



Mnidoo-Giizisoons  
(Little Spirit Moon)

# TRIBAL OBSERVER

DECEMBER 2024

Working Together For Our Future

www.sagchip.org/tribalobserver

Volume 26 | Issue 12



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## Features

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**Tribal Operations will be closed Monday, Dec. 23, 2024 through Friday, Jan. 3, 2025**  
*\*Excluding 24/7 departments. For more information, please see page 3.*

## Vintage ambiance and classic American fare: Johnny Rockets now open in Soaring Eagle

**NATALIE SHATTUCK**  
Editor

A new, vibrant restaurant offering classic American fare and vintage jukebox tunes has been added as a dining option within the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort. A ribbon cutting ceremony for Johnny Rockets was held on Tuesday, Nov. 19 at 10:30 a.m.

A combination of all things Americana, the franchise is named “Johnny” after Johnny Appleseed and “Rockets” after the classic Oldsmobile Rocket 88.



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

**The official ribbon cutting ceremony on Nov. 19 celebrates the grand opening of the restaurant Johnny Rockets, located in the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort.**

The ceremony kicked off as Erik Rodriguez, public relations director, provided welcoming remarks and Onion Creek Singers performed a welcome song.

On behalf of Tribal Council, Sub-Chief Luke Sprague spoke to a group of Soaring Eagle patrons and employees gathered in front of the restaurant’s entrance.

“We are excited to bring another well-known establishment into the Soaring Eagle Casino family,” Sprague said. “... We continue to listen to our guests; we want to offer the amenities they are seeking and give them the diverse options in their dining experience. Johnny Rockets has long been associated with quality and excellent taste while



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

**Johnny Rockets is located off of the SECR gaming floor.**

engraining the atmosphere of a retro-inspired diner.”

Johnny Rockets | 10

## Central Michigan University and its Athletics Department gifts two maple trees

**NATALIE SHATTUCK**  
Editor

As the Wii Maajikwad school and recreation center held its ribbon cutting ceremony a couple months ago, it was mentioned Central Michigan University and its Athletics Department donated two sugar maple trees to the Tribe and school.

On Nov. 18, a special ceremony was held for the tree dedication. CMU representatives and athletes joined Wii



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

**A group of Wii Maajikwad students and staff, Tribal Council members, and Central Michigan University representatives and athletes pose for a photo after the Nov. 18 tree dedication ceremony.**

Maajikwad students and staff and Tribal Council behind the school at 10 a.m. near the trees.

One tree was gifted by the University, and the other was gifted by its Athletics Department.

Two engraved plaques placed in the ground in front of

the trees read, “May this tree provide never ending nourishment to the minds of the Anishinaabe students.”

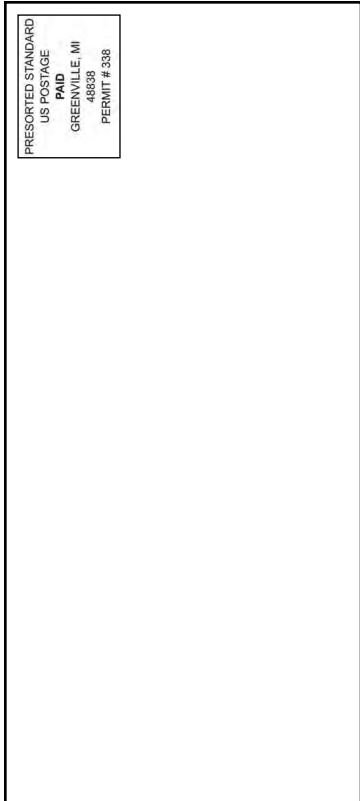
Tribal Council’s Sgt.-at-Arms Christina Otto provided a prayer in Anishinabemowin, followed by Chief Tim J. Davis providing remarks and

introducing Tribal Council members.

In front of the gathered, CMU Athletic Director Amy Folan said there “are a lot of memories and friendships that make this partnership between CMU and the Tribe truly special.”

“Central Michigan University Athletics is deeply honored to carry the Chippewa name; the legacy that reflects the years of partnership and mutual respect between our university and the Saginaw

CMU | 7



# State of the Tribe

## Annual Meeting

**Saturday, Jan. 18, 2025**

Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort Entertainment Hall

**Doors open at 9 a.m. | Breakfast at 10 a.m.**

- The 2025 State of the Tribe will also be live streamed on the SCIT Tribal Members-only section of sagchip.org. Please log in to view the meeting if you are unable to join in person.
- Open to SCIT Members of all ages. Tribal ID required.
- Kids Quest at SECR will open at 9 a.m.



## Eric John Anderson

July 12, 1963 - October 24, 2024

Eric J. Anderson of Dewitt, Mich., passed away on Thursday, Oct. 24, 2024 after decades of battling heart disease. He was 61 years old.

A beloved husband, stepfather, brother, veteran and member of the Saginaw Chippewa Tribe. He will be missed by all who knew him.

He was born in Lansing, Mich. on July 12, 1963 to parents Rose and John Anderson who went by the name of Jack. He and his younger brother Joe grew up in Laingsburg, Mich.



Eric is a graduate of Laingsburg High School, Ferris State University and served three years in the United States Army as a light wheeled vehicle mechanic. He had one overseas assignment in South Korea with the 2nd Infantry Division. Shortly after leaving the Army he was hired by the United States Postal Service where most of his 32 years of service were as a mechanic for the mail processing equipment.

His final years of service were as a custodian for the Dewitt Post Office. He was hardworking, generous, loyal and loving.

Eric had always said he wanted a large family. Fate gave him his wish but in a less traditional way. He married Sally (Leitch) White on April 4, 1997. She already had two children (Libby and Ian) and they became an instant family of four. Sadly, Sally passed away from cancer on Sept. 22, 1998 and Eric again became a bachelor again.

A couple of years later he was introduced to Sheryl (Crittenden) McPhail by a common friend. They soon became inseparable and with the consent of Sheryl's daughter, Katie, they married. They shared 23 years together, enjoyed multiple family trips to Disney, and summer fairs for daughter Katie's equestrian competitions. They also enjoyed many theatrical productions at MSU's Wharton Center. They took two grand trips to Alaska and the Hawaiian Islands. He was a lifelong fan of the science fiction/fantasy genre and as a young man who came of age in the 80s liked his video games ("Avel" in particular).

He was preceded in death by his father, John (Jack) Anderson; mother, Rose Anderson and his first wife, Sally Anderson.

He is survived by his wife of 23 years, Sheryl Anderson; brother, Joe (Chris) Anderson; stepchildren, Katie (Betsy) McPhail, Libby (Scott) Hoover and Ian White. He is also survived by his brother-in-law, Mike (Margie) Crittenden.

A celebration of Eric's life was held on Saturday, Nov. 16, 2024 at 11 a.m. at the American Legion Hall located at 1240 W. Grand River, Laingsburg, MI 48848. Interment will be held at Chapel Hill Memorial Gardens at 4444 W. Grand River Ave., Lansing, MI 48906 at a later date.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Heart Association or the Capital Area Humane Society.

## Richard J. Starkey

September 25, 1964 - November 19, 2024

Richard J. Starkey, age 60, of Shepherd, Mich., passed away peacefully Tuesday, Nov. 19, 2024, at his home.

Richard was born Sept. 25, 1964, in Mount Pleasant, Mich., the son of Olin and Artina (Jackson) Starkey. He was a graduate of Chippewa Hills High School and served in the U.S. Army.

Richard married Lisa Faye Mandoka on July 25, 1988. He was a proud member of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe.



Richard always loved life and his family and community surrounding him. He was great at building things, very smart and a hands-on guy. Richard liked singing and playing guitar and drums.

Richard is survived by his wife Lisa Starkey of Shepherd; daughter Stephanie (John) Spanne of Mt. Pleasant, Matthew Starkey of Alma; grandchildren Adrianna, Miingin, Aanzhenii, Jordan, and Aaron; brothers Tony Starkey and Billy Jo (Mindy) Starkey; sisters Bobbie Jo Starkey, Tina Howard, Judy (Steve) Johnson, Laurie Jackson; and many other extended family and friends.

Richard is preceded in death by his parents; and brother Mark Starkey.

Funeral services took place on Monday, Nov. 25, 2024, at 1 p.m. at the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Gym with Greg Mandoka officiating. Interment followed at Woodland Cemetery. Following the burial, a luncheon took place at the Tribal Gym. The family received friends on Nov. 25, beginning at 11 a.m. until the time of the service at the gym.

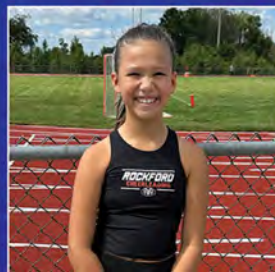
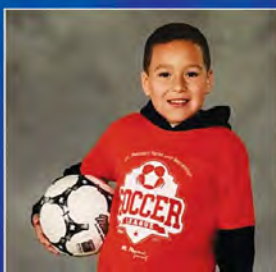
Memorial contributions may be made to the family, checks may be made payable to Stephanie Spanne.

## Attention Tribal Members: Notice of Public Hearing

**NOTICE: There will be a public hearing held on Monday, Jan. 13, 2025 at 8:30 a.m. in the Chambers at the Black Elk Building, 7500 Soaring Eagle Blvd., Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858.** This hearing will address the application for a renewal of a Retail Off-Premise Beer and Wine License presented to Tribal Council by Theresa Giorlando, Area Retail Manager of the Migizi Economic Development Company. The application which will be reviewed and discussed at the hearing is as follows:

Renewal of Retail Off-Premise Beer and Wine License for the Isabella Sagamok, located at 2428 S. Leaton Rd., Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858. Such license if renewed, would cover the sale of packaged beer and wine to be consumed by buyers off premise for the duration of one full year from Jan. 27, 2025 to Jan. 26, 2026, with hours of alcohol service consistent with Chapter 8.7 Liquor Control Act and the license issued by the Michigan Liquor Control Commission.

## Active Native Youth



## Deadline: Dec. 12, 2024

Send in one photo of your Tribal Member, descendant students to be featured in the January 2025 issue of the Tribal Observer.

Email your photo and information to [Observer@sagchip.org](mailto:Observer@sagchip.org)

Please include the following:

- Name • School • Grade • Sports/activities

## UMR UPDATE

Important changes to your UMR health coverage that will take effect on Jan. 1, 2025:

### Dialysis Coverage

- ▶ No longer covering Out-of-Network Providers for inpatient/outpatient services.
- ▶ Patients currently effected will be notified to begin transition to an In-Network provider of choice.



## Call for Artists

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

Tribal youth will be hosting an Indigenous Fashion Show and Round Dance in February 2025 at 6 p.m. at the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort.

- ▶ Designer will receive recognition
- ▶ Materials can be provided
- ▶ Youth will be gifted the skirt or apparel for participating in the event
- ▶ Apparel items are due back to Behavioral Health by the end of January



For more information, please contact: Felicia Otto at 989.775.4823 or [otto@sagchip.org](mailto:otto@sagchip.org)

## SCIT Supportive Housing

Housing First Harm Reduction

- Sixteen total apartments:**
  - 2x3 bedroom • 8x2 bedroom • 6x1 bedroom
- Amenities include:** Dog run, community kitchen, peer support meeting room, laundry, outdoor courtyard with fire pit and smoking shelter.
- Policies include:**
  - Tenants must apply
  - Tenants pay rent
  - There is a pet policy
  - Premises are monitored 24/7
  - Lease violations can lead to eviction
  - Tenants sign a lease
  - There are house rules
  - There is a visitor policy

- Supportive housing is NOT:**
  - A treatment center
  - Group home
  - Sober living
  - Licensed community care
  - A ZERO tolerance program
  - Emergency/transitional housing

- Coordinated Services Offered:**
  - Flexible and voluntary case management
  - Counseling
  - Health and mental health services
  - Alcohol and substance use services
  - Independent living skills
  - Traditional healing and teachings
  - Community building activities



Supportive Housing is a Harm Reduction and Housing First Model:

**Harm Reduction:** The Tribal leadership recognizes that drug and alcohol use and abuse have always been part of modern society. The lasting effects of trauma and poor mental health will always be a part of humanity. Sadly we can't eliminate these from our society. Therefore, it's better to work toward minimizing the harm done.

**Supportive Housing First Model:** This program is for people who have persistent, chronic substance use disorders and or mental health challenges. In supportive housing we don't wait for people to get clean and sober before housing them. We offer a home and then offer support services to help them manage their symptoms, reduce their symptoms and hopefully enhance their lives. Many studies show that "Housing First" reduces hospital visits, the duration of hospital stays, and overall reduces the costs for these services. Maintaining stable housing is essential to creating a balanced life.

For more information, please contact: 989-775-4466 | [sanglin@sagchip.org](mailto:sanglin@sagchip.org)

## ZIIBIWING CENTER of Anishinabe Culture & Lifestyles

### 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](mailto:WJohnson@sagchip.org)

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

• Phone: 989.775.4730



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

**Regular Tribal Council Sessions**

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

**Regular Council Session Dates**

- Dec. 3 • Jan. 7 • Feb. 4



**HOLIDAY HOURS**

Nimkee Medical, Dental, Optical & Public Health  
**WILL BE CLOSED:**  
 DEC. 24, 2024 - JAN. 1, 2025

- ▶ **Nimkee Medical, Dental & Optical will be open:** Dec. 23, 2024 & Jan. 2-3, 2025  
\*A medical provider will be on-call (989-317-2088) after 5 pm and weekends.
- ▶ **Nimkee Public Health:** By appointment only
- ▶ **Nimkee Fitness:** Open 24/7  
\*Must use employee badge or key fob for access.
- ▶ **Nimkee Pharmacy will be open:**
  - Dec. 23: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. • Jan. 2: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
  - Dec. 26-27: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. • Jan. 3: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
  - Dec. 30: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

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



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

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



Your Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Library  
**IS STILL OPEN AT THE OLD TRIBAL OPS BUILDING**

**Address:**  
 7070 E. Broadway Rd.  
 Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

**Hours:**  
 Monday-Friday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
 Public library open to everyone

Your Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Library and Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College Library  
**WILL BE MERGING IN SUMMER 2025**  
 More details forthcoming

**For more information, please contact:**  
 989-775-4519 or AHeidemann@sagchip.org



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

**TRIBAL OPERATIONS WILL BE CLOSED:**  
 Monday, Dec. 23, 2024 – Friday, Jan. 3, 2025

*\*Excluding 24/7 departments and those below.*

- **ACFS:** Closed. On-call worker: 989.775.4700
- **Andahwod:** Open 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. excluding holidays/weekends. 24/7 staff will operate as usual. 989.775.4300
- **Behavioral Health Outpatient:** Closed. On-call therapists: 989.775.4850
- **Behavioral Health RTC:** Open (fully staffed) 989.775.4850
- **Fire Department:** Open 24/7 (fully staffed) 989.775.4866
- **Gaming Commission:** Compliance open (fully staffed). One commissioner on-call daily.
- **Housing:** Closed. Mt. Pleasant 24/7 emergency line: 989.621.2669. Saganing: 989.330.8165.
- **Human Resources, SECR:** Open times below.
  - ▶ Dec. 23: 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. ▶ Dec. 30: 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
  - ▶ Dec. 26: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. ▶ Jan. 2: 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.
  - ▶ Dec. 27: 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. ▶ Jan. 3: 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.
- **Human Resources, Saganing:** Open times below.
  - ▶ Dec. 23: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. ▶ Dec. 30: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
  - ▶ Dec. 26: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. ▶ Jan. 2: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
  - ▶ Dec. 27: 7 a.m. - 12 p.m. ▶ Jan. 3: 7 a.m. - 12 p.m.
- **Licensing and Regulations:** Closed, except for Dec. 27 & Jan. 3 from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. 989.775.4175
- **Mailroom:** Closed on holidays/weekends, otherwise open 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. 989.775.0114
- **Nimkee Fitness Center:** Open 24/7 (no staff)
- **Nimkee Medical, Dental, Optical:** Open on Dec. 23, 2024 & Jan. 2-3, 2025. Medical provider on-call after 5 p.m. and weekends: 989.317.2088
- **Nimkee Public Health:** Closed. By appointment only. 989.775.4695
- **Nimkee Pharmacy:** Open times below.
  - ▶ Dec. 23: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. ▶ Dec. 30: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
  - ▶ Dec. 26-27: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. ▶ Jan. 2-3: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
- **Per Capita:** Closed. All changes need to be in the office or emailed to percapita@sagchip.org by Dec. 20 at 5 p.m. 989.775.4040
- **Police Department:** Open (24/7). Dispatch: 989.775.4700
- **Prosecutor:** Closed holidays/weekends. Open Mondays (8 a.m. - 12 p.m.), Thursdays (9 a.m. - 1 p.m.) and Fridays (12 - 3 p.m.) 989.775.4808. Victim Advocate on-call.
- **Recreation:** Closed. Open gym on Dec. 23, 26 & 30 and Jan. 2 from 12 p.m. - 5 p.m. each day. 989.775.4149
- **Saganing Outreach:** Closed. Medication pick-up and deliveries on Thursdays. Maintenance on-call. 989.775.5820
- **Seventh Generation:** Closed. Staff on-call: 989.775.4780
- **Tribal Clerk/Enrollment:** Closed. Burial assistance: 989.775.4072
- **Utilities:** TBD
- **Warehouse:** Open regular days. Closed on Dec. 25 & Jan. 1.

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



Part of the Law Enforcement Challenge, help us bring home the win again this year!

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

**Collection box locations:**

- ▶ Tribal Police and Tribal Court lobbies
- ▶ Sagamok Express Mobil
- ▶ Soaring Eagle Waterpark and Hotel beginning Nov. 4

**Collection ends the second week of December**

**For more information, please contact:**  
 Tribal Dispatch at 989.775.4700



ADA American Dental Association®

**Save the Date: Feb. 13, 2025**  
 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. | Nimkee Clinic

- Children under the age of 18 who are eligible to be seen at the Nimkee Dental Clinic are invited to join us for our annual "Give Kids a Smile Day" on Thursday, Feb. 13, 2025.
- Kids may receive a dental exam, X-rays, sealants, fluoride treatment and/or fillings based on individual need and time available.
- Goodie bag will be provided to all participants!
- This year, appointments must be made by calling 989-775-4657 any time up to, and including the event day (8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)
- The Nimkee Dental Clinic is located at 2591 S. Leaton Rd., Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858





## Tribal Council

### Chief

**Tim J. Davis** | District One

### Sub-Chief

**Luke Sprague** | District One

### Treasurer

**Maia Spotted Tail** | District One

### Secretary

**Jennifer L. Wassegijig** | District One

### Sergeant-at-Arms

**Christina Otto** | District One

### Chaplain

**Alice Jo Ricketts** | District One

### Council Member

**Brad Bennett** | District One

### Council Member

**David Merrill Jr.** | District One

### Council Member

**Frank J. Cloutier** | District Three

### Council Member

**Ron Nelson** | District Two

### Council Member

**Samantha Chippeway** | District One

### Council Member

**Theresa Peters-Jackson** | District One



**Nimkee**  
Memorial Wellness Center

## Orchard Lab Services

Open for walk-ins, or skip the line and schedule an appointment 989-775-4687

Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Please remember to bring all outside lab orders with you or fax directly to Nimkee Clinic at 989-775-4680.  
\*Lab will remain closed for all Federal Holidays\*

For more information, please call: 989-775-4600

## Pharmacy Services

### Nimkee Pharmacy hours:

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

### Meijer Pharmacy hours:

Monday - Friday from 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.  
Saturday - Sunday from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

### Cardinal Pharmacy hours:

Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
Saturday from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

For more information, please call: 989.775.4608

## Same-day appointments

We want to ensure that all patients have a positive experience at Nimkee Clinic. If you have a same-day appointment, we kindly ask that you focus on addressing any urgent issues during your visit. To give your non-urgent concerns the attention they deserve, we may schedule a follow-up visit. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Same-day appointments are scheduled for 15-30 minutes

To schedule your appointment, please call: 989.775.4600

## New reminder system

Nimkee Medical, Dental and Public Health is excited to introduce our new user-friendly reminder system platform!

### Here's what you need to know about the platform:

- 1. Initial reminder:** You will receive your first reminder at the time of scheduling your appointment.
- 2. Second reminder:** Five days before your appointment, you will receive a reminder.
- 3. Final reminder:** A day before your appointment, you will receive the final reminder.

### It is important to respond, respond and respond!

If you do not confirm your appointment, our automated system will continue to contact you. Rest assured, this is done with your best interest in mind. To avoid continual calls/texts, simple reply "yes or no" with your appointment intentions!

### To learn more about our reminder system platform, check out the links below:

- <https://caremessage.docsend.com/view/f7vxyxw3mz9hgj>
- <https://caremessage.docsend.com/view/4xr8cwum29fz7838>

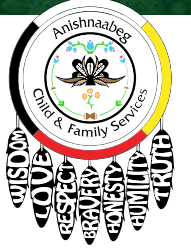
## ACFS - Foster Care Program

# Christmas BAZAAR

Sunday, Dec. 8, 2024

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

Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort Ballroom



► **Vendors:** 8'x8' space is available for \$50 and includes two 6-foot tables and two chairs, if needed.

► All proceeds benefit ACFS Foster Care Program

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



**ZIIBIWING CENTER**  
of Anishinabe Culture & Lifeways

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

- **Martin Luther King Jr. Day** — Monday, Jan. 20, 2025
- **Presidents Day** — Monday, Feb. 17, 2025
- **Easter** — Monday, April 21, 2025
- **Michigan Indian Day** — Friday, Sept. 26, 2025
- **Veterans Day** — Tuesday, Nov. 11, 2025



## 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

## 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.

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



## Office of Tribal Licensing & Regulations Announcement

### Elder Parking Permits

Elder Parking Permits are available at the Office of Tribal Licensing and Regulations. Please visit the office to complete an application and pick up new or replacement permits.

### License Plates

**Friendly reminder for any Tribal Member who carries a SCIT License Plate on their vehicle:**

Please stop by the office any time there is a change in your personal information since your last renewal, including: name, contact information or physical/ mailing address.

### Sagamok Loyalty Cards

Sagamok Loyalty Cards for eligible Tribal Members are available at the Office of Tribal Licensing & Regulations. Pick yours up ASAP to continue receiving fuel and tobacco tax discounts at Sagamok!




**20% OFF All Silver & Gemstone Jewelry** | **Additional 20% OFF Current Sale Items**

## ZIIBIWING CENTER HOLIDAY Sale

No additional discount on sale items, except Hero Discounts. Select items will be on sale.

**Dec. 2-13, 2024**  
**Ziibiwing Gift Shop hours:**  
 Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

**PRESALE EVENT:**  
 SCIT Tribal Members only  
**Dec. 1, 2024 • 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.**

**ZIIBIWING CENTER** THE MIDWEST'S PREMIER AMERICAN INDIAN MUSEUM  
 6650 EAST BROADWAY MT. PLEASANT, MICHIGAN 48858  
 989.775.4790 • WWW.SAGCHIP.ORG/ZIIBIWING



## MIIBS

Mt. Pleasant Indian Industrial Boarding School

### Winter Silent Auction

**Dec. 5 & 6, 2024**  
**Ziibiwing Center Lobby**

- Bids will be finalized on Friday at 5:30 p.m.
- Many ribbon skirts available
- Funds will be used for securing MIIBS from vandals and weekend night security

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

- Marcella Hadden**  
 mLhadden@sagchip.org | 989.775.4751



## Trapping Season 2024

Per Tribal Ordinance 11, Section 108 subdivision 2, the 2024 Trapping Season within the exterior boundaries of the Isabella Indian Reservation and on designated Tribal Trust Lands outside the exterior boundaries of the Isabella Indian Reservation shall begin Nov. 12, 2024, and will close April 29, 2025, unless ordered otherwise.


- Badger and otter limit two per season (tag included with license).
- Bobcat<sup>1</sup> is limited to two tags only whether hunting, trapping or combination of seasons.
- Muskrat, mink, beaver, raccoon, fox<sup>1</sup>, coyote<sup>1</sup>, skunk, weasel and opossum will not have a bag limit for the trapping season.
- No conibare style traps larger than 220 size (7"x7" jaw) may be used on land unless made inaccessible to cats and dogs at ground level.

Licenses will be available starting Nov. 12, 2024 at the Office of Tribal Licensing & Regulations. Fee is \$10 per license.

<sup>1</sup>Other Indians may not hunt on Tribal Trust or Tribal owned Fee Land.  
<sup>2</sup>Other Indians as defined in Tribal Ordinance 11, Section 104 subdivision 52.

Please refer to Tribal Ordinance 11 on the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe Website for rules and regulations.  
<sup>1</sup>Small Game License required to hunt bobcat, coyote and fox.

**Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe**  
 Community Engineer Donald L. Seal, Planning Department



## Nimkee Fitness

# STRONG

### Personal Training Classes

**Beginning Jan. 6, 2025**  
**Two sessions: 2-3 p.m. & 3-4 p.m.**

Welcome to Nimkee Fitness' first ever small group personal training class!

- Don't miss out on this opportunity to workout with friends and get a personalized approach to your training program.
- All fitness levels are welcome. Don't be shy!
- Perfect for individuals who are trying to get more comfortable in the gym setting.
- This class will involve total-body strength training along with cardiovascular exercise to help achieve your goals.
- Programs are personalized to you and your individual goals, you do not have to be a professional in the gym to join!

**To sign up, please contact:**

**Seth Pifer, Fitness Coordinator**  
 Phone: 989-775-4694 | Email: SPifer@sagchip.org

2591 S. Leaton Rd., Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858  
[www.Sagchip.org/fitness](http://www.Sagchip.org/fitness)  
**Staffed: M-F, 8-5 p.m. | Open 24/7 to members!**


## 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




## ATTENTION HUNTERS

Display your deer in the January 2025 Tribal Observer Buck Pole

**Submit photos to: Observer@sagchip.org**  
 Open to the Tribal community and employees

**Deadline: Dec. 14, 2024**



In Honor of

## WII MAAJIKWAD

# PLAQUE

### Fundraiser


Plaques will be placed on 18 benches around Wii Maajikwad.

**Plaques cost: \$500 each**

- Plaques will have the pre-engraved wording: "In Honor of"
- Maximum letter count for customizable area: 50 letters
- Black plaques only: no colored plaques
- Plaque size: 2"x10"
- Must be a Tribal Member's name

**Payments can be made at:**  
 Accounting in the Black Elk Building

**For more information, please contact:**  
 ESchlegel@sagchip.org or 989.775.4453





## Tribal Youth Suicide Prevention Survey

The Native Connections program at SCIT Behavioral Health is conducting a mental health survey for Tribal members/descendants between the ages of 9 to 24.

Behavioral Health has incentives available for anyone who completes the surveys. Please call Sarah Jones, data analyst, at 989-775-4898 for the incentives or for more information.

The survey will assist in gathering information about our community to help prevent substance misuse and suicide among our Tribal Youth.

**SCAN QR CODE**

## Community Photo Submissions Needed

Nimkee Clinic is requesting family-friendly photos to display within the clinic.

**Requested photo subjects include:**

- Powwow dancers
- Active/healthy lifestyles
- Drummers
- Generational photos
- Sports
- Community events

**Please email photo submissions to:**  
[KAFox@sagchip.org](mailto:KAFox@sagchip.org)



*\*A photo release form will need to be completed if your submission is used by Nimkee Clinic.*



## Tribe distributes more than \$3.3 million during Fall 2024 2 percent distribution

**NATALIE SHATTUCK**  
Editor

The Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe hosted its semi-annual 2 percent distribution on Tuesday, Nov. 19, 2024 in Isabella County and on Friday, Nov. 22, 2024 in Arenac County.

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

The SCIT distributed a combined \$3,342,964.88 during this fall's distribution ceremonies.

The total amount awarded in Isabella County included \$2,291,662.59.

Local government officials in Isabella County were given a total of \$1,604,163.82. The educational leaders in Isabella County received an additional \$687,498.77.

A total of \$1,051,302.29 was distributed in Arenac County.

Arenac County government received \$744,909.18, with the local school districts receiving \$306,393.11.

The Isabella County distribution took place on Nov. 19 at 2 p.m. in the Black Elk Building located at 7500 Soaring Eagle Blvd, Mount Pleasant, Michigan.

The Arenac and Northern Bay County distribution took place at the Saganing Outreach Center located at 5447 Sturman Rd., Standish, Michigan on Nov. 22 at 11 a.m.



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

**Jerry Jaloszynski**  
Isabella County  
District 3 Commissioner



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

**Jason Lundin**  
Beal City Public Schools  
Superintendent



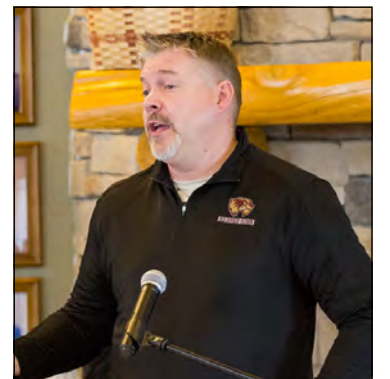
Observer photo by Matthew Wright

**Harold Woolhiser**  
Arenac County  
District 4 Chairman



Observer photo by Matthew Wright

**Darren Kroczaleski**  
Standish-Sterling School District  
Superintendent



Observer photo by Matthew Wright

**Chris Ming**  
Au Gres-Sims School District  
Superintendent

### Saganing Government

- Arenac County \$403,939.71
- City of Au Gres \$10,000
- City of Pinconning \$20,000
- City of Standish \$57,105.64
- Arenac Township \$6,000
- Au Gres Township \$6,000
- Deep River Township \$7,181.98
- Lincoln Township \$16,438.58
- Mason Township \$29,000
- Moffatt Township \$26,934.27
- Pinconning Township \$26,000
- Sims Township \$1,000
- Standish Township \$1,000
- Turner Township \$2,650
- Whitney Township \$6,709
- Village of Twining \$5,000
- Pinconning Fraser Fire Dept. \$50,000
- Standish Area Fire Authority \$50,000
- Sterling Area Fire Dept. \$10,000
- Twining/Mason/Turner Fire Dept. \$9,950

**Total Government: \$744,909.18**

### Saganing Education

- Au Gres-Sims School District \$70,182.46
- Pinconning School District \$79,892.65
- Standish-Sterling School District \$156,318

**Total Schools: \$306,393.11**

**Saganing Total: \$1,051,302.29**

### Isabella Government

- Isabella County \$397,342.04
- City of Mt. Pleasant \$311,730
- Chippewa Township \$9,861.10
- Coe Township \$99,241
- Deerfield Township \$187,926.44
- Denver Township \$9,861.10
- Isabella Township \$9,861.10
- Nottawa Township \$29,484.29
- Union Township \$250,000
- Wise Township \$15,489.10
- Village of Shepherd \$283,367.65

**Total Government: \$1,604,163.82**

### Isabella Education

- Beal City Public Schools \$65,863.93
- Chippewa Hills Public Schools \$60,000
- Gratiot/Isabella RESD STEM \$30,000
- Mt Pleasant Public Schools \$216,047.91
- Renaissance Public Schools \$59,400
- Shepherd Public Schools \$256,186.93

**Total Schools: \$687,498.77**

**Isabella Total: \$2,291,662.59**

**Grand Total: \$3,342,964.88**

## Inaugural MSU Spartan Bus Tour makes a historic visit on Isabella Indian Reservation

**JOSEPH V. SOWMICK**  
Public Relations Manager

From Oct. 21-23, Michigan State University President Kevin M. Guskiewicz, Ph.D., and a group of 60 faculty and administrators made a historic visit to the Ziiibiwing Center on the Isabella Indian Reservation as they set out on their inaugural MSU Spartan Bus Tour.

The tour visited 15 stops throughout the western Lower Peninsula of Michigan to build community connections and strengthen MSU's commitment to education, research, outreach and extension.

Tribal Council Chaplain Alice Jo Ricketts started the event in the spirit of prayer and emcee Public Relations Director Erik Rodriguez provided introductions for Carla Sineway, president of the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College; Guadalupe Gonzalez, project coordinator for the SCTC Extension Office, and Quentin Tyler, director of MSU Extension.

The Ziiibiwing Center's Curator William Johnson and Cultural Representative Ray Cadotte offered a brief tour through the museum before the

Ogitchedaw Veterans and Blue House Singers led the entourage through a grand entry and flag song ceremony.

"The tour not only highlighted the university's impact on local communities but also reinforced the importance of building relationships between higher education institutions and the communities they serve," read a MSU Today media release. "In addition to nearly \$850 million in annual research and development expenditures, MSU also energizes Michigan by educating more in-state students than any other university and placing 64 percent of recent graduates in Michigan jobs."

Chief J. Tim Davis offered his opening remarks and an introduction of Tribal Council members for Guskiewicz.

"I have some family down there attending your school right now and I'm hoping that they may become a part of the school more than just a student," Chief Davis said. "We have many graduates from MSU that have worked for the Tribe and we appreciate SCTC President Carla Sineway and her team on their continued outreach with MSU extension.



Courtesy of Michigan State University

**Chief Tim J. Davis (right) exchanges gifts with MSU President Kevin Guskiewicz at Ziiibiwing Center.**

Our Tribal Council realizes the historic nature of having the first meeting between a SCIT chief and MSU president on our Reservation and we want to see more MSU faculty and students make this journey to learn about our sovereign Tribe."

Guskiewicz said he was honored to have the tour begin with the Saginaw Chippewa Tribe. He said he was amazed at how many Spartan alumni and connections exist between the university and the tribe.

"We are all about collaboration," Guskiewicz said. "We are certainly impressed

with the cultural collaboration happening with the Tribal College, Ziiibiwing, the Tribal American Institute and our MSU Extension team.

"It's a pleasure to meet with the Saginaw Chippewa leadership and I wanted to start our tour with the land acknowledgement. We recognize and support the sovereignty of the 12 Michigan federally recognized tribes from their historic and indigenous communities. By offering the land acknowledgement, we affirm indigenous



Courtesy of Michigan State University

**Blue House Singers provide a grand entry song for the MSU Spartan Bus Tour crowd as Tribal veterans (left to right) David Merrill Jr. carries the MSU flag, Paul Walker carries the boarding school staff and David Perez carries Ogitchedaw Healing staff.**

sovereignty and will work to hold MSU accountable to the needs of the indigenous people."

Chief Davis and Tribal Council gifted a special commemorative Tribal logo Pendleton blanket for the occasion as MSU offered their gifts to Council.

"Our tribe is about families coming together and I hope you feel that gift of warmth when you give your time to visit and share moments with our SCIT membership and employees," Davis said.



## CMU

*continued from front page*

Chippewa Indian Tribe... We take our responsibility to hold the Chippewa name seriously and our commitment goes beyond words.”

Several CMU athletes were present and introduced themselves and stood near Folan as she addressed those in attendance.

“... In time, these trees will produce syrup and turn maroon and gold every fall. Serving as a reminder to your children and community (CMU will continue) learning about your culture and heritage,” Folan said.

In his first month serving as the new CMU president, Neil MacKinnon, Ph.D., provided remarks.

MacKinnon said during his interview process, he made two commitments to the local government: to meet with the City mayor and with Tribal Council. Both of which he was fulfilling that week of the dedication.

“In 2002, our University signed a proclamation with this Tribal Nation,” MacKinnon said. “I reread that. It was a powerful document to read because in that document it talked about mutual respect, how do we elevate each other. And I just want to say publicly

today, you have my full commitment, as the new president; that I want to make sure we’re living up to that agreement.”

Principal Simeon “Russ” Blackbird also spoke at the well-attended event, mentioning what’s in store for the school’s outdoor space.

“We’ve also got more trees coming from Seventh Generation that are going to produce a little bit of an orchard... and some greenhouse space for our kids to have outdoor learning opportunities,” Blackbird said.

Cecilia Stevens, language and culture teacher, said after walking around Wii Maajiwad, the staff wondered where to plant the trees.

“We thought about how beautiful it would be to have our trees facing our lodge so when we’re at that doorway we can see those trees growing,” Stevens said, mentioning the new lodge located behind the school.

Stevens said it takes precisely 40 years for a maple tree to be matured to tap.

“So, the majority of our students, when you are 45 and



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

**Central Michigan University coaches place the plaque in the ground in front of one of the gifted maple trees.**

above, these trees will be ready to tap and I think that that’s so beautiful... the trees will be growing along with our school and our students,” Stevens said.

Stevens said for Anishinabek people, maple trees are considered to be the leader of the trees because of the sap they provide in the winter.

“That sap is something our Anishinabek, throughout generation and generation, have always strived to harvest,” Stevens said.

“It was considered a medicine after that harsh, long winter.”

During his first Tribal event as the new CMU president, MacKinnon was gifted the four sacred medicines, offered by Seventh Generation Programs.

Joseph Sowmick, public relations manager, mentioned to MacKinnon and those in attendance, “Our people have been using these four sacred medicines for centuries. We know there’s healing behind that medicine.”

To close the ceremony, Wii Maajiwad students and staff sang along to an Ojibwe honor song.

## DECEMBER 2024 Tribal Elder Birthdays

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) Juliane Hinmon<br>Maureen Acuna<br>William Leksche  | 17) Shirley Burch<br>Stephanie Peters<br>Deborah Colley<br>Donna DeLap<br>Amanda Oldman<br>Sheila Guiney                    |
| 3) Alfredetta Jenkins<br>James Bailey<br>Nancy Rossbach<br>Brenda Schlegel<br>Patricia Sprague   | 18) Alfred Dennis<br>Eleanor Hawk<br>Cynthia Sprague  |
| 4) Sandra Charles<br>John Trepanier III<br>Cynthia Cisneros<br>Dawn Meredith   | 19) Carol Jackson<br>Pamela Shawboose   |
| 5) Elarine Hunt<br>Julie King<br>Tony Stevens  | 20) Clinton Pelcher Jr.<br>Rene Alaniz<br>Deborah Jackson<br>Patrick Collins<br>Jason Slater                                |
| 6) Teri Bennett<br>Lorraine Dumas<br>Margaret Worsham<br>Melanie Davis<br>Nyra Wiltse  | 21) David Bonnau<br>Faith Davis<br>Carrie Leauteaux<br>Jacqueline Roach<br>Sherrri Vezina<br>Janice Walker<br>Shannon Riley |
| 7) Tracy Chamberlain<br>Cara Valdez  | 22) Lori Rickle<br>Amy Singer   |
| 8) Mary Floyd<br>Denise Cantu<br>Maynard Kahgegab Jr.<br>Norman Snyder   | 23) Jim Davis<br>Andrew Steele  |
| 10) Suzanne Cross<br>James Maki<br>Douglas Zoicher   | 24) Ronald Collins Jr.<br>Michael Poolaw  |
| 11) Paul Jackson   | 25) Terry Bonnau<br>Steven Pelcher<br>Paul Graveratte<br>Mary Rosebrock   |
| 12) Bradford Mandoka<br>Ruth Moses<br>Beverly Pamp-Ettinger<br>Kenneth Sprague<br>Albert Waynee<br>John Brown<br>Robin Drews<br>Tod Walraven | 26) John Bennett<br>Bernice Hendrickson<br>Patricia Wemigwans<br>Helen Black<br>Frank Cloutier<br>Timothy Smith Jr.         |
| 13) Randall Bennett<br>Timothy Stevens   | 27) Yolanda Gonzalez<br>Carol White-Pigeon  |
| 14) Marlene Collins<br>Ronald Johansen<br>Ruth Mullins<br>Cheryl Roy<br>John Trepanier   | 28) Timothy Stein   |
| 15) Gilbert Dutton   | 29) Thomas Kequom<br>James Stinson<br>Judy Bryant   |
| 16) Ronald Douglas<br>Lanette Zaleski<br>Darlene Munro<br>Gilbert Williams<br>Sylvia Zelinski<br>Elizabeth Sparks                            | 30) Timothy Nelson<br>Jerome Whitepigeon Sr.<br>Galene Young<br>Steven Wassegijig   |
|  | 31) Marie Saboo<br>Diana Quigno-Grundahl<br>Daryan Stallcup   |

## Teaching lodge built at Sanilac Petroglyphs



Courtesy of Marcella Hadden, Niibing Gizis Photography

A teaching lodge was constructed during two days – Sept. 17-19 – from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day at the Sanilac Petroglyph Historic State Park.

Under the direction of Tribal Elder Steve Pego, Ziibiwing Center staff, Michigan Department of Nature Resources staff, and community members worked together to gather supplies, harvest saplings and construct the teaching lodge.

According to Marcella Hadden, tribal historic preservation officer, the lodge will service as a ceremonial teaching and fasting lodge for future years.

The Tribal Historic Preservation Office received a grant for the project from the National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers, Protecting Native Places, in the amount of \$5,000. The Sanilac Petroglyphs are located at 8251 Germania Rd. in Cass City, Mich.



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

**MATTHEW WRIGHT**

Staff Writer

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

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

Observer photos by Matthew Wright



## Great American Smokeout: Assistance with the journey to quit smoking or vaping

**KYLA HENRY**

Staff Writer

The “Great American Smokeout” is a campaign that was started in 1976. Since then, many campaigns have been released to help people discontinue the use of electronic cigarettes (vapes).

There are many negatives to using vapes; one negative being the addiction to nicotine that comes along with vaping. Nicotine addiction is

highly challenging to eliminate. There are many methods and people to help with quitting vaping.

With the resources at Behavioral Health, quitting becomes less challenging. Behavioral Health offers many resources to help those quit smoking/vaping.

“As part of the Great American Smoke out on November 21, the Prevention Department (offered) ‘quit vaping kits’ available to the

community, which included items to support people in quitting smoking and vaping,” said Mgizi Wemigwans, prevention specialist.

The kit contains, chewing gum, a journal along with a pencil, fidget toy, activity book, mints, straws, and instructions on mouth-breathing techniques. The mouth-breathing technique came about after a 2004 study which found that controlled mouth breathing significantly reduces the

smoking withdrawal symptoms.

With all the resources to help quit vaping, you can also learn about the proper use of tobacco. The proper use of tobacco in our culture is offered as healing.

“Motivations to quit smoking or vaping can come from many important reasons,” Wemigwans said. “First, it’s a way to respect our culture, especially as Native people. Tobacco holds deep meaning as a sacred medicine, meant for prayers and traditional uses rather than recreational use. By quitting, we honor that purpose and tradition.”

Wemigwans continued, “There’s also a major health benefit to quitting: Lowers the risks of heart disease, lung issues, and other health problems, leading to a longer, healthier life.

“Setting a positive example is another big motivation. When youth see adults they look up to like family members and community leaders choosing not to smoke, it helps normalize healthier habits for them.”

Additional health concerns related to smoking and vaping,



Observer photo by Kyla Henry

**Behavioral Health offers many resources to help those quit smoking/vaping.**

Wemigwans said, include: Both can negatively affect your heart and lung health, and increase the risk of nicotine addiction or more serious dependencies.

“While vaping may seem like a safer alternative to smoking, it still causes damage to the lungs and contains chemicals that can lead to long-term health problems,” Wemigwans said.

Those looking to quit smoking and vaping can also set up an appointment with Behavioral Health. For more ways to help quit vaping and smoking, please contact Behavioral Health at 989-775-4850 or to learn more information about the “Great American Smokeout” call 1-800-227-2345 or visit [cancer.org/smokeout](https://cancer.org/smokeout)

WANT HELP QUITTING VAPING?

TRY THIS IS QUITTING, A FREE TEXT-TO-QUIT PROGRAM

“Your E-cig  
doesn't control you”

-Danielle, TIQ User

SCIENCE-BACKED & EFFECTIVE  
Created by a team of quitting experts, TIQ has helped hundreds of thousands of young people quit vaping.

24/7 SUPPORT  
TIQ is there whenever you need help with stress, slips, or cravings — no matter the time of day.

CONFIDENTIAL HELP  
Your quitting journey stays between you and TIQ.

ADVICE FROM REAL PEOPLE  
You'll receive tips and motivation from TIQ's built-in support system of successful quitters.

TEXT SACREDBREATH TO 88709

TO JOIN THE HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF YOUNG PEOPLE GETTING HELP FROM THIS IS QUITTING.



# ENTERTAINMENT



**Cheap Trick**  
**WSG Blue Oyster Cult**  
 Friday, December 6  
 8PM  
 Entertainment Hall  
 Tickets: \$62, \$76, \$89, \$96



**Rodney Carrington**  
 Saturday, December 28  
 8PM  
 Entertainment Hall  
 Tickets: \$39, \$51, \$65, \$71



**Ice Cube**  
 Friday, December 13  
 8PM  
 Entertainment Hall  
 Tickets: \$75, \$85, \$95, \$101



**Stephen Percy of RATT  
 & Ace Frehley**  
 Sunday, December 29  
 8PM  
 Entertainment Hall  
 Tickets: \$36, \$48, \$59, \$65



**The Rockin' Holiday Bash**  
 Saturday, December 14  
 6:45PM  
 Entertainment Hall  
 Tickets: \$75



**Keith Sweat**  
 Monday, December 30  
 8PM  
 Entertainment Hall  
 Tickets: \$62, \$76, \$89, \$96



**Fuel & Lit**  
**Ignited We Stand**  
 Saturday, December 21  
 8PM  
 Entertainment Hall  
 Tickets: \$32, \$44, \$54, \$61



**Soundtrack to the New Year**  
 Tuesday, December 31  
 9PM  
 Entertainment Hall  
 Tickets: Single \$75, Couple \$140



**Wayne Newton**  
**Up Close & Personal**  
 Friday, December 27  
 8PM  
 Entertainment Hall  
 Tickets: \$30, \$40, \$50, \$57



**Tom Segura**  
**Come Together**  
 Sunday, January 19  
 7PM  
 Entertainment Hall  
 Tickets: \$72, \$94, \$107, \$114

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.



JOIN US FOR THE  
**NYE BASH**  
 WITH THE ULTIMATE WINTER PRIZES!

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31**  
**MAIN SESSION AT 3PM**

Guests can win Concert tickets,  
 gift cards, gift baskets, TVs and more!

See bingo for complete details.



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

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



## Johnny Rockets

*continued from front page*

Raul Venegas, director of marketing, entertainment and sales for Soaring Eagle, provided remarks, and acknowledged guests and Tribal leadership.

This is a great achievement because it marks the end of the major construction that has occurred throughout the resort and then into the casino for the past few years, Venegas said.

“It’s just a glorious moment for (the SECR) Marketing (Department), especially because we finally have all

of our restaurants open to the general public... it’s very exciting to see that,” Venegas said.

Matt Shea, SECR food district manager, said the opening wouldn’t be possible without the guests and the dedicated Soaring Eagle team members.

“It’s been a fantastic year,” Shea said. “We brought in five new restaurants to Soaring Eagle. (It has taken) lots of work, lots of effort.”

After the ribbon cutting ceremony, Johnny Rockets officially opened at 11 a.m. to the public.

The menu includes: signature burgers, chicken

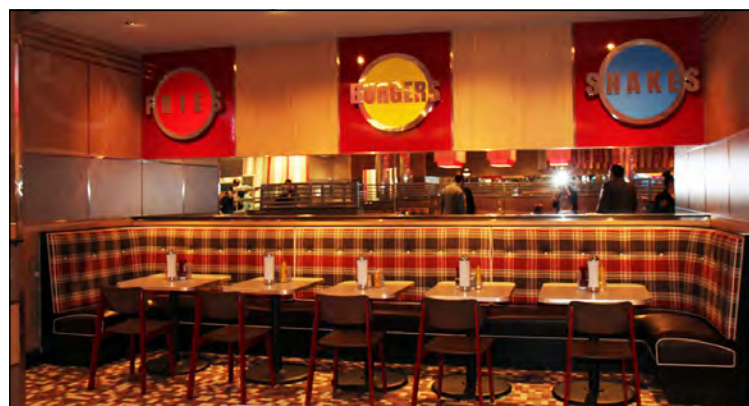
tenders, a selection of sandwiches, hot dogs, hand-spun milkshakes, salads, and much more.

Hours of operation include: 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and 8 a.m. to 2 a.m. on Friday and Saturday.

Soaring Eagle and Tribal

Operations employees receive a 50 percent discount, up to \$10 total for the bill, when they show their badge.

Johnny Rockets was founded in June 1986 on Los Angeles’ Melrose Avenue. There are now more than 275 Johnny Rockets locations in more than 25 countries.



Observer photos by Natalie Shattuck

## Things you can do to be more sustainable this holiday season

Katie Hager | Environmental Outreach Coordinator, Planning

### Smart choices

- Eat plant-rich foods more throughout the week
- Reduce food waste and compost when possible
- Recycle boxes and bags or envelopes from online purchases
- Purchase more efficient Christmas lights such as LEDs or solar-powered ones and use timers for your holiday lights and electronics to reduce energy consumption. Be sure to recycle old Christmas lights instead of adding them to landfill waste – Bay City Recycles Drop-off Center accepts old Christmas lights: 2900 North Water Street, Bay City – 989-894-8312 or visit <https://www.baycitymi.gov/207/Sanitation> OR find more locations at <https://recyclesearch.com/profile/michigan-directory/places>
- Do not purchase tinsel; it is actually made out of small PVC strips and cannot be recycled.
- Use real plants instead of fake when you can – faux plants are made from petroleum-based product that cannot be recycled and require large amounts of resources to manufacture.
- Buy your Christmas tree from a local tree farm
- Search online for make your own recipes of non-toxic fake snow instead of purchasing cans of spray snow that contain solvents, flame retardants, and other chemicals.
- Most artificial trees cannot be recycled; thus, if you have an artificial tree be sure to use it for at least 5 years to help reduce its carbon footprint. If you prefer artificial, when purchasing be sure to purchase a high quality tree that will last for many years and purchase from somewhere within the USA instead of shipping from China. There are now artificial trees available for purchase made from recycled plastics.
- Find out where to recycle your Christmas tree: Isabella County Material Recovery Facility (4208 E. River Rd., Mt. Pleasant – 989-773-9631 or visit <http://isabellacounty.org/dept/recycles> OR find more locations at <https://recyclesearch.com/profile/michigan-directory/places>

### Smart decorating

- String traditional garlands of popcorn, cranberries, or construct a paper chain
- Make salt-dough decorations
- Find things in nature to string up with a hanging wire such as pinecones, shells, feathers, etc.
- Dry slices of lemons and oranges in the oven, they will come out looking like stained glass that you can then put a string through and hang as a decoration.
- Use cinnamon sticks for scented decorations
- Make paper craft or origami ornaments
- String up dried red chilies
- Make snowflakes with sticks or twigs and hot glue with a repurpose button or gem in the center
- Look for things around the house that you may be able to upcycle into hanging ornaments such as empty thread spools, buttons, Mason jar lids, bottle caps, marbles, old game pieces, etc.
- Make handmade wreaths from natural items or branches from your Christmas tree layering and attaching them together with wire.

### Smart purchasing/gifting

- Offer homemade, repurposed, or upcycled gifts
- Be environmentally conscious when purchasing clothes. People buy nearly 60 percent more clothing than they did 15 years ago and each item is typically kept for half as long. Look for environmentally friendly or more sustainable clothing brands that are committed to sustainable supply chains, circular economy, and manufacturing.
- Buy and travel locally. Window shop online and purchase locally.
- Consider having gifts sent directly to the recipient instead of mailing it yourself
- Buy second-hand or used items when able
- Stop purchasing and using single-use or disposable items, instead utilize reusable items

- Visit local vintage, antique, or thrift shops
- When shopping online, avoid expedited or overnight shipping whenever possible and consolidate or bundle your purchases to reduce in deliveries and additional packaging.
- Use recycled paper for wrapping gifts such as old newspapers instead of gift wrap paper. Wrapping paper cannot be recycled if it is laminated; contains glitter or plastic; has metallic or silver features; has sticky tape attached; if it has ribbons, bows, or tissue paper; and if it does not pass the scrunch test – meaning if you scrunch it into a ball and let it go, if it does not stay scrunched up it cannot be recycled.
- Send digital gift cards or opt for gift experiences like football tickets, cooking lessons, a short trip, a zoo membership, local spa certificate, or a national or local park pass.
- Consider useful and practical gifts that can be used all year long
- Purchase returnable gifts and provide gift receipts to reduce unwanted gifts ending up in landfills
- When purchasing cards, avoid glossy or glittery cards as they cannot be recycling and consider sending holiday postcards and skip the extra envelope. Send a card that plants trees or has wildflower mixes in them – make sure they are local or regional blends.
- Give children’s gifts that aren’t made out of plastic such as books, art supplies, or toys made from recycled plastics
- Consider making homemade baked goods as gifts for the holiday season
- Minimize purchasing stocking stuffers that are typically filled with plastic items that easily break, end up lost, or discarded contributing to holiday waste. Instead consider homemade treats, gifts, or reusable items instead of single-use plastics.



Working Together To Protect Our Environment



## MSU Museum collections of Indigenous Quill Art premieres at Ziibiwing Center

**JOSEPH V. SOWMICK**  
Public Relations Manager

On Dec. 6, the Ziibiwing Center for Anishinaabe Culture and Lifeways and Michigan State University Museum offer collaborative special event as Anishinabek Porcupine Quill Art exhibit makes its debut.

William Johnson, curator and interim director of the Ziibiwing Center, said visitors will have the opportunity to learn from and to appreciate the beauty of MSU Museum's Anishinaabe quillwork collection.

"The collection is truly world-class," Johnson said. "I'm further reminded of the laborious construction and painstaking curation of this amazing artform. The importance of this exhibition can't be overstated and honor belongs to the curatorial team that put it together and cared enough to share it with everyone. I feel that this is a momentous educational opportunity for the Tribe and the people of the world."

Titled "Gaawii Eta-Go Aawizinoo Gaawiye Mkakoons"/"It's Not Just a Quill Box"/"Anishinaabe Gaak Gaawiyikewin Zhichiganan"/"Anishinabek Porcupine Quill Art," the exhibition includes featured documentary photographs by Minnie Wabanimkee, short videos and media presentations, and hands-on activities," according to a Nov. 13 media release by MSU Museum.

Showcasing nearly 100 examples of contemporary Anishinaabe porcupine quill art, the fully bilingual (English and Anishinaabemowin) exhibition celebrates the vitality and importance of this art form in Anishinaabe culture.

C. Kurt Dewhurst, curator of Folklife and Cultural Heritage at the MSU Museum, said the exhibition is a collaboration of Ziibiwing, MSU Museum, Michigan Traditional Arts Program, Grand Traverse Tribe of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, Ojibwe Cultural Foundation, Michigan State University Outreach and Engagement, MSU Native American Institute with the assistance of many other individuals and organizations.

"The pieces in this exhibition honor the resilience of Indigenous communities," Dewhurst said. "They remind us of the generations who have kept these traditions alive, often in the face of great adversity, and celebrate the vibrant future of Anishinaabe artistry."

The exhibition is the result of intensive research and collaboration among museum curators, MSU faculty and staff, and Native artists, archivists, elders, and language specialists, led by project co-managers Minnie Wabanimkee, a tribal elder and acclaimed photographer, and Dr. Marsha



Courtesy photo

**Nji-sa ndoweminaanik/ To Our Sisters**  
**Yvonne Walker Keshick**  
(Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians)  
Harbor Springs, Mich.  
Michigan State Gchi-kinoomaagegamik,  
Michigan Naadiziiwin gegoo  
Zhichigannokiiwin/ Michigan State  
University Museum, Michigan Traditional  
Arts Program Collection 7594.20

MacDowell, curator of Folk Arts, MSU Museum and director of the Michigan Traditional Arts Program.

MacDowell said the exhibition highlights the intricate relationships between teachers and learners, the deep connection between the art and natural resources, and the challenges of preserving this tradition in the modern world.

In addition to the art, visitors can expect to see videos and images showcasing the harvesting of materials and the quill art creation process. Interactive panels, hands-on activities, and a recreation of a master artist's workstation provide an immersive experience for all audiences.

Devon Akmon, director of the MSU Museum, said the exhibition focuses on the artwork of contemporary Anishinaabe artists from Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Manitoulin Island, Canada, while honoring the generations of ancestors who have passed down the knowledge and skills required to master this unique art form.

"The MSU Museum is honored to collaborate on this exhibition where past meets present to amplify Indigenous voices and share knowledge

### "GAAWII ETA-GTO AAWIZINOO GAAWIYE MKAKOONS"

#### "IT'S NOT JUST A QUILL BOX"

**Mii yaawong Aki endaa'ing**  
It's the world where we live

**Mii yaawong Mitigoog enaabiishnowaad dibikag**  
It's the tree line at night

**Mii yaawong Mitigoog enaabiishnowaad pii chi giizhigak**  
It's the tree line of the day

**Mii yaawong ezhi waasesh nowad mitigoog nbiing**  
It's reflections of trees on the water

**Mii yaawong miishkoonsan emaaajiiging Kina gaataaying**  
It's the grasses that grow all around

**Mii yaawong Shkakimikwe doomiinjan**  
It's Mother Earth's hair

**Mii yaawong jibik emaaajiiging nbiing**  
It's the reeds that grow on the water

**Mii yaawong jigbiig**  
It's the shoreline

**Aki aawan enji bimoseying**  
It's the earth where we walk

**Mii yaawong Giizhigoong nidibikag**  
It's the sky at night

**Mii yaawong enangwiiginowong egizikemgok bitweying mitigoong**  
It's the wings that fly through the trees

**Mii yaawong mijim miigwe ziwin**  
It's the gift of food

**Mii yaawong Genaajiwong mitigwaakiing**  
It's the beautiful wilderness

**Mii yaawong e-aanjinakaazong**  
It's recycling

**Mii yaawong ezhi-maadendimindwaa enii'ogaadejig e-miigwanijig, eniizhoogaadjig miiniwaa emoodejig**  
It's honoring the four-legged, the winged, two-legged and the crawlers

**Gzheminidoo zhichiganan miinwaa aanji-zhichiganan**  
It's creation and recreation

**Gaawii eta-go aawizinoo Gaawiye mkakoons**  
It's not just a quill box

by Yvonne Walker Keshick (Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians)  
Translation by Isadore Toulouse (Wikwemikong Unceded First Nation)

Arnold Walker harvesting birch bark  
Arnold Walker mooning Wiigwaas

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## Youth Powwow held at the Mt. Pleasant Indian Industrial Boarding School

**NATALIE SHATTUCK**

Editor

After attending the annual Honoring, Healing and Remembering event in 2023 – which celebrates the anniversary of the closing of the Mt. Pleasant Indian Industrial Boarding School – 6-year-old Zhaawshkobne Wemigwans requested and had a vision to hold a powwow on the school grounds for the MIIBS children that never got to dance or play.

That vision came to reality on Friday, Sept. 27 when the Youth Powwow was held on the MIIBS grounds.

Grand entry was held at 1 p.m. and a feast occurred at 4 p.m.

Melissa Isaac served as the arena director and Nathan Isaac was the emcee.

“Every Child Matters” T-shirts were handed out to youth in attendance.

The event was made possible by the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe, the Ziibiwing Center and the Tribal Historic Preservation Office.

Courtesy of Marcella Hadden, Niibing Giizis Photography



## Editorial: Summary from the Oct. 11 Tribal State Summit in Marquette, Mich.

**FRANK CLOUTIER**

Tribal Council Member

*(Editor’s note: Tribal Council Member Frank J. Cloutier attended the Tribal State Summit in Marquette, Mich. on Oct. 11. The summit included a roundtable discussion with Gov. Gretchen Whitmer. The following is his summary of the summit.)*

I traveled on Oct. 10 to Marquette, Mich. for the Tribal State Summit with Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and 11 of the 12 tribes in Michigan.

United Tribes met in the Tavern Restaurant in the early morning of Oct. 11 for breakfast and to discuss the format for the Summit. Sean Reed from the SCIT Legal Department and I met with EGLE on the clean air permit that had been issued by EGLE. It was decided to meet in person to discuss the permit issuance and jurisdiction. Date to be determined.

We then met with the Treasury Department of Michigan to discuss the tax agreement and the possibility of moving vacant sections into other areas of the Great Lakes Bay Region. They were more than happy to review what we intend to submit for changes.

We were then approached by the attorney general’s representatives: Danielle Russo Bennetts, first assistant attorney general; Bridgett Frost, supervisory special agent; Danielle Clark, bureau chief; and Reka Marie Holley, legislative liaison. They shared their plans on reentry employment and training for offenders. Sean will be reaching out to discuss their plans.

Our meeting with Gov. Whitmer started at 12 p.m. I began by thanking her for

the continued cooperation with the treaty negotiations. We discussed the air permit with the governor, as well as continued consultation with several other departments. She then handed me a letter of request for consultation with regard to the Indian Industrial Boarding School and asked that I share it with the Tribal Council.

I was asked to represent our Tribal government at this summit. It is in alignment with my service on Tribal Council.



Courtesy photo

Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer (left) and Tribal Council Member Frank Cloutier pose for a photo during the Oct. 11 Tribal State Summit in Marquette, Mich.

## CMU Indigenous Affairs hosts high school students



Courtesy photo

Last month, Central Michigan University’s Indigenous Affairs hosted Saginaw Chippewa Tribal high school students from Mt. Pleasant Public Schools and Shepherd High School. The CMU Undergraduate Admissions provided a presentation and tour to the students. Indigenous Affairs thanked CMU students Kaine, Kacie, Jasmine, Charlie and McKenzie for engaging with the high school students during a panel.



## SCIT and Tribal Court host fifth annual Statewide Tribal Opioid Summit

**JOSEPH V. SOWMICK**  
Public Relations Manager

On Oct. 28-29, the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe and Tribal Court officials hosted the fifth annual Statewide Tribal Opioid Summit at the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort Entertainment Hall.

More than 250 participants registered for the summit and 36 vendors offered displays, giveaway items and educational materials along with an impressive list of corporate sponsors.

Carol Jackson, Tribal Court magistrate and Opioid Summit chair, has been working closely with April Osburn, executive director of Michigan Area Health Education Center, and the Summit planning committee over the last year securing regional and national keynote speakers.

"The presentations offered a wealth of information to assist with ideas, solutions and take-aways to assist and support the communities," Jackson said. "With increased numbers of participants this year, the need is there to learn as much as possible to assist our communities as we try to do just that, the ability to bring in the top experts to share the knowledge, active efforts, and ideas.

"The expungement clinic (held at Tribal Court on Oct. 28) continues to make strides for our community members. It opens doors for housing and employment



"Raising Awareness, Taking Action, Saving Lives"

opportunities which wasn't possible previously."

Jackson said the summit gives attendees the ability to network together to effectively combat the effects of substance misuse and addiction to save lives.

"We have lost family members and friends, and will continue to feel the effects for generations to come. We do all this in their memories as their lives mattered," Jackson said. "We all feel the effects of their absence in the world we live in today."

Jackson said the planning committee was fortunate to bring Grammy winning Ty Defoe with a hoop-dancing performance on Monday during lunch.

"The summit covers a variety of heavy topics and Ty had done an amazing job of lightening our spirits as it truly was a breath of fresh air for the summit participants," she said.

Jackson wished to say a special thank you for the continued support from the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Tribal Council, Tribal departments, Soaring



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

**Alex Elswick gives welcoming keynote address during the Tribal Opioid Summit in the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort's Entertainment Hall.**

Eagle Casino & Resort, Area Health and Technical Center, University of Michigan Expungement Clinic, and the community.

April Osburn of MAHEC said in partnership with Central Michigan University's College of Medicine, the Central and Western AHEC is a non-profit organization.

"For over 12 years, the AHEC has supported the college's mission of increasing medical student placements in medically underserved areas," Osburn said. "In addition, it provides healthcare education to the community. There is no doubt that the opioid epidemic has a devastating impact on the victims and their families."

The Bureau of Indian Affairs served once again as a title sponsor and Tricia Tingle (Choctaw Nation elder), BIA associate director of Tribal



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

**Chemical Dependency Counselor Patrick McCoy shares a message on "Advanced Cultural Diversity with Substance Abuse Treatment."**

Justice Support, served as a keynote speaker.

Other featured keynote speakers included Dr. Alex Elswick, Dr. Cara Poland, Dr. Brian Meyer, and a cultural diversity/substance abuse treatment presentation by Patrick McCoy, a Sault Ste. Marie tribal member.

"In my experience, I have found Native people inherently practice humility and that's why we listen and learn," McCoy said. "When I bring other non-native people to attend our ceremonies, I will stress the importance of keeping quiet and listening to what the elders have to say. Listening to learn and learning to listen teaches us about who we are. It helps defeat the attitude of ethnocentricity where we think we are superior."

Gold sponsors included Compass Drug Screening and Michigan Center for Rural Health.



Observer photo by Joseph Sowmick

**Ty Defoe, award winning Ojibwe/Oneida hoop dancer, dazzles the audience on the Soaring Eagle stage.**

Silver sponsors included Behavioral HealthConnections, Michigan Region V Public Health Training Center and University of Michigan School of Public Health.

Bronze sponsors included Alma College, Bear River Health, Braeburn RX, CMU Rural Health Equity Institute, Home Confinement, Inc., OPEN Prevention, Treatment and Recovery, Sanford Behavioral Health and Skywood Recovery.

Opioid summit committee members included Carol Jackson, April Osburn, Erik Rodriguez, Brandon Schultz, Maggie Magoon, Rhiannon Bednar, Andrea Beatty, Sheila Allen, Lisa Hadden, Jayme Martin, Jennifer Morneau-Wilson and Robert Roe.

## SCIT language teachers attend 12th annual Indigenous Language Institute Symposium

**JOSEPH V. SOWMICK**  
Public Relations Manager

On Oct. 22-26, SCIT sent a delegation of seven Saginaw Chippewa employees to attend the 12th annual Indigenous Language Institute (ILI) Symposium at the Sandia Casino & Resort in Albuquerque, N.M.

The Tribal employees joined more than 300 attendees and representation from more than 100 tribal communities.

Each October since 2010, ILI invites presenters to the symposium to address topics of interest to language practitioners.

"The topics selected are concerns, challenges, and interests

of community language workers as issues that need discussion and exploration to help advance language work," said Raul Aguilar Jr., ILI executive director, (Red Lake Nation). "ILI invites presenters to share personal and professional experiences, academic research, and success stories that address the topics. The goal of each symposium is to provide participants with different ideas and practical solutions to the challenges addressed."

Larry Kimewan, secondary language immersion specialist, was in attendance.

Kimewan said the main points included: "Don't get caught up in the technicalities of the language, the language

is only saved if we speak it and everybody plays a role, develop fluency at different levels and we need to ask ourselves, 'Are we producing language speakers?,' community-wide language revitalization cannot happen without the community, having high school to adult language classes, and remember if the language is lost, our lively hood is lost."

"We can realize although there are differences in the languages, there is no wrong way to speak the Ojibwe language," Kimewan said.

This year's theme was "Instructions for connecting all ages to develop language use in daily life."

"To be successful in language learning, a person has to want to learn the language, put all their effort in learning their language of their area, and must have the love of the language," said Margaret Flamand, primary language immersion specialist. "Many reservations are concerned of the state of their language in their communities and many communities record their elders on audio visual recording, this is to safe the language spoken in their area. In their



Courtesy photo

**SCIT employees (left to right) Isabelle Osawamick, Danita Mandamin, Margaret Flamand, Larry Kimewan, Carrie Wemigwans, Kendra Taylor and Joseph Sowmick are photographed during travel to the Indigenous Language Institute Symposium at the Sandia Casino & Resort in Albuquerque, N.M. in October.**

recording of the elders, they try to record the elders talk about their history of the reservation, so that history is preserved."

Flamand said she learned another reservation develops their language instructors by immersing them in a 14 month language instructors program.

"Once they graduate, they can become teachers in their language program..." Flamand said. "The program develops a measurable scale to develop fluency, in each area of achievement the language learners are

celebrated for their language development skills."

Laura Benavidez (Nambé Pueblo), has been with ILI for more than 18 years, and currently serves as the organization's office & operations manager.

"ILI's mission is to provide vital language related services to Native communities so that their individual identities, traditional wisdom, and values are passed on to future generations in their original languages," Benavidez said.

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## 'It's getting hot in herre': Nelly heats up Soaring Eagle's Entertainment Hall

**NATALIE SHATTUCK**

Editor

Hip-hop artist Nelly is the definition of swagger. It was that swagger, energy and stage presence that made his return to the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort a memorable one on Friday, Oct. 25.

Nelly's energy was ridiculous in the best way. The audience felt it radiating as they danced and sang along all evening.

Cornell Haynes Jr., aka Nelly, from St. Louis, began his musical career in 1993

as a member of the hip-hop group, St. Lunatics.

The evening entailed party anthems and high-energy crowd-pleasing tracks including: "Party People," "E.I.," "Air Force Ones," "Shake Ya Tail Feather" and "Country Grammar," his first-ever single which topped the charts in 2000.

"Who's been riding with Nelly since day one?" He kept asking the audience. They hollered back.

Nelly also performed "Ride Wit Me." The single, recorded with City Spud, reached the top 10 of the Billboard Hot 100.

He also performed Florida Georgia Line's breakthrough single "Cruise." Nelly recorded the remix with the group in 2013.

Nelly kept the party going with "Lil Bit," "Grits & Glamour" and "Over and Over."

He also performed his two consecutive number-one singles on the Billboard Hot 100 charts "Hot in Herre" and "Dilemma." Both singles were produced from his second album "Nellyville" (2002).

Nelly heated up the Entertainment Hall with his hot tracks and enthusiastic performance.



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

Hip-hop artist Nelly sports a Soaring Eagle shirt during the entirety of his performance on Friday, Oct. 25 in the Entertainment Hall.

## Hinder unexpectedly the only act for the Nov. 15 Soaring Eagle show, rocks on

**NATALIE SHATTUCK**

Editor

Soaring Eagle turned lemons into lemonade. When Collective Soul canceled their Soaring Eagle show the morning of, Soaring Eagle's Marketing Department released a statement that ticket holders would be refunded and the opening band, Hinder, would still take the stage that evening.

American rock band Hinder took the stage at 8 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 15.

Hinder came prepared to rock. As lead singer Marshal Dutton energetically moved from one end of the stage to the next, the band members shook the Entertainment Hall.

Hinder formed in Oklahoma City in 2001. The band's genre has been



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

American rock band Hinder takes the stage at 8 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 15 at Soaring Eagle.

described mainly as a mix of post-grunge and hard rock.

Hinder has released six studio albums, the most recent from 2017, "The Reign."

The band's debut single

"Get Stoned" was released in 2005 from the album

"Extreme Behavior." The second single "Lips of an Angel" gained much success and topped the charts in the U.S.,

Canada, Australia, Singapore and New Zealand.

The top Hinder songs on Spotify are "Lips of an Angel," "Better Than Me," "Get Stoned," "Without



Observer photo by Natalie Shattuck

Marshal Dutton, leader singer for Hinder, is photographed.

You" and "All American Nightmare."

The band gave the audience one entertaining show which turned out to be free, in the end, for the concert goers.

## Country musician Brett Young makes memorable stop at Soaring Eagle

**MATTHEW WRIGHT**

Staff Writer

The Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort welcomed Brett Young for a memorable indoor concert on Friday, Nov. 1.

The American country music singer captivated fans with a number of hits, spanning his entire discography.

Since his first album released in 2017, Young has seen an impressive seven singles chart at No. 1 on Billboard's U.S. Country Airplay chart.

Young began with one of those No. 1 hits "Here Tonight" followed by "Used To Missin' You" and "Dance with You."

The good vibes continued with the uplifting hit "Back to Jesus," along with "Catch" and "You Still Got It."

Young possesses a rich, smooth baritone voice. This was on full display during performances of "Like I Loved You," "You Didn't" and "Stick Season."

Next up was the emotional hit "Mercy," followed by "Goodnight Into Good

Morning," "Kiss To Forget" and "Lady."

Young ended the regular set with "Ticket To L.A" and "Say Less" followed by his hit debut 2016 single "Sleep Without You."

After Young left the stage, audience members stayed on their feet cheering for his return. They got what they wanted, as he came back for encore performances of the hit love song "Not Yet" and the

intimate, sentimental "In Case You Didn't Know."

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



Observer photo by Matthew Wright

Brett Young (left) performs "Used to Missin' You" during his Nov. 1 concert at the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort.



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## Soaring Eagle welcomes Barenaked Ladies and Toad the Wet Sprocket

**MATTHEW WRIGHT**  
Staff Writer

Barenaked Ladies and Toad the Wet Sprocket brought their In Flight Tour 2024 to the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort on Friday, Nov. 8.

Headlining the night was Canadian rock band Barenaked Ladies. Since their inception in 1988, the band has gained a following with their catchy, pop-rock hits.

Their success includes over 15 million album sales and gaining two Grammy Award nominations.

Barenaked Ladies began with “One Night,” “Duct Tape Heart” and “Flip.”

The band is known for their laidback vibes, signature charm and humorous lyrics. This was on full display during the performances of the next three songs in “The Old Apartment,” “Big Back Yard” and “Boomerang.”

Other hits played that night included “Navigate,” “Pinch Me,” “Brian Wilson,” “Just Wait,” “Fifty for a While,” “Enough Time” and “Odds Are.”

Fans were treated to “Big Bang Theory,” the title theme for the beloved CBS sitcom of the same name.

A highlight of the night featured the chart-topping song “One Week.” The single rose to the No. 1 spot on the Billboard’s 100 chart after its release in 1998.

To close out the night, Barenaked Ladies performed the humorous hit “If I Had \$1,000,000” followed by “Gonna Walk” and “Lovin’ Life.”

Opening for Barenaked Ladies was the American rock band Toad the Wet Sprocket.

The band kicked off with “Come Down,” “California Wasted” and “Inside.”

Toad the Wet Sprocket treated fans to a number of their greatest hits.

This included “Transient Whales,” “Nanci,” “Good Intentions,” “Woodburning,” “Something’s Always Wrong” and “Nightingale Song.”

Saving the best for last, the band performed a trio of their biggest hits in “Walk on the Ocean,” “Fall Down” and “All I Want.”

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



Observer photo by Matthew Wright

**Barenaked Ladies band members Ed Robertson (left) and Jim Creeggan perform “Flip” during their Nov. 8 concert at the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort.**



Observer photo by Matthew Wright

**Toad the Wet Sprocket front man Glen Phillips performs “Come Down.”**

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**SELF-CARE MODULE**  
Four-session workshop designed to help family caregivers take care of themselves while caregiving.

**IN-PERSON CONFERENCES**  
Full day event to share knowledge, connect to local resources, enhance caregiver skills, and improve self-care.

**NEWSLETTERS AND GUIDEBOOKS**  
Provides family caregivers with resources, information, and helpful tips to reduce caregiver burnout and fatigue.

**CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUPS**  
An informal gathering of caregivers to provide support, information, and a place for acceptance and understanding.

**CONTACT US:** [989.358.4616](tel:989.358.4616) | [mainvilleb@nemcsa.org](mailto:mainvilleb@nemcsa.org)

## BEHAVIORAL HEALTH Holiday Closure Resources

**Behavioral Health (except RTC) will be closed:**  
Dec. 23, 2024 – Jan. 3, 2025, reopening on Jan. 6, 2025 at 8 a.m.

**Behavioral Health Crisis On-Call**  
On-call will be available by calling (989) 775-4850 and following the prompts to reach the on-call. Or Tribal Dispatch can also reach the BH on-call worker in case of phone outage or other technical issue.

**Feather Teaching**  
with Joseph Sowmick at the BH Teaching Lodge:  

- **Christmas Day:** Dec. 25 at 1:30 p.m.
- **New Years Day:** Jan. 1 at 1:30 p.m.

**Sober New Years Eve Dance Party**  

- **Dec. 31 at 8 p.m. at the Mt. Pleasant Alano Club:**

**Support Groups at BH will continue with normal schedule over the Holiday Closure:**

- **Drop-in Group:** Mondays at 1 p.m. (12/23 and 12/30)
- **Peer 360 Recovery on the Rez:** Thursdays at 6 p.m. (12/26 and 1/2/2025)

**Virtual Peer 360 Meetings include:**

- **Peer 360 Recovery on the Rez virtual group:** 2 p.m. on Tuesdays  
Meeting ID: 829 1218 8791 Password: 123456
- **Peer 360 offers DAILY virtual groups four times per day**
  - 9 a.m. Meeting ID: 856 4133 4708 Password: 123456
  - 12 p.m. Meeting ID: 842 3325 5388 Password: 123456
  - 6 p.m. Meeting ID: 842 3325 5388 Password: 123456
  - 9 p.m. Meeting ID: 856 4133 4708 Password: 123456

More information on Peer 360, including events and links to the virtual meetings can be found at [www.peer360recovery.org](http://www.peer360recovery.org) or by scanning the red QR code to the right.

**Additional non-BH Resources/Crisis Lines:**

- **Peer 360 Recovery Alliance:** Text “ZOOM MEETINGS” to (989) 245-5324 for a list of direct links to all Peer 360’s Zoom meetings.
- **Virtual Recovery Groups:** Through [www.intherooms.com](http://www.intherooms.com) has several virtual recovery groups including White Bison Wellbriety Groups.
- **Listening Ear Crisis:** 1.989.772.2918
- **Crisis Text Line:** Text “HOME” to 741741 to connect with a Crisis Counselor
- **Strong Hearts Native Helpline:** 1.844.762.8483
- **National Suicide Prevention Lifeline:** 1.800.273.8255
- **National Teen Dating Abuse Hotline:** 1.866.331.9474
- **National Human Trafficking Hotline:** 1.888.373.7888
- **National Domestic Violence Hotline:** 1.800.799.7233



## Elders travel to Bavarian Inn and Bronner's Christmas Wonderland



Observer photos by Joseph Sowmick

Tribal elders take a trip to Frankenmuth, Mich. on Nov. 1. The elders enjoyed a holiday a holiday luncheon at the Bavarian Inn followed by a stop at Bronner's Christmas Wonderland.

### Adopt a RESIDENT

*Add special cheer to an elder's holiday this season!*

**Begins:** Nov. 4, 2024  
**Drop gifts off by:** Dec. 19, 2024 at 5 p.m.

- Gifts will go to Andahwod residents.
- All gifts must be wrapped and properly labeled, with code given when signing up.
- Gifts may be dropped off at Andahwod front desk.

**To sign up for a resident, contact:**  
 SaPelcher@sagchip.org or 989-775-4300



### Andahwod elders visit Wild Pumpkin




Courtesy of Denise Pelcher Courtesy of Denise Pelcher

**On Oct. 30, Andahwod and a few elders made a trip to Wild Pumpkin near Beaverton, Mich. They had a great day and were amazed by the painted silos.**

# FUND YOUR CHILD'S PATH!

Unlock **FREE MONEY** for college or career training with the Michigan Achievement Scholarship!

Odds are your high school senior or recent grad will qualify for:

- Tuition-free community college
- Up to \$27,500 at a public or private university
- Up to \$4,000 for career or skills training





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[mi.gov/ACHIEVEMENT](https://mi.gov/ACHIEVEMENT)

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## Andahwod Continuing Care Community and Elder Services District One Elders' December 2024 Newsletter

Boozhoo! Andahwod Continuing Care Community and Elder Services would like to wish everyone a joyous Christmas and a healthy, prosperous New Year.

Please read about the grant opportunities that will expand more services to Tribal elders. Andahwod was awarded grants that targets improving elder nutrition, Medicare information, and elder caregiving/support.



*Nokaadendamaang Aking (Peace On Earth)*

### Andahwod Phone Numbers

- **Gayle Ruhl:** 989.775.4305  
Administrator
- **Sandra Pelcher:** 989.775.4300  
Administrative Assistant I
- **Dawn Chippewa:** 989.775.4308  
Billing/Administrative Assistant II
- **Careena Meyers:** 989.775.4315  
Support Services Manager
- **Galina Kolb:** 989.775.4301  
Resident Care Manager
- **Sheligh Jackson:** 989.775.4307  
Elders Advocate
- **Patty Kequom:** 989.775.4302  
Activities Assistant
- **Denise Pelcher:** 989.775.4339  
Activities Coordinator
- **Maintenance:** 989.775.4313
- **Nurse's Station:** 989.775.4319

Andahwod CCC & ES business hours are Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. After business hours, or if it is an urgent matter please call the Security Desk at 989-775-4317 or the Nurse's Station at 989-775-4319.

### Title VI Grants

Eligibility of services for those participating in grant funded or tribal support programs offered by Andahwod CCC & ES must meet certain criteria. The following elders 50 years and older may be eligible for services.

- **Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Elders**
- **Members of other federally recognized tribes who are the spouse, live-in partner or widow of a SCIT Member.**

### Program Services

- Congregate Meal Program
- Medical Transports
- Home Health Aide
- Wellness Checks
- Hygiene Supplies
- Personal Care
- Nutrition Education & Counseling
- Medical Equipment
- Chore Service
- Personal Shopping
- Meal Delivery Referrals - Isabella Commission on Aging

### SCIT Elders Only

- Lawn Care
- Grandchild Care Assistance
- Snow Plowing
- Elder Minor Assistance Program

## Tips to help beat the holiday - winter blues

Resolve to make the best of the holidays but adjust your expectations and adopt realistic goals.

Eat healthy foods for your medical condition and indulge in holiday goodies in moderation.

Surround yourself with supportive and caring people. Make new friends and keep seeing the old ones, too. It is vital to make new connections so the circle of friends doesn't dwindle.

Participate in classes, social groups, and activities at Andahwod, Commission on Aging, and churches.

Use social media - Facebook, etc. to chat and stay in touch with family and friends. Asking your children or grandchildren for help could be a great way to bond with them.

Listen to music or do something creative that you enjoy, like crafts or telling stories about your family history to children and grandchildren.

Get exercise, even if it is only taking a short walk. This is also a great way to get your daily dose of sunlight. Or safely walk at Morey Courts 5.5 times around the track is one mile!

*Mno Niibaanamaan (Merry Christmas/Have a Merry Christmas)*

### Grant Assistance for Tribal Elders

There are grants available for Tribal Elders in the community. Depending on the grant qualifications, the Tribal Elder may need to gather documentation pertaining to grant eligibility. For example: Repair quotes, shut-off notice, etc. The following grants are available to Tribal Elders if funding is available and eligibility is met.

- **Emergency Minor Assistance Program (EMAP)**
- **Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP)**

Sheligh Jackson, Andahwod: 989-775-4307

## December 2024 Andahwod events

<b>Daily Coffee Break</b> 2:30 p.m.	<b>CMU Otago Exercise Program</b> Dec. 5, 12 / 1 p.m.	<b>Language Bingo</b> Dec. 17 / 1-3 p.m.
<b>Euchre</b> Thursdays / 5:30 p.m.	<b>BH Bingo with Friends</b> Dec. 6 / 1-3 p.m.	<b>Community Christmas Dinner</b> Dec. 18 / 4:30-6:30 p.m.
<b>Sewing</b> Dec. 3, 17 / 10:30 a.m.	<b>Name that Tune</b> Dec. 9 / 2:30 p.m.	<b>Birthday Bingo &amp; Potluck</b> Dec. 21 / 12-3 p.m.
<b>Elders Lunch</b> Dec. 4, 18 / 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.	<b>Saganing Bingo with Friends</b> Dec. 10 / 9 a.m.	<b>New Years Eve Party</b> Dec. 31 / 5-7 p.m.
<b>Ceramic Truck Craft</b> Dec. 4 / 1:30 p.m.	<b>Elders Breakfast</b> Dec. 11 / 9-10 a.m.	

*\*\*Activities and events are subject to change.*

For more information, please call Andahwod at: 989.775.4339

### SCIT Elders snowplowing

#### Applications open now

- Limited spots available.
- Priority will be given to Elders 70 years and older.
- Everyone must fill out an application for the service and have a medically documented disability if between 50-61 years old.
- \$50 seasonal fee due when submitting application.
- Must reside in District One.

Applications can be picked up at Andahwod.

For more info call 989-775-4307

## DECEMBER 2024 Andahwod CCC & ES Menu

Lunch: 11:30 a.m - 1 p.m.  
Dinner: 4:30 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Chef's Choice	2 Steak w/Baked Potato Wet Burrito	3 Cheese Burger w/Fried Potato Cobb Salad	4 Pizza Buffet Beef Tips w/Noodles	5 Egg Salad Sandwich Swedish Meatballs	6 Chicken Wild Rice Soup Open Face Beef Sandwich	7 Chef's Choice
8 Chef's Choice	9 Sweet & Sour Chicken Tuna Fish Casserole	10 Baked Ham w/Mashed Potatoes Beef Stew	11 Bean Soup Meatloaf	12 Polish Sausage w/Sauerkraut Sloppy Joes	13 Pulled Pork Sandwich w/Tator Tots Chicken Pot Pie	14 Chef's Choice
15 Chef's Choice	16 Chili & Cornbread Ribs w/ Baked Beans	17 Crispy Chicken Sandwich Shrimp Alfredo	18 Chicken Wings w/Fries Hominy Soup	19 Baked Chicken w/Mashed Potatoes Venison Tips Noodle	20 Goulash BLT Sandwich	21 Chef's Choice
22 Chef's Choice	23 Broccoli Soup Bacon Wrapped Chicken	24 <b>Christmas Eve</b> Chef's Choice	25 <b>Merry Christmas</b> Chef's Choice	26 Philly Cheesesteak Sandwich Baked Ziti	27 Pumpkin Bisque Soup Pork Roast w/Red Potato	28 Chef's Choice
29 Chef's Choice	30 Chicken Salad Sandwich Grilled Ham Cheese & Tomato Soup	31 Pizza <b>Happy New Year's Eve</b>	<b>Sugar free available upon request</b> <small>*Warning: Consuming under cooked foods or eggs could lead to a Food Bourne Illness. **Warning: Please inform cashier/staff of any severe food allergies you may have prior to sitting down. Thank you</small>		<b>*Menu subject to change*</b> Sugar free available upon request. Call kitchen for lunch and dinner at 989-775-4314.	



## DECEMBER 2024 | Tribal Community Event Planner

### DK-12 Education Services Homework Lab

Monday - Thursday | 3-5 p.m.

- Wii Maajikwad
- 989-775-4071 or [dsmith@sagchip.org](mailto:dsmith@sagchip.org)

### SCIT Recreation Open Gym

Mondays - Fridays | 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

- New Recreation Center (2875 Gikendasso Way)
- 989-775-4780 or [Recreation@sagchip.org](mailto:Recreation@sagchip.org)

### Digital Services Drop-in Program

Dec. 3 | 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

- Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Libraries
- 7070 E. Broadway Rd.
- 989-775-4519 or [LDisel@Sagchip.org](mailto:LDisel@Sagchip.org)
- See the digital services we provide
- Get help with all your technology questions.

### Drop In Beading Circle

Dec. 4, 11, 18 | 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

- SCTC Community Classroom
- [TahsFoley@sagchip.org](mailto:TahsFoley@sagchip.org) or 989-775-5804
- Beads, supplies and snacks provided

### Youth Basketball Tryouts

Dec. 4 | 5:30 - 6:45 p.m.

- New Recreation Center
- [KShomin@sagchip.org](mailto:KShomin@sagchip.org) or 989-775-4093
- Tryouts for boys 4th grade and girls 5th grade
- Eight week travel league

### Youth Basketball Open Gym

Dec. 4, 11, 18 | 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

- New Recreation Center (2875 Gikendasso Way)
- 989-775-4780 or [Recreation@sagchip.org](mailto:Recreation@sagchip.org)

### MIIBS Winter Silent Auction

Dec. 5, 6

- Ziibiwing Center
- 989-775-4750
- Bids will be finalized on Friday at 5:30 p.m.

### Ornament/Stocking Making

Dec. 5 | 5-8 p.m.

- 7th Generation
- 989-775-4780 or [TJackson@sagchip.org](mailto:TJackson@sagchip.org)

### Spirit Bear Talking Circle

Dec. 6, 13, 20, 27 | 7 p.m.

- Andahwod (Birch Wing)
- 989-444-1963 or 989-289-3088
- Share, learn, listen and teach

### Ornament Making Cutouts

Dec. 6 | 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

- 7th Generation
- 989-775-4780 or [TJackson@sagchip.org](mailto:TJackson@sagchip.org)

### ACFS Foster Care: Christmas Bazaar

Dec. 8 | 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

- Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort Ballrooms
- 989-775-4991
- Vendors: 8'x6' space is available for \$50 and includes two 6-foot tables and 2 chairs, if needed.
- All proceeds benefit ACFS Foster Care Program

### Sweat Lodge

Dec. 9 | Arrive at 4 p.m., sweat begins at 5 p.m.

- Behavioral Health
- 989-775-4850
- Open to the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Community

### Anishinabe Santa

Dec. 12 | 5-7 p.m.

- Ziibiwing
- 989-775-4750

### Traditional Healing with Joe Syrette

Dec. 16 | 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

- Behavioral Health
- **Appointments: 989-775-4850**
- Open to the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal community

### Two Spirit Talking Circle

Dec. 16 | 6-8 p.m.

- SCTC Community Classroom
- [GuGonzalez@sagchip.org](mailto:GuGonzalez@sagchip.org) or 989-317-4826
- All two spirit and allies welcome to attend

### 4th annual Odyssey Holiday Forest

Dec. 17 | 5-7:30 p.m.

- Odyssey Middle/High School
- 3441 S Wise Rd. Mt. Pleasant
- 989-773-9473
- Lighted forest, cookies, cocoa, photo booth and more!

### Anishinabe Performance Circle Graduation

Dec. 17 | 5-6 p.m.

- Ziibiwing
- 989-775-4750

### State of the Tribe Annual Meeting

Jan. 18 | Doors open at 9 a.m., breakfast at 10 a.m.

- SECR Entertainment Hall
- 989-775-4000
- Open to SCIT Members of all ages.
- Tribal ID required.

## DECEMBER 2024 | Tribal Community Calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat./Sun.
2 Recovery Group 1-2 p.m.   B. Health	3 Regular Council Session 9 a.m.   Council Chambers	4 Eagle Feather Teachings 1:30-2:30 p.m.   B. Health Drums Out 7-9 p.m.   7th Gen	5 Soup Day 12-1 p.m.   Saganing Community Sewing Nights 5-8 p.m.   7th Gen Recovery on the Rez 6 p.m.   B. Health	6 Fireside on the Rez 11:30 a.m.   B. Health	1/7 Fireside on the Rez 6 p.m.   B. Health
9 Recovery Group 1-2 p.m.   B. Health	10 Recovery on the Rez 2-3 p.m.   Zoom	11 Eagle Feather Teachings 1:30-2:30 p.m.   B. Health Drums Out 7-9 p.m.   7th Gen	12 Tribal Observer deadline Sacred Fire Lunch 12-1 p.m.   7th Gen Community Sewing Nights 5-8 p.m.   7th Gen Recovery on the Rez 6 p.m.   B. Health	13 Fireside on the Rez 11:30 a.m.   B. Health	14 Fireside on the Rez 6 p.m.   B. Health
16 Recovery Group 1-2 p.m.   B. Health	17 Recovery on the Rez 2-3 p.m.   Zoom	18 Eagle Feather Teachings 1:30-2:30 p.m.   B. Health Drums Out 7-9 p.m.   7th Gen	19 Saganing Christmas Party 12-2 p.m.   Saganing Community Sewing Nights 5-8 p.m.   7th Gen Recovery on the Rez 6 p.m.   B. Health	20 Fireside on the Rez 11:30 a.m.   B. Health	21 Fireside on the Rez 6 p.m.   B. Health
23 Tribal Ops Closed Administrative Closure Recovery Group 1-2 p.m.   B. Health	24 Tribal Ops Closed Christmas Eve Recovery on the Rez 2-3 p.m.   Zoom	25 Tribal Ops Closed Christmas Day	26 Tribal Ops Closed Administrative Closure Recovery on the Rez 6 p.m.   B. Health	27 Tribal Ops Closed Administrative Closure Fireside on the Rez 11:30 a.m.   B. Health	28 Fireside on the Rez 6 p.m.   B. Health
30 Tribal Ops Closed Administrative Closure Recovery Group 1-2 p.m.   B. Health	31 Tribal Ops Closed New Year's Eve Recovery on the Rez 2-3 p.m.   Zoom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● SECR Payroll</li> <li>● SCIT Per Capita</li> <li>● SCIT Payroll</li> <li>● Curbside Recycling</li> </ul>		<p>Check out the <b>Tribal Observer</b> <b>ONLINE</b> <a href="http://www.sagchip.org/tribalobserver">www.sagchip.org/tribalobserver</a></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.**

- |                           |                          |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>100</b> Employment     | <b>125</b> Miigwetch     |
| <b>105</b> Lost and Found | <b>130</b> Services      |
| <b>110</b> For Rent       | <b>135</b> Events        |
| <b>115</b> For Sale       | <b>140</b> Giveaways     |
| <b>120</b> Announcements  | <b>145</b> Miscellaneous |

**100 Employment**

**Tribal Operations**

**Chief Executive Officer**  
Open to the public. Bachelor's degree in finance, business administration, hospitality or related field. Fifteen years of combined gaming/hotel/resort hospitality experience. Ten years in a managerial capacity. Three years senior management level at a destination resort/gaming property with over 1000 employees with Class III gaming experience.

**Chief Financial Officer**  
Open to the public. Bachelor's degree in accounting or related field. Ten years in-depth experience in financial management with increasing responsibilities for a multifaceted role; direction, and planning required. Five years experience as a CFO or controller/comptroller, preferably in a government or nonprofit organization.

**Water Operator III**  
Open to the public. High school diploma or GED. Sign on bonus: \$1,000 upon six month anniversary, \$2,000 upon one year anniversary. Eligible employer for public student loan forgiveness as a nonprofit. Must be at least 18 years of age. Five years of water operator or related experience.

**Waste Water Operator II**  
Open to the public. Sign on bonus: \$1,000 upon six month anniversary, \$1,500 upon one year anniversary. Eligible employer for public student loan forgiveness as a nonprofit. High school diploma or GED. Three years' experience in wastewater/water field or directly related experience in plumbing or mechanical plant operations.

**AWARE SMHA Project Co-Coordinator**  
Open to the public. Grant funding 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.

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

**Dentist**  
Open to the public. DDS/DMD degree from an accredited school. Michigan licensed dentist. Must be able to pass background check to meet the employment eligibility requirements as they pertain to the position.

**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. Two years' experience working in an outpatient or clinic setting.

**Clerical Pool**  
Open to SCIT Members only. Must be at least 18 years of age and possess a high school diploma or equivalent. Clerical experience is a plus.

**General Labor Pool**  
Open to Tribal Members and community members. Must be at least 18 years of age.

**Victims of Crime Advocate**  
Open to the public. Bachelor's degree in counseling, social work, sociology, psychology, law enforcement criminal justice, law or related field.

**Child Welfare Prevention Specialist**  
Open to the public. Bachelor's degree in social services, human services or related field. Desired qualifications: Two years social services, families first worker, or family preservation experience. Certified social worker and/or licensed clinical social worker.

**Native American Language Coordinator**  
Open to the public. Grant funded position through Sept. 30, 2028. Bachelor's degree in education, social work, counseling, or human services related field. Two years' ex-

perience in project management, communications, and working with school systems.

**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.

**Case Manager**  
Open to the public. Grant funded position through Dec. 31, 2024. Bachelor's degree in social work, psychology, or human services related field. One-year experience working with victims of domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking. Experience with federal grant reporting, tracking, and evaluation.

**Water Quality Specialist**  
Open to the public. Bachelor's degree in environmental science, biology, fisheries and wildlife, or a related field. Three years of independent or program management work experience.

**Dental Hygienist PT**  
Open to the public. Two years working experience in dental hygiene desired. IHS & NHSC loan repayment eligible clinic.

**Paraprofessional**  
Open to the public. High school diploma or GED. Pass a state or local exam (i.e. Basic Skills Test of Michigan for teacher certification or ETS Para-Pro Assessment); or complete at least two years of study at an institution of higher education (60 semester hours).

**Community Project Manager - AWARE**  
Open to the public. Grant funded position through Sept. 30, 2028. Bachelor's degree in education, social work, counseling, or human services related field.

**Elementary Counselor Family Outreach**  
Open to the public. Bachelor's degree in social work or counseling from an accredited program. One year experience in mental health services working with children and

families of children with severe emotional disturbances.

**Clinical Therapist - RTC**  
Open to the public. Licensed master's degree in counseling, social work, human services or related field. Limited licensed individuals who can obtain full licensure within two years from date of hire.

**Interim Clinical Therapist - RTC**  
Open to the public. Interim position. Licensed master's degree in counseling, social work, human services or related field. Limited licensed individuals who can obtain full licensure within two years from date of hire. Experience with co-occurring diagnosis and treatment.

**Special Education Teacher**  
Open to the public. Bachelor's degree in special education, education or related field. Teaching certificate with special education endorsement. Experience with current assessment requirements and state standards.

**Victims Advocate**  
Open to the public. Associate degree in human services related field, or an equivalent combination of education, training, and experience. One-year experience working with victims of domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking. Experience with federal grant reporting, tracking, and evaluation desired.

**Pharmacy Manager**  
Open to the public. Bachelor's degree. Pharmacist License. Two years' experience working as a pharmacist in an outpatient pharmacy.

**Interim Probation Officer**  
Open to the public. Bachelor's degree in criminal justice, social sciences or related field. Two years court or court related experience.

**Registered Medical Assistant - Nimkee**  
Open to the public. High school diploma or GED. Registered or certified medical assistant license. Minimum of one year experience working as a medical assistant in an outpatient medical clinic.

**Pharmacy Technician**  
Open to the public. High school diploma or GED. Pharmacy Technician License. One year experience working in a pharmacy desired.

**Registered Medical Assistant - Andahwod**  
Open to the public. Registered or Certified Medical Assistant License. One-year experience in long term care or clinic setting desired.

**Certified Nursing Assistant PT - Andahwod**  
Open to the public. State of Michigan Certified Nursing Assistant. Desired qualifications: One year nursing experience. Experience with older adults.

**Residential Treatment Support Technician**  
Open to the public. Must be at least 18 years of age.

High school diploma or GED. Desired qualifications: Previous experience in the substance abuse field. Experience in a residential treatment center.

**Clinical Therapist Family Resource**  
Open to the public. Licensed master's degree in counseling, social work, human services or related field. Limited licensed individuals who can obtain full licensure within two years from date of hire. Experience with co-occurring diagnosis and treatment.

**Residential Treatment Manager**  
Open to the public. Master's degree level in counseling, social work, human services or related field. Limited licensed individuals who can obtain licensure within two years from date of hire. Four years' experience in residential treatment.

**Associate General Counsel**  
Open to the public. Juris Doctor from an ABA accredited law school. Experience as a practicing attorney. Licensed to practice law in the State of Michigan.

**Psychiatrist**  
Open to the public. Medical degree. Licensed psychiatrist with a license in the State of Michigan. Experience in working collaboratively across multiple organizations and community systems.

**Physician/Medical Director**  
Open to the public. MD or DO from an accredited medical school in the United States. Board Certified in clinical specialty, preferably in family practice. Current State of Michigan medical license without exclusions or sanctions.

**Cultural Healer**  
Open to the public. High school diploma or GED. Demonstrate knowledge and experience in the Anishinaabek culture, traditions, and history.

**Cook SCA**  
Open to the public. Successful completion of ServSafe certification, within probationary period.

**Soaring Eagle**

**Culinary Supervisor**  
Open to the public. High school diploma or GED. Three years of restaurant or banquet cooking experience with increasing levels of responsibility.

**Kitchen Equipment Technician**  
Open to the public. High school diploma or GED. Three years of experience in commercial food equipment repair.

**F&B Chef**  
Open to the public. High school diploma or GED. Four years of hotel kitchen experience, or similar restaurant experience. Two years supervisory experience. Culinary degree from an American Culinary Federation accredited school may be accepted.

**Master Plumber**  
Open to the public. High school diploma or GED. Ten years of experience as a licensed plumber which includes a combination of apprentice, journeyman and master plumber.

**Line Cook**  
Open to the public. Six months of restaurant cooking experience with increasing levels of responsibility, or six months of SECR internal culinary training.

**F&B Cashier PT**  
Open to the public. Must be at least 18 years of age. Must be able to operate a POS.

**Saganing**

**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.

**Line Cook**  
Open to the public. Six months of restaurant cooking experience with increasing levels of responsibility, or six months of Saganing internal culinary training.

**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.

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

**Master Plumber**  
Open to the public. High school diploma or GED. Must be at least 18 years of age. Ten years of experience as a master plumber.

**Standish 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.

**F&B Attendant FT**  
Open to the public. Must be at least 18 years of age.

**F&B Attendant PT**  
Open to the public. Must be at least 18 years of age.

**Housekeeping Supervisor**  
Open to the public. High school diploma or GED, or four years of directly related work experience. Two years of hotel housekeeping experience.

**F&B Custodial Worker**  
Open to the public. Must be at least 18 years of age.

**Front Desk Agent FT**  
Open to the public. Must be at least 18 years of age. High school diploma or GED.

**Front Desk Agent PT**  
Open to the public. Must be at least 18 years of age. High school diploma or GED.

**Security Officer PT**  
Open to the public. Must be at least 18 years of age. Security or surveillance experience desired.

## Summons and Complaint Notices

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF BETTY JANE ASHMUN:**  
The Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Court, 6954 East Broadway Road, Mount Pleasant, MI 48858 (989) 775-4800. Estate of Betty Jane Ashmun. Date of Birth: June 14, 1947. Notice to creditors: The decedent, Betty Jane Ashmun, who lived at 3091 Leaton Rd., Mount Pleasant, MI 48858, died Aug. 9, 2024. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Candace Ashmun-Baker, personal representative, or to both the Tribal Probate Court at 6954 E. Broadway, Mount Pleasant, MI 48858 and the personal representative within four months after the date of publication of this notice. Personal Representative: Candace Ashmun-Baker, 1489 Maria St., Flint, MI 48507. 810-955-0057.

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF CYNTHIA VELMA FLOYD:**  
The Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Court, 6954 East Broadway Road, Mount Pleasant, MI 48858 (989) 775-4800. Estate of Cynthia Velma Floyd. Date of Birth: Sept. 25, 1927. Notice to creditors: The decedent, Cynthia Velma Floyd, who lived at 2910 S. Leaton Rd., Mount. Pleasant, MI 48858, died July 11, 2024. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Dennis V. Kequom III, personal representative, or to both the Tribal Probate Court at 6954 E. Broadway, Mount Pleasant, MI 48858 and the personal representative within four months after the date of publication of this notice. Personal Representative: Dennis V. Kequom III, 3863 Miigwan Ln., Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858. 989-621-2578.

# DECEMBER PROMOTIONS



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CASINO & RESORT®

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**Win a share of \$160,000 in Cash, Premium Play & Prizes!**

**SATURDAYS IN DECEMBER**

From 6PM-11PM, every hour four lucky guests will win \$500 in Premium Play and 100 grand prize bonus entries! On December 21 and 28, one lucky winner will drive away in a 2025 Chevy Silverado!

ACCESS Club members will receive one (1) entry for every 900 points. Guests can begin earning entries December 1, 2024 at 12AM until December 28, 2024 at 10:55PM.



**FRIDAYS**  
5PM-11PM

Every Friday, join us for a chance to win a share of over \$98,000 in Luxury Items, such as Gucci, Louis Vuitton, Rolex and more!

## ENTERTAINMENT



**CHEAP TRICK**  
WSG BLUE OYSTER CULT  
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6 | 8PM  
\$62, \$76, \$89, \$96  
ENTERTAINMENT HALL



**ICE CUBE**  
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13 | 8PM  
\$75, \$85, \$95, \$101  
ENTERTAINMENT HALL



**SOUNDTRACK TO THE NEW YEAR**  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31 | 9PM  
Single \$75, Couple \$140  
ENTERTAINMENT HALL



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**Win a share of \$48,000 Cash!**  
**SATURDAYS IN DECEMBER**

Can you name that carol? Each hour from 5PM-10PM, one lucky guest selects one of 14 candy canes from a Christmas tree to reveal a cash prize and Christmas carol. Double the cash amount by singing the carol!

ACCESS Club Members will receive (1) entry for every 200 points. Guests can begin earning entries December 1, at 12AM until December 28 at 9:55PM.



**FRIDAYS**  
5PM-10PM

Toss snowballs for a shot at Frosty's fortune of over \$19,000 in Cash or Premium Play!



**MONDAYS**  
11AM-9PM

Every hour one lucky winner gets to play Spin Pong! Drop the ball, spin the wheel and score cash if it lands in a prize spot. Earned 1,500 points? You get a bonus ball for even more chances to win. Collect all your prizes as you play!



**WEDNESDAYS**  
4AM-11:59PM

Earn \$5 in Premium Play (up to \$50) for every 300 points earned using your ACCESS Card from 4AM-11:59PM. Plus, we will be doing hot seat drawings for \$50 in Premium Play from 7AM-11PM. Also, earn 2,500 points on your ACCESS card from 7AM-11:59PM to play a promotional kiosk game and win up to \$50 in Premium Play!



**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1**  
8AM-11:59PM

From 8AM-11:59PM, earn 1,000 same-day points to swipe at a Kiosk to take home a gift from previous promotions!

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