gold coin you'll win \$250 cash!

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





## Dru Hill celebrates 25th anniversary at Soaring Eagle tour stop, featuring Ginuwine

**MATTHEW WRIGHT**

Staff Writer

The smooth voices and choreographed dancing of R&B sensations Dru Hill and Ginuwine graced the Entertainment Hall stage of the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort on Friday, Jan. 26.

Headlining the night was R&B supergroup Dru Hill. The show was a celebration of the group's 25th anniversary. The lineup featured all members, both past and present. Founding members Sisqó, Nokio, and Jazz took to the stage alongside the newest members Smoke and Black from the R&B group Playa, and with former members, Scola and Tao.

Dru Hill performed all three of their No. 1 hit singles with "In My Bed," "Never Make a Promise" and "How Deep is Your Love."

Audience members were also treated to numerous hits including "Tell Me," "We're Not Making Love No More," "These Are the Times," "I Should Be" and "5 Steps."



Observer photo by Matthew Wright

**Dru Hill front man Sisqó performs during the Jan. 26 show at the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort.**

Lead performer Sisqó's solo career was also highlighted with his hit "Thong Song," and "How Many Licks?"

R&B singer Ginuwine took to the stage before Dru Hill.

Highlights of the night included spirited performances



Observer photo by Matthew Wright

**Members of Dru Hill come together center stage during the performance of "Tell Me."**

of his No. 1 hit singles "Pony" and "Differences."

Ginuwine's set also featured a number of popular songs including "So Anxious," "Stingy," "None of Ur Friends Business," "Same Ol' G" and "You Owe Me."

Opening for both groups was Beth Griffith-Manley. Better known as "Beth," the Detroit-born singer-songwriter has gained notoriety from her appearances on NBC's hit TV show "The Voice."



Observer photo by Matthew Wright

**Ginuwine performs his hit song "Same Ol' G."**

### Long Island Medium Theresa Caputo brings live experience to Soaring Eagle



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

**"Long Island Medium" star Theresa Caputo (left) poses for a photo with Amelia Judson (right) prior to her Live! The Experience show on Saturday, Feb. 3 backstage at the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort.**

### Soaring Eagle hosts comedy legend Jeff Foxworthy

**MATTHEW WRIGHT**

Staff Writer

The Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort hosted comedy legend Jeff Foxworthy on Friday, Feb. 16.

Spinning jokes and splitting sides are what Foxworthy does best. Regarded as one of the most respected and successful comedians, he has amassed a huge following while becoming the bestselling comedy-recording artist in history.

Foxworthy's natural feel for comedy was on full display, cracking up audience members with hilarious quips about everything from getting bitten by a rattlesnake, deciphering texting abbreviations from



Observer photo by Matthew Wright

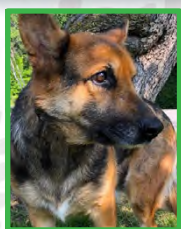
**Jeff Foxworthy pauses before a punch line during his comedy show at the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort on Feb. 16.**

his elderly mother to spending the COVID lockdown with his talkative wife.

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

For more information on

### Adopt a Pet



**Meadow- NO FEE**

Meadow is a 6-year-old female German Shepherd that was surrendered to HATS after years of breeding on a farm. Meadow is sweet, gentle and shy. She didn't grow up having the experiences of an average family pet so she is nervous in new situations; although she is adaptable and getting more confident. Meadow needs a patient and understanding home. She would prefer to live with adults or older kids.



**Brad**

Brad is a 2-year-old XL Domestic Medium Hair mix. Brad is an absolute softie. Regular grooming is a must to keep him looking and feeling his best. He loves giving 'headbutts' and gently nudging humans to convince them into petting him. He is super snuggly, sweet and has a gentle nature to brighten even the gloomiest of days!

**Humane Animal Treatment Society**

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

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



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# ENTERTAINMENT



## The Comic Book Killer Murder Mystery Dinner

Thursday, March 7  
8PM  
Ballroom  
Tickets: Single \$60, Couples \$110



## Warrant & Lita Ford Let the Good Times Rock

Friday, March 29  
8PM  
Entertainment Hall  
Tickets: \$29, \$41, \$52, \$58



## Justin Moore

Saturday, March 9  
8PM  
Entertainment Hall  
Tickets: \$44, \$54, \$72, \$78



## Jeffery Osborne & Freddie Jackson

Saturday, April 6  
8PM  
Entertainment Hall  
Tickets: \$37, \$49, \$60, \$66



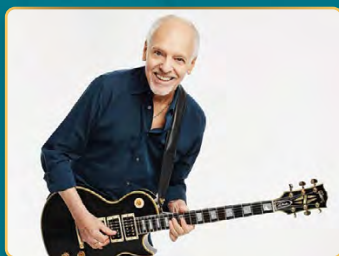
## Tesla

Friday, March 15  
8PM  
Entertainment Hall  
Tickets: \$44, \$54, \$72, \$78



## Grand Funk Railroad & Foghat

Saturday, April 13  
8PM  
Entertainment Hall  
Tickets: \$39, \$49, \$65, \$72



## Peter Frampton

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



## Godsmack Vibe Tour Bastian Da Cruz

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



## Three Dog Night

Saturday, March 23  
8PM  
Entertainment Hall  
Tickets: \$32, \$44, \$55, \$61



## STYX

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

Visit our website [SoaringEagleCasino.com](http://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.

# \$100,000



## BASH YOUR WAY TO

# \$100,000

## IN PRIZES & PAYOUTS!

SATURDAY, MARCH 16  
MAIN SESSION AT 3PM

SEE BINGO FOR COMPLETE DETAILS

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

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





## Learning to survive: SCIT employees, community members attend active shooter training

### BREANNA KNUDSEN

Emergency Preparedness Coordinator

Run. Hide. Fight. That's the simple yet effective survival paradigm taught to communities across the nation in the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)-approved active assailant course, PER-375: Run. Hide. Fight.

The training was courtesy of SCIT's Public Health Emergency Preparedness program.

From Louisiana State University's National Center for Bioterrorism Research and Training, LSU staff – with many decades of experience in law enforcement,

gang violence, and ATF (U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms) enforcement – visited Mount Pleasant to instruct the course at the SCIT Housing Department, from Jan. 30 to Feb. 1, 2024.

Over the three days, 65 SCIT employees and community members learned how to greatly increase the chances of survival for themselves, their co-workers and students, and their communities, in the event of an active shooter.

Participants went through the recent history of active assailant incidents in the U.S., and lessons learned from each event. They reviewed real-world statistics and insights into the preponderance of active shooter tragedies: these happen everywhere, with

nearly half (46 percent) of incidents now occurring in open spaces (e.g., outdoor concerts; parade routes), and another 28 percent in commerce (e.g. grocery stores).<sup>1</sup>

Participants also spent the afternoon in practical exercise format, learning just-in-time tactics and techniques for safely escaping (Run), effectively barricading (Hide), and, as a very last resort, strategically fighting back (Fight) in an active shooter event, using everyday objects and items already within their reach.

Michael McCreery, prevention specialist for Behavioral Heath said he was impressed with the course.

"This was an eye-opener," McCreery said. "It can be a difficult conversation... (but) having a mental plan and being prepared is really important."

McCreery said he appreciated the emphasis on the importance of each individual in maintaining a safe



Courtesy of Breanna Knudsen

Participants receive instructor guidance during the active shooter training.

environment, and that these new skills and insights are meant to be taken and shared: "Pay attention to your surroundings; you can have a big impact in your own areas."

For more information about PER-375, or to inquire about this and other no-cost

preparedness-related training for your department or non-profit/governmental organization, please contact Breanna Knudsen, emergency preparedness coordinator, at BrKnudsen@sagchip.org or 989-775-4638.

Wiingezik, kina gwayaa! – Be safe, everyone!

1. Active Shooter Incidents in the United States in 2022, Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, D.C., and the Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training (ALERT) Center at Texas State University, published 2023.

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OF LAKE ISABELLA, MI

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**, Tribal Development Coordinator  
Email: Balonzo@sagchip.org | Phone: 989-775-5643

MARCH 22 - APRIL 7

# RIDE THE WAVES OF TRADITION

SPRING BREAK 2024

ENTERTAINMENT PROVIDED BY ZIIBIWING CULTURAL CENTER

NATIVE CRAFTS - DJ DANCE PARTY - I-WALL BY MATRIX  
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Management reserves the right to change or discontinue events without notice.





## View new Tribal Member Career Soaring Program area on sagchip.org

### HUMAN RESOURCES

Visit the new Tribal Member Career Soaring Program area on sagchip.org. This new area can be found at [www.sagchip.org/hr/CareerDevelopment/](http://www.sagchip.org/hr/CareerDevelopment/)

The purpose of the SCIT Tribal Member Career Soaring Program is to assist SCIT Native Americans in entering and succeeding in the SCIT workforce.

The new career development area focuses on the career planning process, here we offer occupational support and resources, career development information, online career assessments, and position application.

We are here to support and encourage your career journey efforts, we want you to find

your inspiration, dream big for yourself, follow those dreams and grow with the organization. Mnaajtoon enaamdaman (honor your dream/vision).

SCIT Tribal Members can contact Betsey Alonzo, HR tribal development coordinator and global career development facilitator, with any questions regarding the program or to schedule a client intake appointment.

#### Program services

- Career assessments
- Resume development
- Interview preparation

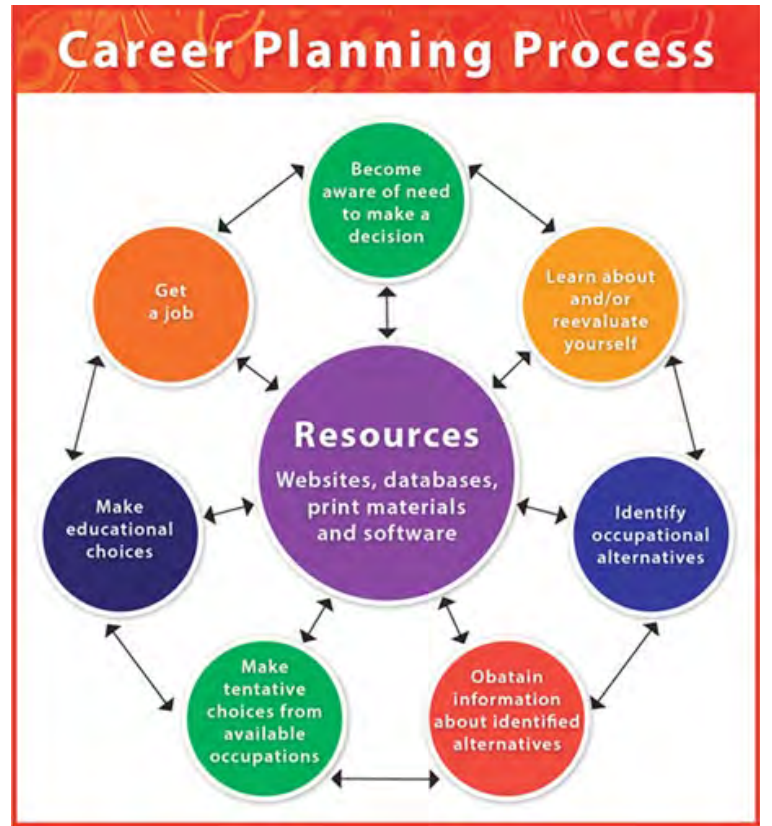
- Job application assistance
- Career support and resources

#### Career planning process:

The career planning process is an independent journey that involves developing and refining your goals. This journey unfolds throughout life as you gain skills, knowledge, and experiences. Although career development is not a linear process, it starts with recognizing a need for change, it involves learning about yourself, exploring your interests, narrowing your options, and finding a fitting occupation.

For more information, please visit: [www.sagchip.org/hr/CareerDevelopment/](http://www.sagchip.org/hr/CareerDevelopment/)

Or scan QR code to the right ▶



## SCTC awarded arts grant from the American Indian College Fund

### MARY PELCHER

Dean of Academics

In the fall of 2023, the American Indian College Fund invited the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College to apply for grant funding for a community based arts program.

AIFC's goal of this funding is to enrich the arts curriculum

by integrating Indigenous education values, incorporating Native knowledge, language, environment, and/or cultural practices. This is to assist to build a foundation and set a pathway for the advancement and progressing of Native arts.

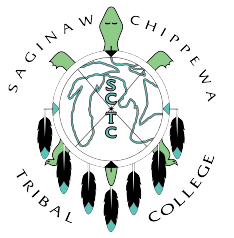
SCTC answered the call and a grant titled "Anishinaabeg Waawiingetoon" (Anishinaabe

make it skillfully) was developed and submitted. This name was chosen to promote a sense of pride and accomplishment to the participants of the grant.

The grant has three goals: 1) to provide students and Tribal community members with a connection to their cultural identity through Native arts, 2) to provide students and

Tribal community a connection to their cultural identity through traditional foods and wellness healing, and 3) implement an Anishinaabe artist in residence program.

The focus of the art activities will be centered



sharing knowledge. Watch for updates as workshops are being planned.

## Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College to expand Native studies to a baccalaureate degree

### ADAM HAVILAND

SCTC Native American Studies Faculty

The Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College has received a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to develop a baccalaureate degree program in Native American Studies.

The \$120,000 grant is part of the NEH's humanities initiatives at tribal colleges and universities, which aims to strengthen the teaching and study of the humanities at tribal colleges.

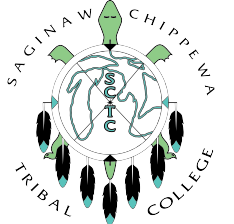
The new degree program will expand SCTC's current degree in Native American studies and focus on the history, culture,

and contemporary issues of the Anishinaabek and Indigenous peoples, with an emphasis on the Great Lakes region.

The program will also incorporate Indigenous research methods, languages, and perspectives, as well as experiential learning opportunities in tribal communities and organizations.



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES



The grant will enable the college to expand its academic offerings and prepare students

for careers or further education in Native American studies and related disciplines.

## Don't be the victim of a scam:

### LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS MT. PLEASANT AREA

Most of you have heard of a Ponzi Scheme, a form of fraud that encourages investments with promises of huge returns. This type of scam is more obvious than the many deceptions that we're faced with in the digital age.

As technology advances, so do the tactics employed by scammers to exploit unsuspecting

victims. Scammers rely on the fact that most people are trusting. Unfortunately, that trust can cause a lot of heartache and put a serious dent in your pocketbook.

**Phishing scams** are one of the most prevalent online threats. These scams involve deceptive emails, messages or websites that mimic legitimate entities.

The victim is tricked into revealing sensitive information such as passwords, credit card details or personal identification. Always double check such requests by contacting

your bank, credit card company or other institution directly by phone or through your usual messaging channels.

**Online shopping and auction fraud scammers** create fake stores or auction listings to entice buyers. Lured by attractive prices for goods or services, victims end up paying money but not receiving the promised items or services.

Often googling "is \_\_ legit?" can reveal a fake storefront. Remember, if it seems too good to be true, it probably is!

**Lottery or prize scams** promise the victim a substantial prize or lottery jackpot. Victims are required to pay upfront fees or provide personal information in order to receive their windfalls. Fraudsters prey on people's desire for financial gain. Victims can be left with depleted bank accounts and compromised credit. Stay away!

**Tech support scams** involve fraudulent individuals posing as computer technicians who

## Outsmart the fraudsters

claim to have detected issues with the victim's computer.

Victims are convinced to grant remote access to their computers or to purchase unnecessary software or services. These scams exploit people's fear of technical issues or lack of understanding of technical issues. You will never be legitimately contacted about "computer problems" in this manner.

**Romance scams** exploit individuals seeking companionship and love online. Scammers create fake profiles on dating websites, establish emotional connections with victims, and then concoct elaborate stories to solicit money.

The emotional manipulation used in romance scams makes it difficult for victims to recognize the deceit until substantial financial and emotional damage has occurred. If you are being asked for money, this is a huge red flag.

**Grandparent scams** involve a grandparent receiving a

phone call from a "grandchild". Usually the fraudster posing as the grandchild claims to be facing a bad situation, like being arrested for drugs, getting in a car accident, or being mugged.

The caller asks the grandparent to wire money as soon as possible and asks that the parent not be notified. Just hang up!

This list of scams is by no means comprehensive. Rarely does a day go by when we don't receive a suspicious email, an unsolicited phone call, or questionable text. What to do? STOP! Take a breath. Take time to investigate before you respond. Call your bank directly. Call the merchant directly. Check with a law enforcement agency.

Do not become a victim of fraud! Take preventative measures. Gain a basic understanding of how scammers work and the common tactics they use. Do your homework and you will be ready to outsmart the fraudsters.

Resources: Mi.gov, Consumer Protection

**Positions Now Available!**

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





## MARCH 2024 | Tribal Community Event Planner

### SCTC Ribbon Cutting and Open House

March 1 | 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

- New SCTC campus (5805 E. Pickard Rd.)
- 989.317.4815 or [aflaughter@sagchip.edu](mailto:aflaughter@sagchip.edu)
- Ribbon cutting ceremony begins at 10 a.m.
- Open house follows

### Anishinabemowin Language Carnival

March 1 | 5-8 p.m.

- Eagles Nest Tribal Gym
- 989-775-4780 or [TJackson@sagchip.org](mailto:TJackson@sagchip.org)
- Activities with the Anishinabemowin language including: lacrosse ball throw, obstacle course, fishing and sucker pull

### Maamwi Da-ma-naang "Playing Together"

March 3 | 1-3 p.m.

- Eagles Nest Tribal Gym
- [MiMcCreery@sagchip.org](mailto:MiMcCreery@sagchip.org) or 989-775-4882
- Board, card and traditional games

### Teachings & Sweat Lodge with Traditional Healer Joe Syrette

March 4 | Teachings from 1-3 p.m.

- Behavioral Health
- 989-775-4850
- Sweat begins: 5 p.m.

### Drop In Beading Circle

March 6, 13, 20, 27 | 12-1:30 p.m.

- Project Venture youth space (Tribal Gym)
- 989-775-5804 or [TahsFoley@sagchip.org](mailto:TahsFoley@sagchip.org)

### Sewing Nights

March 7, 14, 21, 28 | 5-8 p.m.

- Seventh Generation
- 989-775-4780 or [TJackson@sagchip.org](mailto:TJackson@sagchip.org)

### People's Powwow Breakfast Fundraiser

March 8 | 8-11 a.m.

- Seventh Generation
- **To order call: 989-775-4796**
- Pick up and cash only
- Big breakfast: \$10 (eggs, potatoes, fry bread and sausage gravy with choice of bacon or sausage)
- Pancakes and choice of meat: \$6

### Saginaw Chippewa Round Dance

March 9 | Doors open at 5:30 p.m., closing at 2 a.m.

- Eagles Nest Tribal Gym
- 989-775-4453
- Feast: 6 p.m.
- Round Dance: 7 p.m.
- Student Honoring: 8:30 p.m.

### Lunch & Learn with Joy Harjo

March 12 | 12 p.m.

- SCTC Land Grant Classroom (5805 E. Pickard Rd.)
- 989-317-4826 or [GuGonzalez@sagchip.org](mailto:GuGonzalez@sagchip.org)
- In Celebration of Women's History Month

### Joy Harjo Poetry Reading & Book Signing

March 12 | 7 p.m.

- Central Michigan University, Plachta Auditorium, Warriner Hall
- Joy Harjo is an internationally-renowned performer and writer of the Mucogee (Creek) Nation.

### SCA Family Literacy Night

March 14 | 5:30-7 p.m.

- Saginaw Chippewa Academy
- 989-775-4453
- Activities include: guest readers/storytellers, cookie decorating, crafts and book making
- Dinner provided (while supplies last)

### Medicare Presentation: Supplementals

March 20 | 2 p.m.

- Andahwod CGA
- 989-775-4300
- Topics include: overview of Medicare basics, what are supplementals, what to do when you get calls, common list of supplementals.

### Spring Feast

March 20 | 6-8 p.m.

- Seventh Generation
- 989-775-4780 or [TJackson@sagchip.org](mailto:TJackson@sagchip.org)

### Two-Spirit Talking Circle

March 21 | 6 p.m.

- SCTC Land Grant Classroom (5805 E. Pickard Rd.)
- 989-317-4826 or [GuGonzalez@sagchip.org](mailto:GuGonzalez@sagchip.org)

### Annual CMU "Celebrating Life" Powwow

March 23 | Grand entries: 1 p.m. and 7 p.m.

March 24 | Grand entry: 12 p.m.



- John G. Kulhavi Events Center, McGuirk Arena
- Doors open at 11 a.m. both days
- Join us for a cultural experience of singing, dance, arts and crafts, and food.

### 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](mailto: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
- 50/50 raffle and door prizes

## MARCH 2024 | Tribal Community Calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat./Sun.
 <p>Check out the Tribal Observer <b>ONLINE</b></p> <p><a href="http://www.sagchip.org/tribalobserver">www.sagchip.org/tribalobserver</a></p>		 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● SECR Payroll</li> <li>● SCIT Per Capita</li> <li>● SCIT Payroll</li> <li>● Curbside Recycling</li> </ul>		<p>1 Fireside on the Rez 11:30 a.m.   B. Health</p>	<p>2 Fireside on the Rez 6 p.m.   B. Health</p>
<p>4 Recovery Group 1-2 p.m.   B. Health</p>	<p>5 Regular Council Session 9 a.m.   Council Chambers</p> <p>Recovery on the Rez 2-3 p.m.   Zoom</p>	<p>6 Maple Tree Healing 11 a.m.   The Hill Campground</p> <p>Eagle Feather Teachings 1:30-3 p.m.   B. Health</p> <p>Elders Aquatics Class 2 p.m.   SEWPH</p> <p>Drop In Basketball 5:30-8:30 p.m.   Tribal Gym</p> <p>Drums Out 7-9 p.m.   7th Gen</p>	<p>7 Storytelling 12-1:30 p.m.   Saganing</p> <p>Sacred Fire Lunch 12-1 p.m.   7th Gen</p> <p>Acupuncture 4-6 p.m.   B. Health   989-775-4850</p> <p>Euchre 5:30-7 p.m.   Andahwod</p> <p>Recovery on the Rez 6 p.m.   B. Health</p>	<p>8 International Women's Day 9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.   Ziibiwing</p> <p>Fireside on the Rez 11:30 a.m.   B. Health</p>	<p>9 Fireside on the Rez 6 p.m.   B. Health</p>
<p>11 Recovery Group 1-2 p.m.   B. Health</p> <p>Name That Tune 2:30 p.m.   Andahwod</p>	<p>12 Recovery on the Rez 2-3 p.m.   Zoom</p>	<p>13 Elders Breakfast 9-10 a.m.   Andahwod</p> <p>Eagle Feather Teachings 1:30-3 p.m.   B. Health</p> <p>Elders Aquatics Class 2 p.m.   SEWPH</p> <p>Drop In Basketball 5:30-8:30 p.m.   Tribal Gym</p> <p>Drums Out 7-9 p.m.   7th Gen</p>	<p>14 Pi Day Celebration 12-1 p.m.   SCTC</p> <p>Euchre 5:30-7 p.m.   Andahwod</p> <p>Recovery on the Rez 6 p.m.   B. Health</p>	<p>15 Tribal Observer deadline</p> <p>Fireside on the Rez 11:30 a.m.   B. Health</p> <p>Elders St. Patrick's Day Party 2:30 p.m.   Andahwod</p>	<p>16 Fireside on the Rez 6 p.m.   B. Health</p> <p>Elders Birthday Bingo &amp; Potluck 12 p.m.   Andahwod</p>
<p>18 Recovery Group 1-2 p.m.   B. Health</p>	<p>19 Language Bingo 1-3 p.m.   Andahwod</p> <p>Recovery on the Rez 2-3 p.m.   Zoom</p> <p>Student Movie Night: "Warrior Women" 5:30-7:30 p.m.   SCTC</p>	<p>20 Eagle Feather Teachings 1:30-3 p.m.   B. Health</p> <p>Elders Aquatics Class 2 p.m.   SEWPH</p> <p>Drop In Basketball 5:30-8:30 p.m.   Tribal Gym</p> <p>Drums Out 7-9 p.m.   7th Gen</p>	<p>21 Dream Catcher Workshop 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.   Saganing</p> <p>Sacred Fire Lunch 12-1 p.m.   7th Gen</p> <p>Euchre 5:30-7 p.m.   Andahwod</p> <p>Recovery on the Rez 6 p.m.   B. Health</p>	<p>22 Fireside on the Rez 11:30 a.m.   B. Health</p>	<p>23 Fireside on the Rez 6 p.m.   B. Health</p>
<p>25 Recovery Group 1-2 p.m.   B. Health</p>	<p>26 Recovery on the Rez 2-3 p.m.   Zoom</p>	<p>27 Drums Out 7-9 p.m.   7th Gen</p> <p>Easter Elders Breakfast 9-10:30 a.m.   Andahwod</p> <p>Eagle Feather Teachings 1:30-3 p.m.   B. Health</p> <p>Elders Aquatics Class 2 p.m.   SEWPH</p> <p>Drop In Basketball 5:30-8:30 p.m.   Tribal Gym</p>	<p>28 Spring Feast 12-1 p.m.   Saganing</p> <p>Elder Easter Party 2:30 p.m.   Andahwod</p> <p>Euchre 5:30-7 p.m.   Andahwod</p> <p>Recovery on the Rez 6 p.m.   B. Health</p>	<p>29 Chair Yoga 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.   Andahwod</p> <p>Fireside on the Rez 11:30 a.m.   B. Health</p> <p>Bingo with Friends 1-3 p.m.   Andahwod</p>	<p>30 Fireside on the Rez 6 p.m.   B. Health</p>
					<p>31 Easter</p>





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

Apply to job postings online at [www.sagchip.org](http://www.sagchip.org). \* Job postings are subject to change daily.

- 100 Employment
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- 110 For Rent
- 135 Events
- 115 For Sale
- 140 Giveaways
- 120 Announcements
- 145 Miscellaneous

**100 Employment**

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**Social Services Specialist**

Open to the public. Eligible employer for public student loan forgiveness as a non-profit. Bachelor's degree in social services or human services. Must be able to effectively communicate and have good computer 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. Eligible employer for public student loan forgiveness as a nonprofit.

**Certified Nursing Assistant PT**

Open to the public. High school diploma or GED. Desired qualifications: One year nursing experience. Experience with older adults. Eligible employer for public student loan forgiveness as a nonprofit.

**SVPP Coordinator PT**

Open to the public. Grant-funded position. At least two years of study at an institution of higher education (equal to 60 semester hours) or an associate degree (or higher) and experience working with children in grades preK-5.

**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.

**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.

**Special Education Teacher**

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

**Dental Hygienist PT**

Open to the public. Michigan Registered Dental Hygienist license required. Two years working experience in dental hygiene desired. Eligible employer for public student loan forgiveness as a nonprofit

**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.

**Registered Medical Assistant - Andahwod PT**

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

**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.

**Police Officer**

Open to the public. High school diploma or GED. Must be a US citizen and at least 21 years of age. Must be able to pass departmental fitness evaluation.

**Dispatcher/Corrections Officer**

Open to the public. High school diploma or GED. Law enforcement, dispatch, or corrections experience desired. Eligible employer for public student loan forgiveness as a nonprofit.

**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.

**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.

**Registered Medical Assistant - Nimkee Clinic**

Open to the public. High school diploma or GED. Minimum of one year experience working as a Medical Assistant in an outpatient Medical Clinic (Family Medicine Preferred). Must be knowledgeable in CPT and ICD 10 codes and medical terminology.

**Maintenance Worker**

Interim position. In-house: only current SCIT Tribal Operations employees, SECR employees, SELC and all SCIT Tribal Members are eligible to apply. Must be at least 18 years of age. One-year experience with basic maintenance and grounds keeping.

**Soaring Eagle**

**Journeyman Electrician**

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

**Line Cook**

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

**Housekeeper/Laundry Attendant**

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

**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.

**Laundry Attendant PT**

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

**Journeyman Plumber**

Open to the public. Must be at least 18 years of age. High school diploma or GED. Must be at least 18 years of age. Seven years of experience working as a plumber. Commercial experience desired.

**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.

**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.

**Guestroom Attendant FT**

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

**F&B Cashier PT**

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

**Beverage Waitstaff FT**

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

**Beverage Waitstaff PT**

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

**Bartender FT**

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

**Bartender PT**

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

**Beverage Bartender**

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

**Finance Cashier PT**

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

**Police Officer - Standish**

Open to the public. High school diploma or GED. Must be a U.S. citizen and at least 21 years of age. Must be able to pass departmental fitness evaluation.

**Summons and Complaint Notices**

**NOTICE TO STARR QUINTERO IN THE MATTER OF TWO MINOR CHILDREN, DATES OF BIRTH 07-15-2014 AND 02-19-2018**

The Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Court. Publication of Hearing. Case No. 22-JCW-0003. The Court has taken jurisdiction of the minors in reference to the case listed above. A hearing of Petition to Terminate Parental Rights of Minor Children will be conducted by the court on **Thursday, March 14, 2024 at 10 a.m.** in the courtroom at the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Court, 6954 East Broadway Road, Mount Pleasant, MI 48858 before the honorable Michelle Horn. IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that STARR QUINTERO personally appear before the court at the time and place stated above. This hearing may result in the Court continuing its jurisdiction over the minors 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 PATTY PETERS:**

The Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Court 6954 East Broadway Road, Mount Pleasant, MI 48858 (989) 775-4800. Estate of Patty Peters. Date of Birth: May 29, 1946. Notice to creditors: The decedent, Patty Peters, died July 24, 2024. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Summer Peters, 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: Summer Peters, 7231 Deweigan Ln, Mt. Pleasant MI 48858, 517-944-2408.

**STRONGHEARTS Native Helpline**

Call or Text:  
**1-844-7NATIVE (762-8483)**

Chat online at:  
[strongheartshelpline.org](http://strongheartshelpline.org)

**24/7 safe, confidential and anonymous domestic and sexual violence helpline for Native Americans and Alaska Natives, offering culturally-appropriate support and advocacy.**

@strongheartsdv





## More than 40 teens participate in fashion show promoting self-love

**NATALIE SHATTUCK**

Editor

Area teens had the opportunity to walk the runway in traditional attire created by local designers or artists. This was all part of the Naakdowendiswin (taking care of self) Teen Fashion Show to support Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month and raise awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Children.

The second annual Teen Fashion Show – with the theme of zaagidziwin (self-love) – was held on Thursday, Feb. 15 from 6 to 9 p.m. in the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort Entertainment Hall.

The teen models included 6th to 12th graders from Mt. Pleasant Middle School, Mt. Pleasant High School, Shepherd High School, Renaissance Academy, Odyssey Middle School, Odyssey High School and WAY-Oasis.

The teens included: Alexis Trepanier, Tavia Agosto, Wabigwan Shawnoo, Joslynn Shaw, Kaylee Frens, Azrae Wemigwans, Journey Mena, Alex Grice, Tayla Sizemore, Reagan Sizemore, Jorge Martinez, Kyla Henry, Angelita Martinez, Dehmin Kahgegab, Albert Trepanier



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

**More than 40 students participate in the Naakdowendiswin (taking care of self) Teen Fashion Show held on Feb. 15 from 6 to 9 p.m. in the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort Entertainment Hall.**

Jr., Dexter Henry, Azhiyen Wemigwans, Gracin Montoya, Michael Otto, Miah Perez, Kylie Wemigwans, Adrienne Pelcher, Reese Collins-Ziviski, Ashani Pelcher, Ellery Lawson, Layla Cloud Pigeon, Noelle Collins-Zivinski, Dezhik Pinnecoose, Trinity Jackson, Aiyana Sheahan, Laila Pope, Bryson Roth, Namiah Jackson, Dannie Bennett, Troy Richardson Jr., Waabigwan Peters, Aria Drain, Natalia Martin, Charmaine Castillo-Pelcher, Zaagidiwin Meshkowski-Traver and Jaycee Sheahan-Kahgegab.

Emcee Nathan Isaac of Rezonance Productions introduced each teen entering the stage and read a statement each provided on what self-love means to them.

Models wore the fashions created by artists: Lisa Kennedy, Joelle Peters, Cece Stevens, Suzanne Cross, Christina Osawabine, Summer Peters, Courtney Kahgegab, Angela Peters, Kasey Perez, Gayle Ruhl, Tonya Jackson, Bethel Merrill, Jillian Waterman, Carole Tally, Kim Hinmon, Jelly Hinmon, Iliana, Alexandra Otto, Sarah Jones, Tahsheenah Foley and Felicia Otto.

Youth Council Member LahRae Wilson provided opening remarks, and a prayer was provided by Isabella Osawamick.

Tribal Member Melissa Isaac was the special guest speaker. Isaac, an Ojibwe style, women's traditional dancer, currently works for the Michigan Department of Education's Indigenous Education Initiative



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

**Several of the artists creating the designs for the teen models are recognized on stage.**

where she serves Indigenous students attending public schools throughout Michigan.

Isaac spoke about self-love.

“Our journey as Anishinabe people is not defined by the hardships that we endure but by the strength and resilience and love that flows through our veins,” Isaac said.

Isaac continued, speaking to the youth: “Our ancestors want the best for you. They don't want you to suffer. They don't

want you to feel shame. They don't want you to experience violence. They suffered all of that so that we wouldn't have to go through it like they did.”

The ancestors want you to experience a good and healthy life, Isaac said, mentioning that starts within each of us.

After the fashion show, a drum and dance social was held, and refreshments were provided. Prizes were awarded for spot dances.

Observer photos by Natalie Shattuck

